

# FREE LIFE NEWS



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Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come.

2 Cor. 5: 17-21

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## Thanksgiving! (I Give Thanks because I see. . .)

by Joe Willis-Palo Pinto, TX

I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind but now I see. . . And that's why I'm thankful today. Have you ever wondered? "What's so big about Thanksgiving?" Have you ever seriously asked yourself, "What do I have to be thankful for? I did. Sometimes, It's easy to look at our present situation and forget about so many things we should be thankful for. I've been there. I know what it feels like to be without Christ, having no hope, (Eph. 2:11) blindly groping in darkness, because the god of this world had blinded my mind. (2 Cor. 4:4) It's so easy to focus on all the nega-

tive things of our past and present, and thereby form



*"I give thanks because I see"*

evil forebodings of our future. It's like we can't see all of the good in our lives; as if there were a veil over our minds, blinding us. Looking

back, I see that even though I knew about God, with my life, I did not give Him glory as God, and I was not thankful, and I became vain in my thoughts, and my foolish heart was darkened. (Rom.1:21) That's what being unthankful does to you. It darkens your heart so that you can't see things clearly. Because you understand with your heart (Acts 28:27) and you see with your mind (2 Cor4:4) These two are closely connected that many times one is stated to imply the other, and only the "word of God"

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## Freedom in Christ

**"You shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free."** John 8:32.

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Gal. 5: 1a

**"Therefore if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."** John 8:36

Jesus said, **"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life"**. John 14:6

You can be free no matter where you are if you are in Christ.

Jesus Christ is the only way to God, and freedom to live a

righteous life through faith in Him. God gave Jesus **for** us, so He could give His life **to** us, so He could live His life **through** us.

Trust Him today as your personal Lord and Savior. You will never be the same.

**NEW LIFE IN CHRIST!**

## Thanksgiving cont

Can separate the two where we can honestly discern our own thoughts and intents for what they truly are. But this veil is taken away when we turn to the Lord.(2 Cor.3:14) that's why Jesus said, "I am the 'light of the world'" If a man follows Him he will not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life, ( John 12:12)

God has done everything for us to receive this "light of life," with instructions so simple a child can do it. Seek, knock, ask, these are things that all of us can do. It all starts with the Gospel, and the Gospel has always started with one word—REPENT!—One word, but one word from God can change everything.

Now, let's pause a moment and get something straight. I am not responsible for you believing what I'm saying, plus, there are references to show that many of these words are not my own! At some point in life you are going to have to make a quality decision as to whether you believe or not. Because , they that come to God must believe that He is (exists) and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Cause, how can I have faith in something or someone I don't really believe in? So like Elijah told the children of Israel on Mt. Carmel "Make a Decision"! ( 1 Kings 18:2-10

I made my decision and the veil was lifted and I see so many things to be thankful for. Because I have known and believed the love that God has for me. I'm thankful because I realize that once I was a servant of sin, but I obeyed from the heart that " first word of the Gospel," and have been "made free from" sin (not sinless) and have become a servant of righteousness. (Rom 6:17-18) I thank God for the ministry of the Holy Spirit in revealing, leading, cleansing from the old nature, and His empowering to live above the "power of sin" on a daily bases. I give thanks because I see. . . The authority given to me when I was spiritually seated with Christ, in the heavenlies, far above all principalities and powers, because as He is , so are we in this world. I give thanks O' God because when I read your word I see. . . "that you have committed yourself to me saying," I am your husband" and you have assumed all responsibility for me: to be my daily help and strength and protection as a true husband would his wife;

that Your commitment went all the way to the Cross, because of Your covenant with Abraham. Christ died to redeem us because you are a covenant- keeping God. You committed yourself and You do not change. (Mal.3:6) I give thanks because I see Your love for me, even when you withhold certain things from me, because I don't always desire those things that are good for me. And until I understand and truly believe that "in my flesh there is no good thing" (that is, in my fleshly mind-set and lifestyle) I will make bad choices. And sometimes even after conversion and striving for perfection, I still find a measure of defilement warring in the flesh until the withering work of the Spirit destroys it's deceitful beauty.

I give thanks because I see. . . The importance of Biblical (Christ's ) doctrine. It enables me to see things from God's perspective. Thanks to the Holy Spirit's teaching of Bible doctrine I can understand how God can accept me in the Beloved and still be just. How I can stand before Him unblameable and unreprouvable in His sight. ( Col.1:22)

I see clearly why the first word of the fifth chapter of Romans begins with the word "Therefore." It's because of all the things Christ did, which were revealed in the first 4 chapters of Romans. "Therefore," (Because of these things, We, being justified by faith ( in those things) have peace with God.) It's so important that I see with my mind and understand with my heart that God isn't mad at me. The righteous requirement of God's law have been met. The debt has been paid. We have peace with God. I see how the Word of God is life and peace. I see the difference between the natural man and the spiritual man. (1 Cor. 2:14-15) There are some things that the natural man (unsaved) cannot see, hear, or even imagine that God has prepared for those who love Him. But He reveals them to us (the saved) by His Spirit. His Spirit is given to us so that we might know the things that are freely given to us by Him. (1 Cor.2:11) I have a new "Divine nature," different from the natural (unsaved) man and differences of natures create conflicts. Everything's already done, laid out from the foundations of the World, and through Biblical doctrine I learn to come to God on His terms, not mine. For He will not give His Glory to another.

I look back over my life and I see . . . How God used relatives and other friends who are no longer with us, to plant seeds in my life and those seeds are alive today, and I give thanks for God's provision of a living hope of Heaven and a home with those gone before me.

It's been said that, those who look for it see it. We see what we are looking for. In God's word I kept seeing an invitation that said, "Come." Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest . . . Learn of Me . . . And ye shall find rest unto your souls." (Matt.11:28-29) . . . And "let him that is thirsty come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." (Rev.22:17)

Today I'm thankful because I see the work of the Spirit in my life. God, through His Word had enlarged my vision and I see wondrous things In His law. My faith is made stronger and stronger by acknowledging every good thing that I see in Christ and the more I see, the more I can be. (2 Cor. 3:18) Through exercise, my faith is ever-increasing.

I was taught from a small child that when someone gives you something to say "Thank You!" So, today, I give thanks because I see. All that God has given to me!

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### THE WITHERING WORK OF THE SPIRIT

The voice said, "Cry. And he said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the Spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass, the grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the word of our God shall stand forever. Isaiah 40: 6-8

Being born again , not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away; but the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you. I Peter1: 23-25

At first glance these texts seem to speak eloquently describing our mortality, the frailty of life, and the certainty of death.

### The Withering Work of the Spirit, continues

Obviously something more is intended here. This prophecy came to Isaiah to comfort the people by announcing the coming of their long-expected Deliverer, the end and accomplishment of all their warfare, and the pardon of all their iniquity. To do this, Isaiah foretells the coming of John the Baptist. Verse 3, by saying "The voice of one crying in the wilderness." And the New Testament refers this term again and again to John the Baptist and his ministry. Verse 5 says, "the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." Now at this point and especially in this context, is it necessary to mention man's mortality in this connection? Or is there a deeper meaning here? Consider this, when the Spirit said, "Cry out," He was saying to tell the people that, 'In order to make room for the display of the divine glory in Christ Jesus and His Salvation, there would come a withering of all the glory man boasts about himself. The flesh should be seen for its truly corrupt dying nature so that the Grace of God alone may be exalted.

