

The VINE & BRANCHES

The Newsletter of WORKERS TOGETHER WITH HIM, INC.

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Jesus said, "For without Me, ye can do nothing."

God bless you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In many cultures around the world we reserve a special day to honor and show our appreciation for mothers. In the United States we celebrate Mother's Day on the second Sunday in May, which fell this year on the 8th of May. With that in mind, I'd like to thank all you Christian mothers who make your home a sanctuary for your family and bring up your children in the nurture of the Lord. Speaking for myself, I know I could not do the work I do without the love and support of my dear wife, Nelly. Not many wives would gladly bear the unique burden she does as her husband gallivants from continent to continent preaching the gospel. I am so grateful for the wonderful job she does in caring for our family while I am home and away.

In far too many households it is the mother alone who recognizes the need to bring up children in the fear of the Lord. Isn't it ironic that although the Bible overflows with the accounts of faithful and courageous men of God, many men in modern society (even those who call themselves Christian) secretly consider it "unmanly" to be concerned with spiritual things? Yet what could be more effeminate than to expect the women to do the spiritual fighting for us? It is time we Christian men start acting like men.

Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. (1 Corinthians 16:13)

Thank God for those women who do not shirk their Christian duties! On my recent trip to England I was again reminded of the sterling job done by women of God like Aine Lucas, Lorraine Bradford and Sue Connors, who are helping the young boys and girls of London learn those lessons that will be so vital to their well-being as they approach adult hood. Many of these young people are at that "make-or-break" stage of life, and I am hopeful that they heed the good lessons they are being taught, so their future will be full of advancement and not set-back.

In this newsletter you will read about our latest trip to Kenya and the success of our mission there. I thank and praise

God for His overseeing of our endeavors, and for providing Workers Together With Him with "able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness" (Ex. 18:21). I am profoundly grateful to the Revs. Pyle and Monahan for the work that went into their preparation and presentation of the class in Isulu, Kakamega. I join my traveling companions in giving thanks for all who contributed to the success of those classes, and especially to the pastors Simon Makovi and Johnson Makokha who were our hosts.

While in Africa, I had the great honor of performing the wedding ceremony for Henry and Maureen Musana. May God continue to shower His blessings on the newlyweds!

I want to thank Rev. Wilberforce Okumu and his wife Sarah for the kindness they showed us during our short stay in Mbale, Uganda. David Mantock, Steve and I were all guests on his radio program, preaching the Gospel over the African airwaves.

The two classes in Kenya were not the only seminars since the last newsletter. In January I presented the class here in Brownsville, and in April, with the assistance of Revs. Jerome Lucas and Carl Roberts, in England. I was very happy with the results of these classes. It was a delight for me to have Jerome and Carl participate in the teaching. During my time in England, I was also very blessed to teach at the church of Pastor Andrew Bailey of the Christian Revival Centre. I believe the foundation was laid for a lifelong friendship.

The summer months are quickly approaching and we are excitedly anticipating our return to the land of the Maasai, this time for not one but two classes. Less than a month later I will be returning to Switzerland once again to present my seminar there.

Thank you for standing with us in these endeavors and especially for remembering us in your prayers!

In the Service of His Majesty, the King of kings,

Rev. Tim Sullivan



HOW TO BE MISERABLE

By Rev. Tim Sullivan
Brownsville, Texas, USA

In Paul's pastoral letter of instruction to his "son in the faith" Timothy, he gave some very practical advice: "The husbandman that laboureth," he wrote, "must be first partaker of the fruits" (2 Tim. 2:6). As this applies to the teaching ministry, one should never teach beyond his own experience. Before you can teach well, you must first learn well.

With that in mind, I assure you of my fitness to present this short treatise on "How to be miserable." This is a subject I know intimately, with first-hand knowledge. For many years I practiced the art of inflicting misery on myself and others (it is always done in that order!) So gloomy and downcast was I as a young man that my high school friend Melissa called me "Eeyore", the forlorn donkey from the Winnie-the-Pooh stories. Later, when I gave my life to Christ, my sister Kei told me that the irrefutable evidence that something otherworldly had happened to me was the fact that for the first time ever she saw I was happy.

The great thing about knowing how to be miserable is that with that knowledge, you also learn how not to be miserable! It is a choice you make, to be or not to be... miserable! It has nothing to do with your circumstances. There are countless people better off than you who are more miserable than you, and there are innumerable people worse off than you who are happier than you. To be or not to be, that is the question!

