

MOVING SPIRIT

December, 2000

Eskaton Village Community Church

Pastor's Parcel

When Rosemary and I worked with Youth With a Mission in Quebec, we were befriended by a new convert named Maria who was like a mother to us. She blessed our family and still keeps us in her prayers. This year she sent me the card you see, with this verse on the back: "*Do not weep! See, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals. Then I saw a Lamb.*" (Rev 5:5,6).

Have you ever heard a lion roar up close? When I did, it actually shook my insides. I was so thankful for the zoo's iron bars that kept us separated. But the gentle Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, is also called a Lion. I love how C. S. Lewis in his Narnia tales portrayed Christ in the character of the Lion Aslan. He was ferocious against evil, but so gentle toward the weak and oppressed.

We are in Advent season, which reminds us that someday the evil and oppression on this planet will be dealt their death-blow at the 2nd Advent of Christ. God's Lion will roar, and the painful effects of wickedness will plague humanity no more. True justice will at last be done by Him who knows the secret hearts behind all social masks.

Mixed with the hope of Advent is the



unknown of another new year. Some are not anticipating it with hope, because of lingering grief, progressing chronic illness, shrinking options from decreased mobility. Are you fearful of the *seals to be opened on the scrolls* of the future? I encourage you to look to the returning Lion who opens them, and see that He is the gentle Lamb of God. -- *Pastor David*

Personal Pulpit

"Do We Really Care?" is an article in Billy Graham's magazine *Decision*, September issue. This is what Pastor David Hatton has been talking about these past few weeks. As Christians we usually talk about our faith, but we don't go any farther and ask a person to make a commitment to Christ. As Billy Graham says, most of the

time we feel uncomfortable doing that. He says also, suppose you discovered a cure for cancer --you would surely give out that information. And here we have something bigger -- hope for eternal life. Well, anyway, it is an excellent article and there is usually a few magazines around on the table. I urge you to pick one up, read it, and pass it on. Hope -- Eternal life -- it is something to shout about. Surely we mature folks can do that! -- *an anonymous Eskaton resident*

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It is our job as members of Eskaton Village Community Church to hold each other's hand and encourage each other. It is our reputation! Let's be sure to live up to it! -- *Midge Childs*

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Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. --*Psa 119:105*

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Pithy Pieces

"IF I HAD MY LIFE TO LIVE OVER"
by Erma Bombeck (who died of cancer)

I would have burned the pink candle sculpted like a rose before it melted in storage. I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained and the sofa faded. I would have eaten the popcorn in the 'good' living room and worried much less about the dirt when someone wanted to light a fire in the fireplace. I would have taken the time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his youth. I would never have insisted the car windows be rolled up on a summer day because my hair had just been teased and sprayed. I would have talked less and

listened more. I would have set on the lawn with my children and not worried about grass stains. I would have cried and laughed less while watching television and more while watching life. I would have shared more of the responsibility carried by my husband. I would have gone to bed when I was sick instead of pretending the earth would go into a holding pattern if I weren't there for the day. I would never have bought anything just because it was practical, wouldn't show soil or was guaranteed to last a lifetime. Instead of wishing away nine months of pregnancy, I'd have cherished every moment and realized that the wonderment growing inside me was the only chance in life to assist God in a miracle. When my kids kissed me impetuously, I would never have said, "Later. Now go get washed up for dinner." There would have been more "I love you's," more "I'm sorry's," but mostly, given another shot at life, I would seize every minute, look at it and really see it, live it, and never give it back.

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Praise's Portion

SO MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR

If you own just one Bible, you are abundantly blessed. 1/3 of the world does not have access to even one.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive the week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500

million people around the world.

If you attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest or torture of death, you are more blessed than almost three billion people in the world.

If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

If you can hold someone's hand, hug them or even touch them on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer God's healing touch.

If you can read this, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read anything at all.

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Prayer's Priority

A TOOL TO HELP YOU PRAY

Let the peace of this place surround you as you sit or kneel quietly. Let the hurry and worry of your life fall away from you. You are God's child. He loves you and cares for you. He is here with you now -- and always. Speak to Him slowly and thoughtfully -- give yourself time for Him to bring things to mind:

Lord, thank You ...
for Your presence here,
for the opportunity to pray,
for the promise of peace,

for the beauty of the world,
for the kindness of people,
for all those I love ... and who love me,
for Your love towards me
(and especially for _____)
for the Cross of Christ and the power of
the Spirit.
Help me to show my gratitude in deeds as
well as words.

Lord, I am sorry...
for the times when I have been hasty or
unkind (especially to _____),
thought or acted selfishly,
failed to forgive or ask forgiveness,
forgotten Your presence, taken Your love
for granted.
I thank You for Your promise to forgive
all those who turn back to You in
penitence.

Lord, I am troubled...
I am anxious and distressed for myself...
for others... especially about _____ .
Help me to trust Your love, for You carry
our sorrows.
Teach me to act and speak in the way that
You want.
Give me the wisdom to know when not to
interfere.
Calm my fears, for all things are in Your
hands.

Lord, I pray for...
My family... and friends,
My neighbors at home, at work, the ones
I like... and dislike...
for those who are ill...
for those who are troubled or who mourn,
for the oppressed,

for those involved in disaster or war.
Bless them, Father, in their various
troubles
And show me how I may help.

