

# UNLIMITED

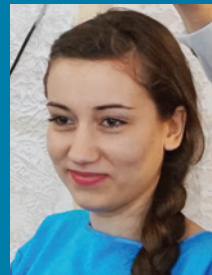
THE MAGAZINE



(page 8)

## MY GOD MY PROTECTOR

### UKRAINIAN HARVEST FOR THE KINGDOM



(page 4)



## FROM ELI TO YOU

Dear Friend,

I found this article by my friend Des so encouraging – so I want to share it with you...

*Jesus: Saviour or Example? – by Des Ford*

*Many unhappy Christians look upon Christ – firstly – as their example. Only afterwards do they look upon him as their Saviour. That is upending things, putting them in the wrong order. If Jesus is first of all my example, he condemns me more than the Law given at Sinai. Who among us is like Jesus?*

*Jesus loved his enemies and prayed for them even on the cross. Jesus was always gentle, always tender, always understanding, always pure, always true, always God-centred, never selfish. If he is first of all my example, I am of all people most miserable because I am not like Jesus! I want to be like Jesus. It is my dearest desire. But I am a million light years from him.*

*But! If Jesus is first my Saviour, I have hope! The Saviour came into the world to save sinners. I qualify! That's why he came. To save sinners like me – and like you.*

*The New Testament does not primarily portray Jesus as our example. If that were his task, he would have lived until he was an old man. Where is Jesus an example for anyone over 33? If he were just an example, he would have had to be a man and a woman. Women cope with some things men don't. Men cope in some situations where women don't. Jesus, to be an example for both, would have to be both. He wasn't.*

*Jesus didn't come primarily as our example. If he did, we would need to know a lot more about him as a boy, an adolescent, a young man, an employee, and every other situation in life. The New Testament emphasis is that he came to be the Saviour of the world.*

Thank God, we can come to Him just as we are – because Jesus is first and foremost our Saviour! And thank you for helping to spread that Good News with us!

Grace and Peace

### ▼ ELIEZER GONZALEZ

Senior Pastor, Good News Unlimited



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# EDITORIAL

## INVITE THE LORD INTO YOUR 'BOAT'

None of us would last long if we were totally fearless. Not long after my marriage to Rosemary, our tramper friend, Brian, invited us to join him on a climb to the summit of the Remarkables, near Queenstown in New Zealand. About midday we approached the summit to find that it was crowned by two rock pillars. The first pillar could be climbed with ease, but the second pillar, which was separated from the first by a gap of two metres, was even taller. Brian leapt across with some alacrity, but I reasoned that if I slipped or didn't make it across, I would probably die in the fall. I considered a much wiser option to be content with what we had achieved at that point, and started our descent. My healthy fear ensured we returned home alive, and not in body-bags.

Fears were given to us to protect us. But every now and then our fears get out of control and swamp us. When this happens, they rob us of a measure of life, and it's not the Lord's will that we live this way.

One stormy night when the disciples were crossing the Lake of Galilee, they saw what they thought was a spectral figure passing their boat on foot, and cried out in fear. "But Jesus immediately said to them: 'Take

It's always a good time to invite the Lord into your 'boat'. He will quell the storm in your heart, and his very presence will bring you inner peace.

**Ritchie Way**  
Executive Editor



courage, it is I. Don't be afraid.' When Jesus got into the boat with them, the wind died down." You can read the entire story in Matthew 14:22-32.

A healthy sense of self-preservation is an asset, but many of our fears are totally unfounded; our minds run riot and our pulses race. On such occasions we need to remind ourselves that we have a Father in heaven who cares for us. It's always a good time to invite the Lord into your 'boat'. He will quell the storm in your heart, and his very presence will bring you inner peace.

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To spread the Word like wildfire through simple gospel content.

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# GOD'S VICTORY DAY

I believe that Daniel 9:24-27 is the greatest prophecy of the Bible. It tells of the coming Messiah and atonement. There is space to quote only a small portion here, but I encourage you to read the entire passage several times.

*Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and ... to anoint the most Holy.*

This is God's promise that he would do something about sin. Legally, he would banish it. God would start the flow of a stream of influence that would culminate in Christ's return and the empirical banishment of all evil, all death, all tragedy, all pain.

Calvary was D-day. You remember the term. D-Day in World War II happened eleven long, agonising months before VE-Day (Victory in Europe). But once D-Day successfully took place, people said, "The victory is ours. The troops are in." D-Day was like Calvary. At Calvary the victory was assured.

Daniel's prophecy points to Calvary—and beyond. The Old Testament always fuses the two Advents of Christ. One of the reasons is because the Second Advent could have come very quickly after the First, had the Jewish

nation accepted the Messiah. Instead of 12 apostles trying to take the gospel to all the world, there would have been a whole nation of millions of people engaged in the Great Commission!

## A Prayer for Redemption

Let us return for a moment to the impetus of this great prophecy. Daniel prays. He is burdened with the sin of his people, and is visited by an angel who comes to strengthen him. This is a beautiful picture of what was to happen in Gethsemane when Christ took the sin of the world upon himself.

Consider the word-picture of the angel who came to strengthen Daniel: "To finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation [atonement] for iniquity". This literally means "to shut up,

“**Our sin has been shut up in a prison, sealed up by the blood of Christ, covered by his Cross.**

to seal up, and to cover up." It is as though evil is thought of as a person, and put in a prison. A great seal is put on the prison, and then huge mountains of immense stones avalanche down upon the prison and cover it. It's completely buried.

That is what has happened to your sin, and mine. It has been shut up in a prison, sealed up by the blood of Christ,

covered by his Cross. It's gone, gone, gone. As a result, everlasting righteousness has been brought in.

Pause a moment to consider that term. The gospel is in the phrase "everlasting righteousness". The Hebrew word for "righteousness" can just as readily be translated "justification", which in the Bible always means "a declaring righteous". Note that word "declaring"—not "making". The Gospel declares us righteous—instantly. We are counted as perfect the moment we accept Christ's sacrifice for us.

