

God's Unlimited Promises to Hold On To

# UNLIMITED LOVE



**GNU** **WORD  
SPREADS  
FAST.**  
Good News Unlimited

**DEVOTIONAL**

## FROM ELIEZER TO YOU

Dear Friend

Welcome to the first edition of GNU's flagship devotional, Unlimited. These little booklets, which will be produced every two months, are designed to bring you closer in your walk with Jesus by providing you with His unlimited and unchanging promises to hold on to.

The theme of our inaugural edition is Unlimited Love, which explores the vastness and wonder of God's love for you, with a particular focus on how that love was poured out at Calvary. We also look forward to sharing with you in our next edition, reflections on His "Unlimited Kingdom", which explores how living with Jesus and in His kingdom can be an even greater reality in your life!

This is our gift to you, wrapped up in prayer.

Grace and peace,

*Eli*

Eliezer Gonzalez  
Senior Pastor, GNU



# **UNLIMITED LOVE**

**God's Unlimited Promises to Hold Onto**

## JESUS HAS MADE A WAY FOR US TO ESCAPE

The cross of Jesus bridges heaven and earth,  
reaching right down to where you are,  
and uniting you with heaven.

*How shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation?  
(Hebrews 2:3).*

Rahab's scarlet cord (Joshua 2:17–18) is a most beautiful symbol of the Cross of Christ.

The word for it in Hebrew (*chebel*) means first of all a rope, but it also means means “sorrow,” “pain,” and “anguish.” It is the colour associated with the offerings in the sanctuary, associated with blood, suffering, and sacrifice.

Rahab's rope was hung outside the walls of the wicked city, just like Christ was hung outside the walls of Jerusalem. It stretched all the way from top to bottom. Anything less would have been useless. So too the Cross of Jesus bridges heaven and earth, reaching right down to where you are, and uniting you with heaven.

But Rahab never went down that cord. Only the two spies did, because they represented Christ.

You and I were imprisoned behind impregnable walls of sin. Just as the spies came under cover into the wicked city to rescue Rahab, so too the Son of God came in his humanity to rescue you and I. He tasted the path of suffering so that you will never need to do it, and he has made a way of escape for us. The red rope is there for us today—the Cross of Jesus.

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ**

---

**Eli's Reflection:** *Read the whole story of Rahab in Joshua 2. How many parallels can you find with the story of Jesus and Calvary? Call someone you know, and share with them something exciting you have discovered in the story of Rahab.*

## THE OLD TESTAMENT HEROES POINTED TO THE CROSS

The fierce outpouring of divine wrath against evil  
fell on the one attached to Calvary's tree,  
that it might never fall on us.

*If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me (John 5:46).*

Isaac was the child of promise who had been miraculously born. He was under the sentence of death for three days while he travelled with his father, and he bore on his back the wood on which he was to be sacrificed. Now Christ, the true Isaac has come, and to show that, he is offered at the same site, the hill of Moriah. He too can say, "The father has not left me alone. He that sent me is with me" (John 8:29).

Long before Isaac, Noah, after emerging from the storm of the wrath of God, had offered sacrifices adjoining the saving wood of the ark. That sacrifice had symbolised a new covenant made with a new world – and so it was at Calvary. The fierce outpouring of divine wrath against evil fell on the one attached to Calvary's tree, that it might never fall on us.

God's wrath, of course, is not like ours, selfish and ungovernable. His is a holy wrath, the inevitable reaction of holiness against evil. God's wrath is also a healing wrath that brings salvation and holiness to all who are in sympathy with it. Whenever wrath threatens, there is the ark of safety available to all who accept the invitation to "come."

▼ **DES FORD**

---

**Eli's Reflection:** *When you read the Old Testament, do you see Jesus and the Cross everywhere? I suggest you take one of the stories of the Old Testament, read it, and pray over it, then write down how it points to Jesus and the Cross.*

# YOU ARE ACCEPTED BY CHRIST

**You have nothing to prove  
that Jesus Christ hasn't already proven.**

*Christ has accepted you (Romans 15:7, CEV).*

People everywhere, and society in general, bombard us continually with subtle – and not-so-subtle – messages telling us that we're not okay. To be in a relationship where you're loved, just as you are, is to be in a place of safety, and freedom.

The Bible tells us how Jesus accepted even those whom no one else could accept, whom society rejected. Jesus came to show us what the Father is like; that the Father's love is not a kind of watered-down business deal where it often means "I love you because you're nice to me." God's love for you has no strings attached. The Father's love is passionately wild and free, relentless in its power, and as endless as eternity itself.

That's why, just as Jesus accepted the unacceptable, the Bible assures us that he has also accepted you (Romans 15:7). Our acceptance is not based on what we do, but on what he has done. That not only applies to God: it's also how we should see our relationships with everyone else.

You have nothing to prove that Jesus Christ hasn't already proven.

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ**

---

**Eli's Reflection:** *We tend to relate to God, based on what we have learned from our human relationships. Too often our relationships reflect brokenness and loss. What have you learned from your relationships with others that is positive? Negative? Have you learned to trust and feel safe? What can you do to start relating to God differently?*

## JESUS IS THE GOOD SAMARITAN

**Religion is not enough, unless it's about Jesus.**

*A Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine (Luke 10:33–34, NIV).*

In this Parable, it is the Samaritan who stops to help and minister to the dying man. In Luke's previous chapter, the Samaritan village would not receive Jesus. Now, Jesus is receiving the Samaritans, making a Samaritan the hero of his parable. We never read Scripture aright unless we find Jesus there, and ourselves there also.

The wounded traveller was religious like us, but he was still beaten. He was left half-dead. That's all of us. Humanity started off well from Jerusalem, or Eden, but we were beaten up by the devil. He stripped us, and we've lost our righteousness.

But Jesus came near to where we are. He took our true humanity. God does not just shout from Sinai. God comes near where we are, like this beaten man. God puts his arms around us and provides for us. He says, "When I come back, I will balance all things out aright." He is coming back for us.

What the Samaritan does is a picture of what Jesus does. He does what the priest and Levites can't do. You see, religion is not enough, unless it's about Jesus.

▼ **DES FORD**

**Eli's Reflection:** *Think carefully about how you view your own religion. Is it really all about Jesus, or is it principally about other things that may be good, but that aren't the key thing? Are there any aspects that need to shift in your mind? What would all that look like if Jesus were truly the heart of it all?*

## THAT'S GRACE!

Come. All is free!  
Come. All is grace!

*For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people (Titus 2:11).*

*"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son ... Not ...to condemn the world, but to save the world through him" (John 3:16-17). That's grace! "This man welcomes sinners" (Luke 15:2). That's grace! "People will be forgiven for every sin and blasphemy" (Matthew 12:31 NRSV). That's grace! "Whoever comes to me I will never drive away" (John 6:37 NIV). That's grace!*

Love is grace. Mercy is grace. Forgiveness is too. Joy is grace. All gifts are grace!

The Spirit writes the law in our hearts and causes us to walk therein (Ezekiel 36:26-27; Hebrews 8:10). That's grace indeed. God makes us want to do what we ought to do, then enables us to do it! The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say, 'Come!' Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life' (Revelation 22:17). "Free gift! – that's grace.

No wonder the Spirit painted a gloriously exciting picture in "The Parable of the Hidden Treasure" (Matthew 13:44). Here is a man stumbling his way through the field of Holy Scripture. He suddenly discovers a treasure—grace!

Are you that joyful treasure-hunter? If not, why not? Come. All is free! Come. All is grace!

### ▼ DES FORD

**Eli's Reflection:** *There is too much graceless Christianity in the world today. There are many people who, sadly, have read the Bible from cover to cover and never discovered the joy of grace. Why not? What do you think is the secret to finding the treasure of grace? How can you be a better and more joyful treasure-hunter?*





*Letter from Ukraine...*

## **HELPING A DRUG ADDICT FIND JESUS**

Vladimir has battled with drug and alcohol addiction since he was a youth, but you and Good News Unlimited helped him come back to Jesus. Vladimir shares:

*I was stealing money for drugs and going downhill, so I thought the army might save me from myself. However, it was in the army where I started taking hard drugs.*

Coming home from the army, Vladimir kept stealing to fund his drug habit and landed in prison for four and a half years.

*While in prison, I met a man who prompted me to read the Bible. I did, and for the first time I sensed the presence of the Lord and began praying. I stopped using drugs and felt God's presence. My wife and I were nearly to the point of divorce, but I prayed for us and she began visiting me in prison.*

Later, when Vladimir was released from jail, he fell back into his alcohol and drug habits. Years later, he was still struggling in his relationship with God. Then he heard about the gospel meetings held by GNU's Dr Eliezer Gonzalez and Dr Philip Rodionoff.

