



WEEKLY
CHRISTIAN
FOCUS



Testimonies based on the Bible verse: on “He that receiveth you, receiveth Me!” Matthew 10: 40.

Dearest friends,
God bless you. The verse above has always meant a great deal to me. This is Jesus talking to his disciples as he sends them out on their first ‘witnessing and living by faith trip’. Jesus knew there **would** be people who would receive His message through these first disciples!

So Jesus encouraged them to understand this significant truth: **‘Whoever receives you, the disciple, (spiritually and mentally and physically), also receives Me!’ This one amazing verse has made my path very clear in my life as a disciple. I have come to understand that if I am walking in the Spirit, people are going to receive me, and therefore Jesus Christ. It will become clear and evident who those people are, by their reactions to me personally and the message I am speaking!**

Here below are two testimonies from two missionary teams. Although these events happened some years ago, they have many good lessons in them; lessons how to reach

other people’s hearts with God’s Love and Word and Salvation, and lessons on how we can keep using this method successfully going forward.

I do pray these will inspire you all. Amen!
Love Jerry

Salvation of a Jewish man and his family in Brazil.

--- In the year 2005, we moved to a condominium, that is more for upper class people. We thought for sure, we are the only “poor” (you know, materially) people living in this place.

Unbeknownst to us, during our move, we were supposed to ask for permission from the condominium office before moving in.

About a month later, I received a phone call from the office asking me to go there. I had to ask our team for prayer before I went. I entered their meeting room and I was met with about 10-12 people sitting around a conference table. They asked/ interviewed me, questioning who are all these kids that

come to play in the sports area of the condominium, etc. I told them that I have eight (8) children. My husband and I are Christian missionaries. I sensed that they are very sceptical, so I excused myself so I could phone home as I wanted to show them our photo album, something that will better explain my family and our work.

I asked my son to bring me our Mission work photo album (we just made it few weeks before! We bought a thicker, well presentable album and printed photos of our work in various communities, etc.) So



I presented the album to them, and one by one they passed it around looking into each page, reading through each testimony, etc.

Then at the end, Mr. Marcus N. (a senior member of the board) said, "Well, to be honest, your family had put us to shame!" I had no idea a family like yourselves could exist, but looking and reading through this manifesto of what you are doing in our city and beyond, especially to the poor and needy, I am very impressed and at the same time convicted me thinking what have I done to help the needy?"

So they happily welcomed us in the condominium and gave me their brochure of do's and don'ts of the condominium.

The next day, I took the kids for a walk in the park. There, we met this same Marcus with his wife also taking a walk. I introduced my kids and we started having more personal conversation about our family, his family, work etc. And he again apologized that they must have scared me when I entered the conference room full of unknown people yesterday.

I told him, I was wondering what's going on and was a bit apprehensive, but I was trusting God.

Then I gave him a Christian Salvation tract, He said actually he is a Moroccan Jew and he has a law firm in the city, and frequents the synagogue in the city. But he accepted the tract and promised to read it.

We moved to this condo around November, so Christmas was just around the corner, we started rehearsing our Christmas presentation, and the Lord showed us to prepare a Carol singing team

and go around singing to our neighbours! As we knocked into different houses, sang to the families, unbeknownst to us we also knocked into Marcus' house! He was very happy to see us and we ended our event that night singing Christmas carols to him and his wife and talking to him about Jesus.

That was the beginning of our almost six (6) years of friendship and discussions on Christianity, Judaism, Israel, the Jews, Jesus and His love and mission.

He loves our kids and almost once a week, he invited us to play soccer in his nice field and the games often ends in having meals together, and swimming in his pool, etc.

In one of these visits, after mealtime, he confided that a few times during attending a Jewish meeting (Their Kabala readings) with his fellow Jews, that he saw **DEMONS** and that really frightened him. So my husband John and Andre, a Christian brother, led him to discussions about Jesus and showed him verses on salvation through Christ; in the end, he prayed and received Jesus into his life as his personal Saviour and a prayer of deliverance from all attacks



of the enemy! He also started supporting ministry with the local and regional poor! We can

only thank Jesus or all these wonderful miracles!

