

JAN - APR 2019

THAT GOD'S NAME BE GREAT AMONG THE NATIONS

97

HeartCry

MAGAZINE

The Wheat & The Tares

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

UPDATES FROM

INDIA, CAMBODIA, RWANDA, ARMENIA, ROMANIA, AND PERU

GREETINGS

As I have traveled around the world and read through countless pages of mission statistics throughout the last thirty years that I’ve spent in ministry, I am aware first-hand of the importance of Christ’s words: “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.” There are more than three billion people who are currently out of reach of the gospel and only a droplet-sized missionary force that is seeking to fill the gap and complete the mission. How can we not have a sense of urgency? Are we deaf or blind, or have we merely become distracted with the temporal pleasures of this life? There is need, dear brethren, to work without looking back, to trade the garments of leisure and sport for the cloth of spiritual war, and to deny ourselves of unnecessary luxury and recreation. Let us give ourselves and our resources to the finishing of the task that has been given us: “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation” (Mark 16:15)!

The harvest is plentiful, and the workers are few. But there is another concern that should add to our sense of urgency: the time is short. The clock

is ticking (1) in our own lives—we must use our gifts and resources while they are still in our possession, not merely to do good things, but to do the greatest thing, the fulfillment of the Great Commission and the ingathering of Christ’s church; (2) in history—every second brings us closer to the greatest moment in human history, the Second Coming of Christ and the Final Judgment of all humankind; and (3) with regard to opportunity—the global political climate is turning against Christianity and the Church with an unforeseen velocity.

Indigenous missionaries are being arrested in many places around the globe, while cross-cultural missionaries are being deported. Even in the West, there are plans in place to restrict the freedom of the Church to bear witness to the gospel and its righteousness. We must take advantage of the open doors that we have now before they close. As our Lord commanded, “We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work” (John 9:4).

Your brother,
Paul Washer



The Wheat & The Tares

Understanding the Kingdom to Which We Belong

By Luke Nash

Each day, as believers we are in the trenches, fighting the battles of life in a fallen world. We wrestle against the opposition of the flesh, the world, and the devil. Often, in the midst of those battles, we lose sight of the much greater picture. We aren’t just part of the day-to-day struggles of life this side of heaven; we belong to a kingdom that can never fade away. This kingdom has come in the person and work of Jesus Christ, it continues to come as it advances in the heart of men and women around the world, and it will one day come in its fullness when the King returns.

Understanding the Kingdom

One of the chapters of the Bible that is especially helpful in reminding us of this great reality is Matthew 13, which

contains what are commonly referred to as the “Parables of the Kingdom.” It’s in that chapter that Jesus tells the parable about the wheat and the tares (vv.24-30) and then goes on to explain its meaning to His disciples (vv.36-43). This parable teaches us three very important big-picture truths regarding the kingdom to which we belong.

1) The kingdom of heaven has come and is growing in the hearts of mankind.

In the parable, the sower is the “Son of Man” (v.37). This title tells us something important about the identity of Jesus: He is the promised King of Old Testament prophecy, to whom is given “dominion, glory, and a kingdom” and whose “kingdom is one which will not be destroyed” (Daniel 7:13-14). This King, the Son of Man, came into the world to sow the good seed of His

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"They who had no news of Him shall see, and they who have not heard shall understand." - Romans 15:21

kingdom, which are the “sons of the kingdom” (Matthew 13:38). He came to triumph over sin, death, and Satan and to inaugurate and begin the advance of His kingdom by accomplishing the work of redemption and calling lost sinners to Himself by His Spirit.

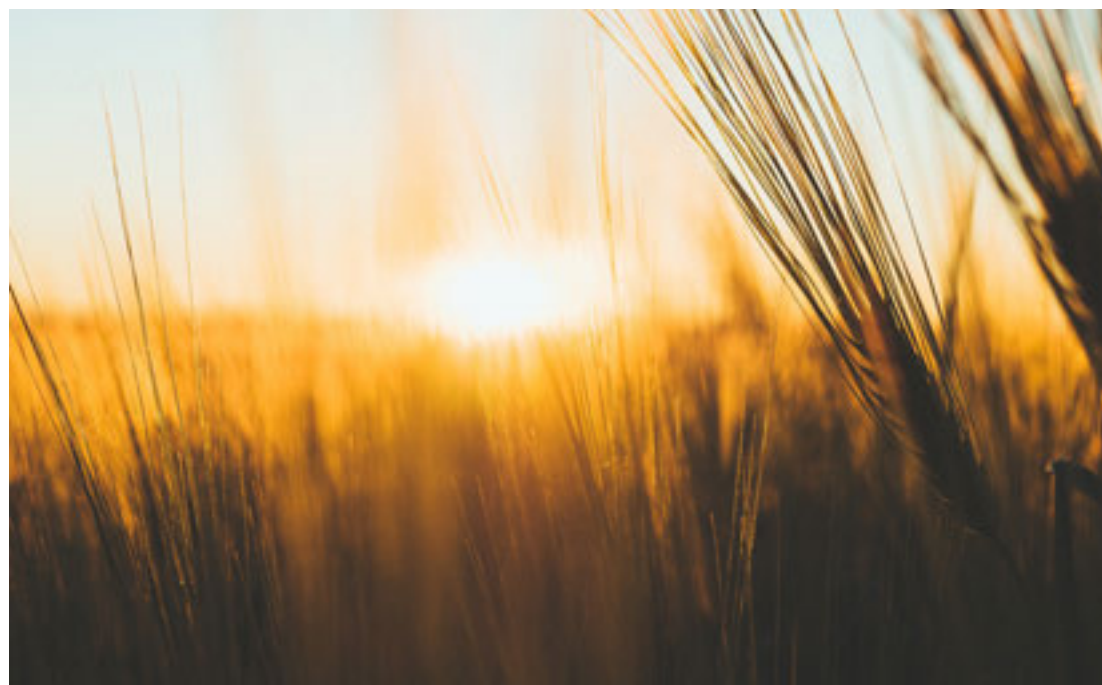
The Scriptures make clear that when the Lord saves us, we are brought into an entirely new realm of existence.

We were previously members of the kingdom of darkness, but He has rescued us from that kingdom, and has “transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins” (Colossians 1:13). If you belong to Christ, you are the good seed of His kingdom that He has sowed. You are one in whom and through whom He is at work to advance His kingdom through the salvation of souls. It is in this way that the kingdom of heaven has already come and is growing in the hearts of mankind.

2) The kingdom of heaven grows amidst the kingdom of Satan.

The enemy in the parable is the devil (Matthew 13:39), and the tares that he sows are the sons of the evil one (v.38). The contrast is meant to be obvious: Christ sows the sons of His kingdom while Satan sows the sons of his own kingdom. And in this current age, the last days, these two kingdoms continue to exist side by side, in opposition to one another.