*At the GNU Gospel meetings, I found peace for my soul. I renewed my relationship with God.*

Thankfully, God placed people in Vladimir's way who helped him to keep focused. He met an old friend named Yurii:

He'd been in jail for 12 years but now he was a Christian. He had a family, and looked full of energy and joy. He thought, "Lord, if it can happen with him, it can happen with me, too."

Vladimir remembered what he had learnt at the GNU gospel meetings, and started attending a Christian church



▼ **Vladimir:** *At the GNU Gospel meetings, I found peace for my soul.*

with Yurii. All throughout Vladimir's life, he'd tried to save himself by earthly means. Now he's found true salvation that will never leave him empty again. He says,

*Now my eyes have truly been opened, and I've been baptised. My relationship with my wife is getting stronger, though personally I still have much to work toward. The best thing is that I'm with God, and this time, it's forever.*

▼ **Prayer Point:** *Pray for those who are lost and struggling in their relationship with God. Like Vladimir, draw them near to you so they may know your peace and renewal.*

# THE SON SHED HIS BLOOD FOR YOU

**We have God's sacrifice and God's Word  
to create in us a sense of perfect security.**

*When I see the blood, I will pass over you (Exodus 12:13).*

Even when I am unable to behold it, the Lord looks at the previous blood and passes over me because of it. If I am not so much at ease as I ought to be, because my faith is dim, yet I am equally safe because the Lord's eye is not dim, and He sees the blood of the great Sacrifice with steady gaze. What a joy is this!

The Lord sees the deep inner meaning, the infinite fullness of all that is meant by the death of His dear Son. He sees it with restful memory of justice satisfied, and all His matchless attributes glorified.

He beheld creation in its progress and said, "It is very good"; but what does He say of redemption in its completeness? What does He say of the obedience even unto death of His well-beloved Son? None can tell of His delight in Jesus, His rest in the sweet savor which Jesus presented when He offered Himself without spot unto God.

Now we rest in calm security. We have God's sacrifice and God's Word to create in us a sense of perfect security. He will, He must, pass over us, because He spared not our glorious Substitute. Justice joins hands with love to provide everlasting salvation for all those who are blood-sprinkled.

▼ **CHARLES SPURGEON**

---

**Eli's Reflection:** *Are you resting in "calm security"? What are the things that trouble your calm? Pray and claim the blood of Jesus over them. Be filled with the peace of Christ.*

# JESUS HAS ANNOUNCED THE WINNING SCORE

God: 1, the Devil: 0.

Jesus has already announced the score  
of your salvation at the cross.

*It is finished (John 19:30).*

I've watched enough sport to know that until the final whistle blows, you can't know what the final score will be. And some games are so one-sided, that only an amazing comeback can ensure victory. Life's like that as well. There are times when you can feel like such a loser, that it can seem like there's no comeback possible, and that there's no hope.

What's so good about the Gospel is that the umpire who is never wrong is Jesus. And at the Cross, Jesus has already announced the score of your salvation: God: 1, the Devil: 0.

Jesus blew the final whistle when he announced, "It is finished" (John 19:30). And his resurrection sealed the deal. It was the greatest comeback in history!

You and I can kick or throw the ball all we like, but we won't change the score that Jesus achieved. It's a winning score! We can accept that winning score Jesus achieved for us, or we can try to work out on our own. But if we try to work it out on our own, we will always lose.

The greatest struggle we will have in our Christian lives will be to recognise that if we have accepted Jesus, then the work for our salvation is finished. This is what our peace and joy depends on.

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ**

**Eli's Reflection:** *Think of someone who is struggling and who needs to hear this good news. Share it with them today, or if that's not possible, in the next few days.*

## JESUS PRAYED FOR YOU AT CALVARY

Each of Christ's seven last words on the cross  
was a prayer on your behalf.

*I have prayed for you... that your faith may not fail  
(Luke 22:32).*

Each of Christ's seven last words on the cross was a prayer on your behalf.

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." This was a prayer for forgiveness for a sinful, ignorant world.

"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." This was a prayer that spoke of Christ's saving love for every sinner, no matter the depths to which they may have fallen.

"Jesus said to his mother: "Woman, this is your son." Then he said to the disciple: "This is your mother." This was a prayer for a new humanity, created through his own blood.

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" This was a prayer on behalf of all those who have ever felt abandoned by God. "I thirst." This was a prayer on behalf of all those who have suffered for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

"It is finished." This was a prayer that announced a completed atonement for all who believe. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." This was a prayer of total trust in God.

In each of these seven perfect prayers of Christ, you see his heart, and in Christ's heart there is perfect assurance of salvation for everyone who believes.

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ**

**Eli's Reflection:** *Find a quiet time and place, and meditate on these seven last words of Jesus. With which of these seven prayers do you identify the most? Why? What does it mean to you that Jesus suffered it and prayed it on your behalf? Ask God to speak to your heart about his love for you.*

# YOU CAN GET THROUGH SUFFERING

**When we bring God into our darkest depths, he brings light upon us.**

*The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast (1 Peter 5:10).*

Christ could stand the terrible pain because he knew God was there. He rested in the fatherhood of God. It is true that at one stage the agony of the guilt of the world was so terrible that he cried out, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

Think on some of the events that happened at the cross. Jesus was like a guilty prisoner at the bar. He had our sin upon him as he bore the guilt of all the world. He was suffering an infinite amount of pain. In those six hours, he experienced what was due to everybody ever born.

Jesus suffered the agony of separation from God. Jesus endured hell qualitatively; an infinite being suffering infinite pain to atone for the sin of the world.

It is not wrong to ask, 'Why?' Jesus cried, 'Why?' And there will be times when we will ask the same question. But we must move on to, "Father, into your hands I commit my life."

If we can say, "My God," in the midst of our pain, we will survive. If we can take hold of the God that seems to be thrusting us away, we will survive. When we bring God into our darkest depths, it brings light upon us.

## ▼ DES FORD

**Eli's Reflection:** *Have you been able to get through a really difficult time by acknowledging God's presence in the midst of darkness? What was that like? What did you learn? How can this help you prepare for the next time you have to go through suffering?*

# CHRIST'S UNMEASURABLE LOVE

The most important necessity in the Christian life  
is to know Christ's love for us.

*I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge (Ephesians 3:17–19, NIV).*

How can you know something which cannot be known? How can you define something which is so great that it cannot be defined?...

But, of course, there is no contradiction here. Though this love of Christ is itself beyond all computation, and can never be truly measured, nevertheless it is our business to learn as much as we can about it, and to receive as much of it as we can possibly contain....

It has ever been one of the characteristics of the greatest saints that they have spent much time in meditating upon the love of Christ to themselves and to all God's people. Nothing has given them greater joy...

Nothing therefore should give greater joy to all God's people than to meditate upon this love of Christ. Indeed, our chief defect as Christians is that we fail to realize Christ's love to us. How often have you thought about this? We spend time thinking about our activities and our problems, but the most important necessity in the Christian life is to know Christ's love for us, and to meditate upon it.

▼ **D. MARTYN LLOYD-JONES**

---

**Eli's Reflection:** *We often think that "our chief defect as Christians" has to do with our behaviour. We have just read that it lies in our failure to realise Christ's love for us. How would your life change if you understood that Christ loved you infinitely more than you ever thought possible? How can you develop your understanding of Christ's love for you?*





## CHRIST OVERCAME EVIL WITH GOOD

**If Christ had saved himself,  
he couldn't have saved us.**

*Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good  
(Romans 12:21).*

We find our best lesson on tragedy in the cross of Christ. The cross itself is a symbol of pain, limitation, strain, hatred and rejection. Think of all the worst things involved in tragedy; they are all there at the Cross. Jesus is poised between heaven and earth to indicate he's rejected by both, but his arms are outstretched to indicate that he will continue to love us. What a lesson about pain and tragedy! Even when you feel forsaken by God, stretch out your arms with love. Overcome evil with good.

In the wilderness Jesus was tempted to use his divine power to escape the fierce assaults of Satan. According to Mark 15:30-32, the last temptation that came to him on the Cross was likewise a temptation to use his power to escape the insults of the mob and his allotted sufferings: "Save yourself and come down from the cross."

