

Wholeness

Quarterly World Digest of Christian Healing

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There Was No Cure, So Jesus Healed Me

Jess Bishop's Story, Written by Ingrid Barratt, *The Encourager*, November 2014.

This year (2014) I celebrated 10 years since I was miraculously healed from a debilitating illness called fibromyalgia. At age nine I hurt my knee at netball, and I was put in a splint. The pain started spreading into my back, so I was given crutches, but then the pain spread to my arms. It was the beginning of years of scans, tests and hospitalizations. I was told that it must be 'in my head', even as the pain became more and more excruciating.

My parents were Salvation Army officers, and they were moved to Hastings, NZ. It was there that we found a specialist who finally diagnosed me with the most severe form of fibromyalgia - a condition that causes your body to have extreme pain reactions to even the slightest bumps and knocks. The affliction affects your nerve endings, so that even having a shower felt like needles in my back, while being jostled at school was totally agonising. A test revealed that I had all 18 of the possible 'trigger points', to the most severe degree. It's usually a condition that doesn't occur before middle age, but I was a teenager living in an 80-year-old's body. I was a teenager with no hope of a cure.

By the time I was 15, I really couldn't remember what life without pain was like. I had a huge spiritual battle going on in my mind, leading me to such a dark place that I couldn't see the point of living, and I had to consciously decide to choose life over death. I said, "The point in living is you, Jesus." I chose to believe that I wasn't a mistake, and that God's purposes for me were good.

Fibromyalgia matured me beyond my years. When I was 15 I met my first and lifelong love when Daryn came to our church. He was a farmer, and here I was, a delicate, frail girl; but Daryn asked me to go with him and about 20 of his extended family to a holiday in Brisbane. It was the trip of a lifetime, even though it started with the most painful of plane rides. Once there, I really wanted to join in with all the activities, but my body was breaking down and I ended up staying at the hotel. My mum called me to say there was a healing crusade on in Brisbane. But it was the day that we were booked to leave, so I wondered if I should even mention it to Daryn. But as soon as he heard about it, he said, "Right, we're going!" He changed our flights, and Daryn's mum agreed to stay on with us. Her only problem was that she needed medication, but when she looked, she discovered she'd brought enough with her for the extra days. We even knew where the meeting was, because we'd already been to the same event centre before.

It was a huge stadium, and we arrived about an hour-and-a-half early, but to our shock, it was already nearly full. Daryn ran ahead and we just got in. Behind him, I slowly and painfully made my way up several flights of steps. The first part of the meeting was ministry on spiritual healing, and hundreds made their way to the front to receive salvation. Then they said, "And



Jess Bishop

now, get ready for your physical healing!" We were so far away, but we started making our way down the stairs. I was in agony, and we couldn't get anywhere near the front. In the end I gave up. I was so disappointed and angry; I was just gutted and my faith was dashed.

There was to be another meeting the following night, but I didn't even think of going. The

next day Daryn started reading a book *Waking the Dead* by John Eldredge. He flicked it open, and there was a paraphrase of Isaiah 61:1, a scripture that God had previously given us: "God has sent me on a mission. I have some great news for you. God has sent me to restore and release something and that something is you. I am here to give you back your heart and set you free."

Daryn and I went for a walk along the beach and I just started crying. I had so many hurts; I couldn't do what others could do, and I had missed out on so much. I was physically crippled and my heart was scarred. As I poured



out my heart to God, he started healing it. Something changed within me; I felt that God had healed my soul. This fire started burning within us, and Daryn said, "Let's go back [to the crusade] again!"

We arrived three hours early this time, but still the stadium was full. I hobbled up flights of stairs in great agony. I surprised myself with the prayer that I started praying: "Thank you God for my healing! I'm not going to leave until I get my healing!" When the time came to move forward, thousands of people were trying to get through, and I was being painfully jostled, but all of a sudden the great crowd in front of me parted and I was able to go right up the front. Later, I learnt that mum had been praying that God would 'part the Red Sea' for me. We were packed in like sardines, and someone yelled

out, "Fire!" and hundreds of people in the front fell flat on their backs, including Daryn and me. He jumped straight back up and yanked me up saying, "She's healed! She's healed!" I would have needed an ambulance if he'd done that before, so I thought, 'Crumbs, I better check it out!' My healing wasn't immediate, but each time as I kept praying and checking my trigger points they became less and less tender. I kept saying, "Thank you God for my healing!"

