

HeartCry

MAGAZINE

PREACHING THE KINGDOM

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

UPDATES FROM
NEPAL, ZAMBIA, ARGENTINA, PERU, AND MORE

"THE FAITHFUL GOD"

BY OCTAVIUS WINSLOW

GREETINGS

The work of missions is not a complicated matter, but it is a difficult one. In the book of Acts, which sets before us the inspired record of the missionary activity of the early Church, we see the whole of missions in two distinct or well-defined ministries. In Acts 6:4, the apostles declared, "But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." The simplicity and power of their missionary efforts stand in sharp contrast to the complexity and impotence of so much missionary activity today.

On reading this, someone may strike out against the simplicity of such a methodology. However, it should be noted that this is not just "another" strategy among others; rather, it is the strategy of the apostles as they were guided (yea, even inspired) by the Holy Spirit. If we truly believe in the doctrine of *Sola Scriptura* (i.e. Scripture alone), then we must submit our missiology to the authority of the Scriptures. As the Westminster and London Baptist Confessions state, "The Holy Scripture is the only sufficient, cer-

tain, and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience" (Chapter 1, Paragraph 1).

Biblical missions stands upon the twin columns of intercessory prayer and proclamation (both heralding the gospel and expounding it)! Nevertheless, only a small percentage of modern-day missionary activity is actually dedicated to this chief labor of a missionary. At HeartCry, it is our great and earnest desire to conform our individual and corporate ministries to this biblical pattern. We strive to employ elder-qualified men (I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9) whose knees are scarred by prayer, whose feet are calloused from seeking out the lost, and whose tongues are ready (in and out of season) to preach and teach!

Please pray that we might grow in our faithfulness to prayer and proclamation and that we might be a faithful witness to our generation. Thank you for the kindnesses that you have shown us! Though we may have not met face to face, you and your loved ones are in our hearts and our prayers.

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"THEY WHO HAD NO NEWS OF HIM SHALL SEE,
AND THEY WHO HAVE NOT HEARD SHALL UNDERSTAND."
(ROMANS 15:21)



BY JAMEY T.

PREACHING THE KINGDOM

“...I went about preaching the kingdom...” (Acts 20:25)

I WENT ABOUT PREACHING

Immediately after receiving Jesus’ call to salvation, Paul was instructed by the Lord to “get up and enter the city” (Acts 9:6). Paul went, and Paul continued going for the rest of his life. He was committed to going and taking the gospel to the nations and unreached people groups of the world. As a recipient of the sovereign grace of God and the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ, Paul was willing to hazard his health and expose his life to death (2 Cor. 11:23-27) that he might be an instrument to reach Jews and Gentiles with the message of salvation (1 Cor. 9:20-21).

Paul knew of no closed nation, nor did he check the “Roman State Department” for “travel warnings” to determine which cities should be avoided. Paul had a deep longing for God’s glory to be known and for the glorious gospel of the blessed God to be proclaimed;

this compelled him to traverse sea and land to testify of the kingdom of God. He was not content to live in a safeguarded community, nestled away from society, spending his time praying that seekers would search him out to inquire the way of salvation. Conversely, Paul strategically sought for opportunities in Jewish synagogues (Acts 17:2), Gentile markets (Acts 17:17), and philosophical lecture halls (Acts 19:9) to proclaim the way of salvation by Jesus Christ (John 14:6). Eckhard J. Schnabel expressed Paul’s purpose to spread the good news of salvation: “Since the goal of missionary work is to reach as many people as possible with the gospel, Paul went to any locale in which people would be willing to listen to the message of Jesus Christ.”

Observe, the focus of Paul as he went: he went out preaching. Christians love God and, as a re-

sult, seek to bless those whom He has made in His own image. The saints of God are recognized by the loving service they give to the impoverished and needy (Matt. 25:31-46). Paul, in fact, was instrumental in providing physical needs for the poor saints in Jerusalem (2 Cor. 8-9). However, Paul's primary emphasis was not philanthropic or mercy ministries but preaching the gospel of the kingdom. The greatest need of mankind is to hear the message of the gospel and to be converted to Christ!

To varying degrees, each of us has opportunities like Paul to preach the gospel of God's kingdom. For some, "I went" is the effective work of God's Spirit to serve as a missionary and to be sent out by a local church to serve cross-culturally. Missionaries have gone out from churches for two millennia because they were called by God to go, their calling and gifting was recognized by the church, and the local body commissioned them to go. In order for some to say, "I went," there is a necessity for others to say, "We sent."

Other missionaries have been sent to fulfill the Great Commission among their own cultures. Indigenous or native missionaries are the primary focus of Heart-Cry Missionary Society, supporting missionaries to work within their own countries and people groups. Indigenous missionaries are necessary in order to reach the enormous population that is still unreached with the gospel. Such missionaries also already have the advantage of knowing the language and the culture where they minister.

It is vital for the church to recognize the solemn responsibility

and glorious privilege of sending cross-cultural and indigenous missionaries to preach the gospel of the kingdom and serve the body of Christ (Acts 13:1-4). The Word of God has rung in the ears of the church for ages, stirring a response to the magnitude of missions:

"How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!'" (Rom. 10:14-15)

All Christians are responsible to take part in missions, whether by going or by sending. And even though the majority of Christians will not be formally sent out by a church, every Christian must recognize his or her function as light and salt in the pattern of daily living as a Christian: taking advantage of opportunities to share the gospel on campuses, during vacations, while running errands, when meeting up with neighbors for coffee, and on park benches with acquaintances as the children run and jump on the playground.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

J. I. Packer wrote:

"What was this good news that Paul preached? It was

the message that centered upon Jesus of Nazareth. It was the news of the incarnation, the atonement, and the kingdom—the cradle, the cross, and the crown—of the Son of God.”

Paul was not alone in preaching the kingdom of God; he preached the same message that Jesus and the apostles proclaimed (Matt. 4:17; 10:7). The kingdom of God, or the reign of God, was established by and through Jesus Christ’s redemptive work (death, burial, and resurrection) and subsequent ascension to His Father in heaven. Jesus fulfilled prophecies from the Old Testament that testified of a King who would reign eternally (Isa. 9:6-7; Luke 1:32-33).

God’s kingdom or rule has been described as both “already” and “not yet.” Jesus established God’s kingdom at His first advent, but the final phase will be consummated at the second advent of Christ. When Christ returns, all evil will be vanquished, and God will dwell among His children forever in the New Heavens and New Earth (Rev. 21-22).

