

Christ is Victor

JUL/AUG 2002

“Turn that Over to Me”

The career of missionary E. Stanley Jones, who died in 1973, was nearly cut short by chronic worry. When he had first arrived in India, Jones wore himself out, working and worrying. “I was suffering so severely from brain fatigue and nervous exhaustion,” he later wrote, “that I collapsed, not once but several times.” Aboard the ship returning to America, he collapsed again and the doctor put him to bed. After a year’s rest he attempted to return to India, but became a bundle of nerves on the return trip and arrived in Bombay a broken man. His colleagues warned him that any attempt to continue ministering in such a state of anxious care would be fatal.

While praying one night, groping in emotional darkness, Jones seemed to hear a Voice ask him, “Are you yourself ready for this work to which I have called you?”

“No, Lord,” replied Jones, “I am done for. I have reached the end of my resources.”

“If you will turn that over to Me and not worry about it,” the Voice seemed to say, “I will take care of it.”

Jones answered. “Lord, I close the bargain right here”.

A great sense of peace closed in over

... “TURN” CON’T ON PAGE 2

“Sin and immorality make the heart as hard as granite”

“Mine eye runneth down with rivers of water, for the destruction of the daughter of my people. My eye trickleth down and ceaseth not without any intermission, till the Lord look down, and behold from heaven.” (Lam. 3:48-50)

We see a grave insensitivity and hardness of heart gripping the men of our generation. The mass media, newspapers, TV and magazines are full of violence and the coverage given to heartless acts of terrorism and bloodshed is simply appalling. All this has the effect of making the heart hard and compassionless.

A man came up to the platform soon after a public address and said to me: “Sir, just like you were saying in your message now, I got drunk, beat my wife who was pregnant and drove her away. Then I deceived another girl into thinking that I was an unmarried man and married her.” For the first time in his life, this man began to repent for his sins and turn to Christ. Moreover his free-wheeling sexual promiscuity had brought upon him an awful skin disease and I had to pray for him. Compassion for his poor wife, whom he had ill-treated so much, was only just beginning to dawn upon him. Sin and immorality make the heart as hard as granite. But when sin is confessed to Jesus and put away, then love and concern for others breaks upon us as a new dawn.

When you stand before the cross of Jesus, there comes an unmistakable melt-

ing in your heart. That studied coldness, that lofty indifference to the cry of human misery, that icy expressionless countenance would give way to a positive attitude and love. The warmth of heaven comes into that hard and wintry face. This is the love of Jesus, just seeping in.

In the Book of Lamentations we see the prophet Jeremiah grieving over the spiritual destitution of Jerusalem. With a prophet’s foresight he had foretold the physical destruction of Jerusalem. Now he weeps for the people of God. “Mine eye runneth down with rivers of water, for the destruction of the daughter of my people.”

The art of modern hypocrisy is so advanced that they simply will not acknowledge that a

higher standard of living is the full and final solution for their problems. How long are we going to delude ourselves into thinking that when we fill our homes with materialistic comforts of all sorts, then we shall be happy?

A lady in Europe said, “TV has brought a total breakdown in communication in our home. Formerly, we used to sit and talk with each other. Now my husband and children are so taken up with the TV programmes, they scarcely talk to me.” What a tragedy! Another woman would have become a nervous wreck. But this lady who had repented for her sins and found the wonderful healing which Jesus gives to a sin-sick soul, at

... “GRANITE” CON’T ON PAGE 4

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Stanley Jones, a rush of abundant life that seemed to sweep him off his feet. His energy returned, his enthusiasm bubbled over and he plunged back into his work with a vitality he had never before known. Jones went on to spend a lifetime of ministry in India, writing numerous books, and ministering to multitudes around the world.

He later wrote, *"This one thing I know: my life was completely transformed and uplifted that night... when at the depth of my weakness and depression, a voice said to me: 'If you will turn that over to Me and not worry about it,' I will take care of it,"* and I replied, *'Lord, I close the bargain right here'.*

Cast your burden on the Lord and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved..... Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. (Psalm 55:22 & I Peter 5:7)

Worry is the interest we pay on tomorrow's troubles.

— E. Stanley Jones

"FAITH AND LOVE"

"For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love." (Gal. 5:6)

Faith which worketh by love! Christian life is lived by faith. When sin leaves us faith comes into us. When we are born again all the virtues of God come into us. These virtues come into us in rudimentary form at conversion.

When you grow in faith your faith affects even your blood. A man who has real faith in Jesus, even his blood becomes powerful. Man's blood normally has the quality of killing germs. With sin in the heart even your blood is weak. If you have a pure heart whatever you eat you will be strengthened. You cannot have this kind of faith with a sinful heart.

When you study the Bible and meditate on the Word of God your faith will grow. Thus as you digest God's Word and begin to pray, it will go deep into your heart. The greatest missionaries and saints spent many hours in prayer. George Muller used to complete the study of the Bible four times each year. The Lord taught me to study the Bible on my knees. I learnt on my knees what I preach to you. Christ will teach you. It is evident that many of you are not studying the Bible. It is a sin. You are as the heathen. When a child is born it takes its mother's milk. In the same way we must take in the Word of God.