What happened next was completely foreign and strange. It was like a tunnel opening up inside me and my mouth opened wide and this huge gagging noise came out of me. I just said, "I don't care how this happens, I'm not leaving here without my healing!" The crusade finished, and people were packing up, and we were still at the front, worshipping and praying. I said, "I want to run up some stairs!" And I motored it out of the building, up the stairs, down the stairs, and out to the car park, where right in the middle I suddenly keeled over and started gagging again. Then I got up and ran some more. Back in the car I did these three, huge, disgusting burps from the deepest place within me - I only say this because I want to be honest about how my healing took place, it wasn't pretty - and then finally I had a sense that it was finished.

Neither Daryn nor I had ever seen or experienced anything like that night. At about 4:00am when we got back to the hotel I had a shower and started crying because it didn't hurt. It didn't hurt! The plane ride home was awesome. I was up and down the aisles; I felt like I had a whole new body. When we got home I hugged my brother tight, something we hadn't been able to do since I was nine. I went to the doctor and told him that I had been healed. He did all the tests and signed me off as 'healed by God', there was no other medical explanation - there is no cure for fibromyalgia. The faith God gave me for my healing on that night was a gift from the Holy Spirit, and God healed my heart first, before he healed my physical body. Every day since then I have said to God, "Thank you for my healing!" I continue to thank him because I know I have to claim my healing, because the enemy would want to take it from me.

Over the years I have pondered why God heals some and not others. The only answer I can come up with is that God can heal and he will, whether it's this side of eternity or the other side. When my beautiful cousin was having the toughest battle with cancer, we prayed for her healing. We went to see her, and her body was frail and shutting down, but she was praying: "I have hope, I have a future, I have a destiny that is yet awaiting me. My life is not over, I have a new beginning just begun, I have a hope." On Easter Sunday we received

the news that she had passed away. I was so angry with God, and I went for a walk by myself and cried out, "God, why did you heal me and not her?" And I heard this voice saying, "I have. I have healed her." Jesus prayed that the cup of suffering would be taken from Him, but concluded, "Not My will, but yours be done." He suffered and died, and only in death did God's true glory come to pass. I believe in healing, and I pray for healing, but whether it's this side of eternity, or the other, is in God's hands.

This year I celebrated 10 years since I was miraculously healed of fibromyalgia. I have been able to get married and have two beautiful children. I am living a life as a wife, mother and Salvation Army Officer that I could never have imagined. And for all that, made possible by my miracle, I continually thank God.



From the Editor

“What hurts me most is this - that God is no longer powerful.”

(Psalm 77:10 GNT)

God's voice coming from the cloud on Mt Sinai was accompanied by fire and smoke and a trumpet blast, and the people were very afraid. The God of the Old Testament was fearsome. Then, in Christ, God revealed himself as being merciful and loving, and as the one providing redemption for a lost mankind. The wondrous healings and deliverances wrought by Jesus in the Gospels were continued through the faith of his disciples, as recorded in the book of Acts. We see people being set free from jail by earthquakes, and being saved from shipwrecks and snakes by miracles, and multitudes turning to a God of provision and action. Then we come to Revelation, where we read of astonishing events, really astonishing events, that make the most fantastic science-fiction stories seem totally tame. But what of today? How is God revealing himself right now in the present? In what mighty ways is God moving in our church, and moving in our own life?

Here are four possible answers to these questions:

1. God is indeed moving in mighty ways, for which we rejoice!
2. God may be moving in mighty ways, but we aren't fully aware of it.
3. God isn't moving powerfully in the present, perhaps because 2015 is a low ebb in God's progressive revelation of himself to mankind. But that's like saying our world doesn't need God much right now.
4. God's not moving powerfully because there are things we personally need to do if we are to see daily answers to the kind of prayer offered in Acts 4:30, "Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." How dynamic was the immediate answer to that request! "When they finished praying, the place where they were meeting was shaken. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to proclaim God's message with boldness." What a contrast to the experience of the psalmist who wrote the scripture at the top of this column.