Satan sowed the evil seed initially in the garden when he tempted Adam and Eve, and he continues to sow the evil seed by doing all he can to keep men and women from knowing and worshiping the living God. In fact, such is the influence of Satan that this sinful world is said to be his own domain, the place of his rule. For example, he is called “the ruler of this world” and “the god of this world,” and we are told that “the whole world



lies in the power of the evil one” (John 12:31; II Corinthians 4:4; I John 5:19). This doesn’t mean, of course, that Satan is more powerful than God or that God isn’t the ultimate ruler of His creation. However, it does mean that Satan is the one that sinful humanity now serves, rather than God (Ephesians 2:1-3).

But the good news of the gospel is that the kingdom of Christ has now triumphed over Satan’s rule and reign. Christ has come and has plundered

the devil’s kingdom. Or, in the words of the Apostle John, “The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil” (I John 3:8). After God had “disarmed the rulers and authorities” through the work of Christ on the cross, “He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him” (Colossians 2:15). At the coming of Christ and at the accomplishment of the cross, Satan’s kingdom was decisively thwarted.

It is now only a matter of time before his kingdom is entirely and finally cast in the furnace of fire (Matthew 13:42).

But Satan is not going to sit back and merely allow his kingdom to be stripped from him! He continues to do everything he can to resist the advancement of Christ’s kingdom—by stealing the seed of the word (Matthew 13:19), by blinding believers to the glory of Christ (II Corinthians 4:3-4), by inhibiting missions (I Thessalonians 2:17), and so on. And,

by divine permission, Satan is granted a measure of success in this age. The sons of the evil one continue to live side by side and among the sons of the kingdom. Or, to put it in the language of the parable, the tares continue to grow right alongside the wheat in the field, which is the world. For now, there is a continuation of the kingdom of Satan right alongside the kingdom of Christ.

3) The kingdom of heaven is growing until the harvest of the sons of the kingdom is ready.

All of this might cause us to ask, why would God allow the kingdom of Satan to continue? If Satan has already been defeated, why not do away with the kingdom of darkness altogether at this moment? The parable provides the reason for the Lord’s patience. The owner of the field was unwilling to pull the tares up immediately because he didn’t want to lose any of the wheat. It would be better to wait until the harvest was ready; then it would be easy to separate the tares from the wheat without sacrificing any of the crop.

In the same way, Christ is unwilling to bring an end to this current age until the harvest of His kingdom has reached maturity. He will not return until every last person for whom He died reaches repentance. This includes people from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. Just as the Lord had “many people” in Corinth for whom the Apostle Paul must remain there, so also the Lord has “many people” throughout the world, for whom He patiently delays the culmination of all things.

The day of judgment is certainly coming. There is coming a time, fixed in the mind of the Father, at which “the Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will throw them into the furnace of fire” (Matthew 13:41-42). But that time is not yet (at least not at the time this article was written!).

The delay is intentional, and most lovingly calculated in the wisdom of God. If Christ were to come prematurely in judgment, there would be many for whom Christ died that would never reach repentance and they would be lost. But as Christ said, regarding the will of His Father, “[O]f all He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day” (John 6:39). God will not allow even one of His people to be lost. For their sake He will restrain even the coming of His judgment upon the world, bearing with the continuation of all that opposes His reign, until He finally brings it to an end (II Peter 3:9).

Living in Light of the Kingdom

The truths of the kingdom as they are taught in this parable should lead us to a number of responses:

First, it should lead us to ask the question, to which kingdom do I belong, and for which kingdom am I living? If all of us by nature belong not to the kingdom of Christ, but the kingdom of Satan, then it should lead us to make sure that we are among those that have been decisively trans-

ferred out of the dominion of darkness in which we once lived and into the kingdom of God’s beloved Son.

God is commanding now, in these last days, that all men everywhere repent and fix their hope on the King whom He has placed at His right hand. Have you responded to that call? Are you living for the true King?

Second, if we do belong to Christ’s kingdom, it should lead us to great confidence and boldness. Christ has already inaugurated His kingdom. He has already been exalted to the place of absolute power and authority. Following His death and resurrection, God “seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come” (Ephesians 1:20-21). Jesus Christ is right now “at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him” (I Peter 3:22).

Few things could be clearer in the New Testament than the current authority, power, and dominion that Christ Jesus now possesses. And, though we live in a fallen world and

face the opposition of the ruler of this world, this King of kings, who reigns over all, is our King. We are the seed which He Himself sows, and we will be those who “shine forth as the Sun in the kingdom of [our] Father” (Matthew 13:43). There could be no greater security or confidence in life than knowing that we belong to such a King as Jesus.

Third, it should lead us to more urgent prayer and concern for missions. Satan has been defeated, his kingdom has been cast down, and “the ruler of this world has been judged” (John 16:11). However, he continues to oppose all that seeks to promote the kingdom of Christ and will do so until he is once and forever cast into destruction. This is seen, perhaps more clearly than in any other context, on the mission field. Pray that opportunities would be granted for the preaching of the gospel among the nations, and pray that through the message

preached, the kingdom of Christ would advance against all opposition.

This parable reminds us that today is the day in which the doors of the kingdom are open for those who see their need of Christ. Soon, the wheat will be gathered into the barn, the doors will close, and the tares will be excluded. There will be no further opportunity for repentance; no further opportunity for salvation. It is our responsibility, all of us, to do our part in promoting the cause of the gospel among the nations, pleading with sinners to enter in through Christ, and warning them that the day of harvesting is imminent. It is God’s power alone that will rescue sinners. We must pray in full awareness of the times in which we live and the harvest that is soon to come.

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Jesus Is My Emperor!

By Jeff S.

One of the great joys and encouragements of being a HeartCry coordinator is fellowship with different saints from various countries and cultures. While every testimony of the Lord's saving grace is truly moving and special, there are occasions when you meet someone and hear their story, and it truly stops you in your tracks. Such was the case on my last trip to India.

I first met "Karl" after preaching the second message at the start of a two-day conference in a remote village in South India. I will never forget it, because his reaction caught me a little off guard. I was going to the car to grab something during the break, when one of the brothers stopped me to introduce us. I expected a friendly handshake, as is the custom, but that is

not what I received. With a big smile on his face, he took my hand as a rope to pull himself towards me, where he embraced me in a gentle, but full bear hug. He even placed his head upon my chest during this hug, which is something that expresses a deep affection. Without words, it was obvious that he was thankful for what he had just heard. I just smiled, and tried to reassure him in return with several pats on the back. During the remainder of the conference, I often found his eyes in the crowd. He was always wide eyed and attentive to the messages.

It wasn't until a couple of days later, on a 3-hour road trip to another city, that I was able to ask him about his testimony. What I heard was astounding.