In light of God’s kingdom having been established through Jesus Christ’s appearance, the preaching of God’s kingdom is annexed to the gospel (Mark 1:15) and is presented as part of it (Matt. 4:23). When the gospel is proclaimed, the call to repent and believe on Jesus Christ is joined to the proclamation. The kingdom of God is manifested in the world through the lives of those who repent of sin, place their faith in Jesus Christ the Lord, and passionately submit

their lives to God’s Word. It is through the gospel proclamation that God’s kingdom expands in the world and Jesus Christ is glorified (Matt. 13:31-32).

In order to make God’s rule visible in the world and for Jesus to be adored, Paul was obedient to go and proclaim the gospel and God’s kingdom (Acts 19:8; 28:23, 31). The intensity of his desire and burden is viewed in the Bible as he extends all of his strength and takes advantage of every opportunity so that God might be magnified by all men in every location. Paul was willing to suffer “bonds and afflictions” in order “to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.” This same spirit was mirrored in the life of John Bunyan, who wrote:

“My great desire in fulfilling my ministry was to get into the darkest places of the country, even amongst those people that were farthest off of profession; yet not because I could not endure the light, (for I feared not to show my gospel to any), but because I found my spirit did lean most after awakening and converting work, and the word that I carried did lean itself most that way also: ‘Yea, so I have strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man’s foundation’ (Rom. 15:20).”

The evangelistic spirit that consumed Paul to preach the gospel to Jews and Gentiles (Rom. 1:15-16) is evident also among the ministers I have encountered

during my travels to Asia. I have been encouraged to see the zeal and drive of the believers to make disciples of Jesus Christ from populations that primarily consist of Buddhists and Muslim adherents. Although the church is a small percentage of the population, biblical churches are

making pioneer advancements with the gospel of the kingdom among unbelievers in many cities. In recent months, HeartCry missionaries have proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom in animist villages in Burma, the dense jungles of Papua, and megacities in China.

A JAW-DROPPING GOSPEL

Of lasting memory to me is the sight of a young lady on a motorcycle in Cambodia, sitting with her mouth wide open and eyes transfixed on a Khmer pastor as he shared with her the supernatural message of the gospel. The message he proclaimed was that Jesus, through His death and resurrection, secured forgiveness for our sins, made us sons of God, gave us eternal life, and secured for us heaven without money (a point that is of particular interest in a culture where Buddhist priests constantly make requests for money over loudspeakers).

The message of the gospel is astonishing! God's eternal Son was sent by the heavenly Father into the world to save sinners (1 Tim. 1:15). The magnanimous gift of salvation can only be measured in light of the Giver—God.

It is beyond our limited comprehension to understand the depths of God's love as well as the immeasurable agony Jesus suffered when bearing the wrath of God for our sin. The glorious Son of God was made to be sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God in Christ (2 Cor. 5:21). The blessed One of heaven, who was His Father's eternal delight, was cursed on a tree (Gal. 3:13) so that we might have eternal life (John 17:3). Reader, contemplate and search God's Word concerning the great work of redemption! Know that "Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God" (1 Pet. 3:18)! Consider what Jesus has accomplished for us! May you too be amazed at the astounding message of salvation by Jesus Christ!

GOD'S KINGDOM HAS COME

The church of Jesus Christ should feel poignant grief for the lack of biblical witness and the scarcity of biblical churches throughout the world. The church in numerous locations suffers persecution and abject poverty. The need for biblical materials in native languages and the dearth of trained pastors is staggering.

Nevertheless, we are confident that Christ Jesus is building His church and "Hades will not overpower it" (Matt. 16:18). The gospel is making headway geographically and spiritually in the hearts of men, women, and children around the globe in spite of obstacles and challenges. The spiritual need in the world—evidenced

by the enormous global population, vast numbers of which are still enslaved to false religions—is overwhelming! But God is meeting these needs through the sufficiency of the gospel. The kingdom of God has come through Jesus Christ! It may have “had small beginnings,” but we believe it will grow and flourish under the gracious reign of Jesus Christ (Matt. 13:31-33).

It is a tremendous blessing to witness the power of the gospel and the sufficiency of Christ in transforming unbelievers into faithful and exuberant Christians and to see God’s kingdom expanded! In May, I visited an area whose inhabitants were cannibalistic until the last two or three decades. Several men testified that other tribal members had eaten their parents. However, the gospel came to this region in word, in power, in the Holy Spirit, and with full conviction (1 Thes. 1:5). In a village of one hundred and sixty persons, there are now over twenty-five believers who have renounced their

former manner of animistic religion and received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior!

The same testimony concerning the power of the gospel to transform lives is being repeated throughout the world. Missionaries have gone out and have proclaimed the kingdom of God globally. Do not despise the day of small things, even the witness of Christ among small and fledgling churches (Zech. 4:10). Rejoice and be glad, for King Jesus has come and reigns in righteousness (Isa. 32:1)! Pray that God will continue to call sinners out of darkness and into the light of the kingdom, as missionaries are sent out by the church to preach the glorious gospel of the blessed God (Matt. 9:36-37). Be willing either to go as a missionary or to be part of the sending church so that the gospel might penetrate “the darkest places,” that the false religions that imprison souls might fall, and that Christ’s kingdom might be proclaimed and advanced. ■



BY FORREST HITE

Trip report NEPAL





SETTING THE SCENE

Wet. This was one of my first impressions of Nepal, the landlocked nation sandwiched between China and India. I had been warned that we were traveling during the Nepali monsoon season; but, as an American, I have to admit that the word “monsoon” was only that—a word, one without much personal meaning for me, more of an intangible idea. As we approached the village where we would spend most of our time, rain was lightly falling, and the “river” that ran down the middle of the main road indicated there had been more significant rain-fall recently. But it was during my second night in Nepal that I gained a better understanding of the word “monsoon.” I woke to the sound of rain crashing against the roof and walls of our hotel; I looked outside to see water pouring from the sky and swirling in the wind, drenching the entire area. It was an absolute...well, an absolute monsoon!

To the Western world, Nepal is perhaps best known for the Himalayan peaks that form its northern border, including Mt. Everest (the highest point on earth) and seven of the other tallest ten mountains in the world.

The mountains give a great portion of the Nepali population a cooler, temperate climate in which to live. However, the village that served as “base camp” for our trip is located in the plains (not far from the Indian border) and is one of the hottest areas in the country. Here the only evidence of the towering mountain range that dominates this nation is the distant sight of the “foothills” of the Himalayas (which are massive in their own right!) to the north of town. The muddy roads, which held streams of water when we first arrived, soon became very dusty—clearly a common occurrence, as many of the locals combated this by constantly wearing dust masks.

