

	<h1 style="text-align: center;">THE TRUMPET</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">WWW.THETRUMPETONLINE.COM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Voice of the LORD Ministries</p>
		<p style="text-align: center;">Vol. 26 No. 02 February 2022</p>

Help From Above

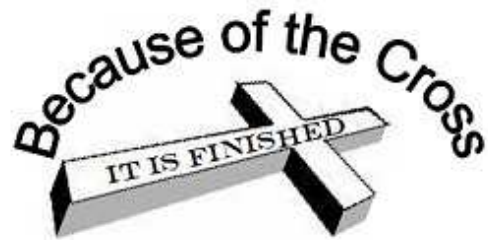
An old Indian chief constantly spoke of the Lord Jesus and what He meant to him. "Why do you talk so much about Jesus?" asked a friend. The old chief did not reply, but slowly, deliberately gathered some sticks and bits of grass. He made a circle of them. In the circle he placed a caterpillar. Still silent, he struck a match and lit the sticks and grass. They watched the caterpillar. As the fire caught around the circle, the trapped caterpillar began to crawl around rapidly, seeking a way to escape. As the fire advanced, the helpless caterpillar raised its head as high as it could. If the creature could have spoken, it would have said, "My help can only come from above." Then the old chief stooped down. He extended his finger to the caterpillar which crawled up his finger to safety. "That," said the chief glowing, "was what the Lord Jesus did for me! I was lost in sin. My condition was hopeless. I was trapped. Then the Lord Jesus stooped down in love and mercy and He drew me out of the horrible pit of sin and shame. How can I help but love Him and talk of His wondrous love and care?"

I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. Psalms 40:1-2

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16



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Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.
Colossians 2:14-15

"You Took My Place"

One day, a man went to visit a church.. He got there early, parked his car, and got out. Another car pulled up and the driver got out and said, "I always park there! You took my place!" The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!" The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing. After Sunday School, the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, "That's where I always sit! You took my place!" The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still He said nothing. Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?" The visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns, and a tear fell from his eye, "I took your place."

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

**CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH** by Thom Tapp

How pastors know its time for a study on prayer . . .

THE BACK PEW - Jeff Larson

Pastor Joe Higgins plans for church growth took an 'UGLY' turn when it was discovered his ads for 'Friend Day' were misspelled.

**Cousin Leroy**

Bubba - My girlfriend's mad at me

Leroy - What happened? I told you to tell her "When I look in your eyes time stands still" did you tell her that?

Bubba - Oh, I told her she had a face that would stop a clock

Vacation

John and his wife won a paid vacation to France. The first day there they managed to get into a huge argument. When they sit down for dinner later that night in a fancy French restaurant they were still not speaking. John tells the waiter "I'll have the biggest steak you have, and I want it medium rare." The waiter replies "Monsieur, what about Ze mad cow?" To which John replied...."She'll have a salad".

The Shepherd

A local pastor joined a community service club, and the members thought they would have some fun with him. Under his name badge they printed "Hog Caller" as his occupation. Everyone made a big fanfare as the badge was presented. The pastor responded by saying, "I usually am called the 'shepherd of the sheep'...but you know your people better than I do."

LORD Build Me A Bridge

A man walking along a California beach was deep in prayer. Suddenly the sky clouded above his head and, in a booming voice, the Lord said, "Because you have TRIED to be faithful to me in all ways, I will grant you one request." The man said, "Build a bridge to Hawaii so I can drive over anytime I want." The Lord said, "Your request is very materialistic. Think of the enormous challenges for that kind of undertaking. The supports required to reach the bottom of the Pacific! The concrete and steel it would take! It will nearly exhaust several natural resources. I can do it, but it is hard for me to justify your desire for worldly things. Take a little more time and think of something that would honor and glorify me." The man thought about it for a long time. Finally he said, "Lord, I wish that I could understand my wife. I want to know how she feels inside, what she's thinking when she gives me the silent treatment, why she cries, what she means when she says nothing's wrong, and how I can make a woman truly happy. The Lord replied, "You want two lanes or four on that bridge?"

The Helpful Husband

During an attack of laryngitis, I lost my voice completely for two days. To help me communicate with him, my husband devised a system of taps: One tap meant, "Kiss me." Two taps meant "Yes." Seven taps meant "No." Ninety-five taps meant "Take out the garbage."