He could have come down and yet he couldn't have. He had the power to come down from the cross. If he could move a finger he could have destroyed all his enemies. The bonds that kept him there were the bonds of love, not the nails. If Christ had saved himself, he couldn't have saved us. There at the Cross, Christ overcame evil with good.

▼ **DES FORD**

**Eli's Reflection:** *Have you really found out, in your own life, that good overcomes evil? Or have you subtly succumbed to the world's message that good is weakness, and that evil is strength? Now, in the strength of God's love, resolve to break the power of evil in your own life. Can you think of someone who has done evil to you, and think of something good that you can do to them? Pray about it, and then go and do it.*

# THE SECRET TO HAPPINESS

Receive the grace of God, and happiness undreamed of will come your way

Give “joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light” (Colossians 1:12).

Many people pursue happiness as the object of life. Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote,

*Happiness in this world, when it comes, comes incidentally. Make it the object of pursuit, and it leads us a wild-goose chase.... Follow some other object and very possibly we may find that we have caught happiness without dreaming of it.*

The Bible tells us what we must pursue in order to achieve happiness. Happiness only comes as we accept God's grace.

The word “grace” comes from a Greek word **χάρις**. This word comes from a root meaning “to be joyful,” and so the word “grace” is always associated with happiness and joy.

Grace means that God is for us even when we are against him. It is his active love streaming over us like the sunshine. Grace is God's unimaginable generosity.

Happiness is not found in what we do, but in trusting in God's goodness; not in what we take, but how much we share. It's not in our circumstances, but in what God provides.

Receive the grace of God, and happiness undreamed of will come your way.

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ**

**Eli's Reflection:** *This is a happiness that is neither obtained nor experienced as the world does. It's a happiness that survives in spite of our circumstances; as Paul says, “Rejoice in the Lord always” (Philippians 4:4). What is it about the grace of God that can give you that kind of joy? Do you know someone who is feeling down? Why don't you speak with them or visit them, and show them some grace?*

## JESUS FORGIVES EVEN YOUR GREATEST SIN

The Cross brings together the greatest sin  
and the greatest love – and love won.

*Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they do  
(Luke 23:34).*

Because he died for the sins of the world, Jesus wasn't thinking just of the people who had physically crucified him. He was thinking of a lost and broken world. He wasn't thinking of himself. He was thinking of you.

It's only human to question whether God thinks about us. At those times, remember Christ's words at Calvary. If Christ thought about you then, surely he is thinking about you now.

When Jesus asks the Father to forgive us, the reason that he gives is, "for they don't know what they do."

However, in the days before his death, Jesus had in effect told the Jews that they knew what they were doing. Their sin was all the greater because they had been given light, and they claimed to understand it (e.g. John 9:35-41). How could he now forgive them?

Like us, those who crucified him knew in part, and in part they didn't know. But Christ's great heart of love looks with mercy on our ignorance and weakness, in his willingness to forgive even the greatest of all sins (Mark 3:28). How is this possible? Because the Cross brings together the greatest sin (2 Corinthians 5:21), and the greatest love – and love won.

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ**

**Eli's Reflection:** *Love must win in our lives. Is there an aspect of your past where love hasn't won yet, and where forgiveness hasn't happened? Can you take one step today to start to let love win, and to be able to forgive, or be forgiven? Pray for strength to do it, and take that step.*

## JESUS DIED AT THE PLACE OF THE SKULL

**Christianity is foolishness to them that perish, because the wicked cannot understand a love so intense as to consent to complete self-emptying.**

*Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Saviour (Ephesians 5:23).*

At Golgotha (“place of the skull”) our Lord was publicly treated as refuse. The Latin name of the place was “Calvary,” and it means the same thing. Probably the site got its name from the skulls and dead bones that remained there after the former crucifixions, as though it had been a charnel house. At this site death appeared in the most disgusting shape. Only the most abject of all men ended their days on Golgotha. Thus Christ became for us “a worm and not a man” (Psalm 22:6).

A skull is an empty head, and Christianity is foolishness to them that perish, because the wicked cannot understand a love so intense as to consent to complete self-emptying. But for the believer, Golgotha represents the wisdom of God, where the head of the church gave himself for all. It should remind us that not only by creation, but also by redemption, “the head of every man is Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:3).

He is also “the head of all principality and power.” The place of execution is further described as being “outside the gate” (Hebrews 13:12). Beyond the city was the place for lepers and garbage. Here Christ went for our sakes to the place of shame, rejection and pain. Christ suffered “outside the gate.”

### ▼ DES FORD

**Eli’s Reflection:** *When you consider that Christ allowed himself to be made nothing so you could have everything, that he allowed himself to be treated as the lowest, so he might raise you up on high in his Kingdom, doesn’t this make you want to praise and honour him? Choose a worship song that expresses this, and thank Jesus for all you’re worth.*

## GOD ALWAYS HEARS YOU

**Because God is the living God, He can hear;  
because He is a loving God, He will hear;  
because He is our covenant God,  
He has bound Himself to hear us.**

*My God will hear me (Micah 7:7).*

Friends may be unfaithful, but the Lord will not turn away from the gracious soul; on the contrary, He will hear all its desires. The prophet says, "Keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom. A man's enemies are the men of his own house." This is a wretched state of affairs; but even in such a case the Best Friend remains true, and we may tell Him all our grief.

Our wisdom is to look unto the Lord and not to quarrel with men or women. If our loving appeals are disregarded by our relatives, let us wait upon the God of our salvation, for He will hear us. He will hear us all the more because of the unkindness and oppression of others, and we shall soon have reason to cry, "Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy!"

Because God is the living God, He can hear; because He is a loving God, He will hear; because He is our covenant God, He has bound Himself to hear us. If we can speak of Him as "My God," we may with absolute certainty say, "My God will hear me." Come, then, O bleeding heart, and let thy sorrows tell themselves out to the Lord thy God! I will bow the knee in secret and inwardly whisper, "My God will hear me."

▼ **CHARLES SPURGEON**

**Eli's Reflection:** *Why does God want to hear you? Is it so he can know what you need? No; he already knows. Is it so he can give you whatever you want? Not really. Consider what is the real purpose of prayer, and therefore, how you should pray. Is there anything that you should change about the way you pray?*



*Letter from India...*

## **BEACH EXCURSION BRINGS THE GOSPEL TO LIFE FOR CHILDREN**

You are helping make it possible for Pastor Joseph to teach reading and writing to the children at the Good News Children's Care Centre using Bible stories such as Jesus' miracles. But it's difficult for children to imagine Jesus calming the stormy seas when the only bodies of water they've ever seen are the tiny village pond and stream.

One day, Pastor Joseph was teaching the kids from Luke 8:22–25. He painted what he thought was a great word picture – towering waves, raging wind, the boat nearly capsizing, Jesus asleep in the prow of the boat – but he could see that the children were less than impressed.

So Pastor Joseph asked, “Have you ever seen the sea like in Jesus' story?” The children all shook their heads sadly. Although they live within driving distance of the seashore, people in their village are so poor they can never travel that far in their lifetimes.

“Then I'll take you!” exclaimed Pastor Joseph. The kids erupted with joy!

And so, thanks to friends like you, the Good News Children's Care Centre took these kids to the beach where they could see waves crashing for the first time. Now they could imagine Jesus walking on the water, and better understand the power needed to calm those waves. They saw fishermen throwing their nets and could better understand how Jesus did real things to help real people; and that he's just as real today.





▼ **At the beach for the first time in their lives:** The children experience the power and beauty of the ocean, while learning more about Jesus and his power to bless their lives.

### **Here's what you helped the children learn:**

▼ **Radhika:** *It was the first time I've seen the seashore and it was so wonderful to see it. Jesus has done great miracles on the sea. So I believe in Jesus with all my heart and soul.*

▼ **Nagaraju:** *I had never seen the seashore in my life. So it's because of the Good News Children's Care Centre I could see it and understand more about Jesus.*

▼ **Dugra:** *I hadn't heard about Jesus before coming to the Good News Children's Care Centre. But when I came to the children's centre, I came to know about Jesus, and it was wonderful to see the seashore.*

▼ **Prayer Point:** *Bless Pastor Joseph as he teaches the children to know more of Jesus and his miracles after visiting the seashore. May more children have the opportunity for joyful experiences so they can be amazed by God's wonder and might.*

## THE CROSS WAS NOT THE END

In God's story,  
the things that seem to be the end  
are only the beginning.

*In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach (Acts 1:1).*

The words in the verse above are the ones with which Luke begins his second book about what Jesus did. The first book was of course the Gospel that bears his name, and this second book is called the Acts of the Apostles.