### Jesus Christ, the Fulfillment of Prophetic Vision

So, "to bring in everlasting righteousness", and "to seal up prophetic vision" (that is, all the things the prophets foretold) happened legally and in principle at the First Advent of Christ. Then they are consummated by the Second Advent of Christ.

The fulfillment of the prophetic vision was made possible by Christ. Only because of the Cross can God do these wonderful things for sinners. A just and holy God could not forgive sin unless there had been a Cross.

Daniel 9:24 tells us that all these wonderful promises would be fulfilled when Messiah, the Prince, arrived. Ultimately, the sanctuary would be cleansed, that is, there will be a final end to sin—a clean universe. This is the ultimate explanation of Daniel 8:14.

### Numbers and Promises

Daniel's prophecies are full of numbers; prophetic speculators love to use this kind of data for time charts and date-fixing. But these numbers are more chronography than chronology, even though the prophecies do have some chronological elements, which are out of the scope of this present article.

Remember those wonderful words at the beginning of the prophecy: "...to atone for iniquity...". This is what happened at the Cross, where the Prince of Heaven came to put an end to sin, to affirm for all time the astonishing fact that God loves us, he accepts us, he forgives our sinfulness, for Christ's sake.

““ The heart of Daniel's prophecy is atonement, the great work of salvation.

There is nothing comparable to Daniel 9:24-27 in all literature, for the heart of Daniel's prophecy is atonement, the great work of salvation. The Cross of Christ, the atonement of Christ, covers us all. When we lay our hand on the head of the Lamb of God, his atonement covers us. We've received the Gift at that point, we have everlasting life, the verdict of the Last Judgement, and

heaven has begun. The Holy Spirit has come to us, and we can now claim the promises.

*Do not be anxious about anything* (Philippians 4:6).

*Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you* (1 Peter 5:7).

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him* (Romans 8:28).

### Jubilee and Rejoicing

Every 50th year, the Hebrews celebrated a Jubilee Year. Slaves were freed, all debts were forgiven, everyone received their family property back. The jubilee was a symbol of what the cross would accomplish. Importantly, it began at the end of the Day of Atonement. So it is with salvation. It begins with the Cross; with the sacrifice of the God of the Universe.

You can see why. Until your sins are forgiven, you can't really be jubilant. Your laughter and joy is the crackling of thorns under a pot until your sins are forgiven. Tertullian said long ago, "The true Christian is ecstatic, jubilant." Not all the time, of course, because we still live in this world.

But you can be jubilant, you can be joyous, despite your circumstances, when you know your sins are forgiven. This prophecy promises that joy.

If, by faith, you've embraced Christ as your Lamb, your Substitute, your Representative, the Jubilee is for you. Your sins are gone and your inheritance will be restored.

### ▼ DES FORD

*Founder, Good News Unlimited*

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*Dr Desmond Ford is the founder of Good News Unlimited, a transdenominational and international gospel ministry. He has been a teacher, minister and theologian for more than sixty years.*

““

You can be jubilant, despite your circumstances, when you know your sins are forgiven.

# YOUNG AND OLD JOIN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN UKRAINE THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT!

Good News Unlimited has been blessed to be able to help spread the Good News fast in Kherson, Ukraine. In mid-April, Drs Philip Rodionoff and Eliezer Gonzalez jointly presented the Gospel in an evangelistic programme that was privately sponsored by people who want to see as many Ukrainians as possible in heaven.

The two-week programme focused on a clear presentation of the Gospel, supported by compelling evidence for the reliability of the Bible, our origins, and for the historicity of Jesus Christ. Flyers to announce it and preparation meetings helped to prepare fertile ground to sow the seeds of the Gospel in this city that has seen so much misery over recent years. God blessed our work with an amazing cross-section of the city's population.

The Lord tells us he counts every sparrow, and each person is individually special. But we would also like to share a summary of the Lord's harvest thus far. At the conclusion of the meetings, 100 people gave their lives to Christ. Sixteen signified their commitment through baptism, some of whom were baptised immediately, while others chose to wait until the summer, when the waters of their special river, the Dniepr, will be sufficiently warm. One week after we left, we had word that a further 27 people were meeting in study groups.

Your new brothers and sisters in the Lord thank each person who made this programme possible through your sacrificial giving, prayers and encouragement.

There are precious names, stories and gratitude to God behind these numbers, and we can bring you only a snapshot.



## Ana

I am 18 years old and came to Kherson last summer to study here. Some friends told me about the Gospel being presented by the evangelists from Australia, and I was very glad to come and learn about God and his Word. As a result I have now decided to surrender my life to Jesus and be baptized.



I have now decided to surrender my life to Jesus and be baptized.



## Alexei

Everything has changed for me now that I know about Jesus Christ and salvation: my relationships are better, and even my business has improved. Best of all, I have found spiritual balance and peace, thanks to God's grace. Now I want to be baptised.



### **Irina**

I am very glad that there is an awakening for God among people all over the world, and that they are willing to be closer to each other and share God's blessing. As a result of such people, I have been blessed by this programme presented by Dr Rodionoff and Dr Gonzalez.

We have had many troubles here in Ukraine, but now my spirit is alive and I can have hope for a better future!



### **Olga**

I grew up in an atheistic society, and have had many difficulties in my life. Thanks to these Gospel meetings, I have been able to start studying the Bible again. I am now getting answers to many of my questions. Philip and Eliezer have a very logical, rational and positive approach, which helps me have confidence that the Bible is reliable.



### **Angelina**

I am 16 years old, and I think this programme is important for young people because we are a new generation and we have to grow and continue the wonderful work that you are doing here in sharing the Gospel. I am going to be baptized!



### **Ana**

These meetings have helped me to grow spiritually, and are also helping my family to come to God. I want to be baptised and to follow Jesus.



### **Sergei**

When I sit in these meetings, Jesus Christ is so close to me, and my consciousness changes! Our brothers who have come to us from Australia to bring us these powerful words from the Bible, have helped us to make the decision to take a stand for God. I am so glad and so humbled that these people have come to us to bless us!



