

UNLIMITED

NEWSLETTER

THE UNBELIEVER AND THE ACORN

▼ BY ELIEZER GONZALEZ

In Italy is the centuries-old grave of an unbeliever. Before he died, he ordered a huge stone slab for his grave to prevent him from being raised from the dead if there was, after all, a resurrection. The sign announced: "I do not want to be raised from the dead. I don't believe in it."

A hundred years later an acorn had pushed through the slab and grown into a towering oak tree. A visiting minister took in the scene, asking himself, "If an acorn, which has power of biological life in it, can split a slab like that, what can the acorn of God's resurrection power do in a person's life?"

This story, told by Tim Keller, reveals the powerful truth that is expressed in [Phil 3:10]: "I want to know Christ ..."

(Continued on page 2)

SEE PAGE 4 FOR YOUR FREE RESOURCE

IN THIS ISSUE ...

Thank you! You've helped bring life to youth and mothers in Uganda 2 + A Tithe of Thanks 3 + Please Don't be Tired 3 + From Eliezer To You 4 + Our Free Gift For You 4

THE UNBELIEVER AND THE ACORN

(continued from page 1)

... and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead" (NLT).

When you know Christ you will experience his mighty resurrection power. Paul refers specifically to the resurrection of the dead at the last day, but also about how that certainty changes our present. When, by faith, we accept Christ's death and resurrection on our behalf, it inspires and empowers us to press on towards the heavenly prize (v.14), because we are citizens of heaven (v.20).

Paul writes with tears in his eyes (v.18). We can no longer act as enemies of the cross (v.18), for the very righteousness of God is offered to us through faith in Christ (v.9). We can no longer love sin.

To be resurrected with Christ, we must suffer with him (v.10). Often, we like the "resurrection" part, but we don't like the "dying" part. But self must die so that Christ may reign.

When we have died to sin and risen to new life, we will start loving God and hating sin. We will turn in confession and repentance to Christ every time we fall, and wonderful fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:20) will slowly but surely start to be produced in our lives.

There is a resurrection from the dead at the last day. But the person who has not died and been raised to new life in Christ – in this life – will never experience it. For today, the mighty resurrection power of Christ is shed abroad to all who believe; to all who are righteous through faith in Him; to all who know Christ.



Often, we like the "resurrection" part, but we don't like the "dying" part. But self must die so that Christ may reign.

THANK YOU! YOU'VE HELPED BRING LIFE TO YOUTH AND MOTHERS IN UGANDA



Rebecca Gonzalez (centre) surrounded by beaming people about to be baptised. This is the impact of your support!



A highlight was the Christian youth conference, where Rebecca, unexpectedly, became the sole speaker.

GNU's latest mission to Africa, "New Birth", has been carried on the shoulders of two very young Australian women, Rebecca Gonzalez and Amy Adcock, in collaboration with Spring of Hope, Uganda. You will have read of the plans for this mission; perhaps your generosity has helped make it possible.

Rebecca and Amy, midwifery students, are working to educate women in how to care for themselves and their babies. Everywhere they have been greeted by crowds of beautiful people and enthusiastic children.

A highlight was the Christian youth conference, where Rebecca, unexpectedly, became the sole speaker. The Lord blessed her efforts greatly. At the end of the third day, a baptism was scheduled. At the water's edge, there was a rush of young people who had been touched by God, so no one knows exactly how many people were baptised that day, however there were at least twenty who were counted.

Astonishingly for such a traditional culture, Rebecca was asked to perform the baptisms. She decided not to accept this invitation. Afterwards, Rebecca and Amy were asked to bless and pray with many of the candidates. We know that the visitors, the visited and those who made this mission possible have been abundantly blessed.

Thank you to all those who provided sponsorship for Rebecca and Amy's mission trip. A great work has been done.

Thought
for the Day

A TITHE OF THANKS

BY DESMOND FORD



The Bible's miracles all contain lessons for us. In the healing of the ten lepers (Luke 17:11–19), the despised Samaritan who returned contrasts with the other nine, who were of Christ's own privileged people, the Jews.

They had good reason not to return. By law they must show themselves to the priest, so Christ had ordered them to go.

But sometimes the letter of the law kills, and its spirit gives life. Love must overrule law. So Christ said to the one who received grace, "Your faith has made you well". Spiritually, as well as physically, [the Samaritan] received the nobler blessing.

There is only one reason why anyone will miss out on heaven. It isn't murder, nor adultery, nor theft, nor lying – but ingratitude!

Never be disturbed because people don't say "Thank you". Jesus himself received but 10 per cent – a tithe of thanks.

The issue is the Son question not the sin question. The only reason people will be lost from the kingdom of heaven and eternal life is because they have not appreciated Calvary.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in

him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already – John 3:17,18.

People are not lost because of their sins, but because they have not been grateful for Christ.

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him – John 3:36.

Those who lack the spirit of gratitude for Calvary will lose eternal life. We need to see Jesus there on the cross for us. That will bring gratitude – and much more than a tithe.

If you enjoyed the Thought for the Day you can receive more just like this in your inbox by signing up to the Good News Unlimited Daily Devotional - goodnewsunlimited.com

'PLEASE DON'T BE TIRED'



Don't get tired!
...There's a lot more
work to be done!