The Gospel of Luke is about “all that Jesus began to do and to teach.” The Acts of the Apostles is about all that Jesus continued to do and to teach “after his suffering” (v.3).

What this means is that although his suffering for your sin (the atonement) is finished, Jesus' work in this world or in your life is not finished yet.

The story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection is only the beginning of your own story, which he carefully continues to craft.

Jesus is alive! He is still at work today! His story is not a story of the past, but a story of today and forever! The cross was not the end; it was only the beginning.

In the same way, Jesus hasn't finished with you yet! He has chosen you to be part of his story. In God's story, the things that seem to be the end are only the beginning, and they lead to eternal glory.

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ**

---

**Eli's Reflection:** *Is there someone you know who needs encouragement right now? Lift that person up before the Lord, and think of how you can best encourage him or her. Then go and do it.*

## YOU CAN THANK GOD EVEN IN DARK DAYS

If you have Christ as your Saviour,  
you know the secret of human suffering.

*All things work together for good to them that love God  
(Romans 8:28).*

Do not think that your voice must be raised in lament instead of praise because you have suffered repeated afflictions! If you have Christ as your Saviour, you know the secret of human suffering, for at the Cross you understand that the Lord of love, far from punishing His children in His wrath, only corrects them in His mercy. What seems a crushing blow may, in reality, through Jesus, prove a marvellous, uplifting power.

The other day I read of a shipwrecked man who managed to reach an uninhabited island. There, to protect himself against the elements and to safeguard the few possessions he had salvaged, he painstakingly built a little hut....

Returning one evening after a search for food, he was terrified to find the hut completely enveloped in flames. What a crushing disaster that seemed! ...Early on the following morning he awoke to find a ship anchored off the island. The captain stepped ashore and explained, "We saw your smoke signal and came." Everything the marooned man owned had to be destroyed before he could be rescued.

Some of you have likewise had to face the complete loss of your pride, your overconfident self-reliance, before you could be saved, and realise this glorious comfort, "All things work together for good to them that love God."

▼ **WALTER A. MAIER**

**Eli's Reflection:** *Can you say with the Apostle Paul: I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ (Philippians 3:8)? How do those words challenge you?*

## WE GET TO SHARE IN JESUS' SUFFERING

**There's no dodging the Cross.  
It costs nothing to become a Christian,  
but it may cost everything to remain one.**

*Be glad for the chance to suffer as Christ suffered. It will prepare you for even greater happiness when he makes his glorious return (1 Peter 4:13, CEV).*

The four Gospels focus on the death of Christ. If we are Christians, we must share in the Passion of Jesus Christ.

Before Jesus dies, he must be betrayed. He must go into the dark recesses of Gethsemane that prefigure the darkness of Calvary. At Calvary the sun veiled its face. The sun's darkness was in sympathy with the darkness of Christ's soul. On the cross, his soul suffered sheer horror and abandonment.

We cannot be Christians and at the same time always be "hail fellow, well met" type characters, and "get on well with everybody and anybody" types.

Christians have to stand for something even if everyone else opposes them. You may be a lonely figure because of your faith. You may be betrayed or sold out by your friends as Jesus was. You may have your reputation stripped away – they did it to him – but you have to be a whistle-blower if circumstances demand it.

There's no dodging the Cross, or betrayal, or Gethsemane. It is the price we pay for being a Christian. It costs nothing to become a Christian but it may cost everything to remain one.

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ**

**Eli's Reflection:** *Have you suffered anything for the sake of the Cross? Have you really? When you suffer for the Cross, there can be no bitterness, only love; no anger, only forgiveness. Reflect on your life carefully, and pray that the Spirit will reveal to you whom you still need to forgive.*

# THE MESSIAH WAS CUT OFF FOR YOU

**Herein is love, which led the Redeemer to lay down His life for His enemies!**

*The Messiah shall be cut off, but not for himself (Daniel 9:26).*

Rivers of tears, mountains of offerings, seas of the blood of bullocks, and hills of frankincense, could not have availed for the removal of sin; but Jesus was cut off for us, and... sin was put away forever. Herein is wisdom, whereby substitution, the sure and speedy way of atonement, was devised! Herein is condescension, which brought Messiah, the Prince, to wear a crown of thorns, and die upon the cross! Herein is love, which led the Redeemer to lay down His life for His enemies!

It is not enough, however, to admire the spectacle of the innocent bleeding for the guilty, we must make sure of our interest therein... Have we a part and a lot among those for whom He gave His life a ransom? Did the Lord Jesus stand as our representative? Are we healed by His stripes?...

Solemn as the question is... it is one that may be answered clearly and without mistake. To all who believe on Him the Lord Jesus is a present Saviour, and upon them all the blood of reconciliation has been sprinkled. Let all who trust in the merit of Messiah's death be joyful at every remembrance of Him, and let their holy gratitude lead them to the fullest consecration to His cause.

▼ **CHARLES SPURGEON**

---

**Eli's Reflection:** *What are the things that bring you joy in your life? Are you joyful every time you remember the Saviour? Do you try to remember him often throughout your day? What can you do to improve that?*

## GOD IS NOT A HEAVENLY BOOKKEEPER

There is only one question that matters.  
Have you accepted the love of the Father?

*While he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him (Luke 15:20).*

I'm glad the father in Jesus' story about the prodigal son wasn't a bookkeeper, because he represents what God is like.

Years ago, I worked as a real estate agent. One day I wrote a contract for the sale of a house, and I added an extra zero to the price! It wasn't intentional. It's just that numbers are not my particular talent. That's why I love accountants and bookkeepers. I mean, where would I be without them!

But my question is this: is God some kind of bookkeeper up in heaven, balancing good deeds against bad deeds? No, praise God! The New Testament teaches us that there is only one question that matters. Have you accepted the love of the Father? The Father has shown us his love by giving us his Son, Jesus Christ.

Sometimes Christians like to do some bookkeeping on their own salvation, and even on others. But there's no place for that kind of bookkeeping in Christianity.

The Bible tells us that *He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son does not have life* (1 John 5:12). If you have the Son, nothing else matters. It really is that simple!

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ**

**Eli's Reflection:** *Think of someone that you have been doing some bookkeeping on (i.e. keeping track of their faults and their good points). Pray for that person in a special way, asking God to help you see them as he does.. Make a list of the good qualities that this person has. Does it help change the way you see that person?*



## THE CROSS IS AN INVITATION

The essence of Christianity is an open invitation to all, to believe and to live.

*We... see Jesus... crowned with glory and honour because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone (Hebrews 2:9, NIV).*

I love to travel, and whenever I travel, I love to visit churches, especially those awe-inspiring cathedrals in Europe. I once drove from the Netherlands through Brussels, and right into southern France, and then back to the Netherlands, just to visit churches that I'd only ever seen in post-cards. And what was a little crazy about it was that I did it all in a weekend!

But beautiful buildings are not what Christianity is about.

Jesus didn't die in a quiet place of meditation and reflection, but beside a busy road. In this way he showed us that all of us must all eventually face him and his sacrifice.

Jesus didn't die under the roof of a beautiful temple, but under an open sky. In this way he showed us that he died for all, and that his sacrifice knows no walls or boundaries.

Jesus didn't die between two beautiful pieces of art, but between two wretched criminals. In this way he showed us that he could think of no better place to be than with the broken and the lost.

The essence of Christianity is not found in any building, but in a person, our Saviour Jesus Christ. It is an open invitation to all, to believe and to live.

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ**

---

**Eli's Reflection:** *We've been considering that Calvary has no boundaries. Take a moment and reflect about the boundaries that you put around Christianity. Who do you rule in and whom do you rule out? Does the Cross challenge you on those things?*



# JESUS WILL REMEMBER YOU WHEN HE COMES INTO HIS KINGDOM

The Saviour whispers of the glory to come  
for the penitent.

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom  
(Luke 23:42, NIV).*

The thief saw in the “felon” next to him – who was almost at his last gasp – the King of Kings and Lord of Lords who would survive the tomb and return to usher in a kingdom such as humanity has never known. More than that, this One would rescue from death all who had come to know him as Saviour and Friend. What a faith is that!

Christ’s last companion is typical of all he came to save: one acknowledging that he has nothing to offer, except a sin-polluted heart.

What a gracious answer was received! An immediate answer! An answer full of hope and wonder! Even in the darkness and dread of that awful hour, the Saviour whispers of the glory to come for the penitent, telling him, not only of the wondrous place that would be his eternal home, but also of the even more wondrous company he would have there: “You will be with me in Paradise.”