What a dear friend he became! And what a miracle of a changed life. Marcus passed away three years ago, but we kept in touch with his wife, Graça. And just recently, she sent us a beautiful note (translated from the Portuguese):

I'm fine, thank God, and how are you? Dear friends, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your blessing on my life, family, etc., and I bless you in the same way! A big hug to my dear friends!

Eu estou bem, graças a Deus e vocês como estão ? Queridos amigos, agradeço de coração pela benção de vocês a minha vida, família e etc... e abençoo também vocês da mesma forma! Um grande abraço aos amigos queridos!"

We pray this testimony inspires you to stay faithful in your witness for Jesus!

Our love and also our prayers, Richard and Sara Missionaries in the Amazon region of Brazil

The Man from Chile (Love opens the door)

This following article is extracted from the book 'Shake off the Dust' by Jerry Finch.

Where politics comes up against God's Love, it is often God's love that will win through (on an

individual basis that is!). God's love and kindness manifested through us is all-powerful to those who long for His Truth.

Another thought to this following story is that safety, supply and security are three of the greatest things we should guard and cultivate in this life. Without them, nothing can be fully established in our lives. We must have them to make progress. We must have supply, finances or some form of income or financial or material provision. We also need to be secure and safe, or at least on the road to safety and security.

We cannot always control the circumstances around us, and the World and the devil will often do their best to make all this extremely difficult. I hope God will give you sufficient wisdom to take these factors into consideration in your own life and with your family or those groups of people God may entrust to your care.

Even wiser would be to prepare in advance for the days that may come upon you. Although 'riches profit not in the

day of wrath', at the same time wisdom can 'deliver a city'. So if you can combine wisdom with some form of riches you should be well prepared when armed also with prayer and faith in Jesus Christ!

Pro 11:4 Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.

Pro 29:8 Scornful men bring a city into a snare: but wise *men* turn away wrath.

In my late 20's to mid 30's I did a lot of personal evangelism, Bible studies and teaching of the Word of God in people's houses, private companies and 'door-to-door'. In the beginning of this extended ministry in both North America and Europe, I actually found it immensely difficult to begin this type of work for the Lord.

To start out as we did in Canada in Mississauga, Ontario just visiting housing complexes and streets with semi-detached houses, armed with just simple gospel tracts and prayer was frightening from the onset! Obviously anything the Lord has

called you to do, which He knows will be fruitful for His Kingdom, the enemy will fight you in some way. Often the devil's biggest weapon is fear, terror or simply the fear of man, which is why Jeremiah in the Bible has some fantastic advice on this subject:

Jer 1:4 Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Jer 1:5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, *and* I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

Jer 1:6 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I *am* a child.

Jer 1:7 But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I *am* a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.

Jer 1:8 Be not afraid of their faces: for I *am* with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

Jer 1:9 Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.

Jer 1:10 See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.

I well remember the first day at this new initiative in Malton, Mississauga; I spent at least 30 minutes trying to pluck up the courage to go and knock on the door of the first person's house of the street. Finally the Lord came through and I walked up the garden path and knocked. A dear middle-aged lady came to the door who proved to be very receptive to God's love and message. I was sold on the method for that day and time, but God moves all the time.

Finally I am coming to the point of this story my friends. In this one housing complex, I knocked on the door of one apartment. A tall man, perhaps in his mid or late-thirties opened the door and looked at me warily. Surprisingly and unusually, he came out of the apartment and closed the door almost completely behind him while at the same time holding it slightly ajar. I thought this was quite strange. I looked at him, mmm, 'definitely new to Canada', I thought.

I began to talk with him about why I was

visiting this complex of apartments and that God had a personal love for everyone. I always found it is important to look others in the eye with kindness and the sincerity of the Holy Spirit. After all it's not you who is doing the job, but the Spirit of God through you. Those times when we try to do it all 'in the flesh', we just make a big mess out of everything, and the Lord humbles us in the process, something of which I can attest many times.

I could see from his accent and body language he was from South America. We started to converse in Spanish, and then I knew he was Chilean from his accent. But still I sensed something was very intriguing about this man, so I asked him 'where are you from?' He said he came from Argentina, and I knew immediately he was lying, as I had recently come from Chile where I lived as a missionary for nearly three years.