You may have money. But without faith having money is dangerous. All sorts of wickedness will come into you. Do you have faith in the living God? Those who do not study the Bible are dead men. *"Man liveth not by bread alone, but by the Word of God."*

Love is the supreme power. God is the supreme power because He is Love. You may say, *"Well we also love our children."* That is not true love often it is selfish love. But God's love is holy. When you have that divine love, you can do

many things. Faith transforms our ordinary love into God's divine love. Mother's love is animal love. But with Christ when a mother loves, then it is powerful love. When faith comes in, it turns natural love into powerful love. When you pray with this powerful love, then you receive power from on High. Have you got this divine love?

If you try to love ten people you will be strengthened. God so loved the world and sent His only Son into the world, to die for us. The nearest place to Heaven is our home, because love is there. Children love the parents. Husbands and wives love one another and so on. Heaven is such a beautiful place made of love. If Christ is with the husband and wife, then their love will be true love. When Christ is with us then there will be no quarrelling. Without Christ you may have love, but that will be mere animal love or natural love. Christ will give new love.

The Holy Spirit will keep you away from sin. St. Paul writes in a glorious way about love, mentioning eight points in I Corinthians chapter 13. One of them is *"Love does not rejoice in iniquity."* When you become a true Christian, Christ will give you a new nature. God is not a liar and so you cannot lie.

A beautiful harmony will be found where there is true love. Do you love your neighbour? Christ gives you true love. The moment you begin to harbour anger and hatred, some kind of disease begins in you. Jesus forgave from the Cross even the people who crucified Him. If you become angry, your stomach will be upset. People who are full of the spirit of hatred and vengeance will die early. Yes, men have some kind of love. But this animal love is very selfish. You say, *"I and my family"*. When Christ comes, He will

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This Fellowship is an inter-denominational missionary and prayer group working for revival in churches and amongst students in several countries. We invite every layperson to become God's ally in changing his or her corner of the world. We train people in evangelistic work and to be self-supporting missionaries.

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change that natural selfish love into divine love. You find your heart burdened for others. Thus as you begin to love your neighbours your family will be blessed.

Many think that Heaven is somewhere. No. Heaven begins in our homes when you are converted. God fills the clean heart with love. If a church has a dozen people who have divine love in their hearts that church will be blessed. Is there true love in your family? Are you contemplating anything against others? St. Paul teaches us to love others. Everywhere there must be love. We must weep for not loving our neighbours, relatives and others. Why hate others? *“And though I have the gift of prophecy and have not love, I am nothing.”* That is the teaching of Christianity. When you love others you will become a blessing and your life will be powerful. What is it we really lack? Not money, but love. But why don't we experience such love? In as much as there is impurity in our hearts, we cannot experience such love.

Those that love others will dwell in God. Have you got a pure heart? If you are converted and study the Bible your love will become divine love. Love is unlimited in its power. Let us love one another. The end of Christian teaching is love.

Joseph was full of love. He kissed his enemies. He turned the wicked idolatrous country of Egypt of his day into a place of blessing. Daniel was full of love and prayed for his own people who were in bondage. It was Daniel's prayer that brought the Jews once again to Jerusalem from Babylon.

True love gives Christ to others. If you have true love you will tell others of Christ. The best gift of heavenly love given to the earth, is Jesus Christ. If you love your in-laws you will give the Gospel to them. Except through the Saviour Jesus there will be no real peace and love.

— N. Daniel

“Saved from Disaster”

Farmer Lowe was crossing the railway line on his way to a neighbouring farm when he noticed a drop in the tracks. The evening train was almost due, and he had not time to notify the railway agents at the nearest station, so there was no one else who could warn the engineer but himself. Swinging a lantern with a one hand and a white handkerchief with the other, he stood for a few minutes by the side of the line. He could hear the roar of the approaching train, and, disregarding the possibility of being killed, he stepped between the tracks and brought the train to a standstill.

What a scene met the eyes of engineer and passengers alike! Only two hundred yards ahead was a huge gap. A cloudburst that afternoon had caused a washout, forty feet in depth and sixty-five feet across. The tracks and ties remained intact, swinging precariously across the yawning chasm.

Lowe's prompt action had saved the lives of many of the passengers. Little did they dream as the train sped its way over the smooth rails that they were going straight onto destruction unless the train was stopped.

For one at least on that train sudden death would have meant sudden glory. A very veteran preacher of the gospel was one of the passengers, and he was travelling on an evangelistic tour. Death for him carried no eternal terrors.

But for the lost it would have meant the shortening of their lives and the final settling of where they would spend eternity, for as they enter eternity, so will they

spend it. If they enter lost, they will spend eternity lost. Who can measure the horror of that?

When the engineer of the train saw Lowe's signals, like a sensible man he put on the brakes and was able to stop the train in time. But what shall we say of the lost who disregarded the warnings of the scripture? This printed page is a signal flashed across your path. Will you be warned? God grant that you may, for if you refuse to put on the brakes, you will ensure your eternal destruction. Be wise!