“You will be...” others thought he would soon not be, but the Christ assures him of survival beyond the grave—of immortality. “With me...” surely the best part of heaven will be fellowship with him who loved us and gave himself for us. “In Paradise...” the Eden forfeited by the first sinners is to be restored, more magnificent than ever.

▼ **DES FORD**

**Eli’s Reflection:** *What lesson in the story of the thief on the cross do you find the most personally encouraging? What does the story tell you about what God is like? How is that different to what you would expect? How should that transform your relationship with him?*

## GOD'S LOVE IS VAST IN ITS BREADTH

**We have no conception of the greatness of the plan of salvation and of its scope.**

*I pray that you... may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ (Ephesians 3:17-18).*

What can be more encouraging and more exhilarating than to think of this breadth of the love of the Lord Jesus Christ?...

We have no conception of the greatness of this plan of salvation and of its scope. In Luke's Gospel we are told that certain people came to our Lord one day and asked the question, "Are there few that be saved?" (13:23)....

Scripture teaches that we shall be astounded when we see all the redeemed gathered in – the "fullness of the Gentiles", the "fullness of Israel", "all Israel" saved, and the redeemed standing in the presence of their Redeemer... When you are tempted to doubt whether there is any future... the answer is to look at the breadth of Christ's love, to look ahead, to look into the glory and see the final result of His finished work.

Once you begin to realize the breadth of His love you will lift up your head again, your heart will begin to sing once more, and you will realise that you are having the precious privilege of being one humble member in a mighty army, one in this thronging multitude who will spend their eternity in the presence of the Lamb of God, and enjoy Him for ever. The breadth of His love!

▼ **D. MARTYN LLOYD-JONES**

---

**Eli's Reflection:** *We all regularly need something to lift us above ourselves so we can see God's bigger picture. For some people it can be worship music, for others it's being out in nature, and for others it can be spending time with the Bible. What is it for you? Make a plan to do it regularly.*

## YOU CAN STEAL PARADISE!

**The Bible records only one deathbed repentance:  
only one, so no one would despair;  
but only one, so no one would presume.**

*You will be with me in Paradise (Luke 23:43).*

The Bible records only one deathbed repentance: only one, so no one would despair; but only one, so no one would presume. Who could imagine in a thousand years a better way of illustrating Christ's Gospel: grace and love triumphs over sin and death in the face of true repentance. This man with blood on his hands, who had nourished hatred and violence in his heart, is transformed by the magnetic appeal of the One suffering in his stead.

Now this thief makes the biggest "steal" of his life – Paradise! And the owner of Paradise rejoices to let him do it!

In his rebuke of his brother thief, he includes himself as guilty and deserving of death, yet in his appeal to Christ he takes hold of life beyond the cross.

Why is he saved rather than the very religious Pharisees and the philosophic Sadducees? Because he has a sense of need and an awareness of his true lost estate. Even the Son of God cannot save one who has no awareness of need. The greatest blessing in the world for the unconverted, is not wealth or talent or position, but the sense of one's true estate – one's guilt before God and an inability to deal with it. This the thief had, and consequently, Paradise was his.

### ▼ DES FORD

**Eli's Reflection:** *Have you ever prayed, "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom"? Pray it today. Then read again Christ's words of assurance to the dying thief in Luke 23:43. Even though you might not be in paradise with Jesus today, in your prayer, claim it for your own today.*

## DO IT FOR LOVE

**Christ has already done what you could never do, so whatever you do now, you do for love.**

*He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5, NLT).*

I have a fear of rollercoasters. Before I got married, my mother-in-law told me that if I wanted to marry her daughter, I had to get on one of those rides. It wasn't even a full-sized rollercoaster, but it really terrified me. It seemed impossible. But I did it for love.

You find Jesus' teachings about how we should live summarized in the Sermon on the Mount. And if you read it, you'll see that the teachings of Jesus cut us all down to size. It seems impossible to live the kind of life that he asks of us. I mean, things like forgiving your enemies look fine on paper, but have you ever tried actually doing it?

And that's why, in the Bible, the Sermon on the Mount is accompanied by the story of a man with leprosy. This man comes to Jesus and begs for healing. And Jesus heals him immediately.

He'll do the same for you. You need Jesus to heal you, and he'll make you clean immediately. And once he's done that, then he'll start to bring out in you, through his Spirit, the kind of life that he taught about.

Christ has already done what you could never do, so whatever you do now, you do for love.

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ**

---

**Eli's Reflection:** *Think of someone whom you need to forgive or who is difficult to love. Do you think that if you were filled with the love of God, you could come to do it? Can you think of a small kindness you could do to someone in that category for Jesus' sake? Can you start with that?*



*Letter from Uganda...*

## **A NURSE SHARES THE GOSPEL WITH REFUGEES**

Every one of us is called to be a messenger of the Gospel – and that’s what you’re doing as you help spread the Word fast about Jesus through Good News Unlimited.

A brave nurse in Uganda is doing just this after hearing the Gospel through GNU! Now she uses the *Jesus Only* book to lead many refugees in her region closer to Christ.

Her church family calls her “Pastor Barungi”, and while she may not be formally trained as a pastor, this Masters-level nurse is being used by God to lead a group of believers in one of Uganda’s most remote regions.

Our GNU partner Moses Lukwago met her while she was conducting national exams for nurses near his town, and shared the *Jesus Only* book with her. Pr Barungi says:

*I have read [the Jesus Only book] over and over and it has helped me understand righteousness. It explains faith very well.*

Wanting to share the Gospel with others, she started a church in a very remote western region of Uganda. So it was a long trek for Moses when she invited him to come and speak to her church. But Moses happily went to share the Gospel, using *Jesus Only* as a teaching tool. Pr Barungi says:

*I would love my church members to have the book Jesus Only as well. I believe it will help this congregation understand salvation by faith and to live with purpose.*



▼ **Above:** Nurse/Pastor Barungi surrounded by a joyful group of her church members. In the background is the wattle and daub church building they worked together to build.

▼ **Right:** Pr Barungi with her copy of *Jesus Only*.



Pr Barungi's church building is very special. It was built by the church members' own hands and feet, using a traditional "wattle and daub" method: stomping the mud and weaving the wooden cladding together to build their own centre for worship.

Many of these people are refugees and have very little, so they do this construction work without even shoes on their feet. But they do it with great gusto so they can gather faithfully to learn more about Jesus.

With your help, Moses plans to continue meeting with them as often as possible so that they can increase their knowledge of the Bible.

▼ **Prayer Point:** *We praise you for how you work, Lord God! We pray that Pr Barungi will continue to grow in her knowledge and love of you. Equip her to continue sharing the good news of Jesus in remote Uganda.*

## CHRIST IS YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

**Christ, our representative, has done what we could never do for ourselves, and has opened wide the gates of heaven so we might go in.**

*He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2).*

There are some things for which you just need a representative. I had to go to court once, and I needed a good representative. It's impossible to understand the story of Jesus unless you understand that in everything he did, he was your representative.

The Bible puts it this way. Adam and Eve were the first representatives of the human race. But they stuffed up, and so we were ruined by our representatives. Then Jesus came into the world as our second representative, and the Bible tells us that, "one died for all, and therefore all died" (2 Corinthians 5:14).

In other words, you have died to sin on the Cross in the person of your representative, Jesus Christ. The debt is paid. And you have also overcome death in the person of your representative, Jesus. We've been saved by our representative.

Christ became our representative without our even asking for it, and before we even knew it. He always intended it to be a free gift to all those who would accept his finished work on their behalf. Christ, our representative, has done what we could never do for ourselves, and has opened wide the gates of heaven so we might go in.

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ**

---

**Eli's Reflection:** *How does knowing that Christ is your representative bring freedom to your life? Do you know anyone who needs that kind of freedom? How will you share this Good News with them?*



## CHRIST WAS FORSAKEN THAT WE MIGHT NEVER BE

Only those who live through the dark  
see the glories of the dawn.

*I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken (Psalm 37:25).*

Spurgeon says that the records of time and eternity do not contain a sentence more full of anguish than this fourth word from the Cross: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). Christ had endured silently all the torment of his body, but when his Father forsook him, his great heart broke. As John Owen wrote, "The sufferings of his soul were the soul of his sufferings."

Christ does not cry, "Why has Peter forsaken me?" or "Why has Judas betrayed me?" These were terrible griefs, but feeling forsaken by his Father is the sharpest of griefs, and it cuts him to the quick.