### **Sergei**

I have learned about the important issues of life and death and how to face them positively. I had heard some of these things before, but the material that the speakers presented in these programmes has helped me understand and accept them. My life has been turned around in the right direction, and I thank God.

During the meetings I made a decision to accept Jesus as my personal Saviour. I had heard people talk about God many times before, but Pr Eliezer's words were so very powerful, and the Holy Spirit touched my heart. It is as if the Holy Spirit pushed me towards God.



### **Fyodor and Raya**

We lived in the Soviet Union, where we were taught to be athiests from childhood. But our children invited us to this programme. We are so happy to be here with God, and we want to be baptized!

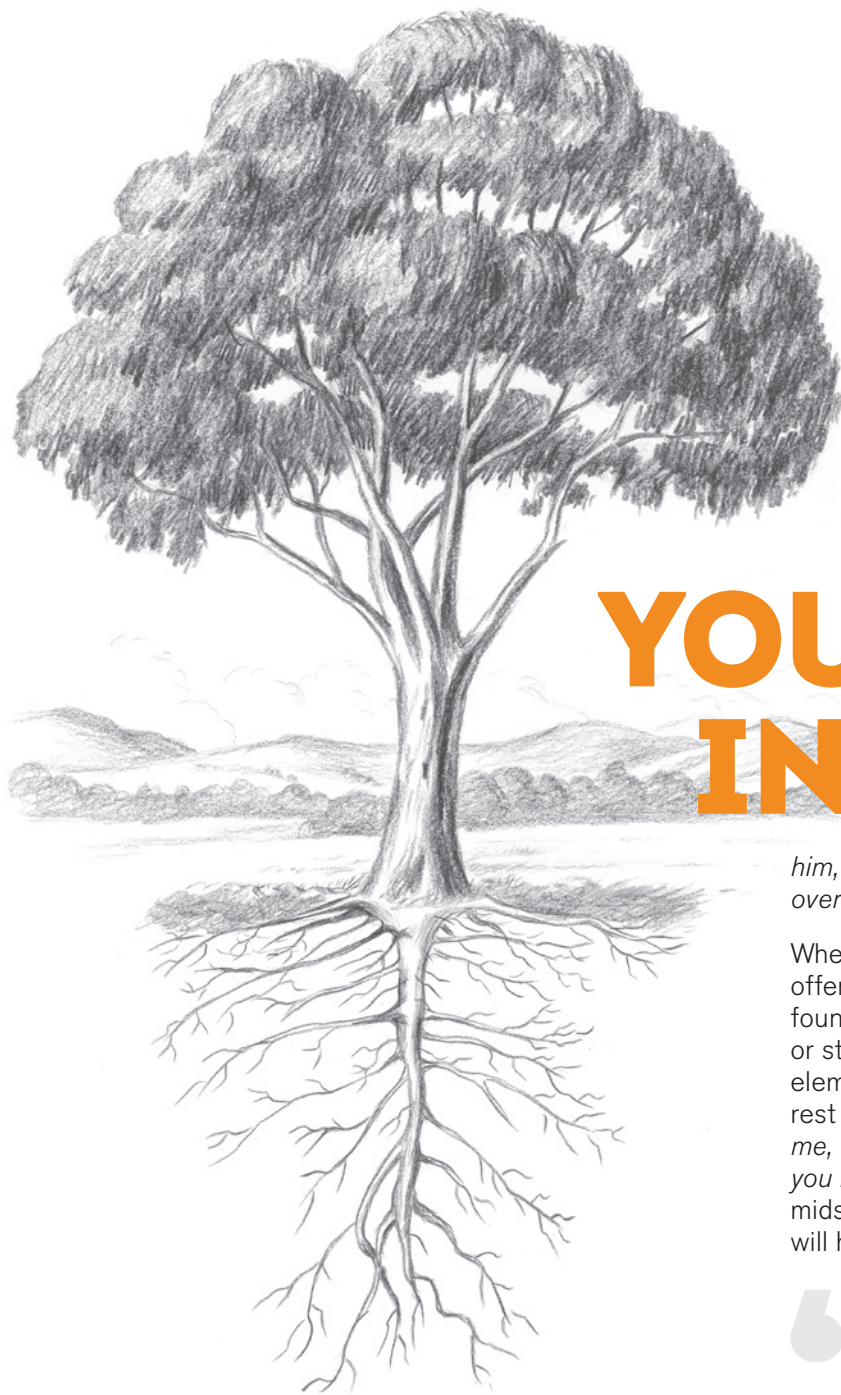


### **Olga**

I am a lecturer in the business faculty at the university in Kherson. This programme has helped me to have confidence that the Bible is true. Most of all, I have learned more about Jesus Christ. I am so thankful for his love, for his hand in my life, because I can see that he has led me all my life.

I have already been sharing some of what I have learnt with my students. Thanks to this programme, I want to be baptised and I am very happy.





# HOW DEEP ARE YOUR ROOTS IN CHRIST?

*him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness (Colossians 2:6-7).*

When we take root in Jesus and accept everything he offers, we can weather all storms because he is a sturdy foundation. Life does not necessarily become easier or struggle-free, but the way we are affected by the elements around us can change. We can find immediate rest when we call on Jesus' name. Jesus says, *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest (Matt 11:28)*. When we become tired in the midst of a difficult time, we can come to Jesus and he will help us get through every tough situation.

“ We can weather all storms because Jesus is a sturdy foundation.

I recently saw a photo of my childhood home. The yard was green, the field golden, and the trees in the woods were starting to show signs of life again after a long, cold winter.

In the back yard of that home is a very large, old tree with huge roots that swirl all over the ground. I imagine them going deep into the soil, because the tree is so tall and sturdy. Many times I have seen that tree blow in a ferocious wind; over the years, it has withstood heavy rains and storms, yet each spring, it reliably produces beautiful greenery and fruit.