What struck me most about the Nepali people during my stay was their hospitality. They take pride in their nation’s heritage (especially of their ancestors fending off British invasions in the 1800’s); but they are very kind, even to outsiders like our group. Unlike other cultures I have gotten to experience, they are not at all a pushy people; they are friendly, considerate, and helpful. But I was particularly encouraged to see these naturally inviting qualities exemplified even further in the churches we visited.

WE WORSHIP THE SAME GOD

Whenever I have traveled internationally, I have always been struck by the gospel’s ability to transcend culture and even language. From Peru to the Netherlands to Zambia, I have been privileged to encounter a wide

array of cultures different from each other and from my own. But in each of these places, it has amazed me how quickly and easily I can connect with people whom I have never met, from a country I have never visited, and

whose language I cannot speak! There is an immediate bond among Christians that is heedless of background and inexplicable apart from the gospel. It is a truly beautiful picture of the kingdom of God.

This trip was a little different from ones that I have taken in the past. I was traveling with HeartCry coordinator Jeff S. and my friend Michael Garlich, who is a videographer. Our particular goal for this trip was to capture on video some of what the Lord is doing in Nepal so that we can share it with the Church—that God might receive more glory for the work He is accomplishing and that His people might be both edified and encouraged to pray.

I experienced the same joy of immediate fellowship with people very different from myself that I had in my other travels, but there was something special about this trip, particularly because of the context of the location. Nepal is dominated by Hinduism, with over 80% of the population adhering to this religion which

teaches that there are over thirty-three million gods worthy of worship. Hindu temples, great and small (but all ornate), sit seemingly everywhere, ready to accept offerings from faithful followers. Christianity, on the other hand, is claimed by about 1.5% of Nepali people; and only a fraction of these are Evangelicals.

Yet here, eight thousand miles away from home, in this overlooked locale teeming with open idolatry and idolaters, I found myself in a church service dedicated to the worship of my God. I found myself among servants not of a favorite false god, but of the one true God. As I looked around the room filled with saints joyfully singing, I was overcome with a beautiful thought: “We worship the same God.”

A TRUE PASTOR

The primary subject of the film we came to capture is Sarvajit, a HeartCry missionary. Sarvajit pastors a local congregation in the Nepali plains, but he also serves as the leader of all the oth-



Sarvajit

er men HeartCry supports in the nation. He has a hand in much of the work that is taking place in the area, and he labors tirelessly for the sake of the gospel.

Sarvajit is a short man (a commonality in Nepal) with Mongolian features. He tends to be soft-spoken, but he thinks deeply and preaches and teaches with passion. As we spent time with him, it quickly became apparent that he is a true pastor—striving to shepherd the flock that God has entrusted to him. It was evident that he loves his congregation and that his congregation loves him.

Before every weekly church service, Sarvajit hosts a prayer meeting in his home (just upstairs from the meeting room) for anyone who wants to come. Afterwards, they go downstairs and worship together, leaving their sandals outside the door. The joy and fervor with which they sing as a congregation would put many American churches to shame. Then, Sarvajit preaches the Word expositively as the people sit before him on the floor and lis-

ten intently. Later in the afternoon, he leads a book study for children and young people from several churches in the area. He captures and holds their attention as he teaches the attributes of God to them, walking through the workbook *The One True God*. It is clear how fond and respectful they are of him.

Yet in all this work, Sarvajit is careful not to neglect his family—his lovely wife and their two charming young daughters. They and a couple others from the church are also caring for three orphans from the area.

At one point during our trip, we traveled into the nearby foothills to some smaller villages where there are a couple more HeartCry-supported pastors, including Sarvajit's father Gopal. Sarvajit previously pastored in one of these villages for four years before moving to the plains. It struck us how many people he recognized—and how many still recognized him and were clearly glad to see him—as we drove through the area. And many of these were just villagers, not even



RCN pastors' network



church members. We joked that it was as if he were the “mayor” there! In reality, though, it was a fitting picture of the pastoral

temperament that God has gifted Sarvajit—demonstrating how invested he was (and is) both in the church and in the community.

DEFYING CULTURAL NORMS

Sarvajit’s ministry is not limited to his family and local congregation, however. In addition to faithful pastoring, he is the “hub leader” on the field for HeartCry, involving himself in the lives of the other supported pastors in Nepal and staying in regular contact with Jeff here in the home office. He is the leader of the Reformed Churches of Nepal (RCN), a network of eight or ten churches in the region.

Every week, Sarvajit meets together with four other RCN brothers who pastor nearby. They discuss the things that are happening in each of their churches, and they look over some solid translated literature—both studying it and checking it for errors before it goes to print in the Nepali language. Sarvajit leads these meetings. He is more than capable, and it is clear that the other pastors look up to him and value his wisdom. But the fascinating aspect of his leadership role is his age.

In traditional Nepali culture, age equals wisdom and authority. The young are expected to follow the old without question. But these men have flipped the script on their own culture! Jeff, Michael, and I were able to attend one of the meetings; and these four pastors took turns telling us a little about themselves. All of them revealed that they were in their forties or fifties. Yet Sarvajit, who is still in his thirties, is the unquestioned leader of the group. They look to him for guidance, counsel, and direction—in spite of the fact that he is significantly younger than each of them! It was a great testament both to the leadership ability of Sarvajit and the humility of the other pastors.

This cultural paradox is amplified in Sarvajit’s relationship with Gopal, his father. Gopal has a heart for the mountain people whom he serves, which was truly a beautiful thing to watch; but he is still learning some of the facets and tenets of proper doctrine,

much of which was not introduced to him until a later age. Sarvajit's patience and willingness to teach his father is matched by Gopal's humility and willingness to learn

from his son—regardless of their culture's perception of this relationship as backwards. It is an extraordinary and wonderful work of the Lord.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

There is an unfortunate mindset that I fear has leaked into Christian circles in the United States (and perhaps in the Western world at large)—a “we-do-it-best” mentality that looks down in feigned, misplaced, or occasionally genuine pity on works in other countries, especially third-world countries.

However, one thing became very evident to me during our trip. This work in Nepal is not weaker because it takes place in the third world and is run by third-world men. To the contrary, it is one of the strongest, deepest, and most thoughtful works that I have ever encountered. There is much that Americans and other Westerners could learn from their faithful brothers and sisters laboring in Nepal (or elsewhere across the globe, for that matter).

We could learn **humility**. Sarvajit knows that the ultimate goal is in no way about building his own ministry. He is not looking for glory for himself; that is not what he desires. He wants to live and die for the gospel and for His Savior.

We could learn **patience**. In striving for spread of the gospel, Sarvajit understands that this is a fight that will not end in a day. Therefore, one of his primary goals is to lay a solid foundation for the future. He wants to build “stepping stones” for the next generation, that they might be in a better position than he and his fellow-workers, that they might

accomplish more, and that the gospel might have an even wider reach.

