



NON-PROFIT



TAX-EXEMPT

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" MARK 16:15

SPRING 2000

FROM US TO YOU

As Easter approaches, we are reminded of the great sacrifice made by our Creator in order to redeem us back to Himself (Psalm 19:14, John 1:12-14, 3:16, Romans 5:7-8, and Galatians 4:4-6). However, many Christians think that after a person accepts Christ as their Savior (1 Timothy 2:5), they will not have any more problems. Yet, Jesus told His disciples, *"...In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33 NIV). And, just as He has overcome it, Christ wants us, His flock (John 10:14 & 10:4-5), to become overcomers as well (Romans 12:21, 1 John 2:13-14 & Revelation 17:14)! Yet how can this be if we have nothing to overcome? No victory comes without a struggle! **Anyone** can live for Christ when life is easy and blessings are flowing. But only those who truly love Him will remain faithful when the trials and tests of faith roll around (Luke 6:22-23 & 1 Peter 4:12-13). They separate the wheat from the chaff (Luke 3:17 & Matthew 13:24-30) and the sheep from the goats (Matthew 25:32). And God has called us to **separation** from this world (2 Corinthians 6:17, James 4:4, & 1 John 2:15-17).

The "Prosperity Gospel" crowd will not like to hear this, but God often keeps His children humble through physical afflictions (Psalm 34:19, 2 Corinthians 12:7-9, Hebrews 11:36-38, & 1 Peter 5:10). Both of us have had our share of them, and continue to do so! We seldom mention them because we want the focus to be on Christ. And God has promised to heal us eventually. Nevertheless, they often slow us down and rob us of the time we need to get our work done. Last November, just about the time that Anne started writing the main article in this issue, **"From Egypt To The Promised Land"**, she began having problems with her right hand. It felt like carpal tunnel syndrome, but the chiropractor said that it was not. She bought a wrist band to ease the problem, but was unable to use it. For her arms, which had been itchy and irritated, suddenly got a lot worse! They became horribly puffy and the itching prevented her from getting much needed sleep. It turned out that she had a "contact dermatitis", such as poison ivy. But no one knew how she got it! It was Autumn, and she had not done any gardening since the Summer-time. And, to the best of our knowledge, we do not have any poisonous plants in our garden! When Anne was finally cured, about two months later, she had another dermatological problem underneath! Moreover, the medicine that the doctors gave her caused some bad side effects. When that was finally over, the wrist problems returned, not just in her right hand, which is used to control the computer mouse, but also in her left hand as well!

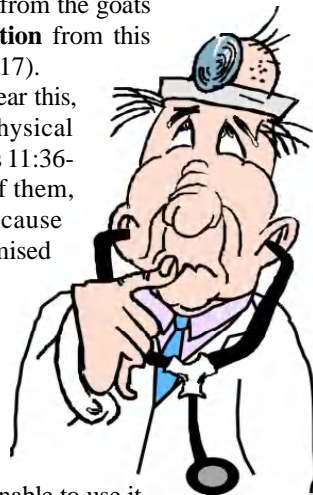
Eric, too, has had all kinds of irritating and distressing ailments. No, the devil is **not** winning any battles as he attacks the Lord's flock! God allows these afflictions to come upon us in order to test our faith. It is a part of the refining process that every believer encounters as he struggles to follow Christ (Matthew 10:38, 10:24-25, Luke 9:22-23, 14:27, 2 Corinthians 1:5-9). If you are a Born Again Christian (John 3:3), don't be surprised if you get sick now and then. Even the most eminent of believers often become ill. But God can turn it around for His own glory! Who among us has more faith

than the Apostle Paul? Yet he wrote to the church in Galatia saying, *"...it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you"* (Galatians 4:13 NIV). The young evangelist, Timothy, also had many health problems (1 Timothy 5:23). Interestingly, we have received letters from our readers, stating that they, too, have been suffering with strange ailments for years. It seems that, over the last ten years or so, God has been doing something intriguing among His flock. At the same time that prosperity has abounded in this rebellious (see 1 Samuel 15:22-23), self-indulgent (2 Timothy 3:4) nation, the Lord has been selecting a remnant (Romans 9:27 & 11:5) from the church, and preparing them for His holy calling. Jesus said, *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of Heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father who is in Heaven"* (Matthew 7:21 NIV). God always calls a people out of a people. For the church is filled with many "fair-weather" Christians (2 Timothy 3:5, 4:3-4, Galatians 1:6-7, and Revelation 3:14-19). They give Christ lip-service (Mark 7:6-8) when all is well. However, as soon as the storms and struggles of faith (Ephesians 4:14) come along, they will fall by the wayside (Matthew 24:10-11, Mark 4:17, Luke 7:23 & 8:13). For their faith was built upon sinking sand, and **not** on the solid Rock of Jesus Christ (Matthew 7:24-27 & 1 Corinthians 10:4).