If our experience in the present is that God isn't powerful, it may be because we aren't totally focused on knowing the One who created us and who loves us. Our possessions, our lifestyles, our daily routines, even our ministries will all pass away, but only as much of our heart as belongs to Jesus will last forever. Maybe we don't fully appreciate what it means to be a disciple; maybe we don't want to know the import of Jesus' words: "If anyone comes to me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple ... So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:26-27, 33)

Of course Jesus' words confront us with a challenge, one that our natural self doesn't want to meet. We'll no longer be in control of the big decisions in our life, nor the small decisions. We'll have a Lord over us, and we'll be a slave. Gulp! The truth is, of course, that if we aren't God's slave, then we are sin's slave, and we are Satan's slave, and we are a slave to self. And the world, the flesh and the devil aren't loving masters. They won't tell us that being restored

Saying Yes to Hardship and Adversity

Karen Linton, *The Encourager*, November 2014

Hi, I'm Karen, and here's a bit of my journey. I'm a single mum with two teenage boys; Judah is 15, and has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy; Jordan is 17 and has 'Teenage-itis'! I love my boys and I'm proud of them. I'm living under the grace and mercy of my Lord Jesus Christ. He is my everything, and I'm learning to let him carry me. Here is an excerpt pretty much straight out of my diary from a few months ago, which I believe a few people will relate to.

Wow, I finally get it! After a whole day of meandering around, unmotivated to do much, but desperately wanting to hear YOUR voice, I finally hear YOU! After trashing through music DVDs and CDs, hoping one will jump out saying, "Listen to me!", I finally resort to YouTube and stumble



Karen, Judah and Jordan

across a message by a woman I've heard of before, but never listened to. It was a testimony by Heidi Baker of her missionary days in a very difficult place. At the end of her message she said something that really got my heart: she talked about saying "Yes" to God in response to whatever he asks us to do. She reeled off a whole list of things to say "Yes" to: feeding the poor, healing the sick, preaching, sharing God's love, etc. Then she said: "Yes to hardship, yes to adversity, yes to the cup God gives you." What? Yes to that? Dear Lord Father, I have been saying "No, no, no!" for years now: "No" to accepting divorce; "No" to Judah's condition; "No" to having a low income; "No" to being alone. I have certainly not said "Yes God" to the cup you have poured out for me.

It's easy to accept the glory and the good times, and say "Yes" to favour and wealth, but it's not so easy to walk with affirmation through trials and brokenness. Sometimes we need to consciously say, "Yes Lord," to the difficult road we have to travel. He has promised that he will never leave us or forsake us. He is going to give us the strength to live out each day. We can trust Him. Psalm 34:18 says, "God is close to the broken hearted, and saves all those who are crushed in spirit."

Now, a little word about trust. One day God

to a right relationship with God is the only way to be totally liberated: "I am gentle and humble in spirit; and you will find rest. For the yoke I will give you is easy, and the load I will put on you is light." (Matthew 11:29-30)

To embrace the joys of discipleship, our prayer can begin: "Lord, please help me to see that I am already dead. I died when you died, and I rose to life when you rose to life. Now Lord, please show me your will, at least your will for this day. Show me how my hours and minutes are to be lived out before you. Reveal to me the truth that whoever is a believer in Christ is a new creation; the old way of living has disappeared; a new way of living has come into existence. Lord, to experience that new life, what do I need to yield to you; what things do I need to change, to put right? Please put my life in order - my commitments, my prayer time, my bible reading time, my fellowship time. And please help me to know that discipleship isn't doing these things, discipleship results in my doing these things. Discipleship is my heart fully yielded to you O God. Let it be so. Amen."

spoke to me through a broken mirror - a lovely dress mirror which had accidentally been broken. I decided to break it into small pieces and make it into art. I chose a word to make out of the pieces, and started carefully placing all the bits where they needed to go. My hands got a few cuts on them as I glued them down, and that's when it hit me. I looked down at the smashed pieces of the once beautiful mirror, and realised that was my life! The word I had chosen was TRUST. My trust in people and in God had

been smashed. With each event that had happened in my life - events that were beyond my control - it was as if someone had come along with a hammer and smashed my trust. My brother died too young - Smash! My marriage ended - Smash! My son has the same disability as my brother - Smash! All my dreams - Smash! But here I was, a broken person, and God was putting my life and my trust in him back together, one piece at a time, through his own bleeding hands.