“ What a beautiful analogy for how we can live abundant Christian lives!

What a beautiful analogy for how we can live abundant Christian lives! The apostle Paul sums it up like this: *So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in*

Taking root in Jesus enables us to grow and become strengthened in faith. Because he continues to prove himself, our faith is ever-growing. It can start small, but it will grow as we keep our focus on him.

There are instances in the Bible when Jesus challenges the faith of those who follow him, such as when he and his disciples were caught in a storm on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus slept, but the disciples were terrified.

*And they came to him and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing!" He said to them, "Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm (Matt 8:25-6).*

The disciples were found to be of "little faith" because they became terrified of their surroundings easily, even when Jesus was right beside them! They were given countless opportunities to strengthen their faith, but they often slipped into fear and uncertainty. It can be the same for us when we lose our connection to Jesus.



Another example can be found in Matthew 16:7-9, when Jesus had told them to feed the people who had gathered to listen to Jesus.

*They began to discuss this among themselves, saying, "He said that because we did not bring any bread." But Jesus, aware of this, said, "You men of little faith, why do you discuss among yourselves that you have no bread? "Do you not yet understand or remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets full you picked up?"*

At Jesus' instruction, the disciples had started to panic. Jesus immediately pointed out that he had shown them before what he was able to do when they had faith in him. The disciples regularly forgot, but Jesus was ever patient with them. He remained faithful so that their faith in him would grow. Similarly, Jesus will always be patient with us, and he will always demonstrate to us that we can trust him, allowing our faith to grow. If Jesus can use faith the size of a mustard seed to work miracles, imagine what he will do as our faith continues to grow!

““ **If Jesus can use faith the size of a mustard seed to work miracles, imagine what he will do as our faith continues to grow!**

When we take root in Jesus, we have cause to overflow with thankfulness. This is a choice that everyone has to make individually. If you choose to live a life of gratitude, you will be like the tree, with fresh, vibrant leaves and sweet fruit hanging from its branches. When we allow God to transform us, he helps us to view life with a renewed mind. He can actually help us be thankful and joyful in areas where it might have seemed impossible before; not only in good times, but even in tough times. The Apostle Paul wrote about the importance of this kind of gratitude and joy in many of his letters.

*Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything (Ephesians 5:19).*

““ **When we allow God to transform us, he helps us to view life with a renewed mind.**

Of course, as you know, Paul had many reasons not to be joyful and thankful. His circumstances were rough because of the commitment he made to sharing Jesus with the world. He was beaten and jailed, he often went without food, yet he remained thankful. If you allow God to help you in trying moments, you can have this kind of joy as well. You and everyone else around will delight in Jesus because of the thankfulness radiating from you.

““

...you can have this kind of joy as well. You and everyone else around will delight in Jesus because of the thankfulness radiating from you.

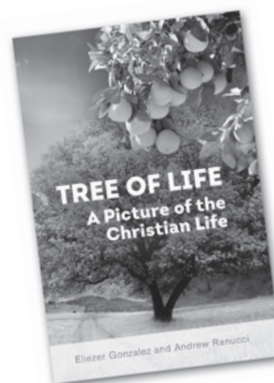
Jesus sacrificed his life so we can have a relationship with the Father forever. This can start right now, right here on earth. The choice is ours to accept him. He desires to have us deeply rooted in him, for us to grow strong, and to produce good fruit. We can be transformed, and grow into beautiful, strong, and sturdy Christians. Others will see the work of Jesus in us, and will understand that it is available to them as well.

Are you ready to dig deeper and grow even stronger in your faith?

▼ **LAURA STEWART**  
*Digital Ministry Manager*

*Laura Stewart is originally from Indiana, USA, and is currently living in Australia with her husband, Caleb. Laura works as the Digital Ministry Manager for GNU, and holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Olivet Nazarene University in Illinois, USA. She is passionate about spreading the Gospel message, especially via the relevant and effective platforms of digital media.*

Artwork by Gundars Eglentals.



To explore more how you can be deeply rooted in Christ, GNU is currently offering the book *Tree of Life* to you, as a thank you for gift to help Word Spreads Fast. If you cannot send a gift, we will still be happy to send you the book! Simply contact our office.

# MY GOD - MY PROTECTOR

I live in a small village in Ukraine, a long way from the nearest city. I can often hear the wolves howling in the forest near my village. They remind me that from the beginning, my life has been threatened by wolves of one kind or another. I have lived with danger, or the threat of danger, always. Always, that is, until the Gospel of Jesus Christ shone its light over me and banished the wolves. But I need to tell you my story from the beginning. Then you will understand why the light is so bright for me.

I was born to a poor family in Cherson, Ukraine in 1984, when Ukraine was still part of the Soviet Union. My grandfather was an alcoholic; my mother had no education, so didn't work. Soon after I was born, my father and mother left me with my grandmother (my father's mother), and went off to Russia to find work.

## A Taste of Christian Happiness

This was how God gave me a brief period of sunshine in my very early life. My grandmother had become a Christian, thanks to a chance discussion with a carpenter repairing the floor of her house.

Back then, being a Christian required great courage, because the Soviet government had outlawed religion. My grandmother was a very courageous woman, and those brief childhood years I spent with her were the happiest of my life. She cared for me as if she was my mother, and most importantly, she sowed the seeds of God's truth in my heart. She told me Bible stories, prayed with me, and took me to the church services.

My memories of that special atmosphere of love and fellowship have stayed with me and encouraged me throughout the most difficult times of my life.

One day, my mother returned, and darkness descended on my life. My parents had divorced, and she had come to take me with her. I still remember that terrible day when she came to the house, shouting threats and tearing me away from the grandmother I loved. She forbade me to see my father and grandmother. This bitter, angry woman was a frightening stranger to me.

“ I felt as if the wolves had emerged from the forest and were circling me, snarling and threatening to tear me apart.