The ministry of John the Baptist also symbolized the "withering preparatory" work of the Holy Spirit in men's hearts, and in our own hearts this "withering work of the Spirit" must be done so that the glory of the Lord will be revealed and human pride will be ever confounded.

The Spirit blows upon the flesh, and what seems vigorous becomes weak. What was fair to look upon (the flower) is smitten with decay, and the true nature of the flesh is discovered. It's deceit ("deceitful beauty") is laid bare, and its power destroyed. Then, there is room for the dispensation of the ever-abiding word, the rule of Christ.

John the Baptist's ministry marvelously displayed this "withering work". His ministry was carried out in the desert, for a Spiritual desert was all around him. His was the voice of one crying in the wilderness. It was not his work to plant. His job was to cut down. But John used the symbolism of trees rather than grass, by his time the fleshly religion of the Jews was then in its prime. Phariseism stalked the streets in all its "pomp and glory of men." There were a few Simeon's and Anna's, but for the most part men knew nothing of Spiritual Religion. They were shocked and shook when the Baptist called

them "vipers." and declared that "now also the ax is laid unto the root of the trees." Sounds similar to the leveling of mountains and laying low every high imagination doesn't it? John's word Repent was as a scorching wind to the failings of self-righteousness. It was a killing blast for the confidence of mere ceremonialism. The Spirit in John the Baptist blew as the rough north wind, searching and withering, and it made him a destroyer at the vanities of a fleshly Religion. This was done so that the Spiritual faith might be established.

When the Lord Himself appeared, He came into a withered land whose glories had departed. An alien sat on David's throne, and the Romans called the covenant land their own. No Prophet had confronted them in an long time as Isaiah had done and no Jeremiah had cried about their abandonment of their faith. The Jewish way-of-life was ready to vanish away. The Priesthood was in disarray. Luke says that Annas and Caiaphas were high priest (two in a year or at once) A strange setting aside of the law of Moses. All the dispensation gathered around the visible, (Worldly Sanctuary) was coming to a close. So when Christ had finished His work, the veil of the Temple was torn in two, the sacrifices were abolished, the priesthood of Aaron was set aside, and "carnal ordinances" were dropped, for the Spirit revealed Spiritual things.

So as with them, so with us. In each and every one of us (Children of God) it must be fulfilled that all that is of the flesh in us, when we see it as nothing but grass, must be withered, and the loveliness (beauty) of it must be destroyed. God must by His Spirit show us ourselves so that we might know without a doubt that "the flesh profits nothing." Once this withering work is done, implanting work can follow. But until this is done we labor and sow on unbroken fruitless ground.

All throughout Scripture we see this "tearing down." even in the garden, God did not provide Adam and Eve with skins until the fig leaves had utterly failed. The old must go before the new can come. The Lord takes away first so that He may establish the second. "If any man come after Me, let him deny himself. . . The flower of the flesh must wither when the Spirit of the Lord blows upon it, then and only then do we sow that incorruptible seed by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. **Joe Willis**



### IT TOOK A MIRACLE

My Father is omnipotent. And that you can't deny; A God of might and miracles- 'tis written in the sky

Chorus:

*It took a miracle to put the stars in place, It took a miracle to hang the world in space; But when He saved my soul. Cleansed and made me whole, it took a miracle of love and grace.*

Tho here His glory has been shown, We still can't fully see the wonders of His might, His throne—"twill take eternity.

Chorus—

*It took a miracle to put the stars in place, it took a miracle to hang the world in space, but when he saved my soul, cleansed and made me whole, it took a miracle of love and grace.*

The Bible tells us of His power, And wisdom all way thru. And every little bird and flower are testimonies too.

Chorus—

*It took a miracle to put the stars in place, it took a miracle to hang the world in space, But when He saved my soul, cleansed and made me whole, it took a miracle of love and grace.*

John W. Peterson, taken from Great Gospel Songs and Hymns— page 157

### Psalm 89:1

*I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.*

### 96:1-2

*Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his name day after day.*

## I found the Free Life News

"I was in the hole for fighting when I came upon the "Free Life News" Summer Edition 2110, and at first I just looked at it and I did not read it. After 5 days I looked at it once again ,but this time I picked it up and started to reading it. I read it over and over and over again and then I thought of how much I would love to start getting other issues. Then I could keep reading and hearing others people's testimonies. Can you help me find a way to start getting them?" *Of course the answer is a resounding YES! We certainly can help you to receive the FREE LIFE NEWS. Thank you for writing, Dante, we are thankful the newsletter found its way into your hands and heart. Your name is on the list!*

*It is a wonderful blessing to us to hear words of encouragement like this. This is why the newsletter keeps going out, to touch hearts one at a time.*

Mitzi & staff.

## "My words are life to you"

*"My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Lt then not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh."* Prov. 4:20-22

*Thank you for your word heavenly Father. I will walk in its life , health and strength throughout this day. Your words truly are life an health to me*

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved".

Acts 4: 12

## MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, AND SPIRITUAL MATURITY

And He said to all of them, *"If any man will follow after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it, but whosoever will lose his life for My sake, the same shall save it."* Luke 9:23,24

"He is not a fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." Jim Elliot. Martyred Missionary

What is maturity? Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines maturing as having become fully developed, having attained a desired state of being. Mental maturity. Emotional maturity. Spiritual maturity. Even taken individually, these can become pursuits that would last a lifetime. And many have throughout the ages spent their lives in pursuit of these disciplines only to find themselves at the end of life no more closer to their goal than when they'd first begun. But for those desirous of a more meaningful life, a life truly lived, their pursuit is for something entirely different.

Mental, Emotional, and Spiritual maturity are terms that have direct correlations to the words body, soul and spirit. And isn't that the order we always hear them in, body, soul and spirit; that the pursuit of the physical will ultimately fulfill the spiritual? You may find it interesting that the Bible lists these same words, body, soul, and spirit, in Thessalonians 5:23, but not in that order. It reads:

*Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

God lists these words Spirit, Soul, and Body. With God the spirit is of first importance, the body last, whereas for man the tendency is to live for the body while neglecting the spirit.

God's Word tells us that there is only one real life, the life lived in pursuit of Him. And God invites every single one of us into that life, into a relationship with Him. Growing in that relationship is the process by which we mature. It is the process through which our natural emphasis on body, soul, and spirit is reversed to meet God's desired and intended order of spirit, soul, and body.

Ironically though, that change is not brought about by conscious effort to change it. It is a result, a by product, a natural transition that occurs only when we focus solely on drawing near God and entering into a relationship with Him. If you want to mature, don't make it your goal, but make drawing near to God in relationship your sole objective, then God will fully mature you into the being you were originally intended to be in the first place.

So with that we beg the question, "How do we enter into the relationship?" Lets take a look at Luke 9:23 again.

There are a lot of interesting words in this verse that when viewed in the original languages, they reveal the clues to entering the process of maturity.