We could learn **wisdom**. In working toward this goal, Sarvajit puts great emphasis on training young men. He has started an internship program within the local church; he is actively training three interns, and there are several more “pre-interns” (high-school age boys) who will be officially joining the program soon. If their call to the ministry is confirmed, these young men will be sent out from the church once they graduate. Gautam (see page 18), for example, will be sent back to the mountains to come alongside Gopal and help with the churches to which he is ministering. Even in this pairing, we can see wonderful wisdom—pairing the passion and experience of Gopal with the energy and education of Gautam.

We could learn **servanthood**. Sarvajit pours himself into his family, the local congregation, his fellow pastors, the young people in the area, and the interns. We were especially able to see the fruit of this commitment in the intern who is farthest along in the program, Dul (see page 16).

Dul is still only in his mid-twenties, but the Lord has clearly gifted him in ministry. Once he has graduated (which will be very soon), he will come alongside Sarvajit as a fellow elder in the local church. He has already taken on much responsibility—in-

cluding some of the training of the two younger interns—which has helped Sarvajit tremendously. Since receiving some seminary training, he has also taken over teaching a daily, three-hour theology class at the local church, which is attended by people from around the village and surrounding area—the interns, other men and women from the congregation, as well as pastors and mem-

bers from other RCN churches. We were able to watch him teach one of these classes while we were there; it was so encouraging to see such a young man in this context be so knowledgeable and passionate, engaging his listeners as he wrote notes on a whiteboard—all in Nepali except for two words which must not yet have a direct translation: “exegesis” and “exposition.”

IMAGO DEI

The majority of travelers and tourists that come to Nepal fall into one of two categories: zealots or adventurers. The zealots come to see Hindu or Bhuddist “holy sites,” like Pashupatinath Temple or the Monkey Temple in Kathmandu, or perhaps Lumbini, the believed birthplace of Buddha himself. The adventurers come to explore the grandeur of the Himalayas through mountain biking, rock climbing, paragliding, and especially trekking.

Near the end of our trip, we spent about a day in Pokhara, a city geared toward the adventuring tourists. Pokhara is positioned on Phewa Lake, but it is particularly popular for its proximity to the whitecapped mountains of Annapurna. On a normal day, one can look to the north of town and see the massive peaks towering as high as 26,500 feet over the city. On the day we were there, however, clouds obscured the mountains entirely.

It was easy to succumb to a tinge of disappointment at being unable to behold the glory of the looming peaks. But in conversation with Michael, I was reminded that we had already beheld something of much greater worth. From Kathmandu to the plains to

the foothills to Pokhara, every person we encountered—every Hindu priest, every Bhuddist monk, every poverty-stricken mother, every tourist, every churchgoer, every child in the street—held more intrinsic value than all the Himalayas combined. The mountains of Nepal majestically and faithfully declare the glory of their Maker; but it is the people of Nepal who bear His image—tainted, no doubt, but His image nonetheless. May this serve as a reminder to us all to love all those whose lives we touch, to be a light to them, and to lift them up in prayer that they might know the One whose image they bear.

It was a strange experience for us in Pokhara—knowing the awesome beauty that was before us and yet being completely unable to view it through the cloak of clouds. Yet it presents a fitting picture of the strange experience of an earthly sojourner—we know that the glory of heaven is imminent, but we cannot yet see it through the dark veil of sin and pain. So we wait for the day when the clouds dissipate and the kingdom of God is revealed in its fullness. Until then, let us strive to declare faithfully the glory and kindness of our Lord! ■





NEPAL

INTERN SPOTLIGHT: DUL G.

I am Dul G. from Butwal, Nepal. I am twenty-five years old. I was born and brought up in a small Hindu family (four family members). I am the only son, and I am the only believer in my family. It is a great joy for me to testify of the saving work of God in my life. I am so thankful to God for the free gift of salvation that He has given me!

I first heard the gospel of Jesus Christ in 2009, while I was still in school. I grew up in a society that has strong convictions about following the religion of the forefathers. Therefore, my mentality was that I should keep the same religion I had been taught from childhood. I worshiped the Hindu gods and thought that I was more righteous than others because of my devotion. This was until one Christian teacher told me that all people are sinners. I

was very shocked and disturbed when I heard this. I started to question him, wondering how I could be a sinner. He told me the story of creation, Adam and Eve, and their sin against their holy Creator. He told me that all human beings became sinners because of Adam's sin. He then proceeded to tell me about my need for a Savior. He told me about Jesus Christ, who alone could deliver me from my sins. However, at that time, I was not fully convinced.

One day, he took me to the local church, where I met Pastor Gopal. I was interested in attending his church service. I got a Bible for the first time and began to read it. As I continued to listen to every sermon and read through the Gospels, God opened my blinded eyes and convinced me of my sins and my need for the Savior. I came to know that

Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6). God gave me a new heart to repent and believe in Jesus Christ; so I repented from my sins and put my trust in Jesus as my Lord and Savior! It was only His grace that brought me to saving faith. I understood that salvation is not by human works; it is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8).

My family was against me. The villagers counseled my family to stop me from converting and attending the church, but they were unable to do so. Who can stop the work of the hand of God? None! I continued to grow in the faith and in holiness. A few months later, Brother Sarvajit came to the local church to serve there. He had just completed his seminary studies, and he began discipling me. By God's grace, he helped me to understand the gospel from the Scriptures very clearly. In 2012, I was baptized in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:29).

That year, I moved to the plains to get my bachelor's degree. It was a big struggle for me to live in a city, having grown up in a mountain village. But God opened doors for me, and I was given an opportunity to work part-time in Pastor Ghan's bookshop. I began attending the local church that Sarvajit had just planted and eventually started helping in the ministry of that

local church. During this time, God gave me a greater and growing desire to serve Him and His people. Sarvajit encouraged me to go to a Bible college. I was undecided, as I still had a financial burden to help my parents; but in the final year of my bachelor's degree, I was fully convinced that God was calling me to pastoral ministry. We began praying about this, and—praise the Lord—He provided support for my seminary studies through HeartCry. I am so thankful to the Lord for His provision!

In 2015, I went to Pastoral Training Seminary (PTS) in Goa, India, for the Master of Divinity program. I had opportunity to study God's Word and be trained in godliness under respected men of God. God used this time in the seminary to train me in sound doctrine and in holy character. On February 23, 2018, I graduated from PTS. I came back to Nepal with a great desire to serve the Lord in my country and among my people. I am now back in my local church as an intern and helping Bro. Sarvajit. I thank God for His purpose in my life, and I thank HeartCry for the encouragement, prayers, and support. May the Lord make me faithful and fruitful in His ministry.