So **if** you love the Lord with **all** your heart (see Mark 12:30), but have been suffering all kinds of weird afflictions, take heart! For God is preparing, in you, an unshakable foundation! The Lord has said, *"... 'Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.' The words 'once more' indicate the removing of what can be shaken -- that is, created things -- so that what cannot be shaken may remain."*

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our 'God is a consuming fire'" (Hebrews 12:26-29 NIV). Consequently, if you have been feeling the Refiner's Fire (Zechariah 13:9, Jeremiah 9:7, Psalm 66:10, Isaiah 48:10, 1 Peter 1:3-9, and Revelation 3:18-19), you are in good company. All the prophets and apostles of God have felt it. He shaped and molded them (Jeremiah 18:3-6 and Romans 9:21) into vessels fit for His calling. And you, like them, *"...are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls"* (1 Peter 1:9 NIV). For our Lord wants to grow much fruit in you (John 15:1-7) for His Heavenly Kingdom. *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart"* (Hebrews 12:1-3 NIV). Have a joyous Easter everyone!

In Christ's love, *Eric and Anne Kaestner*



From Egypt To The Promised Land

By Anne Kaestner

These days it is often assumed by Christians that, since we are living in New Testament times, the Old Testament is irrelevant to our lives. They think it is just historical in nature, merely applies to the Jews and, therefore, need not be taken seriously. Those who think this way could not be more wrong! For the New Testament is only a tiny part of the Bible. So, if we dismiss the rest of God's Word, and just focus on the New Testament alone, we will be missing out on so much that the Lord wants to teach us! The Old Testament provides us with examples of individuals who lived in those days, and shows us the awful consequences that befell God's people when they rebelled against Him. And it encourages us with accounts of men and women who chose to trust God and live by **faith** (Hebrews 11:1-40). No matter how desperate the situation became, they did not rely on their own understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6). Therefore, regardless of everything Satan tried to do to discourage them, in the end they were victorious in the Lord! In fact, the writers of the New Testament often referred back to events that occurred in Old Testament times and told us specifically that they are examples for us (James 5:10-11 & Jude 1:7). *"All these people were **still living by faith when they died...** They admitted that they were **aliens and strangers on earth.** People who say such things show that they are **looking for a country of their own.** If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a **better country -- a heavenly one.** Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for **He has prepared a city for them**"* (Hebrews 11:13-16 NIV. Also, see Hebrews 11:8-10).

As a Christian, if your faith and trust are only in the things you can perceive with your senses, you are **not** following Jesus Christ. *"For we walk by faith, not by sight"* (2 Corinthians 5:7 KJV). *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen"* (Hebrews 11:1 KJV). We humans have five natural senses. They are, sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell. Have you ever heard the expression, "I'll believe it when I see it?" That's **not** the attitude that God is looking for! False doctrines have misled many Christians to believe that, once they become Born Again, all their troubles will just float away, and God will make them rich, healthy, and important in this world. They believe they are "King's Kids." (See the Apostle Paul's satirical response to the Corinthian church pertaining to this doctrine in 1 Corinthians 4:8-14.) However, *"Jesus said, 'My kingdom is not of this world... My kingdom is from another place'"* (John 18:36 NIV). So if you want all the good things that **this** world has to offer, and you want to live like a prince in this world, you have not been following the **true** Christianity, but a **counterfeit** version of it! (See Galatians 1:6-10.) Yet to those who are willing to live by faith, and allow Christ to become *"...sovereign Lord..."* (2 Peter 2:1 NIV) of their hearts and lives, Jesus made us a promise. He said, *"...In Me you may have peace. In **this world you will have trouble.** But take heart! I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33 NIV. Also, see John 15:19-21 & 17:6-16). Jesus Christ is the **Prince** of Peace (Isaiah 9:6), but the peace He brings does not come from this world, or the things of this world. It is a **supernatural** peace that can only come to those who no longer lust after earthly things (1 John 2:15-17), but instead, live for the Kingdom of God (Mark 1:15).