Karl was born in a small village in South India, where his father passed away when he was thirteen years old. Since he was the oldest son, he began working long hours in the fields with his mother at the age of fourteen. He did this in order to provide for his family and to support his younger brother's education. Life in the field was hard, and he soon came under the influence of older men. Desiring to fit in with his fellow laborers, any extra money he earned went to the purchase of alcohol. His life began to spiral out of control as he began drinking more heavily. He described himself as being full of rage and a very angry person. He was mad at everything, and considered himself a loner. In fact, he would often tell himself, "I am my own empire. No one can tell me what to do." This made life for his family very difficult.

One day, at the age of twenty-four, a drunk man in the village began verbally assaulting Karl and his family. He told this man to stop, but he did not. In a fit of rage, Karl picked up a heavy stick that was leaning against the side of his house, and killed the man with it. Needless to say, this brought great shame to his family, as he was put in jail. I expected him to tell me that he spent years locked up, but that was not the case. He was only imprisoned for one month. Apparently, he had friends in the tribal leadership, so he was able to be released by paying a large sum of money to the man's

family. This payment basically bankrupted Karl's family.

One would think that such a situation would bring about some positive reform, but instead, it took Karl down a deeper hole. Upon his release, he soon added drugs to his drinking habit. The pain of taking another man's life weighed heavy on his conscience, and he told me that he could not get rid of it, no matter how much he drank. Not only that, but several of the men in his village would not stop harassing him about it. He finally had enough. He had to get away. He had



to get out. He packed up what little he had, and moved out of the village into an abandoned house. Here, he came up with a solution to his troubles. Buying knives, he began to plan how to murder those men in the village who had been harassing him. He did not care if he died in the process. In fact, he hoped he would die and end his misery.

By the Lord's providence, the abandoned house he moved into was beside the church building of HeartCry missionary Samuel B.



Service after service he could hear the people singing, and each Sunday he could hear the muffled preaching of God's Word. According to Karl, he "didn't care anything about that."

He would however, come over to the church property, where he was greeted by Samuel's mother. She would show him mercy and kindness, giving him water to drink and the occasional meal. One day Samuel came to the church to find him there, and by Samuel's own admission, he was cautious of this man who was at the property. At that time, Karl had an unkempt beard and appeared rough. To Samuel's shame, as he would later confess,

he kept his distance. It wasn't until later that their relationship changed. One day Samuel was having a difficult time trying to move an object to the second floor of the church building. Karl saw him struggling and voluntarily helped him. This led to many conversations about the gospel, sometimes into the early mornings. Through these conversations, Karl's life was changed forever. He repented of his sins, and placed his faith in Jesus Christ.

That was only four months ago. Since then, the Lord has done a miraculous work in his life. He truly is a new creature, with new desires and a new outlook in his life. He now fights against the sin that once dominated and enslaved his inner life. In order to fight the temptation of drugs and drinking, he started memorizing entire chapters of Scripture. In fact, the Lord has granted him an amazing mind, enabling him to memorize

Revelation chapter 1 in just over an hour! Next, he memorized Romans 8, and then all 66 books of the Bible in order, including how many chapters in each book. He is hungry for truth, and yet, the Lord has given him a servant's heart.

But the story continues... two months ago, his mother came to see him. Karl spent several days with her, even bringing her to the church service. Upon talking with Samuel, his

He looked up, and a million-dollar smile came across his weathered face. Shaking his head slightly, he said through his joy, "No. Now, Jesus is my Emperor!"

Truly, God's grace is amazing! Christ has set him free, giving him a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and the mantle of praise instead of the spirit of fainting (Isaiah 61:3). I'm so excited to see what the Lord has in store for

Karl. Even though he still lives in that abandoned house, without power or water, he is no longer abandoned. And even though that house is dimly lit, his inner Light shines so bright. Would you pray for him? Would you pray for his mother? Would you pray for



Shaking his head slightly, he said through his joy, "No. Now, Jesus is my Emperor!"

mother was in tears. She told Samuel that she did not recognize her son, and that she does not know the man who stands before her now. The man that she once knew was no more. Upon seeing this radical change in her son, she even confessed that "truly, this power is only found in Jesus." She now attends the church as well, and is engaged in every service.

Upon hearing this testimony, I was almost speechless. I just looked at him in amazement. I will never forget the innocence in his eyes and the joy written upon his face. The only thing that came to mind was to ask him, "Are you still your own empire now?"

Samuel? That as he ministers to this tender plant, that Karl would grow into maturity. That he would be that "oak of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He (Christ) may be glorified" (Isaiah 61:3).

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Reclaiming the Fallen

By Kien Proom

Pastor Kien Proom and his wife Sopee serve Christ in a fishing village in Cambodia. HeartCry is thankful to God for the mercies He has shown to Kien and Sopee and the newly planted church Kien is caring for faithfully. In the latest update, Pastor Proom shares how God restored his younger brother to Christ and the church.

Dear Friends & Supporters,

We are rejoicing in Christ this month for His grace in my brother's life. My younger brother Broong became a problem in our church because he was drinking alcohol and was misbehaving. He was violent with his adult daughter, hitting her in the head with a piece of wood, and seriously injuring her. Some of our church members, including myself, had spoken to him many times about his sinful behavior and his need to stop drinking alcohol. He continually refused to repent and attempted to justify his behavior.

I consulted with Kelly, an American missionary that disciples me, and we arranged to meet with him to confront him according to the Scriptures. As we met with Broong, most of our church members came to our meeting to witness what was happening. We read aloud the scriptures commanding us not to be drunk (Ephesians 5:17-18, Romans 13:12-14, 1 Cor. 6:9-10, Galatians 5:19-21) and then we had him read aloud to the church 1 Corinthians 5:9-13 concerning impenitence and church discipline.

After this, we told Broong and the church that his refusal to obey Scripture meant that he could no longer fellowship together with us but must be put out of the church fellowship until he repented of his sins, stopped drinking alcohol, and obeyed Scripture. We let him know, with most of the church members present, that we would welcome him back into fellowship when we could see that he had repented from his sin and could see spiritual fruit in his life.

At first, there was no change in Broong. He continued in sin and was excluded from our fellowship. A couple of months later we started seeing the change in Broong's life. He has stopped drinking alcohol. Now, after five months, Broong told us that he has repented from his sin and has asked to join our fellowship again. We agreed and welcomed him back into our fellowship. We will continue to watch his life for fruit that confirms that he has repented and is following Jesus.



Today, I am thanking God for restoring my younger brother to fellowship with us. It fills my heart with joy to hear him praising God and seeing his smile as he reads the Bible with us. What a great and amazing God we serve, who took us when we were dead in our sins and made us alive together with Christ (Ephesians 2:1-7)!