**Forsaking The Assembly***From the Pastor's Desk*

Pastor Billy R Douglas

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. Hebrews 10:25

A member of the church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited. The pastor made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead. Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The pastor glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, 'Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I will be back in church next Sunday.'

In the day that we live in, sadly, more and more people are deciding that they do not need to attend a local church. They have convinced themselves and others have convinced them that staying at home and watching church on the television, phone or the computer is just as good. That is just simply not true. My Pastor used to say "You will get something at church that you will not get anywhere else." And I believe that to be true. Don't get me wrong I realize that there are those today who do not have a local church in their area that is preaching the truth. I also realize that many are elderly, sick in body, homebound and are unable to get to church. I am not talking about those situations or other legitimate reasons. In times such as those of course you should take advantage of "media church" and worship, pray and feed upon the Word that way. But more times than not today that is not the case. More and more people are simply choosing to stay home because it is more convenient to have church from their recliner than it is to be faithful to a local assembly. The Bible shows us very clearly that it is the will of the LORD for His people to gather together in person if possible. To pray for and with one another, to fellowship, to encourage and to be strengthened by our brothers and sisters. The scripture that we opened up with teaches us that this is even more important as we see the day approach...in other words, in the last days! And make no mistake my friend we are in the last days. Now is not the time to forsake the local assembly. We need it now more than ever! The devil knows this all too well. We see this clearly with the attack on the church during the pandemic. The government trying to close down churches while they left places like abortion clinics operate as usual! Deeming the church as "non-essential" when nothing could be farther from the truth! There are a few more scriptures I want to share with you before we close Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 "Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken." We find in those scriptures another great example of the importance of unity, fellowship and assembly with fellow believers. Make this a matter of prayer and put forth the effort to find a local body of believers that are standing in the truth. Whether in a church building or in a home church setting...assemble with brothers and sisters in the LORD. Pray together, worship together, GROW together. We need that fellowship now more than ever.

Until next time, "May the LORD Bless and keep you," is our prayer. Pastor Billy R Douglas

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The Danger Of Familiarity (conclusion)

Evangelist Mike Heltsley

Luke 7:44-46 - And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

The presence of Jesus was taken for granted! Was it just a case of forgetfulness on the part of His host, or was it something else? Something deeper? Perhaps the Pharisee was becoming too familiar with Jesus - just a little bit too casual. From a distance Jesus was pretty amazing. Now that he had Jesus sitting there at his own table, in his own house, he saw that Jesus was a man. Maybe he came to believe that Jesus was someone not too unlike himself. It's only Jesus, so there's no need to get all excited. Let Him get His own water and wash His own feet. That is the danger of familiarity. It is said that familiarity breeds contempt. In the beginning we coveted the presence of the Lord, but today perhaps we take it for granted. In the beginning we were awed by Him, but today perhaps we are not so amazed. His visits become more routine, more ordinary, more commonplace. The songs we sing become a habit. The Bible we read becomes dry and old. The testimonies of our brothers and sisters do not move us because we have seen and heard it all before. The woman, on the other hand, maintained a quiet reverence, a godly sense of awe, a majestic sense of wonder before the Holy. She gave honor to Whom honor was due. She made up for what was lacking. When she arrived she saw that no one was ministering to the Lord, and she made Him the focus of her being there in that moment. Few people today truly minister to the Lord Himself. They expect that the Lord will minister to them. And indeed, He does. But the nature of the Lord Jesus is such that He will never call attention to Himself. He will never say, "Why do you not minister to Me? Why do you take me for granted? Why have you not washed My feet?" He will remain silent, and wait for someone to notice Him. Perhaps that is the reason why He is so often overlooked and taken for granted: because He never seeks anything for Himself. When the Lord first showed me the importance of ministering to Him, He made no demands upon me to do anything. He simply let me experience how lonely He was in the midst of a lot of religious activity. There, in the middle of our wonderful church service, I understood that we were taking Jesus for granted. We were too familiar with His Presence. When I understood the pain of the Lord, I knew immediately what needed to be done. That is when I understood that to minister to the Lord was the preeminent thing, the most important thing, and our primary purpose and reason for being. The best waiters and waitresses are the ones who anticipate your needs and move at once to meet them - without you having to ask. They do not say, "Would you like some more tea?" They watch to see what you need, and if they see that your glass is empty, they move to fill it. A waiter, a servant, a minister: all three have the same meaning. To wait on the Lord; to be a servant of the Lord; to minister to the Lord; all three describe the same purpose and function. The foremost thing is not to preach, or teach, or travel, or build a big ministry. We are to watch for, anticipate, and meet the Lord's Need so that He is never taken for granted. The Lord gives all day long. He teaches the crowds. He heals their sick. He meets their needs. At the end of the day He is tired. His feet are dirty. He needs to be refreshed. But as is often the case, the needs of Jesus are completely overlooked as we eagerly stretch out our hands to get OUR blessing. Certainly, this woman had many needs. Yet she comes to the Lord Jesus, not to receive a blessing, but to be a blessing: Luke 7:44-46 - And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. When Jesus enters "our house" - whether it is our place of worship, our home, our workplace, or our heart - do we take Him for granted? Is His Need being met? I pray the Lord will convict us of our profanity and deliver us from familiarity. Let us repent, and rediscover the One Who sits at the table with us.