There are times when some of us face a horror that makes the brain reel and the heart faint. At such times, a glance at Calvary can steady us and perhaps even restore us. He was forsaken that we might never be. He prayed that prayer that we might never need to. We need not suffer for our sin, for Christ has suffered in our place. Therefore, however overwhelming our grief and bewilderment, let us like Christ hold on, crying, "My God, my God ... "

Nightmares never last. Tunnels have their exits. Only those who live through the dark see the glories of the dawn.

▼ **DES FORD**

---

**Eli's Reflection:** *Have you ever felt forsaken by God? I'm sure you, like I, have stories of having gone through nightmares, tunnels, and darkness. How has the Cross kept you going through those impossible times? Fall on your knees and thank God for Calvary.*

## THE CROSS MAKES THE BITTER SWEET

**Jesus drank the bitter cup so that all who accept him may drink the sweetest wine of his love.**

*And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma (Ephesians 5:2, NKJV).*

After the miraculous crossing of the Red Sea, the Children of Israel travelled through the desert for three days without finding any water. Then suddenly, in the distance, they saw what looked like an oasis!

Imagine their disappointment, when they bent down to drink, to find that the water was bitter and undrinkable! They called the place "Marah," which means "bitter" (Exodus 15:23). God showed Moses a piece of wood, and when Moses threw it into the water, the water became sweet and refreshing (v.25).

Because we live in this world, there's always some bitter water just around the corner. But that piece of wood represented Christ. He threw himself into the bitterness of this world, so that everything he touches turns sweet. He was offered the bitter gall upon the Cross. He drank the bitter cup of the wrath of God on behalf of the entire world, so that all who accept him may drink the sweetest wine of his love.

That piece of wood represents the Cross of Calvary. It is the Cross of Christ by which the transforming grace of heaven has touched this earth, bringing a flood of sweet living water for all who believe.

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ**

**Eli's Reflection:** *Do you believe Jesus can turn bitterness into sweetness? Maybe you've been carrying some bitterness for a long time. Let Jesus touch that part of your life, and ask him to allow the love of Calvary to flow into you, and to make what is bitter, sweet. Find a quiet place and do just that; then wait and trust that he will do it.*

# SALVATION IS AS SIMPLE AS A-B-C

At the Cross,  
the done has been undone.

*"What must I do to be saved?"...*

*"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved"*

*(Acts 16:30–31).*

We want forgiveness of sin. Many people are sick because they are guilty. They are sick because of things they have done. They need to learn about the Cross. At the Cross the done has been undone!

Many can't sing and can't rejoice, because they feel bad about what they have done, about how they have treated loved ones, or ones they should have loved. But the gospel takes away guilt.

"People will be forgiven for every sin and blasphemy" (Matthew 12:31 NRSV). "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins, and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). "Whoever comes to me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). How wonderful!

Salvation is so simple. Just A-B-C.

A is for "All have sinned" (Romans 3:23). B is for "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31). C is for "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9). A- B-C. It's as simple as that.

## ▼ DES FORD

**Eli's Reflection:** *Think about how you were brought up and your experience of religion. Is there anything there that might make you think that salvation is difficult and complicated? What are the things that stop you from accepting and believing with the simplicity of a child (Matthew 18:3)?*

## YOU CAN TRUST THE ONE WHO'S ON THE THRONE

You can trust the One who's on the throne, for on the throne is Love Himself.

*I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders (Revelation 5:6, NIV).*

We've all wondered at some point why life hardly ever works out the way we expect. Why do the best-laid plans too often fail?

God showed the prophet Ezekiel a vision of enormous wheels within wheels turning in every direction, and above them, the throne of God (Ezekiel 1). The great mystery of this vision was, "Who is it that sits upon the throne?"

In the Book of Revelation the prophet John saw a similar scene. But in this vision, the identity of the one who sits on the throne is revealed. For right in the middle of the throne is the Lamb who was slain. The One who is on the throne is not some distant deity; he is the Man of Sorrows, the Lamb of Calvary – the One who understands. Nothing can happen without his permission.

Wherever those wheels go in your life, you can trust the One who's on the throne, for on the throne is Love Himself. He is the Lamb who was slain for you.

What do you do when you can't understand? You keep on trusting. What do you do when you've seen the Lamb? You keep on following.

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ**

---

**Eli's Reflection:** *When life is pulling you in every direction except up, it is sometimes difficult to remember who is on the throne. We need to spend more time with Jesus. If, through the chaos of your life, you aren't seeing Jesus clearly on the throne of your life, how can you make more time to spend with Christ in order to learn to trust him more?*



## GOD FREELY GIVES

**God's love, like a spring, rises of itself and overflows for the supply of all your needs.**

*He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? (Romans 8:32).*

If this is not a promise in form, it is in fact. Indeed, it is more than one promise, it is a conglomerate of promises. It is a mass of rubies, and emeralds, and diamonds, with a nugget of gold for their setting.

What can the Lord deny us after giving us Jesus? ...If we need all things in heaven and earth, He will grant them to us: for if there had been a limit anywhere, He would have kept back His own Son.

What do I want today? I have only to ask for it. I may seek earnestly, but not as if I had to use pressure and extort an unwilling gift from the Lord's hand; for He will give freely. Of His own He gave us His own Son. Certainly no one would have ventured to ask for such a gift. It would have been too presumptuous.

He freely gave His Only-begotten, and, O my soul, can you not trust your heavenly Father to give you anything, to give you everything? Your poor prayer would have no force with Omnipotence if force were needed; but His love, like a spring, rises of itself and overflows for the supply of all your needs.

▼ **CHARLES SPURGEON**

---

**Eli's Reflection:** *Think of someone to whom you could show some over-the-top generosity, and if they don't deserve it, all the better! Perhaps think of something extravagant that you could do for them; do something to break the conditions you usually put on your own generosity. After all, God has no limits to his love for you!*

# CHRIST GIVES YOU EVERLASTING LIFE

**In Christ you have the verdict of the Last Judgment.  
In him you have everlasting life.**

*Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die  
(John 11:26).*

The one thing the four Gospels have in common is a Christ who must not only die, but also rise again. In the New Testament, Christ's resurrection is part of the cross event. They belong together, as the old spiritual says, "It's Friday; Sunday's A-Comin'!"

Jesus was condemned for our sins, but was raised for our justification. The Christian learns not to look at things that are seen, but things that are unseen. Things that are unseen get progressively better. I tell you, eternity is a lot sweeter the older you get!

The great and glorious future resurrection must never be lost sight of. We have its beginnings now in the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit energises us with faith, hope and love, but that is only the first fruits of a glory that is to come.

It's a wonderful thing to know, dear friend, that now you are a Christian; now you are in Christ, you are immortal. You may sleep in the grave, but only until the great Resurrection Day.

In Christ you have the verdict of the Last Judgment. In him you have everlasting life. In Christ you have received the Holy Spirit, and Christ says that through the Spirit, because we are in him, he is in us.

## ▼ DES FORD

**Eli's Reflection:** *What's your idea of what your resurrection life will be like? Perhaps think about your greatest dreams and wishes here on earth and multiply them a thousand times, and then realise that doesn't even begin to scratch the surface of the reality that God has prepared for you. What can you do to honour God and celebrate that now?*

## JESUS WILL NEVER FORGET YOU

Every relationship on earth can fail,  
but never the love of God for you.

*Can a mother forget her nursing child? Can she feel no love for the child she has borne? But even if that were possible, I would not forget you! (Isaiah 45:19, NLT).*

I was waiting for an elevator, and when it arrived, the doors opened and a couple came out. They seemed distracted and in a hurry.

Suddenly I noticed that the lift wasn't empty. In it there was a little girl—maybe six or seven—and she called out to mum. Beside the little girl was a pram with a baby in it.

The little girl tried to hold the doors open, but she was too small and was going to be trapped between the doors. I threw myself at the doors and held them open. By this time, the horrified mum was running back toward the lift.

Everything ended well! Mum and pram with baby were reunited. The little girl was safe.

It's true, although it's difficult to understand, that sometimes mothers forget their babies. Fathers forget their sons. Sisters forget their brothers. Husbands forget their wives. I'm sure that you know what it is to face a broken relationship that should never have been broken.

So if you feel forgotten in this crazy world, remember that God will never, ever forget you. Every relationship on earth can fail, but never the love of God for you. He guaranteed that at Calvary.