In Him,
Dul ■



NEPAL

INTERN SPOTLIGHT: GAUTAM T.

I am Gautam from Kapilvastu, Nepal. I was raised in a Hindu family. There are seven members in my family, but I am the only believer. I thank God and His beloved Son Jesus Christ for giving me eternal life! God, in His rich mercy, has saved me from eternal judgment and has brought me into His kingdom. I am very happy to share the testimony of God's grace in my life.

Before I came to saving faith in Christ, I used to worship false gods. My goal was to please them; in reality, though, my entire life was filled with sinful activities. I was an immoral, proud liar. I was dead in my sins and living under the dominion of my flesh. But I came to understand this only after I heard the gospel.

In 2014 (while I was in 10th grade), one of my friends asked me to go to church with him. He

told me about Christianity and church and what happens there. It seemed interesting to me, so I agreed to go with him. I then started to go more regularly. I started hearing about Jesus Christ and His death, but I did not fully understand what that meant. After several months, one of my church friends told me that, since I had been attending the church for several months, I should pray the sinner's prayer. I went to the pastor, and he told me to repeat this prayer after him. After I did, he told me that I was now saved! I was very happy.

In 2015, I was baptized in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—but there was no change in my life. I was still living a sinful life. I was good outwardly in the eyes of the people, but there was no change inside of me. A month after I was baptized, the pastor told me to go for one year

of Bible training. I was trained on the topics of discipleship and church planting. After graduation, I went back to the same local church and was given the responsibility of the youth ministry. However, in doing all of these things, my heart was still not joyful. I was doing everything that Christians are “supposed” to do, yet my heart still could not find any joy or peace. It was merely a duty to me, and I did not love Christ. I was consumed with church activities, but my life was so dry.

In June 2016, I met Bro. Sarvajit, who was visiting a village near my home. It was then that I heard the true gospel. He explained the gospel of Jesus Christ clearly and deeply. He told me about the holiness of God, His judgment, His love in sending His Son, the purpose of the cross, and Christ's death and resurrection. I then understood my desperate need of the Lord Jesus Christ in order to be saved! This gospel message was so powerful that it changed all my thinking about Christianity. God opened my heart and my mind that day. I saw His holiness, His love, and His mercy for sinners. I understood that salvation is by grace, not by doing Christian activities.

While I was still attending my first church, I began to share the true gospel and the truth of God with fellow church members. A few of them listened to what I was

telling them, but many of them did not agree or pay any attention to it. I also talked personally with the pastor and shared with him what I had learned. He disagreed with me. Time after time, I tried to convince him that what he was doing was unbiblical. I tried to influence him, but I was unsuccessful. I began to feel uncomfortable with the entire situation, so I decided to leave that church and attend a new church plant with Bro. Sarvajit.

It has been one year since I left that church and became a member of this new church. God has given me a desire to serve Him in the right way. My desire is to serve Him and preach His gospel to the lost. Bro. Sarvajit also encouraged me to join his internship program. My desire is to understand the Word of God better and then to serve Christ in preaching it to others. I am thankful to HeartCry for the support and prayer for me! Please continue to pray for me, that I would grow more in my understanding of the Scriptures and in the likeness of Jesus Christ.

In Him,
Gautam ■

COMPLETED LITERATURE PROJECTS



MYANMAR

Thanks be to God, HeartCry was able to fund the translation and publication of *The Gospel's Power and Message* by Paul Washer into the Lahu language through your prayers and support. It has already been distributed to about a hundred pastors, bible students, and evangelists at a conference in Myanmar. Here's an update from one of the men:

"We gave thanks for the book and dedicated it to the Lord by prayer before distribution. I am pretty sure that this book is the only good book available to Lahu pastors. For many, this is the first Lahu book they are privileged to read apart from the Lahu Bible. It is a rare treasure to our

ministers. They are expressively and emotionally very happy to receive a copy. I thank God for your support. Thank you very much for this project. I believe that this book will change the way we understand, preach, and live the gospel. Please pray also for the distribution."

CUBA

Over the past few years, HeartCry has had the opportunity to support an ongoing literature distribution project in Cuba. The project has included the printing and distribution of books, sermons, and articles to thousands of Christians across the island nation. Below is a brief note regarding a recent printing project from the brother that heads up the ministry there:

"We have just finished printing nearly 1,000 copies of the London Baptist Confession of 1689, which will be sent out through the mail. Many pastors and churches have been requesting these resources. Thousands of Christians are being edified through literature resources like this. We are thankful to God for what He is doing and for HeartCry's support in the cause of making the biblical gospel known in our country." ■

I JUMPED UP AND SHOUTED HALLELUJAH: BIBLE TRANSLATION FINISHED

BY WILLIAM J.

For security reasons, specific locations are not mentioned, and a pen name is used. Thank you, reader, for your help. Through your prayers and support, the Bible translation work referenced in this article was funded and completed for a language and people group in Asia. Below is William's testimony of the work.

We have had a Bible in our language for years, but it is not a good translation. The Conservative churches, the Evangelical churches, the Pentecostal churches—none of them like it. In 1998, I started praying to God that He would raise up someone who would translate the Bible into our language. After nearly five years of praying, one evening when I was kneeling down in deep prayer, the Holy Spirit said to me in my heart, “Why don’t you do Bible translation work?” I immediately replied, “It is very hard work.” I heard the Holy Spirit say, “You want to do only easy

work?” I replied in prayer: “No, no, Lord, I am not qualified.”

The next day I received a telephone call from Dr. T, who was a coordinator for Bible translation. He invited me to come to the Bible translators’ training in our city. I attended that training for two weeks, and the translation senior consultants said that I could start translation work for the Gospel of Mark; this was in 2002.

Since that time, I have worked on the Bible translation. The ministry has sent their translation consultants to check my translation numerous times, checking word by word. Initially, I was very discouraged, thinking that it would take a long time to finish the whole Bible. However, as I moved forward in the translation work, I was really satisfied and happy with the consultants. I came to realize more and more just how important an accurate translation of the Bible is. Once I finished the New Testament, 15,000 copies were published in 2009. It was received with great

joy, and copies were quickly sold. Before the New Testament was even off the press, we were anxious to begin with the Old Testament.

I began translating the Old Testament in 2010, working with the translation consultants to make sure every word and key term in every verse was correct. By God's grace, I have been in the ministry since 1981—as an evangelist, a pastor, a church planter, a Bible College founder, and a mission founder. For me, however, Bible translation is the most difficult work. At last, the whole Bible translation, along with some add-ons, was completed early this year.