Though I yet see Him through a glass darkly, I am so glad I have found a friend in Jesus. What a comfort it is to know that He understands my human frailties.

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15)

Jesus is the Word of God Incarnate, the Word made flesh. It should come as no surprise, then, that the Bible evidences God's understanding of our human condition. The words of Psalm 73, though divinely authored, lay bare the "thoughts and intents of the heart" (Heb. 4:12).

The psalmist, the hero of our story, starts out well enough...

Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart. (Psalm 73:1)

Yes, all is well in the heavenly stratosphere, but woe is me here on earth! We've only reached verse two, and already things take a turn for the worse.

But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. (v.2)

Self-pity starts with self. Misery begins with "me". You can even stretch the point and call it "Me-siry". (Work with me, okay?) Who was the culprit waxing our hero's slippery slope? Read for yourself.

For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. (v.3)

Was it the God-rejecters and unbelievers, the foolish and wicked, who were raining on this man's parade? NO! It wasn't even their prosperity that was the problem. The problem was this man's envy of their prosperity! He was irate and jealous that these other people were having a better time than he!

For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm. They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men. (vs. 4-5)

Ah, the exaggerated reality of the envious! "They are not in trouble as other men, neither are they plagued." Is that so? Our hero is wearing his miserable comforter like a mantle! He is actually finding a sort of egotistical satisfaction in the thought that he alone is subject to the world's ills, while everyone else is living in bliss.

Here is a great lesson in "how to be miserable". Convince yourself that nobody but you faces problems. Forget "the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world" (1 Peter 5:9).

Our hero continues wallowing in resentment.

Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment. Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish. (vs. 6-7)

It occurs to me that chains of pride and garments of violence are the uniform of the "gangstas," the rap artists who promote in-your-face rebelliousness and lasciviousness. But our lamenter is wrong again. No one has more than he can wish. When it comes to worldly riches, the heart always wants more.

He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity. (Ecclesiastes 5:10)

So here is lesson number two: in order to be miserable, you must believe that everyone else has found contentment in life, while you alone suffer disappointment.

They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily. They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.

Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them. And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High? (vs.8-11)

Our hero pretends that he is angry at the spiritual depravity of the wicked, but finally he shows his true heart once and for all.

Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches. Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency. For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning. (vs.12-14)

“IT ISN’T FAIR!” he cries. “Where is my reward for being a good person? What do I get for my troubles but more troubles?”

If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children. When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me; (vs.15-16)

These were the secrets of his heart made manifest, the thoughts he feared even to speak. It hurt him even to think about it. Then finally, mercifully, the light of understanding began to dawn.

Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end. (vs.17)

It is one thing to be sanctified by the blood of Jesus Christ. It is quite another to enter the sanctuary of God. This is a place far from the madding crowd, a place of quiet rest where truth reigns supreme. But you don’t need to look here, there, or yonder to find it. God wants to meet you in your heart.

Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you. (Luke17:21)

The psalmist testifies, “Then understood I their end”. Herein is the final lesson in “how to be miserable”, a lesson our hero was about to fail. In order to be miserable, you must forget that, as Christians, we have been delivered PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE.

Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us; (2 Corinthians 1:10)

Our hero had successfully warded off thoughts of his deliverance past and present. But there was one reality that he couldn’t forget, no matter how hard he tried. He could not forget the deliverance to come.

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. (Romans 8:18)

As someone once said, for Christians, this present life is the closest we will come to Hell. For unbelievers, it is the closest they will come to Heaven.

Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. (Ecclesiastes 7:8)

You see, misery needs to be nurtured to exist. It must be coddled and held close to heart. It needs to be shielded from all light, lest it vanish away. Our hero’s misery was now like water slipping through his fingers. Try as he might, he could not hold on to it.

Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction. How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors. As a dream when one awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image. Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins. So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee. (vs. 18-22)

At first our hero derided the foolishness of the unbelievers. Now he realizes that he was the real fool!

Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand. Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever. For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee. But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works. (vs. 23-28)

In order to be miserable you must forsake right judgment and cleave to error. 2 Timothy 2:4 warns of people who “shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables”. Psalm 73 testifies of a man who did just that. First, he concluded that the only reward of righteous living was hardship and disappointment. Second, he convinced himself that it is only the ungodly who know true prosperity. Only when his focus returned to eternal truth was his misery relieved

Take it from someone who was once a maestro of misery, a sultan of self-pity, a bonafide Eeyore: it is hard work being miserable, especially after you know Jesus. But why would anyone go through so much trouble? When you are down, remember your friend Jesus, a friend who truly “sticketh closer than a brother” (Prov. 18:24). He has delivered us, is delivering us and will yet deliver us. He is “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever” (Hebrews 13:8).



ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

By Rev. Evan B. Pyle
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Have you ever heard the saying “whistling past a graveyard”? It describes the tendency to avoid a thing that makes us uncomfortable or afraid. The account of Ananias and Sapphira is a Biblical account I’ve always tiptoed past, hoping nobody would notice. Lately I revisited this story, asking the Lord to enlighten me and show me why He wanted it included in the Holy Scriptures, which are able to “make us wise unto salvation”.

The early Church was in a period of remarkable growth in Jerusalem, where it had begun on Pentecost not long before (Acts 2:1-47). Already, the apostles were experiencing opposition from religious leaders. Rather than cower in fear, these brave Christians prayed for more boldness to speak the gospel and, by God’s grace, reach out to heal and do signs in Jesus’ name (Acts 4:23-30). They gained strength by their fellowship with one another and single-minded devotion to Christ. This devotion was so great that none of them viewed their possessions as their own, but as blessings to be used for the cause of Christ.

And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, And laid them down at the apostles’ feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need. And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles’ feet. (Acts 4:32-37)

This was the setting of the scene onto which Ananias and Sapphira were about to appear. After the initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the power of the gospel to change lives was powerfully evident in Jerusalem. Miracles, signs and wonders gave witness to the power of Christ to heal, forgive and save lives. In the face of

strong opposition from their religious leaders, the community of believers drew ever closer together in fellowship, breaking of bread and prayers. They shared their earthly goods selflessly with one another. They enjoyed a pure and close fellowship not seen elsewhere. Seeing this, Ananias hatched a seemingly innocent scheme:

But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles’ feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband. And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things. (Acts 5:1-11)

Have you puzzled over what happened to Ananias and Sapphira as I have? One can easily guess that their motive for this lie was to gain recognition and admiration for their deed. But the penalty seems harsh for the offense. And it worries me, because I am sure I have attempted to lie to God on occasion. Why did this couple die and I did not? The answer to this puzzle not only sheds light on what happened that day in the history of the early Church, but also on how we should conduct ourselves in the Church, which is the pillar and ground of the truth. (1 Tim. 3:15)

That the Holy Spirit is telling us something important in this account is evident from the results that followed. Signs and wonders were manifested by the apostles, and multitudes of believers were added to the Lord.

And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon’s porch. And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. And believers were the more added to the Lord,

multitudes both of men and women. (Acts 5:12-14)

The reason that the rest of the people (the unsaved) didn't dare join themselves to the believers was because of what happened to Ananias and Sapphira. Great fear fell on all those that heard these things. They knew that something very powerful was happening among the followers of Jesus and that being a nominal believer or faking it was dangerous. A deep reverence for the things of God extended beyond the Church to the unsaved. This happens when the Church walks in unity, purity and power. One would think that this kind of fear would hamper the Church from reaching others with the Gospel. To the contrary, the people magnified the Christians, and multitudes were added to the Church.

This reminds me of an incident with the Ark of the Covenant. It had fallen into enemy hands. The Philistines that kept the Ark were plagued with awful maladies that tormented their bodies. These ungodly men developed enough respect for the power and presence of God represented by the Ark that they respectfully and carefully returned it to Israel along with precious gifts. While it languished for a time at the property of an ordinary Jewish farmer, all that he had was blessed and flourished. When David decided it was time to move the Ark to Jerusalem, it was no light matter, for the ark was the place of God's presence. The Ark was placed upon a new oxcart and an elaborate procession went before the ark to lead the way. Then a puzzling thing happened:

And when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God.

(2 Samuel 6:6-7)

God's holy presence is no light thing that it should be taken casually. When Moses encountered the Lord in the burning bush, the angel said, "draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground." (Ex. 3:5) When Moses asked God to show him His glory, the Lord said, "thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live." (Ex. 33:20) When Moses came down from the holy mountain his face shone with the reflected glory of God. This glory was so great that the children of Israel could not look him in the face. They placed a veil over his face just so they could hear him speak. Their sindarkened hearts could not stand the brightness of God's holiness manifest before them. Indeed, they were afraid to face God and needed the veil to blunt the intensity of God's holy presence. God's glorious presence is no less mani-

fest in the Church than it was to Israel that day. Indeed, it is even more glorious.