The first phrase which reveals a clue is:

*"If any man will come after Me..."*

The word translated as "will" comes from the Greek word, the Greek word, *thélō*. It is a verb indicating a will, a wish, a desire. *Thélō* indicates not only willing something but also pressing on to action.

The word translated as "come" is another verb. It is the Greek word, *érchomai*, which means to come, to go, to move, to pass along. This word indicates active movement.

The last word of interest in this phrase is "after." It is an adverb giving purpose and direction the word "come". In the Greek language is the word, *opísō*, which means following after, a staying behind someone while going along with them. But this word can also carry the meaning of a return to the beginning of something, a resuming of a previous but abandoned pursuit. In our case a return to that moment when we first experienced the peace and joy of our salvation. At that moment any one of us would have willingly abandoned everything in order to pursue Christ.

It is this phrase, "If any man will come after Me" or, "If any of you will deliberately determine to rise, to actively fix your eyes on Jesus wherever He leads you," that Jesus uses to invite us all into the process of maturing. If this is our heart toward our Savior, then can we enter into a real relationship and begin to mature.

And once we determine to follow Jesus into the life He calls us to, we can find in the rest of this verse the keys necessary to reverse the pattern of, Body, Soul, and Spirit, to Spirit, Soul, and Body.

The first key is to deny yourself. This is a direct assault against the dominance of the flesh. In the original language this word means to disown and renounce self and to subjugate all works, interests, and enjoyments.' The cravings of the flesh are overcome through mental maturity, a bringing of the body into submission for Christ.

The next key for maturity is taking up

your cross daily. This phrase means to deliberately choose the kind of life Jesus lived. One commentator says this involves:

- Complete dependence on God.
- Obedience to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Proclamation of an unpopular message.
- Suffering for righteousness sake.
- Enduring slander and shame.
- Pouring out one's life for others.
- Death to self and the world.

To take up our cross daily is the process by which we mature emotionally. It is bringing our soul under the subjection of Christ—"Not my will, but Yours."

Once we subjugate the Body and the Soul to Christ Jesus, then can the Spirit flourish and take its rightful place.

The final key to our maturity is found in the phrase, "...and follow Me." The individual calling to follow Jesus involves abiding fellowship with Him. The first thing involved in following Him, is a cleaving to Him in believing trust and obedience. Those cleaving to Him must also follow His leading and act according to His example. Following Jesus denotes a fellowship of faith as well as a fellowship of life, sharing His suffering not only inwardly, but also outwardly if necessary.

This process of maturing is a tall order, especially when considered from our natural perspective of Body, Soul, and then Spirit. And naturally we will ask ourselves, "What's the point? Why would I subject myself to such hardship?" Part of the answer is found in that first phrase, "If any man will come after Me..." If any man will return to his first love, when Jesus first redeemed us, when He gently wiped away our tears along with our sins. Or more recently, a return to that love we felt during our Kairos walk. Wouldn't we have at that moment followed Jesus anywhere? And why? Wasn't it because of the love we felt? Romans 2:4 says, "God's kindness leads you toward repentance." Our motivation is a result of experiencing a love and intimacy of relationship that extends far past this life and into eternity.

When we long for that, and give everything we have for it, it is then that our pattern of Body, Soul, and Spirit is reversed to match God's blessed pattern of Spirit, Soul and Body. IT is then we will finally become spiritually, and emotionally, and mentally mature.

In conclusion I'd like to share with you a little story.

There were three boys attending vacation Bible school one summer and the youth pastor was asking each of them a question. The pastor asked the first boy, "Do you want to go to Heaven?"

"Yes sir," Came the reply

Then he asked the second boy, "Son, how about you, do you want to go to Heaven?"

"Yes sir! I sure do!" He quickly responded.

Then the pastor turned to the third boy and asked him, "What about you, do you want to go to heaven?"

With a tremor in his voice and fear in his eyes, the boy softly replied, "No."

Surprised, the pastor asked the boy again, "You don't want to go to Heaven?"

"No!"

"You don't want to go to Heaven when you die?"

"Oh, when I die," The boy said relieved. "I thought you were taking up a load right now!"

We laugh at that, but when we enter into that real relationship with Christ, and discover the hope He holds out to us, it is then we begin to relinquish the longings of the flesh, of the will, and finally allow the Spirit to flourish within us. It is then that we begin to live in light of our eternal hope. When considering our own heavenly hope, it is then we can say with complete boldness, conviction, and passion the words of the apostle Paul in Philippians 1:21, "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

May we all set foot on the path to genuine maturity today.

By Eric J. Turk, Lynaugh Unit, Ft. Stockton, TX

## READY YOURSELF

by David Brock—Hughes Unit, TX

I was reading my daily devotional on Saturday morning and it led me to PS. 119. It referenced me verses 9-16. It was speaking about commuting verses to memory.

I decided to read the entire Psalms and started to read verses 1 and 2. I was given the task of bringing a message to our weekly Bible study and I was thinking about it. I was meditating and praying as I asked, "Lord, what do you want me to say?" These are the words that came to mind: Speak to these young men, tell them to ready yourselves, the Lord is about to do a mighty work. I am going to send them into the world to do My will.

I immediately sat up to write these words down. As I did, verses began flooding my mind. I continued to read through the Psalm and as I did, God supplied me with what He wanted me to say. It went something like this...

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It started in Isaiah 43:18-19 Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall, ye not know it?

Then PS.27:14 came to mind: Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart; wait I say, on the Lord. Wait—means to find together or collect, to expect, to look for or want for. This word stresses the straining of the mind in a certain direction with an expectant attitude, a forward look with assurance. To expect it. (Expect a miracle!)

Another scripture that continues to be given to me is PS. 14:10. Be still and know that I am God...

Still— means to get alone, idle or stay, cease or stop, literally be still. Take time to get focused. God was telling me to be ready for life outside these walls now, it's coming, are you getting ready?

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PS. 119:126 says, It is time for the Lord, to work... are the things you have been doing everyday preparing you to for tomorrow? What are you doing with your time? Are you living God's word, or really trying? What are you doing to better yourself? What do you occupy your time with? It says in Lam. 3:25-26 The Lord is good to those that wait, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord. God will deliver you from many things, if you let him. All of us can be delivered!

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I was given another scripture in PS. 62:5 that says, my soul wait thou only upon God, for my expectation is from him. Expectancy should be our attitude in prayer. What are you praying for? In Luke 1:37 it says, For with God nothing shall be impossible. Do you believe that? In Ps. 37:34 it says to inherit the land... Do you want your inheritance?

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Is God teaching you His way? Ps.119:33 says, Teach me O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. I had a dream and was given a verse. Heb. 3:7 says, as the Holy Ghost saith, today if you will hear his voice.

Verse 8 says, harden not your hearts, as in the **provocation**, in the day of temptation in the wilderness. Verses 7-15 was a warning to the children of Israel. Today is mention three times in the passage. Today is the accepted time, time favorable for seeking God. When I read verse 7, the verse in Acts 2:17 comes to mind: and it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and daughters shall prophecy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

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Is God speaking to you? If you were released tomorrow, do you know where to go? Has God showed you? Have you asked him? In Ps. 119:105 it says, Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Verse 133 states, Order my stars in thy word. Since the first year I have been preparing for release, I have been doing things to ready myself for the outside world. God spoke into my spirit that I'm going home. The question is when?