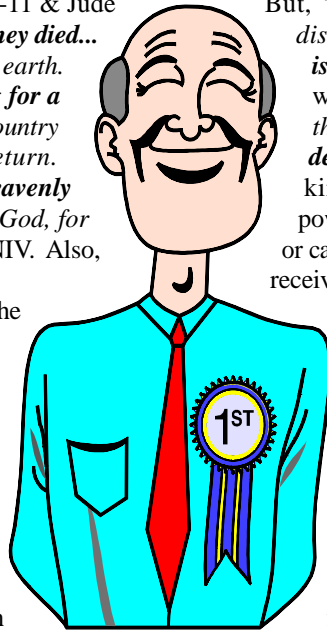
When the Jews were slaves in Egypt, it was a type of spiritual symbolism of the bondage of sin that enslaves all of us before we are set free by repentance to God (Matthew 4:17 & 6:9-12), and redemption

through Jesus Christ, *"...His only begotten Son..."* (John 3:16 KJV). God chose a man named Moses to become the vessel through which He would deliver the slaves from the bondage of Egypt. I remember about ten years ago when I was going through a particularly difficult test of faith in regard to this ministry. Like most of us, when these tests come upon us, I wanted God to take it away. I prayed, "Why is this happening to me Lord?" The answer came immediately. In my heart I felt the Lord say, "It is because you don't get the victory unless you go through the battle." However, we who love Christ, are no longer "of this world." For our Lord is not "of this world" (see John 17:6-16). Therefore, the battles we fight are not carnal battles, but spiritual. Consequently, since Satan controls all that is of this world (Matthew 4:8-10), we cannot fight against him with carnal weapons! Moreover, if we are citizens of the Kingdom of God, we are a part of His Heavenly army. As such, we cannot plan the strategy for spiritual warfare! Jesus Christ, our Commander and Chief, does that! Yes, the enemy may seem so vast, and we may feel so puny in comparison.

But, *"...thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's"* (2 Chronicles 20:15 KJV). That's why, *"the weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have **Divine power to demolish strongholds**"* (2 Corinthians 10:4 NIV). What kind of strongholds? Demonic strongholds of Satanic power! We cannot **overcome** them through human ability or carnal wisdom. Only the Divine, Holy Spirit Power that we receive through Jesus Christ, will win spiritual battles for us!

After God delivered the Jews from slavery in Egypt, they wandered through the desert for 40 years in search of their Promised Land (Genesis 12:1-3 & 26:3-4). However, the land that God planned to give them was not so far away that it should have taken 40 years to find it. So why the delay? It was because, from God's perspective, their earthly pursuit for the Promised Land symbolized a believer's pursuit for Heaven (Hebrews 11:8-10). Therefore, they needed to become totally dependent upon God and live by faith. Here are some metaphors I want to explain. Pharaoh is symbolic of Satan. The desert represents the earthly Kingdom of God, where we will not survive unless we live by faith. And the Promised Land (Exodus 12:25) is a metaphor for Heaven. Those of you who have been reborn in Christ *"...used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set **free from sin** and have become slaves to righteousness"* (Romans 6:17-18 NIV). However, *"...I want to remind you that **the Lord delivered His people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe**"* (Jude 1:5 NIV). "Did not believe" means those who refused to trust God despite the circumstances. In this context, the word "believe" does not mean merely acknowledging the existence of God (James 2:19-20). It means **total** trust, confidence, and dependency upon Him. It means **living by faith!**