But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious? For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. (2 Corinthians 3:7-9)

When the children of Israel entered the land of Promise, the Lord was very specific that they were to be an holy people unto Him. They were not to marry the ungodly, nor worship their gods, but were to keep themselves pure from the pollution of sin that surrounded them. Despite specific instructions concerning the contents of Jericho, one man disobeyed. His sin polluted the house of Israel. "And it shall be, that he that is taken with the accursed thing shall be burnt with fire, he and all that he hath: because he hath transgressed the covenant of the LORD, and because he hath wrought folly in Israel." (Josh. 7:15). This incident is a picture of the holiness God desires for His Church.

In Tanzania, we were told that if a Maasai warrior turns his back to an enemy in battle, the warrior must be killed. Of course, we thought this was a harsh penalty. When asked why, our friend told us that by retreating, the warrior had exposed the village to the danger he was battling. For this, he must die. Similarly, God desires a pure, undefiled and holy Church, for this is where His holy presence now lives.

When Jesus suffered and died upon the cross of Calvary, He uttered those glorious words, "It is finished," and He died. When He died, the veil of the Temple was torn apart from top to bottom. With this dramatic miracle, He once and for all opened the way for all who believe to enter the holiest place of His presence. Yet we are sinful people and to enter His presence we must be holy. "Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy" (1 Pet. 1:16). Without the power of the Holy Spirit we are powerless to produce holiness. We are left our own efforts to do the right things, loving things, "holy" things. Many wonderful people come from this place, but until the Holy Spirit effects the change, the veil is still on their hearts and they are unable to view God's glory full face.

But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their

heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away. Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

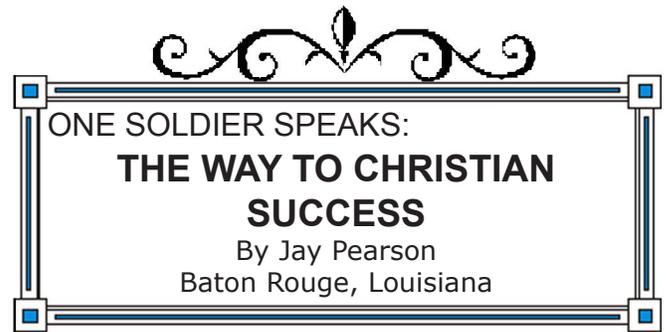
(2 Corinthians 3:14-18)

There was a time when, as a result of Israel's stubborn disobedience, the presence of God was removed from the Temple in Jerusalem. Eventually, the Temple itself was completely destroyed by Rome in 70 A.D. These events were bisected by the dramatic parting of the veil at the time of Jesus' sacrifice. Indeed, the Temple became irrelevant because God's holy presence no longer dwelled there. In fact, God's presence now dwells with and in the Church. God does not dwell in temples made by men's hands but in the great Temple that is built up by Jesus Himself. ("And upon this rock I will build my church" Matt. 16:18). I fear that we, as the Church, have taken God's presence too lightly. In mixing the worldly with our worship we think that we will be more appealing to the unsaved. But in doing so, we trifle with God's holy presence. Let us be purified by the hope that is in Christ (1 John 3:3). A sanctified and cleansed Church will walk in great power and do the work God ordained for Her. When the Church walks this way, it makes no accommodation to the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. It is in the world, but not of the world. This is how the Church was walking at the time of Ananias and Sapphira. I pray we can take this powerful lesson and let it be for us a strong motivation to walk unreservedly for Christ.

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

(Ephesians 5:25-27)

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Success and failure are not that far apart. I think that is why we are often unhappy. If you are not driven by a desire to succeed, a passion if you will, you fail at that which you are trying to accomplish. Success is a continuous challenge and does not end until the results are favorable or the time has run out. In the case of a Christian, it is not fulfilled until the return of Christ at the gathering of those who are in Him. Webster's first definition of success might surprise you.