I felt as if the wolves had emerged from the forest and were circling me, snarling and threatening to tear me apart. My life became a hell on earth. The people around me were strangers who terrified me. I could see evil in their eyes, in their faces and in what they did.

My mother seemed to hate me because I reminded her of my father. I was never good enough for her. She even tried to strangle me once, but my grandmother, her mother, prevented her.

My only protection was to retreat into myself. I became shy and reserved, afraid of talking to anyone. I believed I was strange, ugly and annoying, and that no one liked me.



Can you spot the difference? The first photo was taken while little Eugenia lived with her Christian grandmother, and the second after she was taken by her mother.



Back then, being a Christian required great courage...



### **God Was My Protector**

Life became unbearably miserable. One day when I was twelve, I stood on the balcony of the flat where we lived, wanting to jump off and kill myself. Somehow, God intervened, and I didn't jump.

The memory of God and my grandma was my only comfort. When I felt particularly frightened and miserable, I would ask God to help and save me. Many times as I became older, I found myself in frightening and threatening situations, and called out to God.

On dark winter nights I was often forced to walk home alone through dangerous conditions. I was even attacked a few times, and I endured frightening situations at the hands of crazed men. Each time, I would call "God! God! God!" I think God became like a mother to me – the mother I didn't really have.

“ I endured frightening situations at the hands of crazed men. Each time, I would call “God! God! God!”

Life became even more difficult. We were so poor that my grandmother could only afford one loaf of bread each day to feed five people. She would cut it into five pieces, and that was all we had to eat for the entire day. Sometimes I was so hungry I would put my finger into the saltcellar and just lick the salt to feel some taste on my tongue. I wore the same clothes all year round. Even when the temperature was minus 20°C, I had only sneakers on my feet and no covering for my head. I was so poor that I had no friends, but continued to do my best at school.

About this time, my mother lost her sanity, walking around naked and believing the mafia was chasing her.

My uncle, who also lived in the flat, began to show a sexual interest in me, and I was terrified of him. Many times I wanted to jump off the balcony and end it all, but the tiny reminder of hope in God saved me.

My father had begun visiting me secretly, about once a year. He told me that one day he would take me away from that place. Finally, when I was fifteen, he suggested I could go with him to the village where he now lived in his wife's house. I was too frightened and distressed, so I just ran away. Eventually, the police found me, there was a court case, and my father got the legal right to take care of me.

My father and I were strangers to each other, and I believe God performed a miracle and gave him the courage to rescue me. I visited my mother from time to time, but her problems became worse, and eventually she committed suicide by jumping from the same balcony where I had so often wanted to end it all.

“ God performed a miracle and gave [my father] the courage to rescue me.

My stepmother grudgingly allowed me to stay until I completed school. I won a scholarship to Cherson Pedagogical University, and began studying to become an English teacher. A friend of my father gave me shelter and some poor food during those years.

After so many years, and so much misery, I finally visited my grandmother, who had cared for me so lovingly and who had introduced me to God's love when I was a child. How good it was to learn more about the Bible and to go to church with her!

### **Struggle and Surrender**

Later, my boyfriend and I attended an evangelistic programme, and I was baptised. Although we were very young – about 20 years of age – we got married. We were so poor we had to live with his parents, who made no secret of their contempt for me, and my belief in Jesus.

I tried to follow the Christian path, and believed I would surely be happy, and would always...

*(continues page 10)*



(continued from page 9)

...do everything right. I did not understand that I was a sinner. I told myself: "Now I know what is bad and what is good, I will become a perfect Christian." I was eager and tried hard, but after about a month I gave up in desperation. I began to understand what a sinful nature is. I could not do what I believed and knew to be right. My life grew more and more empty and meaningless while I struggled to do all the things right. I was trying to be perfect without accepting Christ's perfection as my own. I didn't understand that I still had a big lesson to learn.

**I was trying to be perfect without accepting Christ's perfection as my own.**

By this time we had moved to the village where my husband was born, far away from any church. Other wolves circled. My husband and I gradually drifted apart as we lived without God in our hearts. We even contemplated divorce. This was a very dark time for us. Then a memory came to me, and I said to him, "Let's invite God to our life again."

My husband agreed to try, and we began praying and studying the Bible together. We read Bible stories to our children, and attended church in the distant town when we could. My husband decided to be baptised. It is amazing how God can revive the lives of his beloved children! One of my favourite verses is, "*The one who comes to me, I will by no means cast out*" (John 6:37). We found that promise to be true!



**Eugenia and her husband had to learn what it means to trust in God.**

**If you have Jesus, you have everything you need for an abundant life.**

### **Joy in the Gospel**

I know God has always been by my side, gradually teaching and leading me. As I allowed God to change my way of thinking, everything around me started changing too. His peace now fills my heart and he is the best, most important and constant Friend to me. Nobody can love me as he does. He has showed this by dying on the Cross for me. He tells me, "If you have Jesus, you have everything you need for an abundant life."

I know I am a sinner, but Christ takes my sin away. He accepts me as his beloved daughter. I love my God, my Saviour, for his incredible and unconditional love!

My unhappy childhood has resulted in many health problems, psychological problems, and low self-esteem. Even now, sometimes I feel I'm nothing: stupid, ugly and incapable. But God helps me even then.

Now God has opened new opportunities for me to serve him. Although I am an English teacher for young children, it has always been my dream to be an interpreter, especially for the message of the Gospel. However, I had never had the opportunity to do this work, because of where I live and my background.

**I danced around the room repeating, "Oh God, you are incredible and have given me so much joy in life!"**

Earlier this year we heard about the evangelistic programme that was coming from Australia to Kherson. My husband encouraged me, I rang someone on the phone, and offered my services as a translator for the evangelistic programme presented by Dr Philip Rodionoff and Dr Eliezer Gonzalez. How excited I was to learn that they needed me! I danced around the room repeating, "Oh God, you are incredible and have given me so much joy in life!"