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What is God teaching you in your trials? Ps. 119:71 says, It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes. Verse 75 says, I know O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me. Verse 77 says. Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law is thy delight. I remember in Heb.12; He chastened us as sons, because we needed discipline. Verse 6 says, For who, the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth: Verse 11 says, How no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: Nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. What fruit has he given you? What are your gifts? Have you asked him? In Rom 12:7 Paul says Wait on your ministry. Are you operating in your gifts? In 2Tim. 1:6 Paul tells Timo-

thy to stir up the gift of God. Which is in thee.

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It took me coming to prison to do the right thing! Are you going to do it when you get out? Are you so rooted and grounded in God's word that nothing can move you, or bring you back? (to rehab, jail or prison?) Heb.6:19 says, "the hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast (is in Christ Jesus!) ! As I read in Ps 119:9-11 it says; " Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O, let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in my heart , that I might not sin against Thee." As I read this, Romans 12:1-2 came to mind , " I beseech you therefore brethren , by the mercies of God that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable , and perfect will of God.

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As I read I continued on to Ps. 119:154 and it says, "Plead my cause, and deliver me: quicken me according too thy word". Verse 156 says: Great are thy tender mercies, O Lord, quicken me according to thy judgements". Verse 159 says, "Consider how I love Thy precepts : quicken me O lord according to Thy loving kindness". The word quicken means to live or come alive, to revive, recover, repair, be made whole. Quicken me, cleanse me, and prepare me. We have been called to prayer and fasting to ready ourselves. Are you getting ready

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Ps.51;10.17 says, " Create in me a clean heart O God; and renew a right spirit within me. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart, O God thou wilt not despise." What shall we do that we might work the works of God? Jesus said, He that does the will of my Father . Are you doing his will? Are you totally committed? Do you walk in obedience-total surrender? I made a covenant—an agreement to seek God continually. To follow him the rest of my life, and He has blessed me.

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Ps 119: 135 says , "make Thy face to shine upon me. Let the word of God speak to you, and listen to the Holy Spirit. The spirit of truth will always lead you in the right direction. Then ready yourselves!

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Turn to page 7



## God's Will for Us – Being Thankful

There are times in our lives that we may not know **Exactly** what God's will for us is, but in those times we can follow what His Word instructs us to do, which is "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for **this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**" 1 Thes. 5:16-18 (NKJV)

That's it. We are to rejoice, pray, and give thanks. We are to *rejoice*, because we know that He cares for us (1 Peter 5:7), and having surrendered the situation to Him, laying it at His feet after we have done all that we can, *pray*, knowing that He hears our prayers and will answer them (Jer. 33:3), and *give thanks*, knowing that **His** way is perfect (Ps. 18:30), and that all things will work out for the best (Rom. 8:28). It sounds so simple, but it seems that we just don't follow those instructions. Sometimes we can be so foolish. We have so many reasons to be thankful EVERY day, but we just don't remember to give thanks. Even Jesus, the One who made all of creation, gave us examples of being thankful. There are numerous times when He gave thanks, such as before He fed the 5,000, or at the last supper. The list goes on and on, and it just amazes me that He, the creator of everything that was created, gave thanks to the Father for what He, Himself had created!! Isn't that just the perfect example for us?! So now, how much MORE should WE be thankful? Immensely more, right? YES!

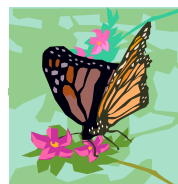
In Ps. 68:19 we're told that we are "daily loaded with benefits", and instructed in Ps. 103:2 to "not forget his benefits", so that gives us reason every day to give thanks. We are daily, every day, loaded with benefits. Blessed. Everyday, and we are to give thanks. We are instructed over and over again in God's Word to give thanks – Phil. 4:6; Eph. 5:4, 20; Heb. 13:15; etc, etc. Ya know, the bible speaks of men in the last days, that they would be "unthankful" (II Tim. 3:2), and that is very apparent today. That was almost 2,000 years ago when Paul wrote those words, so that makes me think that we are now in the last "minutes". People are so unthankful nowadays. I'm grateful to God for giving me a thankful heart while I was locked up. It was early on in my incarceration that God granted me a thankful heart, and the whole 6 ½ years that I was locked up, God reminded me to be thankful. The most memorable time was during

shakedowns, when the guards would tear through all of my stuff, and leave it in a big pile on the floor. I'm a fairly organized person, and it would just irritate me that they would make such a mess of my stuff, them knowing full well that I wasn't a trouble maker and that I didn't have any contraband. But God was quick to check me. He would say "Bob, you know there are plenty of others here in this prison that would be thankful to even Have This Stuff for the guards to tear up!", and I'd say "Yep. You're right Lord. Please forgive me. I am thankful." Even from the time in county, God would remind me that I had many things to be thankful for – My healthy kids, family and friends, not having to fight traffic on the way to work, no rent or utility bills, three meals a day, even though they might not be the tastiest meals, etc, etc. In every situation, if we think about it, we can find a reason to be thankful. My timing belt went out on my car last year, and I remember God reminding me to be thankful to even HAVE a car to break down. There's a lot of people out there walking that would've loved to be in my position, who would've gladly paid for a timing belt, to be able to own a car.

But, even when we can't seem to think of a reason to be thankful, we still can because God has allowed the situation to come into our lives, and He has a good reason for it. Maybe it's to help us become more like Christ. Maybe it's so others will see our reaction to the situation, seeing us giving thanks to God, bearing witness to His grace and mercy in our lives, and causing them to consider their relationship to Him. If we are walking according to His Word as we should, completely surrendered to Him, then ANYTHING that comes our way is either sent by Him or allowed by Him. And for what purpose? To become more like His Son Jesus Christ! That is our goal in life, and being thankful to God is a great start. I hope this has been an encouragement to you, for that was my intention.

Always remember, God is faithful to us and to His Word. He will Not fail us! The Lord Bless Ya!

Bob M.



Corrected version

## THOUGHTS IN MY HEAD

By John Wayne Ford, Sr.

Navasota, TX

As I close my eyes and lay here in my bed, lost memories of the love for my family fill my head. Do they often take time to stop and think, does he get fed enough, does he get enough to drink. As I sit to play dominoes or a game of scrabble, all guys talk about in here is how they want to squabble.

As I sit here so very scared and deeply sad. I may have lost the best thing I ever had. As I lay here with thoughts, emotions, and depression, I find myself trying to tune my radio and find some reception.

My thoughts are on the loved ones I've hurt, who must think I'm no better than dirt. Do they think I'm safe, and out of harms way? With the thoughts that he'd soon be home one day.

When I open my eyes to a blurred vision of tears, I wonder what my family out there mostly fears. Through the windows and bars I watch the sunrise, when no one is looking I wipe the tears from my eyes.

In the afternoon some of us go outside, while the rest of us just stay back and hide. Everyone in here talks about being free And being with family is where we want to be.

As I look around at what I see, that this place is not where I want to be. As I read the Word of God each day, it teaches me more and more on how to pray. I know that none of us are ever perfect and Lord Jesus knows I'm far from it.