1. the favorable or prosperous termination of attempts or endeavors
2. the attainment of wealth, position, honors or the like

The solution to finding Christian success is not in an achievement on your part. It is solely in the achievements and accomplishments of Jesus Christ. In this study, by the grace of Almighty God and His Son Jesus Christ, you will learn to manage and maintain that which God has put in your trust. I believe you will also develop a closer relationship with the Son of God. You will be delivered from your tiring efforts to succeed, by resting, walking, and standing in the Lord. Yes, by resting in His grace and your thankfulness, walking in trust and hope, and standing in His glory and power, you will be a Christian success story, and you will bless the Lord God.

Our journey starts in John 14:6 of the Holy Word of God. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." This is foundational and fundamental. Without Christ, there is no Christian, only a religious man.

Before I say you need to be saved, let me first share a truth from Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." We need to be saved from death. That is why I say you need to be saved. You need to have Jesus Christ in you and therefore be a Christian, born again to eternal life now.

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Romans 10:9-10)

When you first accept Jesus Christ, everything is great. But then you start running into problems trying to be a good Christian. You do all the things mandated by your Christian friends and other people, but somehow you are not spiritually fervent, not hot like before. You feel cold. You feel like a failure.

Why do you think the new babe in Christ is always hot in the Lord? His eyes are on Jesus, the author and finisher of his faith. But as time goes on, he starts to look at his own self portrait, and he sees imperfection and sets about to repair his flesh.

O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain. (Galatians 3:1-4)

Wait a minute! Let's back up and check this out!

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

(Ephesians 2:8-10)

Now I get it! I didn't do *anything* good to become saved. Now here it is, what you've been waiting for all these years, the answer to finding Christian Success. It is in Ephesians. Yes, the book of Ephesians. It begins with the fact that God has *made* us to sit together in Christ Jesus.

And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: (Ephesians 2:6)

Note here that it was God who made us sit. We did not even sit of our own effort.

For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. (Hebrews 4:3)

The first man began in God's rest after God's creation was finished. The saved man began in God's rest after Jesus Christ accomplished all the Father gave Him to do, when He uttered, "It is finished." Then at the appointed time after Jesus Christ's resurrection the Father made the gift of the Holy Spirit available to all those that accept Jesus Christ and believe that God raised him from the dead. This is eternal life. Now, let us rest in the grace and accomplishments of all that Jesus Christ did so we could be righteous in Him. Rest. We have been made

to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Don't try to get up and do it better. You can't. The Perfect One perfected your salvation and mine. REST.

Now pertaining to our WALK, let us walk in Him, rest in His completed work, and witness our heavenly position in the Lord Jesus here on earth for all to see. We do this not to draw attention to ourselves, but to draw men unto Him.

Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. (Ephesians 5:1-2)

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. (1 John 1:7)

To walk in Christ is to witness in Christ. It is your profession as a Christian.

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

To be a witness does not mean that you have to be always talking, preaching, or teaching God's Word about the Lord Jesus Christ. It means your life will reflect his inner presence. That may be displayed in your work as a carpenter, millwright, window washer, home maker, mother, lawn keeper, retiree, pastor, preacher, fitness instructor, etc. Whatever you are doing, it should reflect the inner presence of Christ in you, the hope of glory. Do your best at managing in traffic or waiting in line at the grocer. You are an ambassador for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (2 Corinthians 5:20-21)

Here is one more exhortation to walk in him.

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. (Colossians 2:6-7)

You can't walk in him unless you trust in him.

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. (Prov. 3:5-6)

And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me. (Psalms 50:15)

Now let us talk about STANDING. Your call is not to

go out and conquer your adversary. Yur call is to stand and hold fast to the victory that Christ has already given. Your position is holy. Defend your ground; give no place to your adversary. He doesn't have what you want. He only wants to mess up what you have.

Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil.
(Ephesians 4:26-27)

Standing requires being strong in the Lord and putting on the whole armor of God to be able to stand. We read about our armor in Ephesians 6:10-18.

To be a successful Christian you must finish your course. You will need Jesus Christ with every step you take. Don't try to be your own workmanship. Be His workmanship. What you look at is what you reflect. If you are looking at your imperfection you will reflect your imperfection. Look at Jesus and reflect His perfection.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10)

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2)

Yes, by resting in his grace and your thankfulness, walking in trust and hope, and standing in His glory and power, you will be a Christian success story, and you will bless the Lord God Almighty.

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21)



Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus from South Harrow. When I was asked if I would write a little piece about the Weapons Of Our Warfare class held in Harrow over the first two weekends in April, I jumped at the idea. Loads of thoughts came to mind, but the more I thought about it and what I could write, the more trepidation crept in. I started it, put it off, thought about it...