But I sensed it was a lie for some reason that I couldn't tell at the time. I ignored his deception

and let him know I had been in various South American countries with my family, and we continued talking until finally I was able to explain the message of God's love to him. I shared my own life story and how the Lord changed me and invited him to pray with me. There outside his door he sweetly prayed with me and accepted Jesus Christ into his heart! As he did so, tears began to run down his face and he started to sob heavily, even as other residents were walking past us to their apartments along the communal corridor.

After our prayer he looked up at me and said; 'you know I am not from Argentina, I really come from Chile'. And with that, his right hand opened the apartment door wide and I saw into his living room where his wife was sitting at a dining table with two young children. Somehow they had been quiet all through this conversation I was having with her husband and she had heard every word!

'Please come in' he said warmly. 'This is my wife

Isabel and my children Jorge and Eunice.’ *

There is always something warm and special about many South Americans. Is it the ‘sangre caliente’, or is it something special God has put in them? After some introductions and smiles, his wife went to prepare the dinner for us all. The ‘Man from Chile’ started to tell me his story.

‘I was a squadron leader in the Chilean Air Force during the time of Salvador Allende the new president’, he began. We were expecting a new Chile, a democratic one. We were based near Viña del Mar on the coast. I had many men under me. However after the military coup which saw our new president killed, our bases were overrun by forces loyal to the new government of General Augusto



Pinochet who was head of the army. I was captured along with

most of my pilots. We were put into prison together; although I was kept in a separate cell. Here I was tortured day and night. They used electric rods and other systems of torture on me. I had never known such pain and heartache. I also had no idea where my wife was.

The army said they were trying to make a ‘vegetable’ out of me as a warning to all my men to cooperate with the new regime. For months I held on and went through these torture sessions. After a year, I felt I could not bear it any more. I was not a religious man, but I remember this one night when I cried and cried out to God to let me die



as I felt I had reached the end of the road mentally and physically. I asked him either to let me die or help me and save me in some way. I went to sleep. The next morning after this one

year in prison, an officer came to me and said I was being released and I could go. I was to leave the country. I couldn’t believe it and thought it was a trick. But it was true, I knew God was there and had heard and answered my most desperate prayer.

The right wing grip and ‘death squads’ of the new government had taken hold and there was no longer any place for me in the new Chile after my release in early 1975. Through friends and contact with certain embassies I was able to cross the Andes into Argentina and then arrangements were made for me to go to Canada and I was given asylum here in Canada. Canada has been very good to me and I am thankful to be here and have a new life. I feel I can perhaps never go back to Chile to my homeland. Now I have to look after my wife and children here and look to their future.’

So he ended his story this version of which is just the brief version. My heart went out to him and ever since then the Lord has given us

greater understanding and love for the millions of suffering people around the world who may have been made refugees, prisoners or simply been displaced.

This man was aware of the possibility that 'people' may still be looking for him to assassinate him even there in far off Canada. He was vigilant, diligent and watchful and didn't take his new-found freedom for granted. He knew that 'a strong man armed keeps his goods in peace,' as Jesus told us. Perhaps he had no gun, who knows, but his attitude was one of the Watchman at the head of his family. 'A wise man foresees the evil and hides himself (takes precautions), but the simple pass on and are punished.'

What evil is coming on the horizon of your life or your country or the world? Can you foresee it? How will it affect you or your loved ones? Take sometime time today to ask God how you can be ready. Like Jesus often said: 'Be ready'. If not you may very well be swept away in the flood of God's

judgements on a wicked world or suffer with those who are careless and unbelieving. God will always give you a warning or a check or a premonition, even a feeling that things are not right and you should then pray and take whatever action God may show you or yours. God bless you.

Bible Verses connected with this chapter:

Luk_11:21 When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace:

Pro_22:3 A prudent *man* foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.

Mat_24:44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Luk_12:40 Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

Joh_7:6 Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is always ready.