Until next time, let your light shine for Jesus! Evangelist Mike Heltsley

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Do YOU really Trust God?

Pastor Steven Huston

Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, **even so send I you.** John 20:21

Are your ears tuned in to the Shepherd's voice to be sent? Is your faith in His holding, leading, protection, and provision? Is your life your own or have you committed your life to the Saviour with utter abandon? Whether the Lord keeps you in your community or sends you across the seas, to allow Him to live through you the life that He chooses will be a grand adventure! Here is an amazing account of two women who heard the Divine call, responded to it even when earthly men said no, and the amazing results that came from unfettered obedience. Read; be amazed and be encouraged.

In the Great Depression—late 1920s/early 1930s—two young women from Huntington, West Virginia felt like God had called them to Bible School. They traveled to God's Bible School and enrolled in The Christian Worker's Course and got a certificate. While they were there, there was a revival atmosphere and both of these young ladies from the hills of West Virginia felt that God had called them to be missionaries to Africa. They went to a missions board and asked to be sent to Africa because they had the call of God upon them. The missions board turned them down saying, "No, we're not interested in sending a couple of ladies so far away to Africa to be missionaries and we don't believe that your health is sufficient.

These ladies went back home dismayed; they felt a burning in their heart that this was God's purpose for their lives. They went back home and cried out to God saying, "God, we're trying to answer your call; we're trying to do what you've called us to do; and yet it feels like the doors are shut.

The call was so intense that they got jobs in their local community and they saved their money until they had enough to buy a fare from New York Harbor to South Africa. No missions board, two single ladies took their money and they sailed. After some time they arrived in South Africa and they got off the ship. The one lady turned to the other and said, "What do we do now?" The other lady responded, "Well, last night while I was praying I felt like the Lord was telling us to get on a Northbound train." So they got on a Northbound train and headed North. About a thousand miles into the trip, the one lady said, "God told me to get off at the next stop." The other lady said, "Well, He didn't tell me." The train came to the next stop and it was in the middle of nowhere. It was nothing more than a whistle stop, a place for the train to get water so they could have steam. She felt this is where the Lord told her to get off, so she did. It was a wooden platform overlooking the vast nothingness of Africa. (Can you imagine? No cell phone, just God—but that is enough, right?)

As the train cleared the track she stood there. She turned and looked and there was a white man standing on the other side of the track who greeted her in English. And he said, "What are you doing here?" She replied, "God told me to get off here. What are you doing here?" He said, "God told me in the place of prayer this morning that there was going to be a missionary on this train and that I was to come to this very platform to meet her."

This lady was so dedicated to the Kingdom of God that she went with this man back to a village and she poured her life out for the Kingdom of God there. Thirty years passed. Some kind of society in Huntington, West Virginia wanted to honor her commitment to the Lord. She hadn't been home. They said, "Come home. You're getting old; you're getting feeble. Come home and we'll pay your way back home." This is what they wired her. She wired them back, "I'll come but it's gotta be a two-way ticket." She'd come but she's going back to fulfill the purpose God called her to do."

What about the other lady? She stayed on the train. Another hundred miles passed and she felt God told her to get off there. She did and started a mission. These ladies started churches and orphanages. And for the next 50 years they did the work God called them to. Both of these ladies are buried over there in Africa. One of them never returned to the United States. Why? Because they heard the voice of the resurrected Jesus saying, "So send I you."