One of the things in the class that I wrote in bold letters in my notes was "DUMP EXCUSES NOW!" Well here goes!

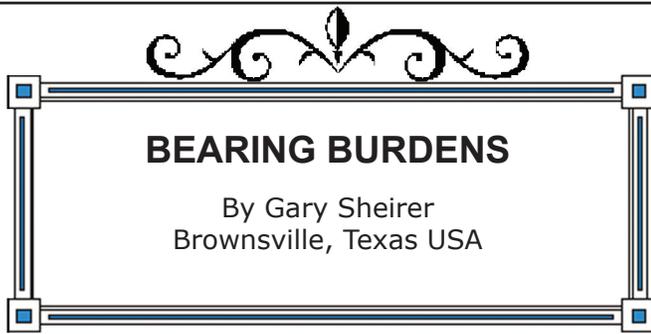
This was my fourth time sitting the class. This was a shorter version, but again like the other times it was so different. God spoke to me as He did to many of us, touching those areas of our lives only He knew needed touching and addressing.

We were a small class of eleven with a few extras popping in for some of the sessions, people who'd sat through the class before. Of the eleven, it was the first time for seven. One of those was my son Ashley, who is nearly 19. Only three months ago he was still so caught up in the world. Talk about a new creation! Before my very eyes, I saw this transformation, this hunger, this desire to know more and to understand as much as possible. God truly is a God of miracles.

I am sure that all those others who took this class for the first time came away in awe of all that was set before them, as did those of us who had already taken it. When the Lord called Tim to teach, He knew very well what He was doing, choosing someone who had lived very much in the world, and had experienced many things from all aspects of life. In his classes he can recall so many areas of his life that relate to a particular teaching (even though at times he might digress, it is what makes the classes so enjoyable). But having sat the class before, I can tell that Tim has changed. I cannot put my finger on it. The word that comes to mind is serene.

I believe it has come about by the grace of God. As the doors to Africa have opened up, many a great story was told about his trips. One that I recall that has helped me is the story of the coming of age for a Maasai warrior. He has to go out and kill a lion by himself with just a big knife, to show that he is a man. He has to go right up to the lion and confront it, ready to attack without showing fear. Then when he has achieved that, he is not alone for the rest of the warriors are there behind him.

It made it very real to me that we must have faith and walk in it always for God will be with us. If we keep pretending and making excuses, He will not do anything for we are not trusting in Him. God has given us weapons to use, to strengthen us, to get closer to Him, to reach out to others and to make Him known to the world. These are gifts we should not reject or misuse. So let us all put on our armour, strengthened with our weapons, covered by the cloak of humility.



Jesus made a claim that is almost unbelievable. He said His burden was light.

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30)

Think what He did and endured! How could His burden be light? How can this be when our own burdens, which are not worthy to be compared to His, seem so heavy a load? Speaking for myself, I am retired, have a set amount of money coming in, and I don't have to put up with all the things I had to endure when I worked for the United States Air Force. Yet I can tell you the burdens did not go away! I still seem to have them.

The Word teaches us there are two kinds of burdens. Galatians 6:2 tells us there are burdens that can be shared, but Galatians 6:5 tells us of burdens we must bear alone.

Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2)

But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For every man shall bear his own burden. (vs.4-5)

When you think about burdens, I want you to think of playing on a football or basketball team. Even though you have teammates, you are only responsible to play your position the best that you can. You do not play all the positions. It is not up to you alone to score the winning goal or hit the shot to win the game. You do your part to get the team into a position to win the game. Even the greatest player cannot win the game by himself. Those who try will hurt the team.

God made us adequate to enjoy this game called life.

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet [adequate, enabled] to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: (Colossians 1:12)

Circumstances and people (ourselves included) tell us to bear burdens that we are not supposed to bear by ourselves.

For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

(Matthew 23:4)

So the question is, what are we really suppose to do in this life? What is the burden we are to bear? It is not that complicated. Our only duty is to respect God and keep his commandments.

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

God could have made it difficult for us to keep His commandments but He didn't. His commandments are not burdensome. They are not grievous.

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

(1 John 5:3)

By understanding that His commandments are not grievous, we can keep our priorities straight. We know that God will take care of us and provide those things and instructions we need when we need it.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

(Matthew 6:33)

When we rely on Jesus rather than ourselves, we do not shy away from troubling times. Our pleasure is not that we have these stresses, but rather that so long as we are in these situations we can rely on the strength of Jesus Christ in our lives.