In addition to working with consultants, I invited a group of sixteen pastors, two deacons, and two sisters to read through and review the translation as a group. It was a blessed time reading the Bible together. All twenty readers were overjoyed because of the beauty of the language and accurate translation.

I also completed a final check of the grammar, and the whole Bible was sent to the United States for printing. Presently, it is in the hands of someone who is working on the formatting.

After finishing the translation, there was another challenge: the printing cost. Printing thousands of copies of a Bible is expensive! I

asked the Project Manager concerning funds for Bible printing and he told me we were short \$40,000. That is a big amount. My heart was really burdened, and I shared this to believers in our fellowship, asking them to pray.

I was informed that funds were coming in very slowly—we still needed \$27,000. One night, just before I went to bed, I received a very brief email from HeartCry Missionary Society with these few words: “HeartCry Missionary Society has approved the needed funds of \$27,000 for Bible publication.”

I jumped up and shouted, “Hallelujah!” My wife was startled and asked, “What?” I said, “It’s complete now!” She replied again, “What?” I exclaimed, “Funds for the Bible publication is complete now!”

We both knelt down and gave thanks to God. The next day, I received lovely news from the Project Manager informing me that the funds were full. I would like to say thanks a million to all the donors and to HeartCry Missionary Society for supplying the remainder of the needed money for Bible publication. We are planning to publish 20,000 copies.

Around the world, both in Asia and in the USA, we are praising God. God never fails us. And He always teaches us as He stretches our faith. Glorify Him with us. ■



LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

CONVERSIONS THROUGH EVANGELISTIC BIBLE STUDIES

BY WEGE SINYANGWE

Wege is a member of Mt. Makulu Baptist Church and graduate of Kabwata Baptist Church's pastoral internship program (2011). In the early months of 2012, Mt. Makulu sent Wege out to spearhead a church plant in the Chilanga area of Lusaka.

The light has been beaming lately at Lilayi (Jambo Farm) Bible Study Group, where the Lord has been showing His mercy. First, we witnessed an increase in attendance, which had dropped to only five or seven people but now has grown to an average of fifteen. We recently even had three new people joining the group. Our greatest joy, though, is over souls being saved.

A TRANSFORMED LIFE

Mrs. Hangoma recently made a confession that she had come to the saving knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. She had been one of the difficult people at the Bible Study. Her husband

had been quite consistent since we started this evangelistic group, and he has come to our church once. When she started attending our Bible Study, she proved to be very critical and controversial in

the studies. Sometimes she got so frustrated that she would walk out of a study, and there were times she stopped coming altogether.

One day, at the end of a study in which we were looking at assurance of salvation, she strongly declared how the studies had been helpful to her. In fact, they had

transformed her life! She told us how stubborn, hostile, and arrogant she had been to the things of God, particularly our Bible Study Group. She had been attending church with the Seventh Day Adventists, but she is now one of our committed Bible Study attendees, and her life has truly changed.

A TRAGEDY BEARS FRUIT

I take much delight in seeing people converted under gospel preaching at Chimasulo. We recently started another baptism class with Victoria and Angela. Victoria is the wife of the late Patson Phiri, who died in April 2017 in a road accident. Patson was one of the two men who helped in mobilizing the people at Jambo Farm for Bible Studies. His wife, Victoria, was a staunch Roman Catholic and had also been difficult at the Bible Study meetings. Each time we encouraged her to come to church, she would tell us that she was a Catholic and was merely attending our Bible Studies. After much persuasion, she started at-

tending church services once in a while.

Since the death of her husband, her life seems to have changed. Her attendance to church meetings has improved tremendously, with a pretty good level of commitment to the other means of grace. Victoria and Angela approached me wanting to know how they could become members of our church. These ladies are zealous for the things of the Lord, but there was still need to put them through the baptism class so that they can be more fully instructed on salvation and be assured that they possess it. Nevertheless, their level of commitment is quite encouraging. ■



VIDEO UPDATES

An update from Mez McConnell on the work of Pete Bell, Pete Stewart, and Paul McLoughlan in the “schemes” (projects) of Scotland.

 bit.ly/hc94-video-01



A brief documentary about Brad White, who moved with his family to Lima in 2017. Please pray for Brad, Cassie, and Olivia as they labor as missionaries in Peru's capital city.

 bit.ly/hc94-video-03

A comprehensive interview with Paul Washer and Asia Coordinator Jamey T., providing a window into the jungles of Papua, Indonesia.

 bit.ly/hc94-video-02



A short interview with Ivan Tassara, who shares his vision as a missionary pastor in northern Peru.

 bit.ly/hc94-video-04





SEVEN YEARS AS A CHURCH

ARGENTINA

BY NICOLÁS SERRANO

REMEMBERING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

This year marks the seventh anniversary of Family of Grace Church, and we recently held a service to celebrate. In one sense, it seems as though it all just began yesterday; but in another sense, each year (especially the first couple) have been so intense that they are worth several! In the meeting, we began with some songs of praise to God; then some of the founding members shared the story of the beginning days of the church until now; and afterwards we shared a short meditation on the faithfulness and grace of the Lord over the course of these years.

The dominant note that sounded time after time in the testimonies that were shared was this: the Lord is the Author

of our church, and His desire for us is to trust Him. Our church began from nothing, with just two young guys who didn't even have beards at the time: Esteban and I. We began preaching the gospel in parks; when people asked us what church we were from and where our location was, we responded that we were starting a new church in the city and that we could meet wherever they would like to meet—we could even begin meeting under the tree in the town square.

The crazy thing is that some people (and not just young people but also people much older than us) actually began coming to the meetings under the tree! After that, we would find whatever location we could—some of which still had unfinished con-

struction—so that we could meet. I remember one night when the power in the building went out, we had the rest of our meeting in the dark using the flashlights on our phones. Eventually, we were able to move to the rented meeting room that we currently have (which was a luxury for us at the time, even though it was essentially destroyed before we even started renting it!). Soon, we hope to move to a new building that would be of sufficient size for our church, since the room we are in now is so full that people are sometimes standing by the door.

The birth of the church is not the only evidence of God's gracious work—so is its survival up to this point! The first years were very difficult! When the Lord began to use us to deliver His salvation to people and to help them grow in sanctification, the devil attempted to destroy our recently established church. There began to be a lot of challenges: opposition, discipline issues, slander, and more. In those days, I would rarely spend less than eight hours per day counseling individuals, along with the discipleship of new members. But we were sustained, as the Lord responded to our prayers in abundance. Again, His desire for us is that we fix all of our confidence in His mercy, wisdom, and power!