There is nothing more exciting and exhilarating than answering the call of God. How many will say, "I'll do what You want me to do and I'll go where You want me to go. It may not be easy; but Lord Jesus, I'm so committed to following you and doing Your purpose that I'll do WHATEVER You want me to do.

Pastor Steven Huston - 103 N. Division Ave. Fremont, Michigan 49412



Cake Mix Cookies

- 1 box cake mix, any flavor
- 2 large eggs
- 1 stick salted butter, melted
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1/2 cup nuts, optional
- 1 cup white chocolate chips, optional

Preheat oven to 350. In a large mixing bowl combine first five ingredients. Stir with a spoon until thoroughly blended. Add nuts or chips if desired. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto greased baking sheet. Bake for 11 to 12 minutes for soft cookies or 14 minutes for crispier cookies.

Coal Miner Cake

- 1 box devil's food cake mix
- 1 (20oz) can cherry pie filling
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 stick margarine or butter
- 1/4 cup evaporated milk
- 1 (6oz) package chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 350. Mix first four ingredients and pour into a greased 9x13" pan. Bake 30 to 35 minutes. In a saucepan warm mixture of sugar, margarine and evaporated milk over low heat. Bring to a low boil and boil for one minute. Add chocolate chips and nuts. Pour mixture over cake while it is still hot.

Homemade Pimento Cheese

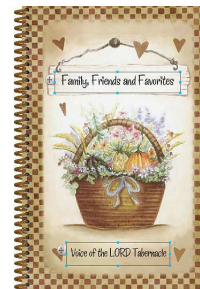
- 1 lb Velveeta cheese
- 1 (4oz) jar diced pimentos, undrained
- 1 Tbsp sugar
- Miracle Whip

Shred Velveeta into a large bowl. Add pimentos. Add Miracle Whip to desired texture. Add sugar.

Red Cactus Chili

- 1 lb ground beef
- 2 cans chili beans
- 1 small can tomato sauce
- 1 can diced tomatoes
- 1 jar Red Cactus salsa
- 1/4 cup ketchup
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 pkg McCormick chili seasoning
- 1 tsp Mexene chili powder

In a large pot combine all ingredients except ground beef. Brown ground beef in large skillet, drain and add to the pot. Heat chili on medium heat until hot. Reduce heat and simmer for 30 minutes stirring occasionally.



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Enduring Love

George Whitten

And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. Matthew 24:12-13

The Bible speaks of a great falling away in the last days (2 Thessalonians 2) before the end of the age arrives, and it seems that we're seeing it on a grand scale all around us. Virtually everywhere we look we're watching the decline of morality and ethics -- in government, entertainment, and social culture. It seems hard to deny that we're living in the final days of abounding iniquity which Jesus foretold. This is not an easy time for true believers. The evil around us can be so discouraging and the darkness so oppressive that it really threatens our ability to walk in love. Yet the reality of the gospel is brighter and more relevant than ever in this world. And the inner light of Jesus burning in us will be all the more intense and warm in this gloomy landscape, if -- and only if, we fill our lamps with His holy oil and burn with His last days love. Anti-Christ culture is permeating our society. But we respond with the enduring culture of Jesus, a culture of supernatural love that will not die. Take heart and don't be deceived or discouraged, or allow your love to grow cold. These signs of the end are simply proof that God is on His throne and His sovereign Word is being fulfilled exactly as He spoke it. Continue in His love. Radiate His light. Wherever you are, wherever you go, bring His love. Love will endure, even forever.

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A Way Of Escape

Evangelist Chris Dowell

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." 1 Corinthians 10:13 KJV

Notice the verse never says God won't take us out of our trial, just because we think it's too hard. BUT His Word does say, "WITH the temptation also make a way to escape, that you may be able to bear it". Many get that scripture confused, thinking God will remove us from the trial and that's not so. We should find HOPE and comfort in those Words. That we don't have to face hardships, trials, troubles, burdens, ALONE. For those that are saved, we are God's Children and as Paul said, we are "IN Christ". We now have a burden bearer! Jesus Christ. Who will walk through the fire and trials...with us. The real question here is. Do you know you're saved? You can be. Jesus loves you and wants to not just be a friend to you, but be your God. He loves you and is waiting for you to come to Him. He loves you so much, He stretched out His arms and died for the world. (John 3:16) Pray before it's too late.