MATTHEW 10:40-42

⁴⁰ He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

⁴¹ He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

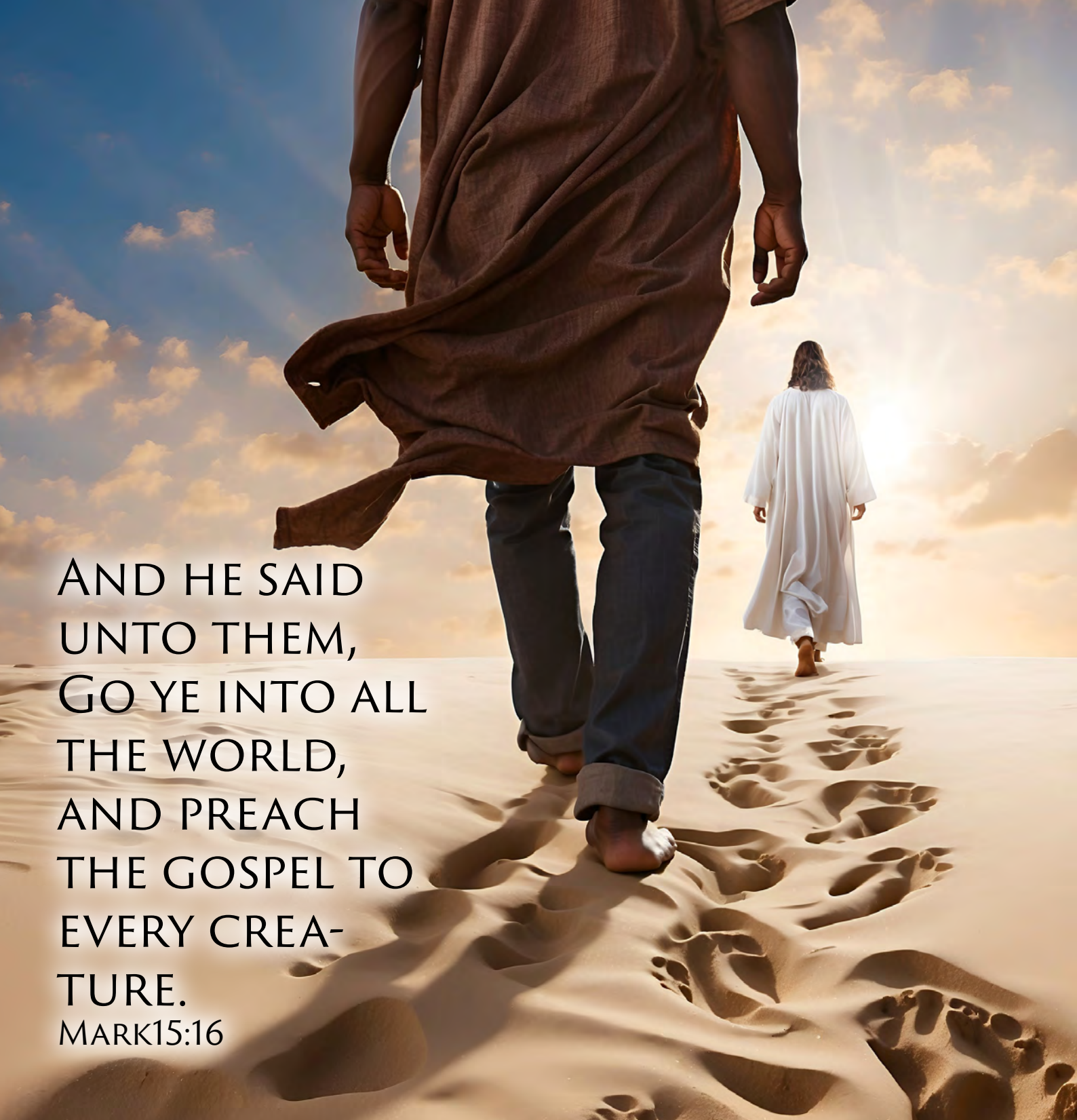
⁴² And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

Until next week, God willing.

Jerry for the WCF Team

* Names of his family changed for security.

For more information on this time in Chilean history please see: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1973_Chilean_coup_d'%C3%A9tat



AND HE SAID
UNTO THEM,
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THE WORLD,
AND PREACH
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TURE.
MARK 15:16

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