Additionally, I was able to go to my hometown this month. I was able to share the gospel with some people there and give them gospel tracts. There are a few people that I know there that once professed faith

in Christ but have not been obedient to God's Word for a long time. I am praying for them to repent of their sins and come to the Lord. I am hopeful that this may happen as I saw the softening of hearts as they listened to God's Word.

As I shared the gospel in other places, I met with hardened hearts and rejection and scorn. Some people that listened to the gospel told me that being a Christian is very difficult. People in this area have been saying to them that Jesus was under a curse, so people who believe in Jesus might end up under a curse like Him. They were afraid of ending up under a curse, as witchcraft is practiced everywhere around here and there are many witch doctors and witches in this province. After I talked with them, I left them gospel tracts and asked them to read them. I told them that I would revisit them to follow up and talk to them about God's Word. Please pray for these people to have their eyes opened to see the truth about God's Word and the beauty of Jesus Christ.

PLEASE PRAY FOR ME:

1. I am asking the Lord to raise a faithful brother who would live near me as a partner so that we can go out regularly to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. Pray that God will build many churches in this area and raise pastors, elders, and more believers. In 3 villages near me, there are believers in each village, but there is no pastor or place to worship in any of these villages. My village has about 1,000 families in it, so I need help to reach and serve these other villages.
3. Please pray for the Lord to give me an active spirit, that I would not be lazy or discouraged.

May the Lord Jesus be with you all.

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What a great and amazing God we serve, who took us when we were dead in our sins and made us alive together with Christ!

CALL FOR HELP FROM RWANDA

By Bill Issa - Kampala, Uganda



Note from Sean, Africa Coordinator:

"Some readers will remember the horrific genocide that occurred in Rwanda in the 1990's. I have long prayed for a strong gospel witness and biblical church in Rwanda. Words fail to describe my emotions as I read Bill Issa's latest report."

"Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true." (Acts 17:11)

When our deacon Marvin was undergoing his pastoral internship at Kabwata Baptist Church (KBC) in 2018 in Lusaka, Zambia, something important happened! A "Macedonian call" came to KBC from Maombi Mathias in Kigali, Rwanda. Maombi was asking for spiritual help with a small Bible study group he was leading in the capital city of Rwanda.

KBC connected Maombi with Marvin, since Uganda borders Rwanda. Marvin maintained correspondence with Maombi, and when Marvin returned to Kampala from Lusaka, Maombi came to visit our church, Reconciliation Baptist Church (RBC).

Maombi visited in January 2019 while I was in northern Uganda for ministry, so I did not get to meet him. He shared their amazing testimony with our church; when I came back to Kampala, I found all the members talking well about the brethren in Kigali. RBC decided to send Marvin and me to Kigali to confirm those amazing stories. We traveled to Kigali in March and found a small, vibrant, solid “Bible Study Group” (as they call themselves), led by Maombi and four more brothers.

Maombi's Testimony

Maombi Mathias is 29, from the minority Tutsi ethnic group of Rwanda. He is an orphan and a survivor of the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Both of his parents as well as the rest of his relatives (seventy!) were butchered, leaving four-year-old Maombi all alone! He grew up with much hatred toward God, eventually concluding that God did not exist or that, if He did, He must be evil for allowing what happened in his country.

As a young orphan, he was taken in by a Roman Catholic charitable organization. They took good care of him and later sent him to one of their schools. He excelled in mathematics and physics and was among the top five students in Kigali. This led to a scholarship for university where he got a degree in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering. Later, he did some theological studies and emerged with an “Advanced Diploma in Theology of Missions.” You may be wondering why a God-hater pursued a theological degree?



It was at university that the Lord called Maombi. There was a missionary from the U.S. who started an evangelistic “Bible Union Fellowship” at his university and started meeting with students regularly. One day, Maombi’s friend took him to that Bible fellowship where the missionary was preaching from Mark 8:36: “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?”

These words left many questions in Maombi’s young mind—“Can one lose his soul? How? I’m studying with so many ambitions. What if I study, get all the money and honors, then lose my soul?”

He continued to attend the Bible Union Fellowship, asking for more explanation on how one can lose his soul. He liked the Bible study meetings, although he continued with his sinful life. He wanted to stop sinning, but he could not.

Eventually the missionary went back to the U.S. and Maombi was not attending any local church. After graduation, he started looking for work and was offered a job training people in computer skills. When he arrived at his place of work, he discovered it was a prosperity “church.” The pastor had employed him to train people in the nationwide branches of his so-called church. He was paid very well, and Maombi started conducting Bible study with his students after lessons. One day, the pastor found him leading Bible study and decided to give him other responsibilities in the church. After a while, he found himself among the main leaders there!

From the first day, though, he was disturbed by the teachings and practices of that church. Eventually he started pleading with the pastor to abandon man-centered teaching and practices and follow what Scripture teaches, but the pastor refused. Maombi decided to obey God rather than men by resigning from both the church and the job! After resigning, Maombi started doing Bible study with his wife at home. As he continued seeking God in the Scriptures, he felt deep conviction of his sins, until one day he went into his bedroom and cried to God for forgiveness. From that day, he felt peace, joy, and assurance that he had never experienced before. Some of his church friends, neighbors, and classmates started looking for him because of his serious approach with the Word; and that’s how the Bible study group was formed in 2017.

How Did They Find Kabwata Baptist Church?

Maombi started going to the internet looking for biblically sound preachers. One day, he came across a certain “Spurgeon of Africa,” and that disturbed his mind. He had learned about Charles H. Spurgeon from that U.S. missionary at his university and had fallen in love with his books and sermons. When he saw a “Spurgeon of Africa” on the internet, he thought initially, “This must be one of these many heretics in Africa comparing himself with Spurgeon. Let me first listen to what this heretic has to say.” After listening to one of Pastor Conrad Mbewe’s sermons, he was edified and started following him. Later, by following Pastor Mbewe, he also found Brother Paul Washer. At last, he finally wrote to Pastor Mbewe and sought help.

Serious About Truth

Marvin and I arrived in Kigali on a Saturday at 6:00 AM. Maombi picked us up from the bus station, and we had a meeting with the leaders of the group a few hours later.

These guys put us to a real test! Like the Bereans of Acts 17:11, whatever we said that sounded unfamiliar to them, they asked us to explain it with a passage of Scripture!

I was offered a chance to preach on Sunday, but with a serious warning—if I said anything unbiblical, I would be stopped in the middle of the sermon and asked to explain; if I failed to satisfy them, the sermon would end right there! After our Saturday meeting, I joked with Marvin saying, “We are in trouble here in Rwanda! You should be the one to preach tomorrow!” But we were so happy with how serious these guys are with Scripture. What a joy it was to discover these brethren right across our border!