This is how I came to take part in the evangelistic programme in Kherson in April. It has been my first experience of working as part of a team of Christians. The feelings can hardly be described. You are constantly feeling the influence of the Holy Spirit, every person with the same aim, and God's peace between everyone. It is a



**Eugenia rejoices that God has given her her own children to love and to care for.**

special feeling of friendship with God and other believers as you do Christ' work.

I am so grateful that God allowed me to work with these special evangelists, Eliezer Gonzalez and Philip Rodionoff. I never met such tactful and kind people. When Eliezer was making a call for baptism, he spoke so gently and so convincingly, that a Christian woman sitting next to me told me that if it were possible, she would respond, and be baptised again. Philip's kindness was shining in his eyes and in his gentle manners when he preached. It gave special value to his serious arguments for the existence of God and the trustworthiness of the Bible. As I interpreted for him, I was able to reaffirm my Christian faith, thanks to the scientific and theological evidence he presented.

I am so grateful for Eliezer's and Philip's encouragement. They praised me as nobody has ever done in my life, and they taught me that I can be useful in God's service. My life will not be the same again! I believe it is God who sent them to tell me that I must have courage and not remain on the sidelines of his work. Through Eliezer, I have more interpreting assignments, and I have been asked to translate a book for Good News Unlimited into

the Russian language. What a blessing and pleasure it is to serve God by doing your favourite work!

Now, when I hear the wolves howling in the forest near our village, I smile. They no longer remind me of danger, but of how my loving God protects and guides me. I thank him daily for his blessings and for the people he uses to teach others about his love and salvation. Make a decision to serve God, and he will show you the best way for you; and best of all, you will enjoy it.

▼ **EUGENIA BILOBROVA**

*Friend of GNU from Ukraine.*

*Edited by Eliezer Gonzalez*

If you are struggling with issues in your life, GNU encourages you to get appropriate professional help, knowing that faith in God and Christian community can also support your recovery.



Make a decision to serve God, and he will show you the best way for you; and best of all, you will enjoy it.



## INTERVIEW WITH LAURA STEWART

NEWLY-APPOINTED DIGITAL MINISTRY MANAGER FOR GNU

Laura, can you tell us a little bit about where you come from and what you did before joining GNU?

I come from a little city in Indiana, USA. I've always had a passion for media and obtained a mass communication degree specialising in TV/video production. I worked for a time in the entertainment-saturated industry of Nashville, Tennessee, gaining heaps of practical and professional knowledge. I've done other things as well to round out my professional life, but media production remains my passion.

So what brings you to Australia?

My husband is studying for his medical degree at the University of Queensland. After we completed our undergraduate degrees and got married, the next big goal was for Caleb to select a medical school. After much research and several applications, the University of Queensland was our final choice! It has been a huge

adventure for us to move across the world as newlyweds. We certainly miss our family back home, but we are absolutely enjoying our life in Australia.

You've been working with GNU for a few months now, learning the ropes as our Digital Ministry Manager. What excites you about your contribution to this ministry?

I believe in GNU's mission, and I'm excited to be in a new learning environment. This work requires a team of dedicated minds and hearts, and I believe I can contribute in many areas—public speaking, television, and video production. I'm excited about working with the GNU team, exploring ways we can increase effectiveness and expand our capacity to spread the Gospel. I'm also keen to use my public speaking, television and video production experience in the service of the Lord.

Would you care to share your vision of what GNU could be in the future?

I'd like to see GNU become increasingly unlimited! With the resources we have now, good things are happening and lives are being changed. But there is always room to grow. In our ever-changing, fast-paced, digitally-gear society, the gospel is still relevant. GNU sees that the message is for everyone! I want to see GNU become even more accessible in even more countries, using every form of written and digital media to help answer people's important questions about salvation and their future. I'm excited about contributing to this growth.



## INTERVIEW WITH DWAYNE JEFFRIES

RECENTLY-APPOINTED TO GNU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dwayne, We're all friends here, so how would you introduce yourself to a group of Christian friends? Please tell us a bit about yourself.

I'm a relative newcomer to full-time Christian ministry. I joined Sydney's Christian radio station, Hope 103.2 as the Content Director a couple of years back after working in commercial radio on and off the air for most of my adult life. I was blessed to grow up in a family where faith was real and vibrant. Mum and dad invested in Christian schooling for me in Sydney and I attended a Christian college for a time. I love the power of radio as a one-to-one channel of communication. My wife Bronwyn and I have two primary-aged girls – Maddison and Ainsley. Every day I pray they listen to their mum and dad more than I did at their age!

What attracted you to the ministry of Good News Unlimited as something that you could throw yourself into?

Until I joined Hope Media, I had little idea of the number of ministries working to share the Gospel. I first heard about GNU from Nathan Brown (CEO of Christian Media Australia and a close associate of GNU). Nathan recommended I connect with GNU with the view of interviewing Des Ford.

Des was a theology teacher while my father was at college and I'd heard much about Des' ministry so jumped at the opportunity. I met others of the GNU team while chatting with Des, and was moved by their passion for bringing the world into relationship with Jesus. So when I was later invited to join the board, I considered it an honour and accepted!

Can you share with us a little of your thoughts about the founder of GNU, Des Ford?

In preparing to interview Des, I was reminded of the passions that Des' ministry inspired during his ministry. Rarely have I had the chance to sit with a man who has polarised so many. On meeting Des however, he made me feel instantly at ease. We chatted for hours – literally. Des' zeal for exploring and then sharing the Gospel is compelling. His dedication to continuing to search the Scriptures inspired me to study – really study, the Word – to scour the Bible for God's leading in my life today.

Dwayne, what do you think you have to offer GNU as we meet and work to overcome the challenges of spreading the Word fast to a needy world?

GNU already understands the value of electronic and digital media. I'm looking forward to sharing some of my experience in creating content with the gifted GNU communicators for both Australian and international mission fields. We live in a noisy, fractious and distracted age where every day we are hit with hundreds of competing messages. My passion is to assist in focusing our presentation of the Gospel so we can cut through that clutter with the wonderful life-changing message that we are children of God and that he is calling us to him!