More recently, after Esteban stepped down to pursue another calling, I found that I could no longer carry the weight of

the work alone. Our church is small—a little more than eighty people come each week—but even that number proved too much for me to care for as the only full-time pastor. I was attempting to juggle being diligent in my private devotion, being truly present with my family, preaching several carefully prepared sermons each week, discipling potential leaders in the church, devoting myself to counseling, caring for candidates for church membership, sharing the gospel with unbelievers, and many more things!

Through your support, however, you have made it possible for the other pastor in our church, Ariel Umaño, to serve full-time in the ministry with me. Really, just before Ariel began to be supported by HeartCry, I had reached the end of my strength and was out of ideas in terms of how to meet all the different needs and responsibilities. But now that Ariel has “come onto the playing field,” how things have changed! Immediately, he took on the work of devoting himself to evangelism and discipling the thirty candidates for membership that we had at the time, many of whom have now been baptized! They were well-prepared for membership thanks to Ariel's efforts. He also began to alleviate the preaching responsibilities and a good portion of the counseling needs.

So, here we are, seven years after the first days of our church. As we see the faithful and

abundant grace of the Lord in the past, we are moved to hope even more in His grace in the things to come. Our hearts burn with the call of the gospel, and we see the abundant harvest. We are very aware of our weakness, and we know that apart from Christ we can do nothing—but we are persuaded that as we abide in Him, we will bring forth abundant fruit that will last forever.

Thank you for being part of the history of our church. All of this (and much more!) has been

possible because of you, dear brothers and sisters. We would not have been able to make it to this point without you. The Lord has used your generous prayers and giving to make it possible to send more workers into the harvest. Our church is growing, the kingdom is advancing, and you are part of this work. But there is much more to do together as we continue going forward! What a great honor it is for us to work with you in the Great Commission of our Lord!



RECENT CONVERSIONS IN THE CHURCH

ANALIA, like many of the people in our church, comes from an Evangelical background. She had left and come back to a religious life many times. Sometimes, she had even reached the point of asking Christ to just depart from her altogether. When she came to our church, she had some understanding of the true gospel,

but she did not know Christ truly. Although this knowledge had an illuminating effect on her in that it restricted some of the expression of her sinful nature, she only responded by substituting the more obvious and outward sins for more subtle and hidden sins. This was really nothing other than religious hypocrisy. It was only

after she had been coming to the church for a short time that the gospel that she had known only in a theoretical fashion began to be applied to her heart. It was not long before her hypocrisy was made evident to her. Through the testimonies of others who once lived in similar hypocrisy, through the lives of the other believers in the church, and through the Lord's blessing on the preaching of His Word, she was overwhelmed with her sin. Then, one good day, after a sermon on the subtlety of self-deceit and the certain evidences of salvation, Analía confessed that she had never been born again and that she did not love the Lord Jesus. After several nights of crying out to Christ for salvation, He rescued her! How good is the Lord, who is quick to forgive with joy even those who took His name so lightly for years!

MICAELA is the young daughter of a married couple in our church. The manner in which she was saved is wonderful! From the time I first met her, she has been very apathetic toward the gospel. I remember seeing her sitting nearly in the last row during our Sunday meetings, completely distracted and alienated from what was happening. In fact, sometimes she said openly that she did not pay attention to the sermons or understand them at all. But through the same sermon that awakened Analía from

her slumber, the Lord also awakened Micaela to her sin. And like Analía, she spent some days in agony and desperation, until one day the light shone—she understood that she was loved of God and that the gift of Christ's righteousness was offered freely to her! When this happened, she cried out with joy, a totally appropriate reaction! For did not Christ Himself say that there is great rejoicing in heaven when one sinner repents?

CAROLINA is a young lady from the interior of Argentina. She came to Rosario for her university studies. Her past was very difficult, as had been her time in Rosario up to the time that we met her. After some sporadic visits to our church meetings, she decided to begin congregating with us regularly. Before long, listening to one of the radio programs from our church in which my wife was telling her testimony of conversion, Carolina was confronted with her need to be saved. At the beginning she tried to defend herself before God's law, appealing to her own personal righteousness. But her resistance was almost immediately overcome by the gospel. All is new for Carolina today, who was baptized joyfully as she became part of her new family in Christ.

MANUEL is a young man from outside of Argentina who has a religious background. He came to

Rosario for school. Nearly within a month of being with us, Manuel began to show serious uneasiness with respect to his salvation. In his own words: “Christ is everything for you all, but He is not everything for me.” One Sunday, however, something happened. He was impacted in the first part of our service as he listened to the prayers of other brothers and sisters who were hungry for more of Christ. These prayers deeply convicted him of his own spiritual misery and his merit only of condemnation. He came under such spiritual anguish that he cried out to Christ to rescue him. Later, during the preaching, the Lord came to him through the exposition of the Scriptures and illumined his eyes in such a way that he could see his urgent and absolute dependence on Christ for salvation. During the singing after the sermon, Manuel poured

out his life before God and consecrated himself to Him. As he told us later, he was truly able to sing and praise the Lord with all of his being for the very first time. His praise was the cry of one who had just been born, whose chorus was, “Wonderful cross! Wonderful cross!”

AGUSTO is a man who came to our church in an obviously providential way. For family reasons, he had to move from his native town to Rosario; being a professing Christian and raised in the reformed world, he knew that he should congregate somewhere. Even though Agosto already knew us, for a long time he did not come visit our church. But this all changed one day when he found our online sermons and listened to a sermon entitled, “The Glory of Hell.” He began to listen to the sermon only be-

Recent baptism service



cause the title made him curious, but once he began to listen he could not turn it off. A passion for Christ was ignited within him, a passion for the One who endured our hell on the cross of Calvary. He could not refuse being united to Christ's disciples; at that moment, he abandoned his indecision and decided to come to our church to stay. As he was baptized, he said, "All I know is that I cannot get Christ out of my mind."

The case of **EMILIO** is a very emotional one for me and for many in the church, since he was disciplined by us several years in the past. He came to our church when we were only a group of fewer than ten members; as time passed, however, it became evident that he did not know the Lord. The church had to exercise discipline. Years passed,

and Emilio continued to grow worse, to the point that his marriage reached the point of separation. It was then that his story changed! In his sinful delusion, he thought about disappearing altogether or taking his own life; but God had a different plan for him. In his desperation, Emilio sought God. As he told us later, the God of all grace by His sovereign work—like Nebuchadnezzar when he was as a beast—gave his reason back to him! Today, Emilio's wife and daughter give testimony to the fact that he is a new man, humble and not proud, broken and not arrogant, wounded by the love of Christ and not lost. His face as he was baptized will forever remain recorded in my memory, and his story—a monument of God's power and mercy—is recorded with indelible ink on my heart. ■





SULLANA, PERU

MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT: JOSE LUIS SIANCAS

Jose Luis is the co-pastor of “Jesús es la Puerta” (Jesus Is the Door) Baptist Church in Mallaritos, Peru, just outside of Sullana. He also helps teach and lead different sections of the theological education by extension program in several different locations.