Evangelist Chris Dowell 548 Harding Drive Mount Washington, KY 40047

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Prince Kaboo



In 1873, a son was born to a West African tribal chief; he was named Kaboo. This tribal chief was defeated in battle and Kaboo was held for ransom. One day, Kaboo saw a bright light, heard a voice from heaven telling him to run, and the ropes that held him fell to the ground.

He walked through the jungle for several days until he arrived in a city where a young boy invited Kaboo to church. He went and heard a missionary telling the account of Paul's conversion. As she told about the bright light and the voice from heaven, Kaboo came to the realization that this was the same voice he had heard in the jungle! Soon he accepted Jesus as his Saviour and was baptized.

For two years Kaboo painted houses to support himself while he studied the Bible and learned from the missionary. His main interest was learning about the Holy Spirit life in the power of the Spirit. Finally, the missionary told him that she had taught him all she knew; so he asked her who her teacher was. She told him about a holiness preacher in America whose name was Stephen Merritt. Kaboo, with no money and no transportation, decided to go to America. He **WOULD** learn more about living in the Spirit.

He went to the nearest seaport and slept on the beach waiting for a ship to land. When it did, Kaboo asked the captain to take him to America; but he refused. Not long after, two of his crew members ran away; so, the captain told Kaboo he could work in exchange for transportation to New York. He was mistreated and given the most dangerous tasks on board; but Kaboo showed Christ's love to his shipmates. By the time they arrived in America, the captain and most of the crew had their names written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Kaboo found Stephen Merritt's mission and told him of his desire to learn about the Holy Spirit. Merritt left Kaboo at the mission for the evening while he went to a meeting. Upon his return, he found Kaboo leading a prayer meeting at which he led nearly twenty people to Christ.

Stephen Merritt helped Kaboo enroll at Taylor University with a plan to one day evangelize in Liberia, Africa. He arrived at the campus with no money, completely trusted in God's provision. He said to the president, "Please give me a room that no one else wants." Late at night, his fellow students would hear him "talking to my Father." His absolute faith in God influenced the campus as well as the surrounding churches.

God had a different plan than Kaboo's; two years after arriving at Taylor University Kaboo died from pneumonia. Nonetheless, he was at peace with God's plan; he told the university president, "It is not my work. It is his. I have finished my job. He will send others better than I to do the work in Africa."

This twenty year old life impacted so many people that hundreds lined the streets for the funeral procession. Several fellow students went to Africa as missionaries to serve "in memory of Prince Kaboo." The president of Taylor University said, "[He] was God's messenger to Taylor University. He thought he was coming here to prepare himself for his mission. Instead, God sent him to prepare Taylor University for her mission to the whole world. All who met him were impressed with his sublime, yet simple faith in God."

Some of our readers may have already guessed the identity of this African prince who was baptized into the power and life of holiness in the Spirit as being the famous Samuel Morris.

Are you walking in the power of the Holy Spirit? Do you long to know more of His love and to know Him better? Are you content to allow God's plan to guide your life, even unto death; or do you have a greater desire to see your own plans played out? It really boils down to this question: Who's life is it—yours or God's?

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. Mark 16:15

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! Romans 10:13-15



Remembering Pastor Lindel E. Hinton
August 19, 1926 - January 15, 2001

The preacher sought to find out acceptable words:
and that which was written was upright, even words
of truth. Ecclesiastes 12:10

Legacy of Faith

LORD I cant change the things in my past
But help me now build on things that will last
LORD help me to be your servant today
To lead and to follow as you guide the way
LORD help me tomorrow be true as can be
And help me to lead some poor soul to thee
And once I no longer tread this earthly sod
And I am at home...at home with my God
Yes once I have finished and I've run my race
LORD help me to leave a Legacy of Faith
written by Billy R. Douglas

God's Servant

Our God had sent you to this place
To lead us in the way
That He would have us work and think
And live from day to day.

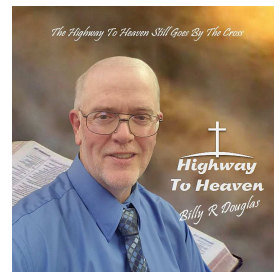
No matter the hour; whatever the need,
You went the extra mile -
Always ready and willing to share
A comforting thought and smile.