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ**

---

**Eli's Reflection:** *Can you think of a relationship in your life that you have neglected or that needs mending? Think prayerfully about what you can do, for the sake of Jesus' love for you, to try to improve this relationship. Then go and do it.*



## THE CROSS IS ABOUT MORE THAN JUST FORGIVENESS

**God is against sin, but God is for sinners.**

*God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement... he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus (Romans 3:24,26 NIV).*

If we want to understand the Cross, we need to understand that it is not just about forgiveness. It is also about the holiness of God. Yes, it is a wonderful revelation of the love of God. All of our sins are but a grain of sand compared to the mountain of his forgiveness. All of our sins are just a dewdrop falling into the ocean of his mercy.

But the Cross reveals, first of all, the holiness of God. God himself could not forgive sin until its penalty was paid. The Cross was necessary so that God might be just and the justifier of all who believe.

The Cross is a microcosm of the universe that unfolds the heart of God. God is against sin, but God is for sinners. The Cross also unfolds the heart of man. Man is so sinful he'd destroy his God.

The Cross tells the reality about heaven and about earth, about past, present, and future. To understand the mystery of the Cross is to have insight into all the mysteries of existence.

The Cross of Christ also proclaims, "There's more to come!" "Life is not just pain and death. There's resurrection and glory!" That, too, is part of the meaning of the Cross.

▼ **DES FORD**

---

**Eli's Reflection:** *Des calls the Cross "a microcosm of the universe that unfolds the heart of God." Think about what the Cross reveals about the universe, and what it reveals about God. What is the most surprising revelation for you? Find someone to share it with.*

## NEWS YOU'LL WANT TO SHARE

**God loves you even when you don't love him,  
and he saves you even though you're a sinner.**

*God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners (Romans 5:8, NLT).*

One of the hardest things to do is to keep the news quiet when you've won the lottery. Everyone who's ever known you or heard about you suddenly wants to be your best friend, and share in your good luck. Everyone is suddenly your long-lost relative!

Good news is hard to keep quiet, and the best news travels the fastest of all! So here is the best news of all: God loves you even when you don't love him, and he saves you even though you're a sinner.

If the essential message of Christianity were something like, "Be good and God might save you," it wouldn't even travel beyond a few people. But if instead the gospel is grace, and joy, forgiveness, power, mercy and a thousand other good things, then you can understand how the Good News of Jesus travels fast!

Many people believe that they have to earn God's love. But there's no good news in the idea that if you're good, God might love you. There is, however, a heap of good news in the story of a God who justifies the ungodly, who receives sinners, and who said, "I will never turn away whoever comes to me."

God wants that kind of news to travel fast, and who would ever want to keep it quiet?

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ**

---

**Eli's Reflection:** *You must know someone who needs to hear this Good News today! Why don't you share this daily devotional with them? Help spread this Good News fast.*



*Letter from Ukraine...*

## **A TROUBLED TEEN FINDS THE LOVE HE LONGED FOR**

Nineteen-year-old Vlad says, "When I found out I was adopted, it almost destroyed my life. But since I found out that I am loved by God, I haven't looked back!"

Vlad shares how you helped grow his relationship with Jesus through Good News Unlimited:

My parents divorced when I was in ninth grade, and I had to find a new place to live with my mother.

I started to use drugs. My dad took me to live with him, but I continued to use drugs and get in trouble with the police.

My father had to bail me out with the police more than once, and one day when he was angry with me, he said, "This is probably your destiny, because you're adopted and you aren't my natural son!" That's how I found out that I was adopted.

This made me feel worthless. For a long time I just sat at home, feeling anxious and worried, and getting deeper into my drug habit than ever.

However, I did decide to pray and to ask God for help... and an amazing thing happened: the feeling of anxiety that I had at the time, and that would often trigger my drug use, was gone!

I have been attending meetings sponsored by Good News Unlimited. As I have been praying and spending time with the Bible, my relationship with God has deepened. Now



▼ **Vlad:** *I know how much God loves me, so I can now face the world with a smile.*

I acknowledge Jesus in my life, and this encourages me to be a better person.

Because of Jesus, and now that faith and hope have come into my life, I want to live!. For the first time I can look at myself and at the world around me properly.

When God came into my life, peace and tranquility came as well. I used to think that I was a worthless nobody, but now I know that I am loved by God, and that I can put my trust in him.

▼ **Prayer Point:** *Thank you Jesus that you love us, and that in you we have identity and full life. We pray for Vlad and those like him. May they find wholeness in you.*

## ETERNITY IS GOD'S GIFT TO YOU

God loves you with an everlasting love,  
a love that's stronger than death,  
and that fills eternity.

*I am the Alpha and the Omega, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty (Revelation 1:8).*

In spite of what Dr Who, the Time Lord from the BBC television series, might tell you, we haven't mastered time yet. Time goes by at the same speed for all of us. It's what we do with it that counts.

There is only one Time Lord, and that's our God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

While you're thinking about eternity, I want to do a thought experiment with you based on an illustration told by Des Ford. It starts with the mightiest mountains in the world: the Himalayas. Think of a bird that, once every million years, comes and takes away a grain of soil from the Himalayas. How long will it take that bird to get rid of the Himalayas? That length of time is just the start of eternity!

What God offers us is eternity. And if God wants to give us something as infinite as eternity, how could we finite humans ever earn it? It has to be free.

Our God tells us that he loves us with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3), a love that's stronger than death (Song of Solomon 8:6), and that fills eternity. Because of what Jesus did at the Cross, eternity is there for the taking. It's what you do with it that counts.

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ**

**Eli's Reflection:** *I've sometimes told people that birthdays don't matter when you're going to live forever. How does God's assurance of eternity change the way you see your life today? Do you think it will make any difference to those with whom you come into contact? Think about how seriously you see eternity.*

# GOD'S GRACE SURPASSES ALL OUR HOPES

**Tell the world that grace is  
God's unimaginable generosity.**

*God... raised us up with Christ... in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:4-7, NIV).*

Grace shows us that God seeks sinners to bless them and change them, and to fill their lives with fruitfulness, innocence and joy. This is because God is what he says he is—Love.

We need to tell the world that grace is God's unimaginable generosity. It led God to give us Christ, God's "gift that is too wonderful for words!" (2 Corinthians 9:15 CEV). It led God to promise to supply as we need it, "exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20, KJV).

Remember the paralytic lowered into the room where Christ is preaching (Matthew 9:1-7). He hopes for physical restoration. The generous Saviour not only gives the man what he hopes for, but also something more wonderful. "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven" (Matthew 9:2, NIV).

Now remember the starving prodigal son in his tattered clothes, with his almost broken spirit (Luke 15:11-32). He resolves to go to his father. His father's servants have bread enough to eat and to spare, so the son will ask to be made a servant. What happens? The son is reinstated in his father's house! He is given a ring, special shoes, a valuable robe – and a feast. This is a picture of divine grace in action.

## ▼ DES FORD

**Eli's Reflection:** *Can you think of a time when God showed you grace above and beyond what you expected? Perhaps a prayer answered in a way you didn't expect, God's providence in your life, or even your own conversion. Find a group of people to share your experience with. It could be in your church, study group, or even your family.*

## GOD WILL FILL YOU TO OVERFLOWING

Jesus fills all your empty spaces  
and turns them into joy.

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13, NIV).*

Did you know that the universe is 99.999% empty space? It's the same with our bodies. That means that if you took away all of the space between the atoms in our bodies, the whole human race would take up the space of a sugar cube.

I'm sure that we have all felt empty at some stage or another, and now you know why!

It makes you wonder what there is about people to love. God knows the answer, literally, because he tells us through the Bible that we are deeply, desperately, and continuously loved.

If death were the end of it all, then that's all we are—just empty space. But death isn't the end! The Bible says that in God's *great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead* (1 Peter 1:3).

Because Jesus has overcome death, when you believe in him, he fills you with new life that's full of joy and hope and purpose. He fills you with eternity.

When you trust in him, God fills you to overflowing, through the Holy Spirit, with joy and peace. God fills all your empty spaces and turns them into joy. He fills you with eternity.

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ**

**Eli's Reflection:** *Think of an area in your life that you need God to fill – some part of you that is still empty and dark. Go somewhere that inspires you with its natural beauty, sit down, and take in all the goodness of God through your senses. Close your eyes, and ask God to send the Spirit of Christ to fill that part of you that needs God's peace and joy.*



## JESUS SWEAT BLOOD FOR YOU

**If you want to make the bells of Heaven ring,  
tell a sinner about Jesus Christ.**

*He was in such agony of spirit that his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood (Luke 22:44, NLT).*

When Jesus sweat drops of blood there in the garden, it was a new sight for the angels. They had seen their brother angels rebel against God, they had seen the conflict that followed and they had seen these rebel angels hurled over the battlements of Heaven. They had seen Sennacherib come up with his men, and they had seen 180,000 Assyrians laid low by the sword when the angel of God smote them in the night...