They have existed for two years as a Bible Study group and have at times had to discourage others from joining the group, because of the tough rules in their country—not being a formal church hinders them from many things. They need help and guidance on how to become a legally recognized church. Let’s pray together for that need!

Although our brethren are biblically sound, we did discover that they have many passages that they still misinterpret because they have been like sheep without a shepherd! Because of that, RBC has decided to send two brothers to Kigali every three or four months, Lord willing, to encourage them and study the Word with them. Please pray for the Lord’s provision in that endeavor!

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Armenian Appreciation

By Forrest Hite

What a joy it is to read of the Lord’s work in the hearts and lives of His people! We truly serve a kind and loving Father who knows our weakness yet remains determined to finish the work He begins in the hearts of each of His children.

In a previous magazine (Issue 93), we told you about the translation of Paul Washer’s *Knowing the Living God* into the Armenian language. HeartCry has continued to partner with Lahairoi Publishing House (LPH), as well as with Razmik Serkisian and Gary Powers, to fund and facilitate

the translation, publication, and distribution of sound gospel literature in Armenia. At the end 2018 and beginning of 2019, *Discovering the Glorious Gospel* and *The Gospel’s Power and Message* (both by Paul Washer) were printed and distributed to pastors and other believers throughout Armenia, as well as some in the Middle East and the United States.

HeartCry does not currently support any missionaries in Armenia; however, through this means, we have had the opportunity to send sound doctrine into the small Transcaucasian nation. Thanks to LPH and Razmik, we have

been able to get these materials to churches and individuals who we know will use them!

By God's grace, these resources are having an impact on the Armenian-speaking church! We are already in the planning stages of getting the sequels to each of these books—*Discerning the Plight of Man* and *Gospel Call and True Conversion*—translated and published in the near future. We are so grateful for your prayers and support; we know that we could not accomplish projects like this without you “holding the rope” for us.

Those who have received these books have been faithful to send us pictures and thank-you notes. We wanted to share some of these with you again, so that you can share our joy in seeing their faces and reading their letters. May you be encouraged, and may you feel urged to pray for the church in Armenia!



” Today we have received *Discovering the Glorious Gospel*, and we are very grateful to you and to our Lord God for this textbook. You and your ministry with your honest and committed work have a great input in developing Christian values among the people of Armenia. God sees your efforts and rejoices. You help us to prepare for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you and multiply His grace upon you and your ministry.

- Karen K. (Armenia)

” Thank you for getting this precious gift to us Armenian pastors. Discovering the Glorious Gospel is a great blessing and a valuable gift. I am sure that this book will enlighten our Christian brothers and sisters. Trust me, our people today need to know God more. We need to understand the glorious greatness of the true gospel in order to avoid fake ‘gospels.’ May our Lord bless your work and multiply your joy!

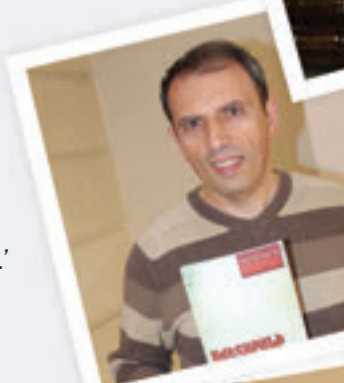
- Pastor Khachatur (Armenia)

” Please receive our sincere gratitude on behalf of Armenian pastors for your great blessing and help. The translation of Paul Washer’s *Discovering the Glorious Gospel* is a great blessing for Christians in Armenia. God bless you; you have strengthened our faith. We are so thankful that you decided to support us with this! Together we can do more!

- Pastors Rafael, Grigor, Artavazd, Babken, Arthur, & Khatchik (Armenia)

” Dear brothers, today I have received a wonderful textbook. You have printed the second study of Paul Washer, who is one of our favorite authors. This is such a blessing and joy for us! Thank you for the high quality translation and printing! I am looking forward to reading and working on this book. I am sure that because of this material, my knowledge of and love for the living God will grow. May God bless you, dear brothers and sisters.

- Pastor Artak (Armenia)



” Allow me to express my gratitude to your team. We are so blessed and inspired to have *Discovering the Glorious Gospel* in our hands. This is truly a valuable book. Having the books by Paul Washer in our educational library, we see that the level of spiritual education and love is rising in our brothers and sisters, as well as love for studying the Bible. Your ministry is a blessing for us.

- Pastor Raffi (Armenia)



”

Thank you! Your service to us will bear fruit for a very long time in many nations and generations. From the very first chapter, Discovering the Glorious Gospel drew my attention. I am amazed at the awe and the detailed approach with which the works of the Lord are explained in this book. As I read, I am seeing how little I knew about our Lord and how much I need to study. I have also liked the way the book is organized, the size of the book, the quality of print, and especially the great Armenian translation. May God be glorified! Thanks to all who have aided in the publication of this book! We love you and bless you!

- Xachik A. (Armenia)

”

I am reading Discovering the Glorious Gospel by Paul Washer and thinking we should start a school to teach these books to people! I work in Turkey with people from many nationalities—Assyrians, Kurds, Turks, Syrians—and am planning to pass the entire teaching of these books to them. This will significantly increase their knowledge of God and Jesus the Savior. I am grateful to God for HeartCry and for giving these books to us. My beloved, you help us to glorify our Lord God among many nations and tongues.

- Pastor Vahram (Turkey)

”

Dear brothers, we have received the second book by Paul Washer, and I cannot find words to express my gratitude! I praise God for you. You have really uncovered the gloriousness of the gospel—how glorious and precious is our God, and how beloved and priceless is Jesus our Savior! I have read both books, but I am not satisfied yet. I read them every day, alongside my Bible. I am amazed at how our Lord has led you to get the message of the gospel of wonder to the nations. You are always in our prayers, dear ones.

- Araik E. (Armenia)

”

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we have been so blessed with the books by Paul Washer translated into Armenian in recent years. I started to notice the level of my teachings increasing in the church where I pastor, because I started to use the study materials from HeartCry. Right now, I have The Gospel's Power and Message by Paul Washer on my table. I continue to read this book, and I give glory to God for having such true brothers in Christ. Thank you!

- Shahnazaryan N. (Armenia)

”

I am reading Discovering the Glorious Gospel and am just blessing you and thanking the Lord for you. I am amazed at the ways of the Lord, His mercy, and Him getting this book to Christians in Armenia. Only He could know how much our people need this teaching. How hungry and thirsty we have been for such gospel truths! This book completely convinced us to love our Lord with all our spirit, heart, and mind and to worship Him with our spirit and with truth. Thanks a million!