# FROM HERE TO ETERNITY

## AN INTERVIEW WITH ELIEZER GONZALEZ, CEO OF GOOD NEWS UNLIMITED



It's been a while since you were interviewed for the magazine. Why now?

Good News Unlimited's supporters should know where their ministry is up to. GNU's work is a work of the Body of Christ, we should share our achievements and challenges, our joys and burdens with one another. In this way we are faithful to our Lord, and to each other.

Let's start on a high note with GNU's achievements.

Our small Gospel ministry has been able to establish networks and relationships across several continents, both on Christian media and on the ground, largely through faithful volunteers. We are now reaching millions of people with the Good News of Jesus Christ and we have reason to believe that many thousands of people have accepted salvation through Christ as a result of our ministry.

We thank God for such wonderful achievements. What about the challenges? What are the financial challenges and how will they be overcome?

I should preface my comments by saying that GNU is very prudent in its use of funds; we keep low overheads, focusing our financial resources on spreading the Good News.

We have been able to meet all our financial commitments, and expect to do so into the future.



We face a good challenge: not so much a shortage of financial resources, but an abundance of ministry needs.

We face a good challenge: not so much a shortage of financial resources, but an abundance of ministry needs.

GNU has largely funded its ability to spread the Word Fast until now through the sale of a property a few years ago. We follow Jesus' instruction not to store up our treasure, but to invest it in the Gospel. GNU has worked hard to increase its revenue through financial gifts for the spread of the Good News.

However, the capital is almost gone now, and our donation income is still not sufficient to fund all of our current activities. That is why we are having a special "Faith-Gap" Appeal during May and June. We want to see the gap in people's hearts filled with faith in Jesus Christ. We also believe that any gap in our ability to continue sharing the Good News as we have been doing will be filled through faith.

Dr Desmond Ford founded GNU, and for years people who loved him and his clear presentation of the Gospel supported it. Des does not seem to be so visible any more. Does GNU still honour Des' ministry?

Absolutely! GNU adheres closely to the vision Des has articulated for his legacy. He loves the Gospel, and wants as many people as possible to hear it and to be in the Kingdom! And the Gospel that Des taught for so many years is in the very DNA of GNU! This gives our ministry its power.

Des is in remarkable health for an 87 year-old, although recently has faced, and overcome, some serious health challenges. He's currently taking a break from preaching, but by the grace of God we hope to have him back soon. I meet regularly with him to report GNU's progress and seek his counsel.

*(continues page 14)*



*(continued from page 13)*

**What will GNU do if something were to happen to Des?**

Des wants his legacy to be a vibrant and successful GNU. The Lord has blessed us with Des and his ministry for a good long time. The challenge is that most Christian ministries do not survive the passing of their founders, so GNU has been working hard to make sure that its ministry is not about Desmond Ford and his message, but about Jesus Christ and his message – the essentials of the Gospel.

I believe this approach honours Des, but most importantly, honours the Lord God.

**With the changes that GNU has undergone, we occasionally receive feedback from some of our long-time supporters that they miss the deep theological articles in the magazine. Where have they gone?**

We try to include some good solid spiritual food in every communication that we sent out, but we have new challenges as well. Previously GNU's ministry invested mainly in encouraging Christians in the Gospel. More recently, that focus has changed to those who have not yet accepted it. Our magazines and newsletters reflect that.

Our support base is also changing. Previously, GNU's financial support base consisted mainly of people who had enjoyed Des' ministry in earlier years. But as those wonderful, faithful people aged, GNU's board was obliged to consider whether GNU should be closed.

The challenge the board gave me was to engage new supporters from many demographics and a wide variety of Christian backgrounds. Our challenge has been to meet the needs of our traditional supporters as well as our newer supporters.

We also use the magazine and newsletter to share the wonderful news of how the Word is spreading fast under God's leading. We believe all our supporters are encouraged by this.

### So how is the acquisition of new supporters going?

GNU is being greatly blessed by the Lord in so many ways! Supporters and donors are joining GNU by the many hundreds every year.

The challenge is to attract people to our mission quickly while still maintaining the support of our existing supporters. To do this we must make sure that we all understand the importance of GNU's mission in light of the Gospel and the soon-coming of our Lord. We are blessed with supporters, both old and new, who love Christ above all, and who put the sharing of the Gospel first.

### How has GNU changed in its use of media?

Dr Desmond Ford has used radio in Australia and the USA for decades, and is still heard in some parts of the United States. The key change can be summarised in one word – digital!

GNU's traditional print, TV and radio ministry has evolved to include digital media. This means that the message of the Gospel is able to spread to millions more people for a fraction of the cost. Online helps GNU to fulfil its mission of spreading the Word fast, through our website, and various social media platforms, which support our active on-the-ground ministry.

As a result, GNU now publishes more Gospel material in a single month that it did over many months. This includes online articles, blogs, and daily devotionals, where we are experiencing the most rapid growth.

### Why does GNU invest so heavily in the spread of the Gospel overseas? Isn't there enough work to be done in Australia?

There sure is! However our Lord's great commission doesn't allow us to restrict our spreading of the Word to our own back yard. We must share the Gospel where there is the most need. .

Of course, our ministry reaches many people in our own country as well, and I regularly receive messages from Australians who have either been converted or blessed through the ministry of GNU.

### Can you tell us about the challenges of operating GNU's cross-cultural ministry?

We have language challenges; for example, editing and rewriting testimonies and stories into standard English! In some areas, people are not comfortable sharing their stories, either because of their oral, non-literate culture or because of a repressive background, and we must encourage them gently to do so for the glory of God.

Sometimes the attitude towards financial administration and gospel stewardship is very different to ours. We must be very careful with whom we partner, and how gospel funds are expended. We are always mindful that every cent donated belongs to the Lord God Almighty, and must be wisely invested to share the Gospel.

### What do you see ahead for GNU?

I can't answer that question precisely, because God's plans are always so much bigger than we can imagine. I can tell you that we are committed to being a truly transdenominational ministry, working with all Christians in the great endeavour for the Kingdom of God.