Now, about Moses. Did Moses claim to be a "King's Kid"? No! *"...Moses was a **very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth**"* (Numbers 12:3 NIV). He wasn't interested in wealth and prestige. He had received all of that in Egypt (Hebrews 11:24-26). Yet God didn't use him when he was young and healthy, and had the riches and power of an Egyptian prince. God waited until Moses was 80 years old before He gave him his ministry. *"...God chose the... **weak things of the world** to shame the strong. He chose the **lowly things of this world** and the **despised things...** so that no one*



may boast before Him” (1 Corinthians 1:27-29 NIV). Most of you know the story. Moses was obedient, and went and spoke to Pharaoh on God’s behalf. However, instead of the situation getting better, it got much worse! Not only did Pharaoh refuse to let the slaves go, but he made their lives even more miserable (Exodus 5:6-9). And, typical of the way that people are, the slaves blamed Moses (Exodus 5:20-22)! Moses went to God in prayer. However, the Lord wasn’t at all concerned. All that had happened was a part of His plan! Moses did not understand why God didn’t just make Pharaoh release the slaves immediately. But he trusted the Lord anyway! Sometimes we believers are put into a situation where there appears to be no way out. We put our faith in God! However, instead of the problem going away, it just gets more stubborn. That’s the way it was with Pharaoh! Even though God used Moses to bring all kinds of afflictions upon the Egyptians, Pharaoh, like a huge **mountain**, would not be moved (Exodus 14:10-30). However, Jesus said, “...if anyone says to this **mountain**, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him” (Mark 11:23-24 NIV).

Of course, that will only apply to those who have been spiritually “crucified with Christ” (Galatians 2:20), and have made the will of God their **first** priority (Matthew 6:33, Luke 22:42 & James 4:1-4). Also, notice that the very **first** Commandment that God gave to Moses was to put God first, before anyone or anything else in our hearts. It was, “**I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me**” (Exodus 20:2-3 NIV). Now, Moses had “...said to God, ‘Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is His name?’ Then what shall I tell them?’ God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” (Exodus 3:13-14 NIV). Many centuries later Jesus Christ answered that question. He said, “...**I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me**” (John 14:6 NIV). You might be thinking, “Christ wasn’t even born at the time of Moses.” That’s basically the same thing that the Pharisees said to the Lord, because they would not recognize Him as God the Son (John 1:10-14). However, Moses was a descendant of Abraham. And Jesus told the Pharisees, “...before Abraham was born, **I am!**” (John 8:58 NIV). He was saying that God the Father is in Heaven. And we will not get to our Promised Land unless we pick up our spiritual crosses and follow God the Son, Jesus Christ, (Matthew 10:38) across the desert and wilderness of this world. The desert is also symbolic of the spirit realm in which Satan and his demons reside (see Luke 11:24).

There were **snakes** in the wilderness as the Jews crossed it. How did Satan appear to Eve? It was as a snake (see Genesis 3:1-5 and Revelation 12:9)! The snakes did not hurt those who were faithful to God, but they killed thousands of those who rebelled against Him (Numbers 21:5-6 & 1 Corinthians 10:7-9)! What was it that the Jews did that made God so angry? “*They spoke against God and against Moses, and said, ‘Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!’*” (Numbers 21:5 NIV). Like many of those who have been delivered out of the slavery of sin, they did not want to go through the desert of testing in order to get to the Promised Land! As soon as the tests of faith came along, their appetites began to rule over them, and they no longer desired the inheritance of the Promised Land. It was too far off for them, too difficult to reach. They became impatient. God had miraculously supplied them with a type of **Heavenly bread** known as manna (Exodus 16:31). But after awhile, they became bored with it, as many Christians become bored with the “straight and narrow” road to Heaven (Matthew 7:13-14). “*The rabble with them*

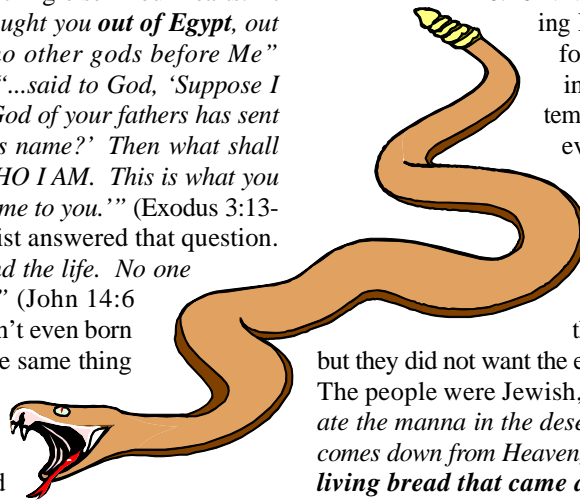
began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, ‘If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost -- also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!’” (Numbers 11:4-6 NIV).