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

(2 Corinthians 12:10)

God does not want us to fall into a trap. When we are tempted to step outside the boundary of burdens that God has reserved strictly for us, He makes a way for us to escape.

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

When we are being tempted, it is difficult to see the forest for all the "tribulation trees". That is the time to admit our weaknesses and be strong in the Lord. As He gets us through our troubling times, we have the assurance that we are pleasing God. Remember, all God requires of us is to love Him and keep His commandments. That's the only burden we must bear.

KENYA MISSION 2005

Mission Possible

By Daniel Bucher
Walenstadt, Switzerland

I was asked before to join Rev. Sullivan on a mission, but I always managed to find a good reason not to go. I remember telling him that if ever he went to Kenya and stayed in a 5-Star resort, I would certainly consider it. Now in December, 2004, he called saying that he would go on a trip to Kenya in February and that he remembered me expressing my desire to go there. (Now about that 5-Star Resort a little later!)

Joining us on this mission were Rev. Evan Pyle and Rev. Steve Monahan of the USA, David Mantock of Switzerland, Joshua Wamala and Henry Musana of Uganda, and Ans Mwambepo of Tanzania. Together we traveled from the capitol city of Kampala in Uganda to the city of Kakamega in the Western part of Kenya.

This event was significant, because for the first time the Weapons Of Our Warfare class was run in two different places at the same time. One class was held in the outskirts of Kakamega, taught by Evan and assisted by Steve. The other class was held in the city itself, taught by Tim. Henry and David went along with Evan and Steve, and Ans, Joshua and I stayed with Tim.

During my time in Africa, I met some wonderful people who have a great heart and love to serve our Lord Jesus Christ. This was my first visit to the continent of Africa and I did not quite know what I had to expect, but God had worked in the people's hearts to make our stay as comfortable as possible. You know, I have read the previous reports of these African missions, but it never quite occurred to me what it really takes to do a trip like this. I have to say I have the utmost respect for my traveling companions who take the time to teach the Word of God. You guys are tough and certainly not spoiled. For sure you can call yourselves the servants of the Lord. I must say that I can understand some of the verses of the Bible much better than before, as I got to have some of the same experiences as some of the great men in the Bible. Remember the story of Jonah, who sat under the vine which withered away because of the heat? Well, it was very hot in Africa!

Spending time in Africa, you get an understanding and appreciation of the blessings we have in the western world. But it showed me also that many Christians of the western world are spiritually asleep. We do not have worries about food and water; we do not have the daily battles for survival; and even though we live in the same world and are so much better off, we forget to pray and give thanks.

Please do not misunderstand me. I am not being condescending, and I can speak only for myself. I know that we face different challenges than the people in Africa, and I am sure that these challenges are as difficult for some as they are for the Africans. But I really believe that we in the West need to be awake spiritually and we need to help wake up some of the Christians living next to us. We need to help each other remember in the countries we live in that God is still God.

What impressed me the most was the boldness some of our brothers and sisters have in Africa. Taxis have written on them "God is Grace" or "Jesus is Love". Businesses show that they give glory to God; churches sing with loud voices; and people are not afraid to praise and speak about God openly. Maybe we need more missionaries in our part of the world? But God is great and He is faithful.

To the team, I'd like to express my thanks for taking care of me. You have all ministered to my heart. As it says in Isaiah 40:31, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

And to the supporters of Workers Together With Him, thank you for the prayers you made, for without them it would have not worked. Your prayers and support made this Mission a "Mission Possible." Believe me. God *has* and *will* honour that.

Oh yes, as for the 5-Star Resort... One star is enough and that is the Bright and Morning Star. Glory be to God! And God Bless you!

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Working With HIM in Western Kenya

By Rev. Steve Monahan
Ponchatoula, Louisiana

Imagine this... It's mid afternoon on Sunday, February 13th, 2005, and three men are preparing to enter the backseat of a small, old Peugeot automobile for a short journey. We are in the city of Kakamega in the fertile hill country of western Kenya, East Africa. Most of the last several days have been spent traveling, the most exciting part of which was the previous day's excursion by road from Kampala, Uganda to Kakamega; eight bone-jarring hours enduring heat, dust and often sudden fear in Ugandan and Kenyan fourteen-passenger taxis. (There just isn't anything quite like hastening along a one and one-half lane partially paved road with large trucks and buses hastening in the opposite direction, at least not for a Westerner!)