As I sit here all alone and stay off to the side, I know that the Lord Jesus is always by my side. I know Who holds the future and I know Who holds my hand, with God things don't just happen, everything by Him is planned.

**"Be strengthened with might by My Spirit in your inner man."** Eph 3:16

**A THANK YOU NOTE FROM PASTOR ROBERT-  
UGANDA , EAST AFRICA**

Dear UFLMF Supporters,

I greet you in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Thanks for the great work you are doing in the vineyard of our Lord Jesus Christ, as Paul said in Hebrews 11:6 "for whoever comes to him must believe that He is the rewarder of those that diligently seek Him", so I say too, since by faith you have labored to do His precious will, may He shine His gracious mercy and victory upon your every endeavors. . On behalf of Free Life Uganda and on my behalf allow me to say "THANKS VERY MUCH" for your big and tireless support of the UFLMF, through your support and finances to the UFLMF, you have been such a big blessing to the Work of God both to the people of Uganda and the human race at large. You have brought smiles on our faces. I used to be very much stressed , but now I am very happy because through the UFLMF I am able to support my family needs and also save something for the ministry. Mum, Mitzi has some photos of how I used to look before God connecting me to you. But right now if you see how we look like, then you just can't imagine how the Lord is using your generosity to transform lives here. With no doubt God will never leave any body that is part of the financing body of the UFLMF unbled, you are at a pivot point of your blessings, it's always my prayer that God may open up the entire blessings in finances, health, and families He has for you.

Currently through your support, there has much we have done, we have been able to rent 2 houses, one for the children and the other for me and my family in preparation for my marriage. The children are no longer dismissed from school for lack of school fees, our dressing codes have changed a bit, we no longer dress badly, feeding is no longer a problem. *Before your support we were like people blind without hope*, though we had hope to go to

heaven , but right now we have both, hope for now and our assurance for hope for the future is at this time more vivid and clear than it initially was. **Words cannot really express our great joy. Only God knows.** God, our heavenly Father bless every hand that gives into support the UFLMF from now and ever eternal.

In Jesus' name, Amen



**The Free Bible Study  
Course is still avail-  
able.**

**Contact:**

**Rodney & Kathie Carpenter**

**6280 FM 913**

**Stephenville, TX 76401**

The measure of a Chris-  
tian is not in the height of  
his grasp but in the  
depth of his love.-  
Clarence Jordan

**GOD, bless the children  
we are ministering to,  
with clothing , food and  
shelter through our part-  
nership with Pastor  
Robert. Thank you for  
choosing us to be Your  
hands and feet as we  
walk the path You have  
put us on. In Jesus  
name , Amen**

**THANK YOU  
FROM MY HEART**

I would like to take a moment to say thank you to all who support this ministry, whether it is writing your testimonies, songs, stories, financial help, printing, and folding the newsletter for mailing. & putting it on the web-site. Thank you for passing it along to others to read, sending it to your families and friends, and your prayers. We are approaching our 11th year of publication and we couldn't do it without all of you. Thank you for the response to the Free Bible Study Course. You will be blessed as you grow in Grace as you study His word.

And I want to say thanks for your support to our friends in Uganda, .Pastor Robert & I "talk" every day via the internet. He is a very compassionate young man, who loves the Lord and serves in truth. Through your financial support each month, we have helped him to clothe, feed, and house his family of nine orphans and some adults. The children attend school every day without fear of expulsion for non payment of fees or uniforms. We have so much in the Country we live in, and are extremely blessed. We can praise God collectively for all the good we have, a bed to sleep in, food to eat everyday, clothing & shoes for our feet. We can start to count our blessings but will never finish because they are too numerous. Don't you agree?

Jesus said to go into all the world—preach the Gospel, feed the hungry, clothe the naked. Giving unto them is giving to Jesus. **"When you've done it unto the lest of these, you've done it unto me"** Thank you Father for giving to us, so we can give back to You. It is with great joy that we can minister to one another in the blessed Name of Jesus.

Loving you all through the One Who lives in my heart, **Jesus,**

*Mitzi*



**KAPEKA GOSPEL MISSION REPORT** "We went where the need is"

Mathew 28, 18=20

We dearly thank the Lord who has enabled us to successfully deliver His divine message of salvation to His people. Unlike the previous missions this seemed to be spiritually and physically impacting. Throughout the 8 days we spent in the mission field, we not only ministered the written word of God but also expressed it in action by charity deeds to the orphans, widows' elderly and the other desperate groups of people we met. With all the signs, wonders together with the visible testimonies, it's undeniable that God was the sole architect and implementer of this nice mission that started on 12=18 July 2010. One thing I know is that this gospel mission was enabled thru the generosity in finances and prayers of our concerned Brethren .We surely have many people to thank , yet at the same time it's very impossible to point out each person by name , but surely if you know that you did something to support this mission be it financially , in prayers or anything else , may you actually know that we **STRONGLY APPRECIATE YOU**. My sincere thanks and gratitude go out to all who have thru prayers and finances , helped our ministry to deliver God's people who were spiritually and physically helpless , Psalms, 126';5, Mum and Dad Hall , " thanks a lot for being good stewards of God's word and being great encouragers to God's ministry here, surely may be without you this would not have been realized "All the UFLMF supporters , I know you are many , but indeed may God richly bless and nourish your lives in every good thing you want , thru your giving we can do exploits for our heavenly God in heaven , Please just keep

on supporting . Thank you Heather for your anointed music ,it did us great deal , and was loved by the people as we ministered .We used some of the writings and testimonies from the FLN to counsel and encourage the brethren , I even gave some copies to brethren ,thanks a lot to all the contributors ,your written word blessed people in our mission, Philp,1;3. Last but not least, my warm regards go to the flock I pastor and our local friends who gave in the little they had to support the work in Kapok. To the church I pastor I say " thanks for the sacrifices, especially citing the tragedy moments we are in, but "our labor is not in vain" 1Cor; 15; 58

As you read this MISSION REPORT, I hereby bring to you some of the events and scenarios that comprised the Mission that started on 12 =18 July 2010

We began our journey from Mperewe to the mission area at around 4 pm in a hired vehicle. Since the place of the mission is known for needy people we thought it unrealistic to "just" take the verbal word of God to a "physically, and spiritually" hungry people. So with the funds we had and by the help of the concerned we got clothes , food stuffs and some other basics of life . With these in our possession we started on our journey .Hiring a vehicle was a bit costly but we had nothing to do for we had a lot of luggage with us, so we had to involve an extra cost. On the way we experienced about 2 car break downs , but we had nothing to do our prayer was that even though we reach late but at least safe We reached a bit late and very exhausted , with our bodies full of soil . We were warmly welcomed by the pastor and some other brethren who had kept

long hours waiting for us. At last we had reached, and this pleased us greatly  
**MEETING STARTS**  
Our meeting began the following day .Each day of our meeting people came to listen to God's word, walking on foot for long distances. Our congregation comprised of the aged, children, women, men and the Elderly. Being a village place where most of the activity done is digging , the first 2 days of the meeting were not well attended ,because people had to first dig their gardens before they came for the meeting . This somehow disturbed our time schedule and the attendance. Our meeting was to start from 9am to 6 pm but the first 2 days it began at 11 am, but thanks be to God that from the third day people left everything and decided to come to hear God's word with all ZEAL. We were all thrilled by the big numbers of people that turned up. people sat even outside in the sunshine, some even stood on their feet from morning to evening" they were indeed very zealous"