In the days that Jesus walked this earth, huge crowds followed Him by the thousands when He was healing them, casting out demon spirits, and doing many miracles (Matthew 4:24 and John 2:23). They even followed Him for three days into the **wilderness** without any food, because **they wanted what He had to offer them!** We all like to receive gifts, and Jesus had the ability to do what could never be accomplished through human technology (Mark 5:26-29 & Matthew 15:33-38). So they put their trust in Him and He took care of their needs, just as His Spirit continues to take care of the needs of His flock today (Luke 12:32). When the crowds were hungry, the Lord fed thousands of people with just seven loaves of bread “...and a few small fish” (Matthew 15:34 NIV. Also, see 14:19-21). Nevertheless, there came a time when the miracles and blessings all came to a screeching halt. The people began to seek the Lord, but when they found Him, His response was not what they wanted to hear. “*Jesus answered, ‘I tell you the truth, you are looking for Me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill’*” (John 6:26 NIV). In other words, “You haven’t been seeking Me for the right reasons. Instead of looking

for what is **spiritual and eternal**, you are only interested in what is **carnal** and satisfies your temporary wants and desires (James 4:2-3). However, that is not in your long-term interest!” (See Mark 8:36-37.) The Lord was saying that the people only wanted the **gifts** that He brought, but they did not want Christ Himself (John 6:53-58)! They wanted the **earthly bread** that would fill their stomachs and satisfy them for a few hours

but they did not want the eternal **Heavenly Bread** that came from God! The people were Jewish, so Jesus said to them, “...*Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from Heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from Heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever...*” (John 6:48-51 NIV. Also, see Luke 22:19). The manna was symbolic of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Now what did the Jews at the time of Moses have in common with their descendants who received the loaves and fishes from Jesus? Even though God had delivered thousands of Jews from the **physical** bondage they suffered in Egypt, they refused to be delivered from their **spiritual** bondage of sin! Consequently, God became angry at them because of their persistent rebellion. He had blessed them over and over again. He had brought them safely across the Red Sea and drowned their enemies who had pursued them (Exodus 14:26-29). In the desert, He had given them quail to eat at night and flakes of bread, called manna, in the morning (Exodus 16:13-15). When they were thirsty, He provided them with fresh water out of a rock (Exodus 17:6. Also, see 1 Corinthians 10:3-4). During those forty years, the Lord even prevented their clothes and their sandals from wearing out (Deuteronomy 29:5)! He put them into a situation where they would have to be **totally dependent upon Him**, for help could come from no other source! (See Isaiah 43:11-13 & 63:7-14.) Yet, despite all that God did, they continued to rebel against Him! “*They made Him jealous with their foreign gods and angered Him with their detestable idols. They sacrificed to demons, which are not God, gods they had not known, gods that recently appeared, gods your fathers did not fear. You deserted the Rock, who fathered you; you forgot the God who gave you birth*” (Deuteronomy 32:16-18 NIV). That’s why every one of them, except for Joshua and Caleb (Continued On Page 4)



From Egypt To The Promised Land (Continued From Page

(see Numbers 26:65), died in the wilderness and never made it to the Promised Land!

This is what Jesus was trying to remind their descendants! It was “the loaves and the fishes” syndrome! Jesus said, “*Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you...*” (John 6:27 NIV). If you are a Born Again child of God (John 3:3), you are in the same type of situation as were the children of Israel in the days of Moses, or their Jewish descendants who followed Christ (Romans 10:12). You have received the blessings of God and have been called “*...out of darkness into His marvellous light*” (1 Peter 2:9 KJV). Nevertheless, as Christians, we cannot conduct our lives as the rest of this world does if we expect to survive the trials and tests of faith that are about to come upon this world and the church. We can either be of Christ or of this world, but we cannot be both (Matthew 6:24 and 2 Corinthians 6:14-17)! As Jesus said while in prayer to His Father, “*I have revealed You to those whom You gave Me out of the world... I have given them Your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world*” (John 17:6, 14 NIV. Also, see John 18:36 and Luke 16:13). Therefore, if we are in Christ, we must **crucify** our stubborn human nature (Galatians 2:20 & 5:24). Put it spiritually to death! Our worldly wants and desires must no longer rule over us (see James 4:4). If our hearts are truly changed, our wants and desires change too. They now become the wants and desires of God, working through us!