We awoke early this morning to the sound of distant tumult, and, upon stepping outside of our guest house, were arrested by the spectacle of a large portion of the town market in flames. This was less than one kilometer away. The fire raged for hours due to the lack of emergency services.

It has all been rather unnerving and now, having participated in Sunday morning church services in town, we are about to be on the move again. Our bodies have by no means adjusted to the difference in local time (nine hours for the two of us from America), so we are not exactly feeling our best. Considering those things, maybe you can imagine that we are less than fully enthusiastic about getting into that car.

The good side of all this is that none of it is particularly surprising to us. We have all been to Africa at least once before and even though we are physically and mentally a bit weary, we are also filled with an excited anticipation. This is a special moment, a milestone for the ministry of Workers Together With Him.

My companions in the car are Evan Pyle of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA, and David Mantock of Bern, Switzerland. The other two members of the group, which arrived in Kenya together, Tim Sullivan of Brownsville, Texas, and Daniel Bucher of Walenstadt, Switzerland, have remained in town to teach the seminar to a group of ministers. We three are going to the rural village of Isulu to present it to members of a local congregation. What a tremendous vote of confidence it is on the part of the Lord and of Rev. Sullivan to entrust us with the

responsibility of bringing this teaching to a group of God's people. And what a group of God's people they proved to be!

We were transported from the city, traversing a considerable stretch of the dustiest road I've ever seen, and arrived at a private compound slightly beyond the actual village of Isulu. There we were greeted by our host, Pastor Simon Makovi, his wife Agnes and several members of the Gospel Signs Missions Church congregation. By the time the day ended, we had a strong sense that the next five were going to be wonderful. The location was idyllic; set in beautiful rolling countryside with fields being prepared for the coming rains; eucalyptus and various fruit trees everywhere; and a cool gentle breeze which blew almost continuously. The classroom and the tree-shaded yard where we would teach were just steps away from the door of the house that had been provided for us. Best of all, it quickly became evident that Pastor Simon (who had sat under this teaching last August in Mbale, Uganda) had diligently prepared his people to receive what the Lord was sending to them.

I don't know if I can place a strong enough emphasis on the statement that the Lord was sending something. I'm not sure I can describe what happened, but I'll try. It's true that we had worked for months to prepare our minds and hearts through study and prayer, asking the Father to pour out wisdom and knowledge to His people. It's also true that we had very good teaching notes and a ready group of students full of pure motives, but what happened was beyond human endeavor. For five days, our souls were soaked in the power of God's Spirit and the Word of truth. The Lord truly poured out as we had asked and nothing else seemed to matter. Day after day He prompted teachers and students alike to bring up issues of practical significance to the child of God, things that we should and should not be experiencing in our day to day walk with Him. The Lord made sure that specific non-Biblical doctrines, practices and delusions that are currently rampant in the church were exposed and answered with sound Biblical instruction: the kind of instruction that opposes the "modern" trend in which whole congregations of codependent followers are led about by a few, who supposedly possess a special anointing, and never develop their own walk with the Lord.

At this point, some may say that this article is an attempt on my part at self-glorification. My only answer would be this: I didn't do it! Yes, I did some of the teaching and answered some of the questions, but in doing so I received as much enlightenment as anyone. I could never in a lifetime have contrived to bring about what

happened in Isulu. No man can really direct the heart of another; that is the Lord's business, and all a man can do is point in His direction which is to the Scriptures. No man can make people utilize spiritual gifts. Nevertheless, at the end of the class, a large percentage of the students entered into the discipline of bringing messages from God by means of the gifts of speaking in tongues and the interpretation of tongues. They had come seeking practical means of serving the church and the world through walking in the Lord's power, and when they saw the gateway to the path, they stepped through. My prayer

for them is that they will take more steps, allowing the Lord Jesus Christ to define that narrow way for them as they study the Word of God. I thank God for men like Simon Makovi who labor to equip their people to do these things, and for allowing us to *work with Him* (the Lord) in that service. Finally, I'd like to offer thanks to and for Brother Titus, his dear wife Dorcas, and the whole group who gave themselves so tirelessly in caring for us while we were with them.

The Weapons of Our Warfare Seminar
August 2005: Tanzania, East Africa
(Two classes will be presented simultaneously)
19-23 September 2005: Switzerland

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