A collection was made by the passengers who had been saved from death or injury, and it amounted to a mere \$25. Counting 200 passengers on the train, this contribution averaged 12.5 cents per head. One could wish that the passengers had had no collection rather than express their gratitude in such an ungenerous fashion. We should think whoever handed this paltry sum over must have blushed to think how ungrateful the passengers were!

But what shall be said of the great price paid by Jesus on the Cross for the salvation of sinners? Words cannot describe it. Mathematics have no figures to express this sum. It was an infinite price, even the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

And on our part, what response have we given? Remember that *‘Christ Jesus ...gave Himself a ransom for all’* (1 Timothy 2:5-6). It was for all. The passengers' \$25 was a pitiable sum. Has your response been better?

— Selected

REALITY CHECK!

“FOR THEY ALL SAW HIM, AND WERE TROUBLED. AND IMMEDIATELY HE TALKED WITH THEM, AND SAITH UNTO THEM, BE OF GOOD CHEER: IT IS I; BE NOT AFRAID.”

- MARK 6:50

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“Put Your Name in It!”

Ruth Bell Graham vividly remembers September 2, 1933. She was thirteen. Her father, a missionary surgeon in China, and her mother were sending her to boarding school in what is now Pyongyang, North Korea. For Ruth, it was a brutal parting, and she earnestly prayed she would die before morning. But dawn came, leaving her prayers unanswered, and she gripped her bags and trudged toward the riverfront. She was leaving all that was loved and familiar: her Chinese friends, the missionaries, her parents, her home, her memories. The Nagasaki Maru carried her slowly down the Whangpoo River into the Yangtze River and onto the East China Sea.

A week later she was settling into her spartan dormitory. Waves of homesickness pounded her like a churning surf. Ruth kept busy by day, but evenings were harder. She would bury her head in her pillow and cry herself to sleep, night after night, week after week. She fell ill, and in the infirmary she read through the Psalms, finding comfort in Psalm 27:10 - *“When my father and my mother forsake me, Then the Lord will take care of me.”*

The hurt and fear and doubt persisted. Finally, in desperation, she went to her sister Rosa, also enrolled in Pyongyang. *“I don’t know what to tell you to do,”* Rosa replied matter-of-factly, *“unless you take some verse and put your own name in it. See if that helps?”* Ruth picked up her Bible and turned to a favorite chapter, Isaiah 53, and put her name in it: *“But He was wounded for Ruth’s transgressions; by His stripes Ruth is healed”* Her heart leaped, and the healing began.

— Selected

“The Atmosphere of Revival”

“I have great sorrow and unceasing pain in my heart” Rom. 9.2

How easy it is to evangelize in the atmosphere of revival! One can preach five times daily for several months without feeling the strain of weariness. Many young evangelists are astonished when they read of the strenuous labours of John Wesley, who covered the British Isles on horseback year after year, preaching from five o’clock in the morning till near midnight, day after day, to a ripe old age. The explanation is simple: he was evangelizing during a time of deep spiritual awakening in the Church. The standard of holiness among the saints had been raised high by John and his brother Charles and their associates.

If one can stay in a place long enough to lead God’s people into a state of revival the task of preaching the Gospel is reduced to simply explaining the way of salvation and giving the invitation to seeking burdened souls. When the saints are revived each becomes burdened about the lost about him, his loved ones, his neighbours, his business companions and all whom he knows. Prayer meetings are crowded with every one wanting to make requests for prayer for the salvation of his loved ones. Each prayer meeting will be one groan in the Spirit for lost souls, as each seeks to bear the burden of the others in his longing after his loved ones. In such meetings, there is a desperateness about the requests and the prayers, mingled with confidence that God answers prayer. Such confidence produces an expectancy in the meetings which is felt in the very atmosphere.

With each believer working for, praying for, believing for the salvation of his own lost ones, it is little wonder that great conviction comes upon the unsaved in the meetings. It is little wonder there is a stir among the godless in the town or city. It is inevitable that souls should be saved during such times! With what joy the believers and the evangelist work together in the harvest of lost souls!

— James A Stewart

one of our retreats in Europe, is proving that Jesus is sufficient for all her need. I could weep for her. How much suffering her husband inflicts on her.

There are homes around us for whom we must shed tears in prayer. Real prayer opens a fountain of compassion in our souls. I simply can’t understand how people spend all their days in a sort of selfish seclusion. It seems as though they have told themselves, *“Well, there is little I can do to lift the load of others, while I am literally crushed by my own load.”* So saying they shut their eyes and walk through life, occupying themselves with nothing but their own wants and pleasures. One could weep for such people. What poor miserable persons they are! They are a curse to their own children.

A life without Christ, a heart without compassion and tearless eyes are a great calamity. You don’t know what you are missing. How it grieves me when I get letters, which say, *“I have never known a father’s love!”* Let us weep in prayer for souls who are lost, love-lorn and bitter in this sad world of ours.

— Joshua Daniel

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