The city of Jerusalem, which would eventually be built by King David, an earthly king of the Jews, was a figurative representation of New Jerusalem, a city **not** of this world! For **New Jerusalem** is a city of holy, human temples (1 Corinthians 6:19-20), the collective sum of all those servants of Christ who have loved and trusted Him down through the centuries and have been **found worthy** of their eternal Promised Land (see Hebrews 12:22-23). New Jerusalem is another name for the wife and bride of Christ (Isaiah 54:5-8 & Revelation 21:2), the **city of promise**, the “Promised Land”. The Apostle Paul said to the church, “*I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to Him*” (2 Corinthians 11:2 NIV). When a young couple gets engaged, what does it mean? It is a **promise** to marry and to be faithful to each other! And in the traditional Christian wedding service that promise must be made, for better or worse, richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, forsaking all others till death do you part! Yet, death to the true servant of Christ is not really death at all. It is victory (Philippians 1:21 and 1 Corinthians 15:54)! It is **finishing** the race to Heaven (1 Corinthians 9:24-25, Acts 20:24, and Hebrews 12:1), across the desert of testing, climbing over every obstacle of sin Satan puts in our way, and safely making it to our Promised Land! We must follow our Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, who became the example for us all (Hebrews 2:9-10 and 12:1-3). He did not shrink back from the will of God the Father. He **obeyed** and submitted to Him, all the way to the cross! Christ **completed** His course for us. He said, “*...It is finished...*” (John 19:30 NIV). At the end of his life, the Apostle Paul echoed, “*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous*

judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing” (2 Timothy 4:7-8 KJV. Also, see 1 Corinthians 9:24-25). Unlike so many Christians today, Paul had not taken his salvation for granted. He said, “*No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize*” (1 Corinthians 9:27 NIV). Do not be deceived (Galatians 6:7)! Being a true servant of Christ is not a popularity contest in this world (see Luke 6:22-23, 6:26, 21:16-19, John 15:18-19)! And Jesus never said that it would be easy (John 16:33)!

I read a true story a year or so ago, about some Scandinavian missionaries who were called by God to take the Gospel to the African natives in the early twentieth century. Two young couples left the comforts of their homes and families, deciding, if necessary, that they would give their lives for the call of Christ. Well, everything went wrong! The second couple had so many problems that they decided to just turn around and head back home. That left one couple alone in the African jungle to get the Gospel out. However, the situation began to look more and more hopeless. The natives would not let the missionaries set up a camp anywhere near their village because they said that it would offend their African gods

(Deuteronomy 32:17, 1 Corinthians 8:5-6, Ephesians 4:6 & 1 Timothy 2:5). While there, the woman gave birth to a baby daughter. But not long after the baby’s birth, the young mother developed breast cancer. Her illness grew worse, and despite her husband’s prayers, God did not heal her. The missionary began to think about all he and his wife had given up at home in order to follow Christ. It seemed to him, a total waste! The only native they were able to reach was a little black boy who came around to their camp to visit with the missionary’s wife. He would sit by her bedside, and she would tell him about Jesus. He saw how ill she was and how much she suffered. And he knew that she had given up everything in order to follow the will of God (Matthew 19:27-29). Some time before she died, the little boy accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Yet

none of the other natives would go near them! The missionary buried his wife and became angry and bitter toward God. He saw no evidence of fruit (John 15:1-8) from all his labor and sacrifice, and he returned to his native land, discouraged, angry, and feeling totally defeated.

He gave his daughter away to another Christian couple and became a drunkard and a bum. To make a long story short, many years later, after his daughter was all grown up, she went looking for her natural father. She had great news to tell him! She had heard about the tremendous effort that he and her mother had put into their missionary work in Africa. And she wanted him to know that it was not all in vain. In that very area that he and her mother had lived, there was a great work of God going on. Thousands of African people, former idol worshipers, had accepted Christ as their Savior and Lord, and the movement was growing daily! It was started by an African man who had learned about Christ as a little boy, at the side of a dying Scandinavian woman who had remained faithful to her Lord even unto the end of her life. Of these difficult last days in which we now live, Jesus told us that, as a result of the increase of sin “*...the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved*” (Matthew 24:12-13 KJV).