You can watch this video of Pr Boaz Nyariki at goodnewsunlimited.com/boaz

My name is Pastor Boaz Nyariki from Kenya. I write to thank our supporters, the sponsors of GNU, for their wonderful support.

Our God is not limited and the Good News of the gospel is unlimited in its generosity. The need is great here, so please don't be tired in your support.

We are very grateful for the books you send, such as *Jesus Only*. We pray that you can continue to print these books. When we translate them, their message can reach many more people. We want the gospel to go to every person, and every generation, as Jesus Christ commissioned. "Begin from Jerusalem," he instructed his apostles, "go down to Judea and take it to every generation".

That is my passion; together with my friends whom I have recruited. We want to take this message to everyone who will hear.

From Eliezer TO YOU

Dear Friend,

Today, I'm missing my daughter Rebecca.

She's been on a month-long mission to Uganda, sharing the Gospel, leading people to baptism, and blessing impoverished women and babies. She is 19, and has never been so far away or away for so long. At least I know that by the time you read this, Rebecca should be safely back home.



I'm missing my daughter, but I'm missing Jesus more.

As Christians, our heart both jumps with joy and aches with longing. This is the paradox we all face. We know God is with us, yet we want more of him.

But because Jesus hasn't put an end to this world as it is, you and I have a job to do. That's why at GNU, we are all about Spreading the Word Fast.

When you embrace the Gospel Commission, the boundaries come off – the whole world is your mission. And with your support and God's blessing, we want to continue to grow and Spread the Word Fast in a sustainable way.

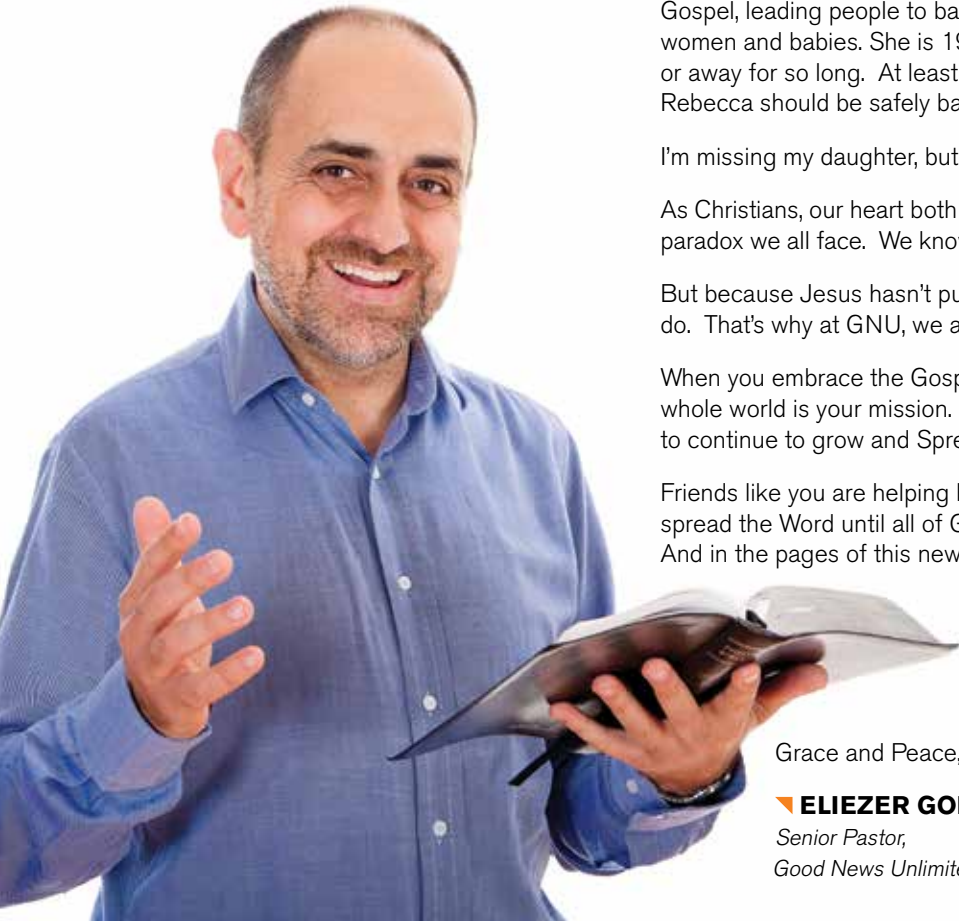
Friends like you are helping build a gospel ministry that by the grace of God, will spread the Word until all of God's sheep are home in the kingdom made new. And in the pages of this newsletter, you'll read some inspiring stories about how you're helping make that happen!

Until then, there is still much work to do. So, thank you for being part of this amazing journey of faith through your prayers and gifts!

Grace and Peace,

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ**

Senior Pastor,
Good News Unlimited



OUR FREE GIFT FOR YOU

Of the ten lepers whom Jesus healed, only one returned to say thank-you to Jesus. I hope that one symbolises you. When you appreciate what Christ has done for you at Calvary, when you have accepted salvation, how do you show your gratitude? How do you become rooted and grounded in Christ? I would love to send you a little book that we have just published, called, "Tree of Life". We all want that tree, don't we?

You can request your free e-book or printed copy of this book on the enclosed reply form.