- Pastor Misak (Armenia)

”

I want to testify and share my joy. After receiving Christ as my Lord and Savior, I saw so many contradictions among professed Christians. I have listened to so many sermons and explanations with which my spirit did not agree. However, now I am reading Discovering the Glorious Gospel, and everything falls into place! How long I have been waiting for such a book! What a wonderful Jesus we have, and how loving our Father is! I read this book day by day and understand anew the power of the gospel. The chapter, 'Christ Suffered the Wrath of God,' was especially moving and convicting. Now I can say that my feelings do not go against my mind and my understanding of God. May our Lord bless you and keep you!

- Ashot S. (Armenia)





” I work with Farsi-speaking Christians, and I am Armenian. It is said that Christianity came to Iran centuries ago through Armenian merchants. When I received the two Armenian books by Paul Washer and started reading and studying them, I was so moved, as if I again encountered Jesus Christ, our Father, and the Holy Spirit. Now I understand Farsi-speaking Christians, who thank us Armenians for bringing the gospel to them; I understand their glad and grateful hearts. Dear HeartCry, you did the same thing for our nation. You have helped us to discover the gospel anew. And we do our part by passing it to our neighboring countries, to Iranians, Arabs, Turks, and Kurds. Thank you!

- Aramazd S. (Iran)

” This doctrinal work, Discovering the Glorious Gospel, has developed my mind and strengthened my commitment to God and my calling as a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ and as one who spreads His Kingdom among the nations. I am a prayer group leader, and we pray mainly for the region and peoples of the Middle East. Now, before starting our prayers, we use this book as a study; it strengthens our desire to pray for more saved people around the world and for our own ability to take the gospel to the nations. We were especially impressed by the chapters, 'Christ the Sacrifice,' 'Christ the Lamb,' and 'Christ Our Propitiation.' All of us understand better the power of God and feel an increase in forgiveness and love toward one another. Thank you, dear HeartCry, for getting this book to our nation.

- Manushak M. (Turkey)



” I have marked the following while reading The Gospel's Power and Message by Paul Washer: 'The majority argument is that we simply must change the way we preach because it just looks foolish to the world.' Thank you for this alert message! The same can be seen in some Armenian churches as well. I am a pastor myself, and I refuse to change the way I preach and will not compromise it with the world. Thank you for this wonderful book! I am so grateful. You really do a great work for salvation of the nations. May God bless you and multiply His grace upon you.

- Pastor Baghdasaryan (Armenia)



” I do not know another book that depicts Christian life in this world so clearly as The Gospel's Power and Message by Paul Washer. On its pages, one can find ways to know the gospel and to make the gospel known. This is truly a manual for my first steps in missions. Soon I will leave for a region in which Christ is almost unknown. I worried so much about how to present the living Christ to them. However, this work helped open my spiritual eyes wider and gave me strength and boldness. The book will of course go to mission with me, and I am sure I will continue to learn much from it. I am so grateful to our God for having brothers like you and for giving me this book at the right time.

- Artavazd H. (Middle East and Armenia)

Nicolae Vulpe

Pucioasa, Romania

“Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.” (1 Timothy 1:15)



Testimony of Conversion

My name is Nicolae Vulpe. I was born and raised in a Baptist family in the country of Moldova. I was the youngest of four children. I was introduced to the gospel from the beginning through the testimony of my parents and my older brothers. My parents also gave each of us a certain responsi-

bility in church, so that we could grow in the knowledge of the truth; I participated at the worship services every week. The fact that our house and the church were in the same courtyard (the church building was on my grandfather's property) put me in constant contact with the Christian faith.

I was considered a repent [the Romanian equivalent of “believer”] even from the first grade, and I tried

to cultivate biblical virtues in my life. I thought that I was on the good path. I cherished the biblical principles and identified myself with them just as a Christian does, but all these things stopped when I had a terrible accident in the third grade. It was a miracle that I survived. From that moment, I started seeing everything in the context of certain death. I had frequent nightmares; every evening before falling asleep, I had in my mind the same question: “Where am I going if I die?” A few years later, a friend of mine had an accident and died. When I attended his funeral, I realized again how short life was. I wished with all my heart to have surety when facing death.

The fear of death was my first motivation for my systematic reading of the Bible. I received my first New Testament at the age of twelve. It was during the time of communism, and it was very difficult to have a Bible. My father managed to find a Romanian New Testament owned by a Bulgarian family. It was just for me! Praise the Lord! I read it with great determination, trying to find out how to be sure when facing death. I was especially touched by II Peter 3:9: “The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the Day of Judgment.”

I began to understand why God had kept me alive—He did not want me to die, because He wanted me to repent.

But how could I do that? I became very “spiritual” and “moral.” My parents were happy about it, though my friends did not like it. I thought I could save my life by doing the good deeds that a Christian was supposed to do. I was exhausted and cried often, but I continued to read the Bible. I could tell that something was missing. My family was satisfied with my new spirituality. For three years I struggled to repent, but I could not find grace.

I remember getting beaten by a shepherd one time when I was watching my family's cows. I was not guilty of anything. When the police came, they saw my wounds, but I did not want this man to go through a trial, so I forgave him, just as Jesus did. People in the village found out what happened, and my parents took great pride in this. I thought this event proved my Christianity, but then I found myself struggling again with fear and uncertainty. I would read Christian biographies and found one with which I could identify myself. An English preacher was coming back from a mission field in America. While he was sailing, he prayed, “I went to convert the Indians in America, but who is going to convert me?” This was exactly my situation, which I realized when I served as a spiritual counselor at an evangelistic event. In that particular instance, God gave me a strong conviction of sin. I could not continue any longer, so I surrendered entirely to the Lord. I turned to God and was accepted by Him through His grace. I needed to be saved, and God heard my cry. He gave me His Holy Spirit and a new life. I found forgiveness; my inner struggle came to an end. I had a new life that was filled with peace!



The next day, I was working with my older brother in the courtyard, and he asked me if something had happened to me. This was the first confirmation. He was the first to see the change in me. He went to tell our family what happened, and my parents praised the Lord that their youngest child was truly saved (though they had thought this had happened before). I was baptized after two months, and I had a different testimony at school. The Lord started using me there. One of my teachers accepted my invitation to an evangelistic event at church, and she was saved. She spoke many times about the fact that I was a good testimony in my classroom. My joy and my desire was to see my classmates saved, and God gave me many opportunities to see this desire fulfilled. All my classmates came to church on different occasions. The school's principal allowed us to organize Christian meetings at school, and more and more students were coming to church. We used to meet before the class started to pray and read the Bible together. The Lord gave us so much grace and saved many of us. A number of my former classmates are now involved in ministry.

In the summer of 1992, I had my first experience of doing personal evangelism on the street. I was walking back home with my friend Anatol. We were coming back from a church in another village and were carrying our accordion; a group of young people stopped us and asked us to play something for them. We sang a song, and then a very good discussion

about faith started. In the end, one of the girls asked us if we could come again the next Sunday, and we did. A believer from that village offered us a room for the meetings. We kept meeting in that room, and many people came to God in the village of Valeni. I was in the tenth grade then, and I was feeling great joy in serving the Lord and preaching the gospel to others.