As I finished the mirror, I noticed it was the dark coloured grout in-between the pieces of glass that made the word stand out. Without the dark times in our lives, God's beauty in us would not be evident. I also noticed that all the cracks were causing the light to be reflected so much more than when it was a 'normal perfect mirror'. The very mirror I had wanted to throw away because it was so damaged had now become the most beautiful piece of artwork because of



its cracks. It just needed a 'saviour' to look at it and say, "I can see that this is broken and damaged beyond repair, but I can also see so much more than that. I'll make it more beautiful than before!" That is the very thing that God does with our lives. He'll never give up on us because we are 'too broken', or because we find it hard to trust him. When we come to him, he begins to heal our trust, and to build our lives into something beautiful, one piece at a time. He just asks us to say one thing ... "Yes."

Broken Pieces

Hugo Wallace

You're like a puzzle, incomplete,
Just broken pieces at your feet.

Each damaged part let Jesus take,
He once was broken for your sake.

And every piece he'll put in place
A perfect picture by his grace.

ORDER OF ST. LUKE

For all OSL enquiries: Rev. Bruce Hellyer, National Secretary, 159A Tramway Road, Enderley, Hamilton 3214, or phone 07 855 9447.

For prayer requests, testimonies etc., contact "Wholeness" using the addresses on page 4.



Dear Wholeness-reader friends,

I bring you New Year greetings from the Order of St Luke in NZ. We are all familiar with the account in Mark 6 of the feeding of the five thousand. The scene is set at the side of the Lake of Galilee, where a crowd had gathered late in the day to hear Jesus teach. We are told that he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and that he taught them many things. Then, when the day was drawing to a close, and the crowd had nothing to eat, the disciples suggested that Jesus send the people away to buy some food. Jesus' response was, "You give them something to eat." The disciples were somewhat taken aback; they were out in the country with no supplies on hand, and here was their Lord telling them to give the people what they did not have! Does God sometimes leave us feeling the same way?

What the disciples were really lacking at that moment in time was not food, but faith - faith that Jesus would meet the pressing needs. With hindsight it is easy for us to say that, although the only resources at hand were five loaves and two small fish, of course everyone would be fed, through the divine intervention of our Lord. But how do we view today's challenges? His provision is here in the world that he created, along with our ability to use the resources given to us. Above and beyond that, we, as believers, are called to have faith that the limitless power of God

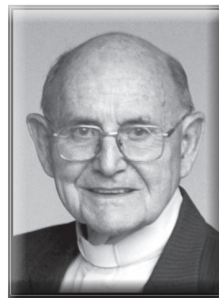
himself is available to meet any and every situation. Just as Jesus told the disciples to see to the people's needs, so he looks to us to be sensitive to what we see, and to be ready to respond positively in faith. Opportunities are given to us all the time, the pity is that often we do not see them, or that our response isn't timely.

I recently had occasion to visit a GP, and out of the blue he mentioned the practice of the laying on of hands. This was a God-given opportunity to talk about the healing ministry, but I did not pick up on it. How different from the many opportunities my wife, Shirley, and I had to minister as we recently attended the national conference of the Australian Order of St Luke, after which we were privileged to speak at a number of chapters in different parts of that great country. Back to the good doctor, at least now the subject has been raised no doubt a fresh opportunity will arise, and this time I will be prepared!

So, my prayer is that we will all allow the Holy Spirit to nudge us to serve others in the name of our Lord, being instant in season and out of season. And if our resources are meagre, and if we are inadequate, then may we trust God to provide that which we cannot.

May God's richest blessings be upon you all.

(Rev) Brian Flower
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Rev. Brian Flower

Dialogue with God

Dr. Mark Virkler

The following extracts are from Dr. Virkler's most enlightening and inspiring book "Dialogue with God", the theme of which certainly needs to be the key theme of our life: cultivating a relationship with God.

Mark reveals from scripture and from experience that God is wanting to speak personally to each of us. We just need to ask him to do so, expect him to respond, listen to him, and then write down what we are given for our encouragement and direction. "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." (Matthew 7:7)

There is a wealth of valuable ministry offered through "Communion with God Ministries", all of which can be read about at www.cwgmministries.org.

Jesus said, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only a few things are necessary, really only one: for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:41-42) Do you hear what Jesus said? Only one thing in life is necessary: communion with him! When I really understood what he was saying, my whole being protested: "No, Jesus, that's not true! Lots of things are necessary in the Christian life: there's producing and serving and evangelizing and writing and teaching and caring for the poor. They are all necessary! How can you say they are not?" I was probably hit so hard by Jesus' words because I was like Martha, constantly driven to serve and produce. I knew if I accepted his words, my whole life would need readjustment.