Since people moved long distances to come to this meeting, we improvised food everyday to feed these people as they listened to God's word. We always had 2 sessions one in the morning starts from 9 am to about 2 pm, then we have a lunch break after which we enter the evening session. indeed feeding the multitudes each day was a challenge we also wondered how it all happened , but because we joined hands with the village pastor and the brethren God managed to feed his people every day, thanks be to the brethren who did a great deal in cooking for God's people Each day we reached to spiritually hungry hearts . We indeed ministered with hearts of love to God's people. Thanks be to the

mission team that went with me .With tears and words of compassion , I sat down each day as some of my team preached inside , to counsel, strengthen and encourage God's people who were very spiritually confused and exhausted . Much of our preaching and teachings involved personal testimonies  
Because of the scarcity of churches in villages coupled with not "well" trained in word pastors , we got a lot of people who came for these meetings spiritually dwarfed". They were like sheep without a Shepherd, no one to love and care, with wounds, yet with no one to bind them. They looked torn apart by consistent condemnation by their very Christian brethren, we found a lot of them backslidden "fallen flat in their faith" By the leading of the Holy Spirit each day I sat down counseled with pleading and tears running over requesting them to come back to Christ. With visible tears of repentance these people came back to Christ with great joy and this greatly comforted my soul

On Sunday and Saturday after ministry in the word, we took time to put the word in action. We did this by giving , clothes , food materials and some other small basics we had to the children who mainly involve orphans , youth , the elderly people inclusive  
There are so many remarkable and unforgettable incidences that happened . Though I may not write all of them in ink allow me write at least two of them.  
In our meeting there came a youth who had gotten saved a long time back looking a bit mentally disordered , He had jiggers all his body , that no one dared sit near him lest they also get jiggers , one of my team members saw him and spoke to

**KAPEKA MISSION REPORT, cont**

since this was part of our mission we immediately brought before him jigger medicine and gave it to him. I saw "Jesus smile" thru this young man.

A crippled boy of around 8 yrs of age always came early for our meetings. This boy would always be amongst the first people in church, he would sit in front of us, he loved God so much, yet his wheel chair was worn out, he could not use it any longer so he only used his hands to come to this meeting, though we had no money to buy for him a wheel chair at least we took the old one and it was mended, we left the little boy VERY HAPPY, we took the photos. I thanked God that he had used us bring joy to this young helpless boy, with joy inside me I knew God was happy for what had been done for this young boy

Part on my mission agenda was to meet the Elderly people. being in an elderly state, many of the elderly brethren can't afford walking the long distance to church so what they did was to make for themselves a home cell, so that they can fellowship and worship God together. when I met these elderly Brethren I was so much touched by the spiritual vigour of these aged brethren, most of them having bent backs with some of them unable to hear well, they sang and testified about the goodness of God

Their testimonies amidst their starvation, physical desperation brought me tears. All of these had lost all their children and most of them had lost their husbands and wives, They were only left with one comforter that's "JESUS". One elderly lady spoke with tears how she had birthed 10 children but all had died to Hiv aids leaving her with only one son who was very stubborn and drank

Another elderly due to age lost

her sight, I mean she is blind, yet she has to dig. As she explained to me how one day she went to dig cassava from her garden, unknowingly a sharp stick pieced her eyes, I just felt as if it was me. but she says she called "Jesus, help me," she went on to explain how she came crawling to her house, it was her elderly husband who later helped her and told her that blood was coming out of her eyes, oh this was so much for my ears. I was just drained of words at the situation, I saw these elderly people in yet still having faith in our Lord

in that very room, I led 2 souls to Christ a mother and a son. This drunken son survived death that very day when he fell in a well. So when he came to the room we were in, his mother started condemning him of his drunkenness, I intervened and after speaking to the mother, she there and then decided to give her life to Christ, the son too said "Pastor, I also want to get saved," I led this drunken man also to Christ, we prayed for them that God strengthens them. that same day an elderly mother and her son came to know Christ, thru this mission, As I was taken around these elderly people's houses, you would not imagine finding many of them living in grass thatched huts, starving to look after themselves with graves of their beloved ones as their neighborhood

One of the elderly woman narrated to me, how she had been bed ridden for one and a half years with a severe back pain, unable to move. When a person who was looking after her got tired of her unchanging condition, she barked at her "I am tired of you, I won't be here for you any longer" I have my own things to do "she ended her barking. on hearing such statements this elderly lady said that

she cried "Jesus, help me," I must not continue being on this bed any more" immediately, she says Jesus helped her from the bed slowly, and slowly with her back bent, holding a stick in her arm, she slowly walked out. when the lady who had barked at her saw her coming out she could not imagine what she saw.

One elderly woman of about 90 yrs very old cited to us the way she digs, and how she sows her food, I was so amazed. the night before going to see these elderly people as I lay down to sleep after ministering I had a dream in which I saw myself left in charge of a big bag of cooked food, many people were crowding to be served by me. As I served these people the task of serving was very heavy on me that a man nearby came to help me serve the multitudes that were around me, the vision ended like that, but there and then I did not really understand what that dream meant then, but it was after meeting these elderly people that I realized the true meaning of the dream, I thanked God that I did something for them, though still there remained a demand. I did what I could and left the rest to God people had a lot of problems, family, personal health problems, we saw wives of witch doctors come to Christ thru this meeting. Some of the sermons we ministered evolved around forgiveness and repentance, reconciliation, we burnt witchcraft and other sorcery materials and declared the freedom of God to people even on the day of our departure a lady of a witch doctor came to us that morning with a lot of tears, and we led her to Christ, she took us to her house bringing out witchcraft materials to be burnt, we left even her son saved, the family had received Christ

Every one that came for this

meeting had a word to say, but to me would not allow each of them to speak what God had done for them during the meeting. As people testified of what God had done for them, I just thanked God for that he gave me the courage to obey his voice to organize this meeting despite of the harsh conditions we too were going thru at church These are some of the things that we witnessed

The demand for physical help was much, especially the children and the elderly There is a need for God's written word for many don't have Bibles There is need for help for the village ministers, most especially, in Bible training and also the physical support for their welfare for they serve in a needy environment

There is need for continual Gospel mission outreaches to rural areas, Because many rural areas are diversely neglected There is need to plant churches in rural areas to help people fellowship without moving long distances

I personally felt a lot of compassion for the elderly. They are in their last days of life on earth, yet very needy, no people to care for them, "Oh how I felt I could be there for these aged vulnerable people of God.

When we gave them sugar and soap they were like dreaming I gave all I could and had, coming back home only by the grace of God. Though I too am in need situation thru this mission I met people need more than I I rejoice I was able to be used of God to at least bring a glimpse of hope to our dear brethren, Philp;2;13,. I know Christ and the heavens are very pleased of what happened in Kapeka

See photos on pages 14 & 15

# Compassion

By: Frank J. Calandra —Arizona Prison

Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, "**I am willing; be cleansed**" (Mark 1:40-41).

