HOW TO EXPERIENCE TRUE REFRESHMENT IN DRY AND DIFFICULT TIMES

BY DES FORD

In just six verses (Ex. 15:22-27), there is a message from God to us that can sweeten our lives wonderfully. These verses tell the story of Israel coming to Marah and finding the waters bitter, leading to howls of complaints from the refugee multitudes.

Moses, under divine direction, does not curse his charges, but sweetens the waters by the addition of a miraculous tree. After that we read, "Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water." And they stayed there for several weeks.

Every time we grumble, we are in effect cursing God for messing things up. And we are always in error about the real situation. Elim was only six miles from Marah. If, instead of complaining, they had continued on, they would have reached the water-springs and palm trees in just two hours.

How often it is that deliverance is very close to our threatening crises! If we would only...

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... trust and push on! The shadow of death is so frequently adjoined by green pastures and still waters.

Don't make the mistake of thinking Marahs are as common as Elims. That is not the case. Pain is so obnoxious to all of us that we exaggerate it and give its causes much more importance than they deserve. The bad things stand out like sore thumbs, though the rest of the body is in fine shape. The bitter time at Marah was brief, but the stay at Elim was long. That's the way it usually is in life. There are bad patches, but the good times are more frequent and last longer.

The healing tree is a symbol of that real tree of life: the Cross of Christ. Dip it into every trouble and you will be amazed at the change. When we give due importance to the Cross, everything else dwindles.

Sorrow is not entirely a wilderness. Despite bleakness and desolation, if we look closely we will usually find the fertility and beauty of oases nearby.

Never forget it. Grumbling is atheism. Trust and praise are Christian.

... if we look closely we will usually find the fertility and beauty of oases nearby.

"IT HAS CHANGED MY LIFE ... I AM JOYFUL NOW!" SAYS TINA



The messengers of Jesus Christ, those who bear the gospel to the world's lost and broken, are continually called to "go above and beyond". They are asked to reach more people for Jesus, so they too can believe and come to know him as their Lord and Saviour.

We encourage each other in the gospel, but GNU's main aim is to reach more for Christ – to spread the Word fast! In everything we do we have a single focus: the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thanks to friends like you, today we are reaching tens of thousands of people every week through social media. Untold thousands of people tune in to our radio and television programs. Hundreds of people watch our video presentations – people like Tina, who wrote:

I watch you on YouTube and have learned a lot about who I am in Christ and it has changed my life! I am joyful now to know I am accepted and loved.

Marketing experts say that when you have a message you have to be very clear about your audience. We are. The greatest Marketing Expert of all has told us to: "go into all the world" (Mark 16:15).

Since GNU commenced its renewed effort to share the gospel two years ago, the Lord has certainly taken us on a wild, wonderful journey of faith. Under his guidance, and through your generous support, we won't stop until he does!

FROM INDIA TO UKRAINE: YOUR SUPPORT AT WORK AROUND THE WORLD

Ruthumma: "My work is to go from house to house... to spread the Good News..."

Ruthumma lives in Andhra Pradesh, India, where Good News Unlimited actively supports evangelism. She grew up in a family of devout Hindus.

Now, Ruthumma loves the ministry of Good News Unlimited! She has faced many troubles since coming to believe in Jesus Christ, including the death of her husband. It is difficult to be a widow in India.

However her heart is overflowing with the joy of the gospel and she is now "very, very happy to work with Good News Unlimited".

She had been praying about how to share the gospel, and has now realised that God has called her to do his work as an evangelist and minister of the gospel.

Ruthumma has left everything, and spends all her time serving God by sharing the gospel. She assists Pastor Joseph in the prayer meetings and has started her own church. She praises God that all of her family members now believe in Jesus, including her children, brothers and sisters, and their families, and says...

"My work is to go from house to house and village to village to spread the Good News to as many people as possible, sharing Jesus with my Hindu community." Ruthumma has been called to be an evangelist.



Oleg: Thankful for your prayers

You may remember the dramatic story of how Oleg escaped from the front lines of the war in East Ukraine and came to know Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour. Oleg also has had his operation for cancer at the base of his throat, and is making a full recovery.

It has been a bumpy road for him, since he had to travel three times to Kiev before he could have the lifesaving operation. The first time he didn't have the right paperwork, and the second time he was diagnosed with diabetes, which needed immediate treatment. The operation was finally performed on his third trip to Kiev.

Oleg was baptised in March during Philip and Eliezer's evangelistic meetings in Ukraine.

He sends his thank you to his new Christian family around the world for the prayers and assistance he has received. Without the help of friends like you, he could never have had the operation for the cancer, which is not expected to recur.

From Eliezer TO YOU

Dear Friend,

Thanks to you, our ministry has grown so fast that I am spending more of my time responding to questions about salvation from people around the world.

We regularly receive letters from different continents, largely in response to our media broadcasts in which people testify to the joy they have found in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

It's been said, "If you're looking for a mission, join God's" ... and you have! Your passion to share the gospel with the lost and broken people in this world has been amazing. Because of you, people in many countries and from all walks of life are today discovering hope through Christ.

I promised to convert every dollar given to GNU into gospel messages, and that is what we are doing. Is it too little or too much? It depends on whom you ask. The average person would say that we are doing way too much with too little.

But GNU doesn't work for the average person. We know that we will ultimately answer to God. We want him to see heaven filled with people who heard the gospel because faithful people like you made God's own mission their mission.

Thank you for helping the Word Spread Fast!

Grace and Peace,

VELIEZER GONZALEZ Senior Pastor, Good News Unlimited

JESUS ONLY MATCH FUND UPDATE

Recently one of our magnificent supporters offered to match any gift you give up to a total of \$60,000, doubling your gift for the work of the gospel.

To date we have matched \$47,000, but the good news is there is still time to have your gift doubled by 30 June!

The impact of your gift will be enormous. Thanks to this unique opportunity, we will be able to translate and publish the book Jesus Only into new languages, and share the gospel in new countries.

Our ministry has grown so rapidly that, unless we are able to continue its funding, we will have to stop significant aspects of our media broadcasts around the world, which right now are transforming the lives of hundreds of people every month.

We are relying on the Lord to provide the resources needed through his people, since we know that he is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

So thank you for any donation you can give using the enclosed reply form – knowing your gift by 30 June will be doubled by the Match Fund. We're truly grateful for your support!



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Jesus only

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