Gradually the Lord began to show me the problem with my thinking. It is true that service, productivity, and evangelism are important, even very important, but they must never become goals in themselves. If they do, we have moved back from relationship to law. Such things are important only so far as they are products of communion.

When I am listening to the Lord, he gives me instructions and ideas that increase my productivity a hundredfold. As I hear from him about the specific service he has created me for, I find fulfillment and success with every effort. And when I follow his leading in evangelism, the catch is so plentiful that the nets almost break. But all of this happens only if the one necessary thing in life - listening to Jesus - has first priority.

As a result of time spent communing with the Lord, Paul went out and changed the world. We cannot try to do likewise - change the world, or indeed change anything - and then become intimate once the work is done. All service, all productivity, all evangelism, must flow out of communion.

Love, not productivity, is the center of the universe. I have begun to slow down and enjoy life every single minute, and to share it in love with my Father and those around me. And if no one is around me, I'll just love life, and living, and the beauty of his creation.

Why don't you stop right here, at the end of this paragraph, and put this magazine down and express your love to Jesus? In whatever way inspires you, tell or write of your love for him, and your gratitude for all the blessings he has given you. Thank him for all the things that he has revealed to you, and for his beautiful creation. Just love him for all he means to you. And when you are finished, wait for his reply. Write down any thoughts that come into your mind. He may want to say he loves you too. He may tell you how precious you are to him. He may give you peace or guidance about an area of concern. Whatever he wants to say, give him the chance to say it. He's been waiting for you. Won't you respond?



DR. MARK VIRKLER
WWW.CWGMINISTRIES.ORG

Praying With Authority

Malcolm Self, Sharing, March 2014

After a healing conference, a member of the local OSL, Camille, asked the following question about the healing ministry of Father Josh Acton: "When Father Josh asked people to come forward if they were sick or in pain and he prayed for them, they experienced immediate and noticeable relief. It seems that when most of us pray for someone, our prayers last a long time with only mixed results. Why are Father Josh's results different from mine, and how do I get that power and authority that he speaks with?"



Father Josh Acton

Father Josh's answer: "Jesus teaches us to pray with authority. This authority is not an authority that is ours, but his. We exercise it on his behalf. It's very much like spending on someone else's credit card. Imagine having the resources of Bill Gates available to you, along with the ability to spend on his account. Your name is on the card as a joint cardholder, and so you have the full authority to spend. Another illustration is that of a Sheriff's deputy. Jesus has, in a very real sense, deputized you! He has given you the power to arrest and remove sickness, disease, and any malady - spiritual or physical. Jesus knows this. The devil knows this. We, on the other hand, have trouble really believing it. But Jesus says he

has given you authority to trample down all the works of the evil one. So when you pray against pain and sickness, in the authority and in the name of Jesus, that pain must obey. If we do not have success in our first prayer, we keep praying until we see that sickness

leave the person in need. This is not just for the "super-spiritual", but for every Christian.

We do not always see the results we want; but more often than not we do see results. We are commissioned to keep praying in power: "And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction." (Matthew 10:1) Don't plead for power you already have. Just command bad stuff to leave in the authority of Jesus. It takes risk to do this; as John Wimber said, "Faith is spelled R-I-S-K!"

Rev. Joseph "Josh" Acton is the Sr. Pastor for ACTS Church, San Jacinto, California

"Simple faith is nothing more than a natural result of knowing Jesus, of being close enough to him to know what he wants to do in a certain situation. Then, in simple obedience, we do whatever he tells us." (Mel Tari)

Why there is a 'Therefore'

Based on the writings of John Borman, Faith for Daily Living

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations." (Matt 28:19)

After the events of Easter, Jesus met with his disciples on a number of occasions. One of the most significant was when he gave them the Great Commission. He didn't tell his followers to form sound doctrine, or to gather people into big churches, or to solve the social and political problems of the world. Their mission was not to challenge the Roman authorities about the godlessness of their society, nor to purge the heresies from the Jewish religion of the day. No, the only command was to "go out".

There were just eleven of them, and, if they had sat and tried to work out a strategy by which they could put this command into practice they might well have deemed the project too big by far. But it was given to them by the One



(Matt. 28:18)

The Christian community still faces the temptation to minister in its own strength, and to limit its horizon to the immediate closed circle of those who are visible and reachable. This can lead to the local church becoming a religious social club. May the Holy Spirit re-establish in our hearts the calling that has never changed: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations."