The life of a leper was marked with separation from others because of the disease. It is a contagious disease marked by ulcers of the skin, bone and viscera and leading to paralysis, gangrene, and deformation.

The leper was to warn others, as they approached, with the words, "Unclean, unclean!" this meant a life spent alone without the comfort of a touch from others, without love, and any kind of social gatherings. Yet, in this circumstance Jesus had "compassion" for the leper when society would have him far from the presence of anyone, Christ says, "**You are loved**" when society does not.

Leprosy can be spiritualized as all of us as we were when we were in our sins. We were "UNCLEAN" in our bodies and soul. We needed help!! We needed healing!!

Society, as a whole, has the need to be made well from the disease, "**For there is none righteous, no not one; There is none who does good, no, not one, and there is no fear of God before their eyes.**" (Romans 3:10, 12,18) This is the state of mankind after sin had entered in through Adam. (Romans 5:12)

The leprosy we all have as sinners has separated us from God! Left to ourselves we are festering, forsaken, social outcasts from God's Kingdom.

This is even more true for sinners that are prisoners! We are "unclean" and "slaves" to sin, and have become prisoners of self-gratification. Society had given up on us and placed us out in the wilderness they call prison.

We live a life of seclusion without the

touch of love. Many who were friends have left us alone because of the crime we have committed. They look at us as "unclean lepers" There is no compassion and many continue in their daily lives as if we are nothing but social outcasts.

However, if you will look to Jesus, as the leper did in the story, then you will find compassion and love! Not as the world knows love, but because God is Love and this love is manifested in His Son Jesus Christ. "**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoso ever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life**". "**God demonstrates His love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us**". (John 3:16; Romans 5:8)

The leper came to Jesus, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him. This is the first step of a repentant heart! We must come to Jesus believing that He can make us clean; we must come to Him imploring (or) making urgent appeal to Him and finally come with a heart of adoration knowing he is willing to wash us from sin.

The leper knew Jesus could heal him and expressed his inner faith in Him! Then Jesus knowing the faith of the leper was moved with compassion, stretched out his hand and touched him. . . .

What a feeling this must have been for someone who has had nobody to touch him, nobody to love him, nobody to share a moment with. Just the touch of Jesus must have sent excitement and love through the heart of this poor outcast. For the first time in a long time this leper knew what love was! He knew what it meant to be free from the disease; no longer would his cries be "Unclean, Unclean! He could actually belong, and he belonged to the Savior and His Kingdom now!

Whether you are a person in Prison with bars and belong to the State, or a prisoner of yourself on the outside of State Institutions in the Free world, you need to come to Jesus! He's the only one who can heal the disease of sin that is causing paralysis and gangrene of your soul.

Jesus is willing to heal you like he did

with the leper!

Jesus will have "compassion" on all those who call on Him. "for there is no salvation in any other god" money, power, control, manipulation, lust, greed, etc; many things we turn into gods and trust in them for happiness and security. Yet the word of God has said, "**Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.**" (Acts 4:12)

Nothing the world has to offer will give us true peace and happiness. There's only "one way" to gain eternal life and true inner peace. Jesus said, "**I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**" (John 14:6)

It is time to set aside the old man and let God have your heart; "**for God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.**" (2 Peter 3:9) He is patiently longing to have compassion on your leprosy (sins) and heal your sickness.

Are you tired and desiring to belong and be loved? Then turn to the One Who can touch your souls with his hand and heal you! "**Come now and let us reason together,**" says the Lord, "**though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson. They shall be as wool.**" "**If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword.**" (Isaiah 1: 18-20)

God gives us free will and longs for us to come to Him. He will not force us because this would not be true love. **We love Him because He first loved us.** (1 John 4:10)

. Start living a new life in Christ by being Born from above with the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, "**most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**" (John 3:3)

If you're tired and have come to the end of your rope, then why not let go and fall into God's open hands. He's longing to save you and wash you from all your sins.

## Compassion, cont.

You have given your heart to everything else in this world only to find the empty hole doesn't get filled. Why not come to the Lord with sincerity of heart and allow Him to fill it with His love? You will find rest for your souls and peace for your mind.

If you are longing for true love, and a family, then pray this prayer" God, I've tried to fill the emptiness in my heart with everything in this world and nothing works. I know that I am a sinner and need to be washed clean by the sacrifice of Your Son. ( the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord) I want this free gift, and I want to be loved by You, and I want to be a part of your family! I believe that Christ Jesus paid in full all my sins, this is a bill I couldn't pay on my own. I accept that God made Jesus to be sin for me, who knew no sin; that I might be made righteous in God's sight (2 Cor.5:21) I accept by faith the life I now have I Christ Jesus! By His death on the Cross I am justified and forgiven, and I thank you Lord for loving me enough to offer me the gift of eternal life through your Son. Amen.

In closing I will leave you with this:

*The sentence of death must be written on the flesh. The power of the Cross must be entered into before we can steadily and happily walk with God.*

—C.H.M

## THIS HOPE THAT I HAVE

A Testimony by Kenneth Lee

Wynne Unit, TX

Currently I am in prison, Physically. But spirituality and emotionally ? Praise God through Christ His Son, I am free!

In my shirt pocket I carry an old appointment pass for a previous parole interview (after 20 consecutive years in prison, this was my first in-

terview, I was sharing with a fellow inmate in the dining hall these words: :I have a hope and a peace that has absolutely nothing to do with circumstances. Even if the Parole Board says, 'I want you to spend the rest of your life in prison,' my hope and peace are still there!" I said to the Lord, "Lord, those words sound good! I'm going to write them on the back of my pass and keep it with me for when I come back into prison to preach." What a witness of the mighty delivering power of God it would be, I realized.

The result of the parole interview came approximately one month later; a three year set-off. That means parole was denied and that I would be reconsidered three years later.

Previous to my parole interview I had purchased some boots from the unit commissary and had placed them under my bunk to reserve them for my release. I told a Christian brother, "These are my walking boots." In my spirit the Lord spoke to me, "No, those are your preaching boots." I responded, "Yeah, preaching boots! Lord, I'll preach in them until they fall off my feet." Years later when people ask me, " Why do you always preach in them, old raggedy boots?" I will respond, "Well, let me tell you a story of how I was once in prison, but how the Lord set me free!" I already picture myself standing behind a prison pulpit and have heard the testimony coming forth; " You see these boots I'm wearing? I bought them here on this unit. And here in my pocket I still carry my parole pass." I would begin as I retrieve my pass to read the words I had written.

Upon denial of my parole, you can imagine the devil's lies. "Might as well throw those boots into the trash. God hasn't called you to preach! You're not getting out of prison; all you have is a rock with a number etched on it waiting for you."

