

From our Desk

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel (II Timothy 1:10). It is our great joy and privilege to bring to you another edition of the HeartCry magazine. As always, it is filled with testimonies regarding the wonderful works of God. We have nothing else of which to boast, except of His power and goodness to us. As it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord" (I Corinthians 1:31).

We hope and pray that this month finds you growing in the grace and knowledge of God, and that you are living a life pleasing to Him. As days turn into months and months turn into years, I am increasingly aware that our time on this earth is fleeting and subject to many uncertainties. It is, therefore, most necessary that we give the time we have back into the hands of the One who gave it. The wasted life is the one kept for itself. It is a hoarded talent, buried in the ground, and of no use to its Master. The life poured out freely for the glory of the Lord will see its reward and rejoice.

In this month's edition of HeartCry, we have news from all around the world. James and Komuni Dhale give us a brief summary of what God has done in Asia. Brothers Simon, Spataru, and Banchik bring us an encouraging word from Israel. Brothers Palade and Tomeci send testimonies from the student work throughout Romania.

These are the best of times for the Kingdom of Christ. Although unnoticed by the secular world, the Gospel is spreading throughout the earth as never before! It is our great joy to share with you at least a small part of what is being done. We hope that every page brings to you a special blessing.

The following is a short note written in hopes of encouraging you to seek the face and good pleasure of God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.

More than Knowledge

At HeartCry, it is our conviction that we should have the greatest concern for preaching the truth and the true Gospel. We are aware that our country and the world is filled with countless distortions of even the most foundational doctrines of Christianity. Superficial gospels, easy-believism, spectacular media presentations, and clever marketing strategies seem to be the rule of the day. Biblical doctrines like the radical depravity of man, the justice of God, the blood sacrifice of Christ, repentance, holiness, and eternal judgment only seem to get in the way.

In opposition to our times, we must be diligent in our studies, zealous for the truth, and careful in our language. The souls of men and their eternal destiny

hang in the balance.

Truth and doctrine are important, nevertheless, we must also recognize that we can have all of these things and still not have enough. The propositional truths of Scripture must be believed, taught, and defended, but the Christian life involves much more than propositional truths, it involves a living relationship with God the Father, through Jesus Christ, and in the power of the Holy Spirit. To the church in Ephesus, Jesus gave a great warning:

"I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place -- unless you repent" (Revelation 2:2-5).

Here we see a great example of what happens when the truth of God takes precedence over the God of truth, and propositions about God become more important than God Himself. It is the grossest form of idolatry! We must be aware that God is not a proposition to be learned, but a treasure to be discovered. Truths about God are not to be stored away like so many books in an old library, but they are to be esteemed and applied to our lives. The Christian life is based on facts, but it is more than factual. It is relational.

Out of the Mouth of Babes

As I read through the articles for this edition of the HeartCry magazine, I was especially moved by the young students and their accounts of being used of the Lord. Their language is sometimes awkward and they do not communicate their ideas with the precision of a trained theologian or the caution of a mature believer, but they have some things that are often missing in the most theological and mature among us - a zeal for serving the Lord, a childlike faith that sees everything as an undeniable miracle of God's provi-



dence, and an almost uncontrollable excitement and appreciation for being used of the Lord.

In my Christian life, I have discovered that my ability to learn a truth is often greater than my ability to retain it. How many lessons must I learn over and over again? Every time I listen to the testimony of a “babe in Christ”, I realize that they are experiencing truths that I have “stored away” in my library of knowledge, but no longer seem to experience.

As we are admonished in Jesus’ warning to the church in Ephesus, it is often necessary for those of us who have many years in the faith to “remember from where we have fallen.” The following is a list of things that have been helpful for me to remember:

Remember when...

Remember when the disgusting sight of your sin was suddenly eclipsed by a vision of Christ dying on Calvary for you?

Remember the first time you realized that God loved you?

Remember the moment you first believed?

Remember when you first realized that God had taken away all your sins and you were really forgiven?

Remember the first time you felt clean? Clean by the blood of the lamb?

Remember the first time you sang, “Amazing Grace” and understood what the author was saying?

Remember the first time you told someone about your conversion?

Remember the first time the Holy Spirit gave you power over a certain besetting sin?

Remember the first time you sensed the presence of Christ?

Remember the first time you were alone with the Scriptures and God showed you something in His Word?

Remember the first time after your conversion when God revealed to you a little more of what it meant for Christ to die for you?

Remember the first time you wept with joy because of what God had done for you?

Remember the first time God gave you a promise?

Remember the first time God answered your prayer?

Remember the first time you shared your testimony in front of the church?

Remember the first time you led someone else to Christ?

Remember the first time God brought you through a trial?

Remember the first time God disciplined you and you saw the value of it?

Remember the first verse you ever memorized?

Remember the first time you tithed or gave sacrificially to meet a need?

Remember the first time God led you to do something and it really was God?

Remember when you cherished time to be alone with God, to pray, and read His Word?

Remember when you could not wait to go to church in order to worship and hear the message?

Remember when you sought out fellowship with other believers just to talk about Jesus?

Remember when you did not want to talk about anything or anyone but Jesus?

Remember when you could not think of anything or anyone but Jesus?

Remember when your zeal for the Lord caused you to turn away from evil?

Remember when you prayed for God to make you like Jesus no matter the cost?

Remember when you prayed for God to use you?

Remember when you were willing to risk it all for Christ and His Kingdom?

It is good to remember...

In Christ
Paul Washer

“Remember His wonderful deeds which He has done, His marvels and the judgments from His mouth.”

I Chronicles 16:12

Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first.”

Revelation 2:5