We're grateful that you were with us
To teach us from His word,
And we will try to do our best
To follow what we've heard

We're thankful for your ministry,
Your guidance and your care.
We know you are in Heaven now
One day we'll meet you there
~author unknown~

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Matthew 25:21

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A Word for TODAY!



By Sister Michelle Deuling

Verse for Today: Matthew 8:3

Additional passages for Today: Mark 1:41; Luke 5:13

Thought for Today: Many people dislike the consequences of disease and sickness. Jesus is able and will cleanse not just from the disease and its side effects, but completely and forever. But, do you dislike the sin that separates us from the LORD?

Story for Today: Lucas grabbed his walking stick and the sack lunch he had just made and headed out the door. He would, hopefully, return later with a bucket of fish and maybe even a piece of bread if he could convince Lilly that he needed it. She was a sweet girl that often bestowed kindnesses upon the less fortunate. Falling down into the ravine in the rockslide, put him in a position of being one of the less fortunate now. His leg was healing on the outside but the damage to the tendons and ligaments was unrepairable. His cane was now his best friend; without it, he couldn't go anywhere. The pain was a constant companion and he was told it would be a part of him for the rest of his life. Lucas was not thrilled with that idea. At 32 years old, the rest of his life seemed like a long time to endure such pain. He continued to limp his way along the rocky path as he headed to a stream where he often found fish. He was grateful that the stream was close to his home. It made fishing still a possibility. As he rounded the corner he heard the crowd before he could see them. The man Jesus was walking this way. He heard the cries of those with leprosy and saw many in the crowd move away as a leper fell at the feet of Jesus, worshipping him. Lucas heard the man say, "Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean." Who did this man think he was? Lucas couldn't believe that a man that disgusting would dare come close to this prophet or teacher or whatever he was. In a split second, Lucas' mortification turned to amazement. The Master, Jesus, reached out his hand and touched the leper saying, "I will; be thou clean." Immediately the leprosy was cleansed from the man. His nose was instantly there on his face and the rags covering the holes in his skin revealed brand new skin. It was unlike anything Lucas had ever seen before. The leper was healed. His skin was like that of a newborn baby. It glowed and was perfect. Lucas stood dumbfounded as he watched the man head for the temple to show himself to the priest and offer his gift as Jesus told him to do. Lucas looked down at his bum leg. How could he be this close to a miracle and yet he still limped along while a man that had a terminal illness was healed? Why was he spending his time looking for fish instead of looking for the Master? Maybe he needed to change the path he was on. Maybe he needed to follow the one they called Jesus. It was clearer than ever, that Jesus was not just a prophet or teacher, He was the Messiah. He was the one that came to redeem His people. Lucas would seek the Master. He wanted to be cleansed not just of the physical pain, but there were a lot of things that he needed to have fixed in his spiritual life too.

Questions for Today: Do you see God working in the lives of others and yet you seem to be just far enough away that your life isn't touched by Jesus? Are you seeking the necessary things in life or have you found temporal things that occupy your time? Have you asked Jesus to cleanse you?

Prayer for Today: Heavenly Father, Thank You for providing us with a way to restore the relationship that was broken with You by sin. Please help us to seek the cleansing You want to do in us. Help us not just sit idly by while You work in the lives of those around us. Help us to read Your Word and learn more of You. Help us to confess our sins and recognize our need and that You alone are able to meet that need and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In Jesus' Name, we pray, AMEN.

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God's Simple Plan of Salvation

My Friend: we are about to ask you the most important question of your life. Your joy or your sorrow for all eternity depends upon your answer. The question is: Are you saved? Do you know Jesus Christ as your personal LORD and Saviour? It is not a question of how good you are, nor if you are a church member, but have you put your faith in Jesus? Are you sure you will go to Heaven when you die? The Bible makes the plan of salvation plain and simple. *Romans 10:13* says *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.* Call on Jesus today. Put your faith and trust in him and ask him to forgive you of your sins and to be your LORD and savior and you will be born again...SAVED!! Do this today, tomorrow may be too late! Please write or call us if you have made the decision to accept Jesus.



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Everyone Welcome

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