I told the Lord that if He would let me serve Him, I would do it gladly and sacrifice my entire life.

God proved Himself merciful again, guiding me to college in a wonderful way. In 1994, I passed the entrance exam and was accepted as a student at the Baptist College in Bucharest, where I majored in Theology and the Romanian Language.

While I was a student, I became involved in a mission in Dambovită County. I graduated in 1998 and, together with my colleague Sorin

Prodan, started a church-planting ministry in Pucioasa, a village with no Christians. We met a group of children and teenagers in the park, and God moved them to be interested in His Kingdom. Their families and friends were the first people we worked with in Pucioasa. People turned to God genuinely, and this confirmed our calling and His will for the area.

I was ordained in 2001, and the church in Pucioasa was established in 2003. We gathered in three different locations until the Lord gave us our own place in 2004. We renovated the building and began having our meetings. This lasted until 2013, when, by God's grace, we inaugurated a new church building.

Praise the Lord! He has been using us in Pucioasa for more than fifteen years now, and our work has spread out to six other villages where we have mission points.

The Pucioasa area is still in great need of the gospel, and there are over twenty villages where there are no Evangelical churches. We want to be useful for the enlargement of God's Kingdom!

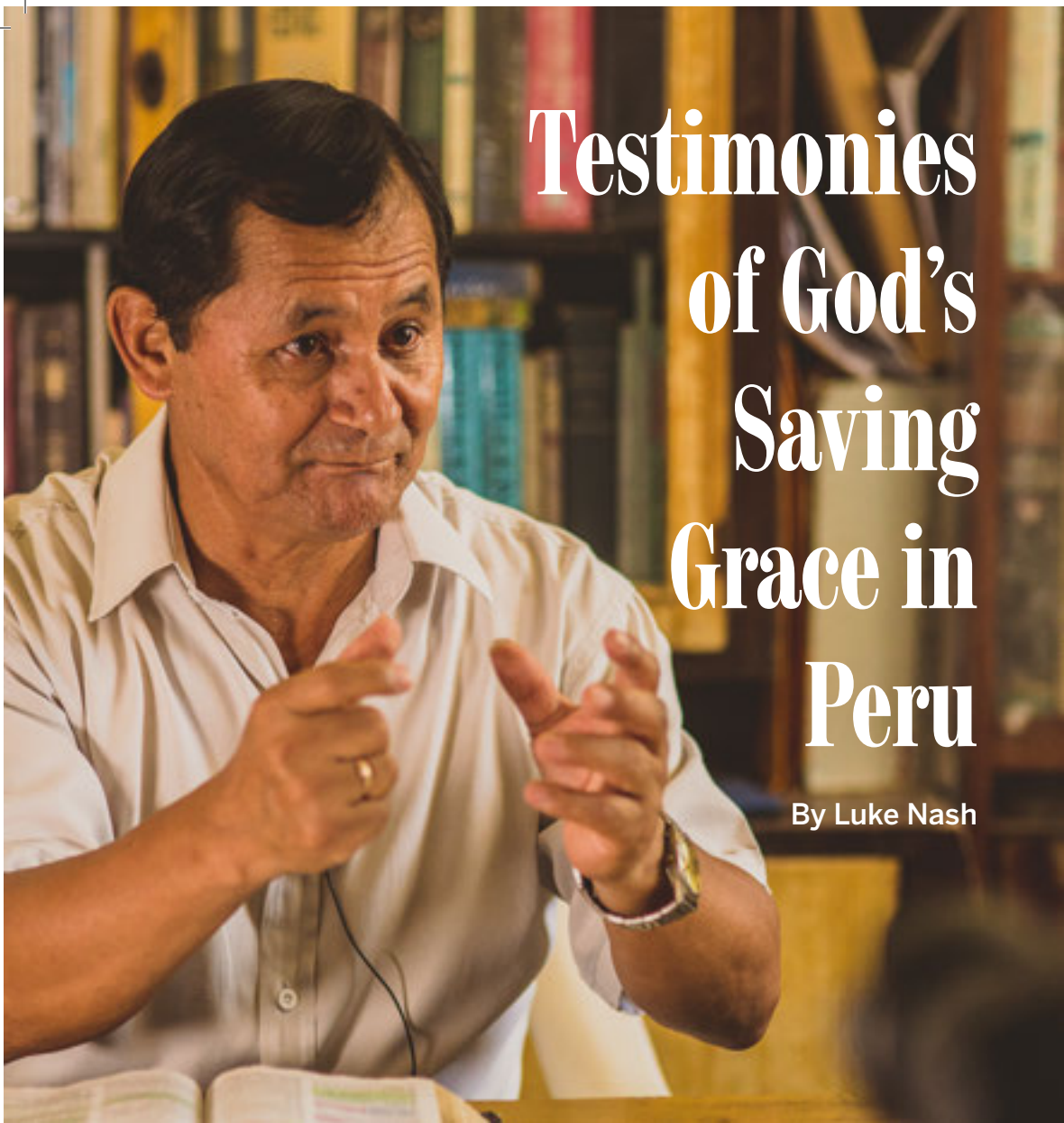
Recent Update

The Lord gave me the opportunity to share the gospel with a woman who had a very sad story. She had been abandoned in a hospital when she was born and grew up in an orphanage. She had tried to kill herself by jumping into the path of an oncoming truck just a few days before I talked to her. The driver of the vehicle managed to stop before hitting her. Some time

ago, she took many pills in an attempt to kill herself and was transported to the hospital in a coma. Then I found out why she was trying to take her life: she was weary of physical ailments—arthritis and diabetes. The doctor told her that he would have to amputate her legs. This resulted in a very strong inner struggle which led her to call me. She had attended one of our evangelistic events this summer and had my phone number. When I talked to her, she was very receptive and began to understand what her greater problem was. She saw that the reason the Lord had not allowed her to die when she tried to kill herself. She realized where she would have been for eternity. The Lord searched her heart, and she asked Him to have mercy on her soul! She has been attending the church for three weeks now and is very eager to fulfill God's will.

The lady told another family about the Lord, and now they come to church together. I have discovered that she knows quite a few people in Pucioasa, so I encouraged her to help us meet her acquaintances. We already have had a meeting with twelve or fifteen of her contacts. I asked my wife and another sister from the church to welcome these ladies among them and share the gospel using their personal testimonies. They had a very good meeting, as the women found out that there are no orphans in God's Kingdom and that any limitation in this life can be an invitation to come into His Kingdom. This was a good opportunity for our church members to minister to these ladies.