O heavenly Father, Your will for me (and
for all men) is my eternal happiness now
and for ever. I thank You for the blessings
You have given me and ask for strength
to walk in the way where You lead me.
Help me to remember the love of Jesus
shown on the Cross and to accept the new
life and love and freedom which He offers
to me.

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Poetry's Place

THE U IN JESUS

Before U were thought of or time had
begun,
God even stuck U in the name of His
Son.
And each time U pray, you'll see it's true
You can't spell out JesUs and not
include U.

You're a pretty big part of His
wonderful name,
For U, He was born; that's why He
came.
And His great love for U is the reason
He died.
It even takes U to spell crUcified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
He rose from the dead, with U in His
plan.
The stones split away, the gold trUmpet
blew,
And this word resUrrection is spelled

with a U.

When JesUs left earth at His upward
ascension,
He felt there was one thing He just had
to mention.

"Go into the world and tell them it's true
That I love them all - just like I love U.

So many great people are spelled with a
U,
Don't they have a right to know JesUs
too?

It all depends now on what U will do,
He'd like them to know
But it all starts with U.
JesUs and U!!

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Pearls of Prudence

Nothing is too great for God's power,
Nothing is too small for God's love.

--Robert Schuller

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You are adequate for whatever happens
to you if you have linked your life by
faith to the endless resources of God.

--Author unknown

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What you are is God's gift to you.
What you make of yourself is your gift to
God. --Author unknown

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Now is the time to be happy! If you
someone without a smile, give them one
of yours. -- unknown

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Most folks are about his happy as they
make up their minds to be.

--Abraham Lincoln

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He is a wise man does not grieve for the things which he has not, but rejoices for those he has. --Epictetus

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Plant the seeds of expectation in your mind; cultivate thoughts that anticipate achievement. Believe in yourself as being capable of overcoming all obstacles and weaknesses.

--Norman Vincent Peale

The smallest deed is better than the grandest intention. --Anonymous

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We can never be lilies in the garden unless we have spent time in the dark.

--Oswald Chambers

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Pleasurable Pastime

Billboard Messages from God

A Ft. Lauderdale advertising agency launched a billboard campaign that included 17 different messages from God sponsored by an anonymous client:

1. "Let's Meet At My House Sunday Before the Game" - God
2. "C'mon Over And Bring The Kids" - God
3. "What Part of "Thou Shalt Not..." Didn't You Understand?" - God
4. "We Need To Talk" - God
5. "Keep Using My Name in Vain And I'll Make Rush Hour Longer" - God
6. "Loved The Wedding, Invite Me To The Marriage" - God
7. "That 'Love Thy Neighbor' Thing, I Meant It." - God
8. "I Love You...I Love You.. .I Love You..." - God

9. "Will The Road You're On Get You To My Place?" - God

10. "Follow Me." - God

11. "Big Bang Theory, You've Got To Be Kidding." - God

12. "My Way Is The Highway." - God

13. "Need Directions?" - God

14. "You Think It's Hot Here?" - God

15. "Tell The Kids I Love Them." - God

16. "Need a Marriage Counselor? I'm Available." - God

17. "Have You Read My #1 Best Seller? There Will Be A Test." - God

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MEN

by Ella G. White

Men are good
For paying bills,
Buying food,
Tending mills,
Driving nails,
Sawing boards,
Poisoning snails,
Mowing yards,
Stringing vines,
Cutting weeds,
Buying wines,
Wearing tweeds,
Unstopping drains,
Stopping drips,
Meeting trains,
Carrying grips,
Building ladders,
For the house,
Taking women
For to spouse.

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Precious Principles

12 Warning Signs of Good Health

1. Persistent presence of supportive friends.
2. Chronic positive expectations -- a tendency to frame events in a positive light.
3. Regular signs of joy in living.
4. Sense of spiritual renewal in the Lord.
5. Increased sensitivity to others.
6. A tendency to adapt to changing situations.
7. Increased appetite for physical activity.
8. Tendency to identify and communicate feelings.
9. Repeated episodes of gratitude and generosity.
10. Compulsion to care for other people.
11. Persistent sense of humor (known for laughing out loud).
12. A life centered in the forgiveness of Jesus Christ.

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Past Pathways

ILLUMINATION

"Here was a remarkable instance of an aged woman, of about seventy years, who had spent most of her days under Mr. Stoddard's powerful ministry. Reading in the New Testament concerning Christ's

sufferings for sinners, she seemed to be astonished at what she read, as what was real and very wonderful, but quite new to her. At first, before she had time to turn her thoughts, she wondered within herself, that she had never heard of it before; but then immediately recollected herself, and thought she had often heard of it, and read it, but never till now saw it as real. She then cast in her mind how wonderful this was, that the Son of God should undergo such things for sinners, and how she had spent her time in ungratefully sinning against so good a God, and such a Savior; though she was a person, apparently, of a very blameless and inoffensive life. And she was so overcome by those considerations that her nature was ready to fail under them: those who were about her, and knew not what was the matter, were surprised, and thought she was dying."

--*Jonathan Edwards in A Faithful Narrative of the Surprising Work of God*

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"Keep your feet warm, your head cool, and your bowels well regulated, rise early, go to bed regularly, eat temperately, avoiding high-seasoned victuals, pickles, and preserves, drink no spirits of any kind, and there will be no need of your ever breaking down till the wheels of life stop, and life itself sweetly ebbs away."-- *Peter Cartwright (pioneer circuit-riding Methodist preacher)*