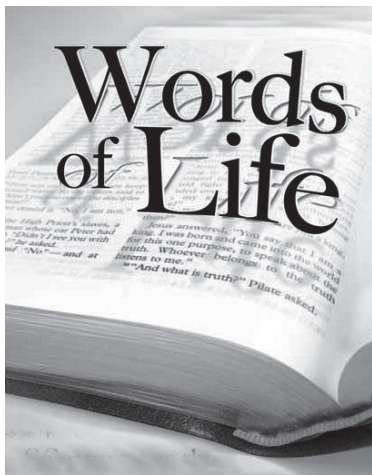
who knows the needs of every person on earth, and, most importantly, by the One who has all authority. Indeed, the "therefore" in the above verse refers to that which Jesus shared in his previous sentence, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore ..."

Words of Life

The Vine Today

"The officers answered, 'No man ever spoke like this man!'" (John 7:46)

In all literature there are no words like those spoken by Christ. In all history there are no words like those spoken by Christ. Let us remember what astonishing power his words had: three of them fell into a dark grave and caused the dead man who lay there to arise and come out; two of them dropped upon the wild sea and calmed it in an instant; a single word touched the blind man's eyes and opened them.



Remember how his words comforted sorrow, and gave peace to troubled souls; how they reached men's hearts and changed the whole purpose of their lives. Those who heard his words rose up from their business and from their sins, and left all to follow him in his homelessness and his loneliness. Demons trembled when he spoke, instantly recognizing his power as they cowered and obeyed. The words of Christ still have the same power; they are still calming storms, opening blind eyes, expelling evil spirits, and raising the dead. They are still giving comfort to people with the deepest sadness, hope to those in total despair, and forgiveness to enslaved sinners. They are still changing the hardest of hearts,

and making flowers bloom where thorns once grew.

If you lean upon a word of Christ, you will find his everlasting arms underneath you. If you are sinking in the waves of severest trial, and grasp one of these blessed words, you will find his divine hand pulling you out of danger. If you are pursued by spiritual enemies, and seize a word of Christ, you will find in your hand an all-conquering sword, before which every enemy will seek to escape. If you are drained, or

in sorrow, and rest your head on one of these precious words, you will find that you are lying in the impregnable embrace of your Father, ever so close to his warm, beating heart. The world's richest treasures today are still the words of Christ, for truly, "No man ever spoke like this man!"

"The task ahead of you is never as great as the power behind you."

Chuck Daniel

Finances

All praise to God, and all thanks to his faithful saints, for our finances being stable and for our ability to prepare the next few editions of Wholeness. Please continue to pray for a steady income, and for our discernment as to which of many wonderful articles are the ones to be published.

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Jesus' Authority

The Daily Bible Verse, Caesar Kalinowski, GraceNYC.org

The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." (Matthew 8:8-9)



It took a military man to understand the authority that Jesus was given by his Heavenly Father. Jesus was on a mission; he had the ability to "pull back the curtains of earth" to reveal what God's kingdom is like. Somehow the centurion understood this, and he connected Jesus to the God who spoke the creation into being. The man knew that all his servant needed was a word. This is still true today; Jesus has all authority, and he still speaks through Scripture and by the Holy Spirit to heal and to restore those who call upon him. Let us seek to really know the wondrous truth that the centurion knew.

God Knows, and We Must Trust Him

Intercessors for NZ Jan. 2015

According to *The Christian Post* of 5 January 2015, the AirAsia flight which crashed in the Java Sea last December with 162 people on board carried at least 49 Christians – 41 of whom were from the same Indonesian church. Five of the other Christians were from another church in Indonesia, and three were a Korean family who were missionaries to Indonesia, on their way to Singapore to renew their visas so that they could continue their missionary work. It is hard to understand why God allows such things to happen to his children; but God knows, and we must trust him. After all, as Christians, our lives belong to him, and when we die we will go to be with him forever. It is his choice as to the length of our life; it is our job just to live it to the full, for the glory of God, whether our days are short or long.

Do pray for the friends and families of these and any other Christians who may also have been on the flight. Pray for the churches they came from. Pray that their lives will continue to bring glory to God through the witnesses that they were. Pray too, that the lives of each of us will daily bring honour and glory and praise to our God, blessing to other people, and the fulfilment of our calling by God. To him be all the glory and all the praise! Amen.

HOW TO ORDER

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