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Testimonies of God's Saving Grace in Peru

By Luke Nash

Praise God for the four new believers that were recently baptized in Shalom Baptist Church in Chiclayo, Peru! Pray for each of them to continue growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus, and pray for Pastor Segundo Gonzales as he faithfully continues to pastor the church in Chiclayo. Below are brief testimonies of God's grace in the lives of the new converts:

"I attended church from when I was a young girl. After all the years I had spent in church, my life remained the same—there was never any change. About eight years ago, I began attending Shalom Baptist Church; but it wasn't until just two years ago that I really began to understand the gospel and how a person is saved from sin. I started experiencing conviction for my sin, and God began to work in my life. Now I want to be with the brothers and sisters in the church, learning from the Scriptures."

"Because of an illness, I was confined to my house for an extended period of time. During that time, I cried out to God; when I was able, I decided to begin attending a church, which happened to be Shalom Baptist Church. As I began listening to the gospel that was preached, I realized the reality of my spiritual condition, and I turned to the Lord in faith. After I became a believer, I knew that I needed to be baptized, but I knew that my family would not like it. Several of my family members were already upset because I was no longer attending the Roman Catholic meetings. When they found out that I was going to be baptized, it got even worse, and my family refused to attend my baptism."

"I have always gone to church, even when I was a child. I remember that I was baptized at some point in my childhood, but I didn't understand what it meant or what salvation was. As time passed and I became an adult, I realized more and more that my life was entirely empty. God began

to touch my heart and show me my great need for Him. As I heard teaching on the gospel and understood what it was that Christ did for us, I believed."

"I started going to church when I was a teenager. I did all the programs that the church had to offer, like camps and other youth activities, but I never really took God seriously or had any of the fruit that someone who knows Him should have. After attending Shalom Baptist Church for a few years, the Lord began to show me my need for salvation. About six months ago, I started to pay more attention to the sermons and the passages from the Bible and came to understand what the gospel was really about. My life has been changed!"

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PERSEVERING IN THE WORK

By Arturo Marin - San Rafael, Peru



We have evangelized this town for years and years, but for a long time we did not see much fruit. In many ways, our small community is the cradle of idolatry for this area. There are only three streets in the whole town; so, when the pagan festivals take place, nearly every individual participates.

Also, because we are a small town, everyone knows one another and everything that goes on in each other's life—there is nearly nothing hidden here! Because of this, in the midst of the idolatry in our town, the testimony of the few believers here began to be more and more recognized by others.

The work of regeneration that the Lord has done in our lives is now notorious, and this is helping us to be able to have more opportunities to share the gospel with people.

There are a lot of influential people in the community who are devoted to pagan worship. Before, they hated us because we were Christians. But some of them are getting older and dealing with sickness, and now they are actually calling us to come and share the gospel with them! Only God can do something like that.

Many times, I thought that the situation here would never change. It was very frustrating for us; we seemed to be making such little progress! In fact, sometimes I even thought about leaving the jungle altogether and returning to Lima because of the constant rejection of the people here. But now, from the very same lips of those that used to hate us years ago, we are getting requests to come and tell them about Jesus! What a great encouragement to us! The Lord is beginning to work in the hearts of the people of San Rafael.



.....



The Christian & Temptation

By Octavius Winslow

*“Above all, taking the shield of faith,
wherewith ye shall be able to quench
all the fiery darts of the wicked.”
(Ephesians 6:16)*

Few of the children of God are ignorant of Satan's devices. But few are exempt from the “fiery darts” of the adversary; our Lord Himself was not. Many, peculiar, and great are their temptations. They often touch the very vitals of the gospel, go to undermine the believer's faith in the fundamentals of Christianity, and affect his own personal interest in the covenant of grace. Satan is the sworn enemy of the believer, his constant unwearied foe. There is, too, a subtlety and malignity which does not mark the other and numerous enemies of the soul. The Holy Ghost speaks of the “depths of Satan.” There are “depths” in his malice, subtlety, and sagacity which many of the beloved of the Lord are made in some degree to fathom. The Lord may allow them to go down into those “depths,” just to convince them that there are depths in His wisdom, love, power, and grace that can out-fathom the “depths of Satan.”

But what are some of the devices of the wicked one? What are some of his fiery darts? Sometimes he fills the mind of the believer with the most blasphemous and atheistic thoughts, threatening the utter destruction of his peace and confidence. Sometimes he takes advantage of periods of weakness, trial, and perplexity to stir up the corruptions of his nature, bringing the soul back as into captivity to the law of sin and death. Sometimes he suggests unbelieving doubts respecting his adoption, beguiling him into the belief that his professed

conversion is all a delusion, that his religion is all hypocrisy, and that what he had thought was the work of grace is but the work of nature. But by far the greatest and most widespread controversy which Satan has with the saint of God is to lead him to doubt the ability and the willingness of Christ to save a poor sinner. With the anchor of his soul removed from this truth, he is driven out on a rough sea of doubt and anguish and is at the mercy of every wind of doctrine and every billow of unbelief that may assail his storm-tossed bark.

But in the midst of it all, whence flow the comfort and the victory of the tempted believer? From the promise which assures him that “when the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).

*And what is the
standard which the
Spirit, the Comforter,
lifts up to stem this
flood? A dying, risen,
ascended, exalted, and
ever-living Savior. This
is the standard that
strikes terror into the
foe. This is the gate that
shuts out the flood.*

So the disciples proved. This is their testimony: “And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, ‘Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through Thy name’” (Luke 10:17). Immanuel is that name which puts to flight every spiritual foe, and the Comforter, which is

the Holy Ghost leads the tempted soul to this name to shelter itself beneath it, to plead it with God, and to battle with it against the enemy.

Dear reader, are you a mark against which the fiery darts of the devil are leveled? Are you sore tempted? Be not astonished as though some strange thing had happened to you. The holiest of God's saints have suffered as you are now suffering; indeed, even your blessed Lord, your master, your pattern, your example, and He in whose name you will be more than conqueror was once assailed as you are, and by the same enemy.

Let the reflection console you that temptations only leave the traces of guilt on the conscience and are only regarded as sins by God if they are yielded to. The mere suggestion of the adversary, the mere presentation of a temptation is no sin, so long as, in the strength that is in Christ Jesus, the believer firmly and resolutely resists it. “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

Jesus has already fought and conquered for you. He knew well what the conflict with Satan was. And He remembers, too, what it is. Lift up your head, dear tempted soul! You will obtain the victory. The Seed of the woman has bruised the serpent's head and has crushed him, never to obtain his supremacy over you again. He may harass, annoy, and distress you, but he never can pluck you from the hollow of the hand that was pierced for you.

**Taken from the May 23 devotional
from Morning Thoughts by
Octavius Winslow.**

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Zambia Zimbabwe and beyond.

"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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