In the short term, the Lord will provide the means for us to continue to fund our existing Gospel projects. And from the strong base that GNU has developed in recent years, we will then say to God, "Here I am, send me." I don't believe that's an offer God has ever refused.

My dream is that heaven will be filled with people who heard and accepted the Word of salvation through the ministry of Good News Unlimited. Des shares that fervent prayer.



Des and I pray that heaven will be filled with people who heard and accepted salvation through the ministry of GNU.



## DON'T BE DEPRESSED ABOUT DEPRESSION:

# ACT NOW FOR A POSITIVE LIFE

## LIFE TO THE FULL

WITH DR PHILIP RODIONOFF



It seems that everyone knows someone who is depressed. This modern epidemic causes an immense amount of suffering. Perhaps you yourself feel depressed.

The depressed person will typically experience many of the following symptoms: lack of enjoyment in life, continually feeling sad or blue, low energy and motivation, poor memory, poor concentration and altered sleep habits. Some may even feel suicidal.

Many well-meaning friends will offer such advice as "Just snap out of it" or "Don't be so down on yourself". But the person affected is not putting on some kind of act. These symptoms are real and can be very distressing.

So what causes depression? Actually, there are many factors that may contribute. These include genetic predisposition, life stresses and nutritional deficiencies, to name just a few. Typically they result in an imbalance of neurotransmitters in the brain.

### There is a Solution

The good news is that depression can be treated, and treated effectively. Mild to moderate cases may respond to lifestyle measures. Other cases, including more severe cases, may need anti-depressants that should only be prescribed by a doctor.



**The good news is that depression can be treated effectively.**

What lifestyle measures can be useful? First, keep a gratitude journal. Each day list three things for which you are grateful. Each day review the list and add three more. Express your thanks to God for all the good things in your life. The Good News of Jesus Christ is something that each of us can be eternally grateful for. This simple task can have a significant effect on one's thought patterns and even positively alter the expression of genes.

Secondly, participate in regular physical activity. Aim for at least 30-40min 3-4 times weekly. This can considerably boost the levels of neurotransmitters in the brain.

Thirdly, eat well and aim for the best in nutrition. There are several common deficiencies that may contribute to depression. These include zinc, magnesium, iron, vitamin B6 and vitamin B12. They play an essential role in the body's production of neurotransmitters. In some cases these nutrients may need to be supplemented.

Fourthly, identify the sources of negative stress in your life. Make a plan to address each of these proactively. It may be appropriate to seek counselling or psychological help.

Of course, if the depression is not responsive after several weeks of lifestyle measures, or if the depression is severe, it is important to seek professional medical attention.

Depression is a significant issue. The good news is that even simple lifestyle measures can often make a big difference.

### ▼ DR PHILIP RODIONOFF

*Director of Good News Unlimited*

*Philip Rodionoff is a medical doctor who has a special interest in nutritional and preventive medicine. He also holds a Master's degree in Religion and has presented in many parts of the world on evidences for the Christian faith. He is the co-author of the Da Vinci Decode. He is happily married with three children and lives on the Gold Coast in Australia.*





# LETTERS *from our readers*



GNU is a meeting of minds from a wide range of church affiliations and therefore opinions expressed in our articles may differ from those of our readers. Recognising that opinions can differ, and that we all have much to learn and unlearn, we encourage our readers to participate in this forum.



## Kongeleni, Kenya

*Greetings to you in the name of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I always read the scripture and listen to you when you are on air on Radio East Africa. I have come to love God because of the way this programme is changing me. I hope one day to be with God and share His heavenly home.*

*God bless you,  
Stephen Maina Mwangi*



## Monze, Zambia

*Greetings to you in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, together with your beloved family and everyone under your ministry. I have greatly enjoyed your powerful, anointed messages on Radio East Africa. They bring power and authority. Your ministry and messages are directed by the Holy Spirit and I truly believe you're a servant of God and Disciple of Jesus Christ.*

*I have enjoyed your lifestyle presentation of the Word of God, which comes at the right time. I always remember you in prayer, praying that God will continue to uplift you and strengthen you mightily so that what is being purposed upon your life will come to accomplishment without hindrances.*

*May God continue blessing you and faithfully opening more doors for you to share the Gospel. I firmly pray the power of God to rest upon your life. Always walk with the Master and never turn left or right. You're my favourite presenter and preacher called from above and you're a blessing to my life.*

*I want to be deeply rooted in the word of God. Peace, love and mercy be yours in abundance.*

*Yours in Christ,  
James Makelele*



## Loitoktok, Kenya

*Receive greetings in the Name of the Lord. I have been saved through your Radio programme. I was saved when a friend who was already a believer encouraged me to listen to your broadcast. Please continue with the programme.*

*Yours in Christ,  
Sofia Mantu*



## Nyeri, Kenya

*Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ! I have been listening to your programs for a long time, which has enabled me to receive salvation. It's a pleasure to listen to direct truth about the prophecies of God.*

*Yours,  
Joy Mwendu Kabii*



## Kenya

*I greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Thank you very much for the great encouragement that I have received through the radio. Now I walk in newness of life, full of the light of Jesus Christ, and I am happy because of this.*

*With Christian love,  
Varsity Makena*



## Mukurweini, Nyeri

*May the Almighty God be praised! I thank the Lord that there is a radio station for us out in this part of Africa. I pray that God will bless you as you bring the message of salvation to our continent.*

*May you spread the word of God to both the saved and unsaved.*

*Yours faithfully,  
Wilson Kibiru*

# WORD SPREADS FAST.

## ...thanks to your support!

Here are some of the latest snapshots of how God is using your gifts and prayers to spread his Word fast around the world.



**?** Number of fellowships in each country/region.

— Latest news & testimonies

Further information on all of these news stories since the last issue of the Unlimited Magazine is available on our website [www.goodnewsunlimited.com](http://www.goodnewsunlimited.com)