If I looked at my circumstances

(two life sentences, a judge placing a statement in my record stating he wanted me to do a lot of time, serving time for a crime considered worst among crimes by society's standards, free-world ministries rejecting me or not responding to my queries for a place to go: this latter gave the devil plenty of fuel, "See, God can't use you, even His people reject you.") I could have grown discouraged, but despite my circumstances and the lies of the devil, I found my hope increasing! "Lord, this hope You have given me is unshakable! I know it's from You." In my heart I was experiencing Philippians 4:7. I truly couldn't explain the reason for my peace. All I could do was think of one word. A name. Jesus! How can you explain the times that you are flat on your face, lying on the floor of a prison cell, feeling the coldness of the concrete and hearing the cries around you, but feel the embracing presence of God like a warm blanket around you? No, I couldn't find a multitude of words, but I knew a few. Grace. Mercy. Love. As I now recall some of the loneliest moments of my prison experience, I reflect how the Lord was with me. "I will never leave you nor forsake you." I remember His word declaring.

As I sit on my bunk, the devil's lies and the parole set-off had little effect on my hope. I began praising God and rejoicing. Peace filled me. Hope exploded in me! As I was rejoicing God spoke to my spirit, "Write the Scripture that I have given you, write it on the heel of your boots" (Acts 5:19,20, which the Lord had given me in direct, specific response to a two-part question I had asked Him while crying to Him in prayer while sitting alone in the gym weeks prior). As I was considering the Lord's words about writing the Scripture on my boots, the devil countered, No!, don't do that! If you write on your boots they will be confiscated." ( marking on property is often considered altering the item ,

Turn to page 14

**This Hope that I have** cont. from pg 13

And could get them taken). I immediately responded, "satan, you're a liar, I am called to preach!" I then wrote "Acts 5:19,20" on the heel of my boots, placed the boots in my hands, bowed my head and began praying a prophesying over them.

Why is this hope I have so significant? Because it speaks of the power and presence of God in my life. I was once a person without hope. In fact, I had a profound sense of hopelessness. In bondage to sin, trapped in a cycle of sexual perversion. Endlessly walking the streets in search for something to dispel my emptiness. Becoming lost in drunken stupors trying to hide my pain and loneliness (no alcoholic bottle is deep enough to cover our pain). Living in self-hatred in an extreme form being expressed through self-mutilation and frequent suicidal thoughts.



A person doesn't walk the streets while intoxicated at 2 o'clock in the morning and turn to face an oncoming car because he has hope.

A person doesn't drive on a freeway with his eyes closed, hoping to crash and die because he has hope.....

No, Not because of hope,. But because of hopelessness. Because of emptiness. Because of loneliness. Because of lovelessness.

A lifetime of unhealthy self-destructive thinking, always looking at the negative side of things, with a dark cloud of despair looming over my head. That's how I was before I found the deliverance through Christ. People used to run from me, "oh, here he comes!"

This is why the hope I have is significant. In fact, it's amazing. It's miraculous! It's all because of Jesus. You see, when I was driving on the freeway with my eyes closed, I began to cry out to God. "Lord, I have nowhere to go, no

one to turn to. If you will do something with me. . . " God got a hold of me. His peace filled me. In the arms of grace and mercy, His hope embraced me.

The hope I now have, the world didn't give it to me. It's why circumstances can't take it. It's why hell can't shake it. I'm not saying that I don't struggle, but when the storms of life rage I have an anchor, sure and steadfast, an anchor that is big enough to keep this vessel. I'm standing on the Solid Rock. Christ in me, the hope of Glory. When life dictates no hope, God gives us hope (Romans 4:18) Circumstances shake our hope only when we look at them. My hope is not in the things seen, but the things not seen (Romans 8:24).'

But yet I see. I see a land of promise. A land afar, yet close enough to touch; I embrace God's heavenly Kingdom. It's a real, tangible presence in my heart. And I know I have an expected end. (Jeremiah 29:11)

This gives me hope. I pray you find

**KAPEKA GOSPEL MISSION REPORT**, cont from pg 11

Dear Brethren in Christ, and all concerned persons of God, we have just a short time left, but God is asking "who will go out for us? Whom shall I send? I don't know what your answer to God's question would be but I for one say audibly "HERE I AM, SEND ME NOW. I am available Lord" ,Isaiah 6.8

This is my prayer for all who have stood with the Lord's work here in Uganda" that your love may abound more and more,,,,," Philip,1;3-11

GOD RICHLY BLESS YOU JESUS TIMES

FROM  
Pastor Robert Sisye Bogere  
FREELIFE Uganda EAST AFRICA  
COME AFRICA PROJECTS



Pastor Robert on the way to minister



Women preparing food



Grace Assembly Church, Kapeka



Feeding the Elderly

## A NOTE OF THANKS

Thanks so much for all the wonderful work you are doing in the advancement of God's work there. I on behalf of my household and the church, greatly thank you for the financial package you have sent us. We, plus the children are very happy for your generous support toward my household and the work of God as a whole. A man said "it's easy to cause tears to some one yet very hard to bring a "smile "on some one's face, surely thru your generosity in prayers and finances you have been able to cause a lot of smiles and laughter to everyone here. As a pastor I thank you so much for helping me carry on with more ease the God given task of helping the Desperate of our community unlike those gone days when I used to toil alone without any one concerned. Also on the same note I hereby appreciate your giving and prayers you did for the Kapeka mission really if you see the photos you will just know that God did a tremendous work in Kapeka, **You did clothe the orphans, fed the hungry, and preached the salvation gospel to God's people**. The blessings of God were evident. My humble prayer for you all is that may God broaden your entire territories both spiritually and physically. We feel so much blessed to be in one ACCORD with each of you as we labor to advance the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

Thanks much

PASTOR

ROBERT SISYE



8 yr old boy always on the front row



Feeding & clothing the children



Rejoicing, his wheelchair is repaired



Praising and worshipping the Lord



Going into all the World to preach the Gospel,  
Praise God for this wonderful opportunity to be involved in His Ministry. To God be the Glory.

Through this newsletter we can all be involved.  
How ever God leads us to be involved.

. Amen & Amen

Immanuel Baptist Church  
Free Life Ministries  
1413 SE 16th Street  
Mineral Wells, TX 76067

## FREE LIFE NEWS

FALL EDITION

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[www.freelifeministry.com](http://www.freelifeministry.com)

Requires first class  
stamp to be mailed  
separately

## The Day God Came to the Post Office

It was on a Thursday, the 27th of May when we took the Summer Edition of the Free Life News to the Post Office.

As the clerk, Joni, was weighing and stamping each package, We chatted about the ministry, and she saw the young woman who came in, saying, she was "a favorite customer". The young woman stepped up to the counter and noticed all the packages (65 of them), and she wanted to know what I was mailing, so I was able to tell her about the newsletter and where they were going. She was very interested, so I asked for her address to send one to her. Janet finished with her business and stepped over to me with her hand

extended. As I took her hand she began to pray, praying for our ministry, the newsletters and those who were to receive them. When she finished, I turned and hugged her and she left, The postal clerk had tears in her eyes as did I, and she said, "Do you think the Holy Spirit



**A small portion of the Free Life News—4800 and still counting.  
Help spread the Word!**

was just here?" We rejoiced together as we finished with the mailing, noting that the Scripture states that we are to "**let our light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven**", and that day my new friend and sister in Christ certainly let her light shine. She was not ashamed to pray in a public place for a complete stranger and for you. I am so thankful that I was in that place at the right time — the day **God came to the Post Office.**

Mitzi

**Rejoice!**