TESTIMONY OF CONVERSION

I was born into a Christian home, and from a very young age I was involved in all of the activities in our church. I knew about God, sin, and some other things from the Bible; but I did not have any conviction of sin or any desire to repent and believe the gospel. When I began high school, I started to imitate the behavior of my friends. Without my parents or church knowing about it, I began to use foul language, get into fights, and participate in other sinful things. I lived an empty and meaningless life.

On November 4th, at 5:30 PM, I was standing by a window at my house reading the Bible. I began to see the reality that I was lost. I began to read texts that my parents and my Sunday School teachers taught me about sin and how to be saved. I started to pray, asking God to forgive me. I began to cry, because I realized what I was at that time: a rebel, someone who had lived as a hypocrite and pretended to be a Christian. I was grieved by my sin and by the fact that I had offended God. I understood the

reality of my situation without God, but at the same time I was able to see His love (in John 3:16) demonstrated toward me in the death of Christ. It was then that I asked God to save me by His grace and mercy, and He did!

Since that time, my relationship with God has been like that which a son has with his father. He is my Father, and I enjoy spending time with Him. I have a hunger for the Word of God, and I am zealous for sound doctrine. My aim in life is to proclaim the Word of God, being obedient to the Great Commission.

After I was saved, I became very involved in evangelism with

our local church. I even shared the gospel with the same students that had seen me behaving before like a child of the devil! Then, though I did not think too much about it, it simply seemed right for me to get prepared for the ministry. So I began to study in seminary. When I finished seminary, my church sent me to Tumbes (in northern Peru) to begin a new work. I was serving there for about one year doing evangelism, helping with a Bible institute, and training others. After that year, I returned to Malaritos (just outside of Sullana) to help as a co-pastor of the church there.

RECENT UPDATE

I rejoice that through the process of church discipline, the Lord is bringing back and restoring certain brothers and sisters in fellowship with Himself and the church. God is the one that does this work and perfects it until the day that Christ returns. There are also brothers and sisters that are showing faithfulness in attending after having neglected attendance for a time. I am discipling and devoting a lot of time to these groups of people. Truly, as a pastor, I cannot tell you the enormous joy that I feel when I see my brothers returning to fellowship with God. It is my prayer that God continues cre-

ating thirst for Him and for His Word.

I continue preaching an expository series through the Gospel of John on Sundays. After preaching through Chapter 3 on the new birth, I studied a series taught by Steven Lawson on twelve realities of the new birth, and I decided to teach them to the church. So, for the past three weeks, I have taught about this very important theme, one which is very vital for the church to understand. ■

For Jesus took
Octavius Winslow



The Faithful God

by Octavius Winslow

BUILT UP IN HIS FAITHFULNESS

*“For I am the Lord, I change not;
therefore you sons of Jacob are not consumed.” (Malachi 3:6)*

It is no small attainment to be built up in the faithfulness of God. This forms a stable foundation of comfort for the believing soul. Mutability marks everything outside of God. Look into the Church, into the world, into our families, into ourselves—what innumerable changes do we see on every hand! A week, one short day—what alterations does it produce! Yet, in the midst of it all, how good it is to repose calmly on the unchangeableness, the faithfulness of God, to know that no alterations of time, no earthly changes affect His faithfulness to His people. And more than this, no changes in them, no unfaithfulness of theirs, causes the slightest change in God. Once a Father, ever a Father; once a

Friend, ever a Friend. His providences may change, His heart cannot. He is a God of unchangeable love. The promise He has given, He will fulfill; the covenant He has made, He will observe; the word that has gone out of His mouth, He will not alter. “He cannot deny Himself.”

Peace then, tried believer! Are you passing now through the deep waters? Who kept you from sinking when wading through the last? Who brought you through the last fire? Who supported you under the last cross? Who delivered you out of the last temptation? Was it not God, your covenant God—your faithful, unchangeable God? This God, then, is your God now, and your God forever and ever, and He will be your guide even unto death.



THE DIVINE PROMISER

“God is faithful, by whom you were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.” (1 Corinthians 1:9)

Faith has something still more substantial and firm to rest upon than even the Divine assertions of the truth, something superior to the affirmation of the promise—even the faithfulness of the Divine Promiser Himself. Faith has its stronghold not in the word of God merely, but in the God of the word. God must be faithful because He is essentially true and immutable. “He cannot deny Himself.” “It is impossible for God to lie.” What asseverations of any truth can be stronger? Now, believer, have faith in God, as true to His word and faithful to His promise. Has the Spirit, the Comforter, caused your soul to rely upon His promises and to hope in His word? Have you nothing but His declaration to bear you up? Stand fast to this word, for God, who cannot lie, stands by to make it good. Have faith in His faithfulness. You cannot dishonor Him more than in doubting Him. If to discredit the word of man were an impeachment of his veracity, and that impeachment were the darkest blot that you could let fall upon his character; what must be the dishonor done to God by a poor sinful mortal distrusting His faithfulness, and questioning His truth! But “God is faithful.” Have faith in Him as such. He is engaged to perfect that which

concerns you, to supply all your need, to guide your soul through the wilderness, to cover your head in the day of battle, and to conduct you to ultimate victory and rest. Oh, trust Him. It is all that He asks of you.

Are you in a day of trouble? A season of pressure? Is your position perilous? Are your present circumstances embarrassed? Now is the time to trust in the Lord. “Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.” Oh, if God were to speak audibly to you at this moment, methinks these would be the words that He would utter: “Have faith in My faithfulness. Have I ever been untrue to My engagements, false to My word, forgetful of My covenant, neglectful of My people? Have I been a wilderness to you? What evil have you found in Me, what untruth, what wavering, what instability, what change, that you do not now trust Me in this the time of your need?” Oh, let your soul be humbled that you should ever have doubted the veracity, have distrusted the faithfulness of your God. But “if we believe not, yet He abides faithful: He cannot deny Himself.” “A God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He.”

Taken from the February 24 and December 6 devotionals from Morning Thoughts by Octavius Winslow.

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GO OR SEND

"The world lives in a time of crisis. Christians alone are in a position to rescue the perishing. We dare not settle down to try to live as if things were normal." – A. W. Tozer

"If by excessive labor, we die before reaching the average age of man, worn out in the Master's service, then glory be to God, we shall have so much less of earth and so much more of Heaven!" – C. H. Spurgeon



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