But never before had the angels beheld such a sight as when they looked down upon the garden of Gethsemane and saw the son of God kneeling there, sweating drops of blood as He agonized over man.... He didn't sweat those drops of blood because of any physical suffering. It wasn't because of any fear of death... No. It was because of His grief for man....

What do the angels care about political principles? What do they care about a forty-story skyscraper or reclaiming the deserts of the west? What do they care about pictures, art or science? The only thing they're interested in is the salvation of man. If you want to make the bells of Heaven ring, get down on your knees. Tell a sinner about Jesus Christ if you want to hear the Heavenly bells.

▼ **BILLY SUNDAY**

**Eli's Reflection:** *Let's make the bells of heaven ring! Think of someone who you know, who needs to hear about Jesus. Ask God to create the right opportunity for you to share Jesus with that person this week. Then be alert and ready to set some bells a-ringin', because you can be as sure as night follows day that God will create that opportunity for you!*

## GOD SEES YOU AS IF YOU'D NEVER SINNED

When God looks at us  
he sees us through the Cross.

*You will tread our sins beneath your feet; you will throw them into the depths of the ocean! (Micah 7:19, Msg).*

How could God say of David, after he had broken the sixth and seventh commandments: *My servant David, who kept my commandments and followed me with all his heart, doing only that which was right in my sight* (1 Kings 14:8)?

When we repent, God casts our sins into the depths of the seas; as far away as the east is from the west, God removes our transgressions from us. He counts us as sinless for Christ's sake, when we trust in the Saviour.

Jesus told his disciples, "You have already been cleansed" (John 15:3). Two chapters earlier we find them far from clean: they argued about who would be greatest, and refused to wash one another's feet. Jesus washed their feet, and pronounced, "You are clean" (John 13:10). Later, in prayer, he tells the Father, "They have kept your word" (John 17:6).

When God looks at us he sees us through the Cross. Though we have failed in many ways to keep the word of God, yet God for Christ's sake says of us, "You are clean. You have kept my word."

We are "accepted in the Beloved" (Ephesians 1:6 KJV). We are "complete in him" (Colossians 2:10). That's the gospel.

### ▼ DES FORD

**Eli's Reflection:** *Think about your own life. Can you imagine God saying about you, that you kept his commandments and followed him with all your heart, doing only that which was right in his sight? Does that seem unbelievable to you? Why? What needs to change in your heart so that you will believe?*



*Letter from India...*

## **HELPING HINDUS FIND HEALING IN JESUS**

Many Hindus were transformed into Christ-followers at the Good News Unlimited gospel meetings held recently in India.

Among the many people who heard about Jesus for the first time was a Hindu woman named Madhave, who saw God work a miracle!

Born into a Hindu family, Madhave practiced many idol-worshipping rituals and spent much of her time at Hindu temples. But when none of these helped heal her sick husband who was writhing with stomach pains, Madhave decided to attend GNU's gospel meetings, because she'd heard how people's lives were being changed.

During the meeting, run by GNU partner, Pr Joseph, Madhave began to pray for her husband's healing. She told her husband to have faith and pray as well. The two of them prayed together for his pain all during the meeting. A true miracle had occurred that night: his pains vanished! Because they had been praying fervently, Madhave knew it was only God who had healed him.

After the meeting, she asked to share her testimony. With shaky hands, she took the microphone and witnessed to the whole crowd, saying:

*It is unbelievable that my husband has been healed by Jesus tonight. Today is the first day I have come to know the power of Jesus and healing and of the Gospel. I am very thankful*



▼ *Madhave's husband received the miracle of healing at a GNU gospel meeting like this one. "I have come to know the power of Jesus and healing and of the Gospel," she says.*

*to Jesus for meeting us in this place tonight. I now have a desire to spread the Word of God, and my husband does as well.*

Madhave and her husband have believed in Jesus from that night onward, claiming him as the One True God who came to save this world. She has since decided to remove all the idol images from their home. Her husband has also said his life is now dedicated to Christ and that he wants to share his testimony with others.

Madhave and her husband are so grateful they heard about Jesus through GNU, and request your prayers as they turn from Hinduism and continue to grow as believers and disciples in Jesus.

---

▼ **Prayer Point:** *God, be at work in my life, and the lives of many around the world. Work your miracles so more may come to know you as the one true God.*

## CHRIST'S DEATH PARALLELED HIS BIRTH

**There was no room for Jesus  
so that there might be room  
for you and me in eternity.**

*In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him (1 John 4:9, NKJV).*

There are four groups of people at Christ's birth: 1) The wise men seeking him; 2) The religious people seeking to live by the letter of the law; 3) The people seeking to kill him; and 4) The people willing to die to protect him. These same four groups are present at his death.

Myrrh is mentioned in connection with Jesus' birth. Myrrh was put in his grave clothes as he was laid in the tomb.

There was a heavenly sign at his birth: a star. There was also a heavenly sign at his death: there was blackness and darkness over the whole land.

At his birth, there is no room for Jesus in the inn. At his death, there is no room for him anywhere. The people of earth don't want him. There's no room for him on earth, and no room in heaven. We find him suspended between the two. The Cross elevates him above the earth.

Heaven could not take him, for he was sin incarnate. God made him to be sin for us. At his birth, there was no room at the inn; at his death no room in this world, and no room in heaven. There was no room for Jesus so that there might be room for you and me in eternity.

### ▼ DES FORD

**Eli's Reflection:** *How much room do you make for Jesus in your life each day? In what ways? Does Jesus only get token recognition or does he get a huge and continuous welcome? What do you need to do to make more room for Jesus in your life?*

## JESUS TURNS YOUR ENDINGS INTO NEW BEGINNINGS

If you believe in Jesus, then all that seems an end is only ever a new beginning in disguise.

*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End (Revelation 22:13).*

The sisters Mary and Martha thought that it had all ended, now that their brother Lazarus had died. Martha busied herself with the funeral arrangements, and Mary just cried and cried inconsolably. What was the point of Jesus coming now? Lazarus had been in the grave for four days; at least the mourners were still there. He had come just in time to share in the grief. Even Jesus wept. It was the end. That's how you mark endings, isn't it? With tears?

Jesus goes to Mary and he says to her, "Do you believe?" (John 11:26), and although it is through a cloud of tears, she says "Yes." Then Jesus goes to the tomb and cries out with the voice of the Son of the Living God, "Lazarus, come out!" And Lazarus emerged from the grave into the arms of those who loved him.

I don't know how this year is for you, but I'm sure it isn't all good. The question, however, should be: "Do you believe?"

If you believe in the one who is the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End, the Resurrection and the Life, then all that seems an end, is only ever a new beginning in disguise. Do you believe?

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ**

---

**Eli's Reflection:** *Can you think of something that has ended for you recently? How can you use it to inspire you to start something new in its place—something that can be a blessing? Talk to the Lord about about it and ask him to give you a great idea!*

## THERE'S NO NEED TO WAIT

You are forgiven. You are accepted. You are His.  
There's no longer any need to wait.

*What are you waiting for? ...Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord (Acts 22:16, NLT).*

It was a long wait when that woman who was a foreigner followed Jesus along the road, crying out, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David!" (Matt. 15:22). For a time, he answered her not a word.

It was a long wait when the crowd cried for the blood of the immoral woman thrown at Jesus' feet. And he remained silent while he wrote on the ground (John 8:6-7). And all the while, the woman wondered.

It was a long wait after they had brutally nailed Jesus to the timbers, and had raised him up high. What would he say? "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).

You will go through your own times of apparent silence. But it is not God who is silent; it's just our hearts that need tuning to his frequency of love. Listen to it now.

The longest silence was on that Friday afternoon when they placed Jesus in a tomb behind a rock. They thought he would never again be heard. But on the Sunday, the whole world heard his voice.

You are forgiven. You are accepted. You are His. There's no longer any need to wait.

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ**

**Eli's Reflection:** *In our daily lives, we seem always to be waiting for something. As Christians, perhaps we are waiting to become a better person, to feel forgiven, or even for Jesus to come again! What would your life be like if you accepted that with Jesus you don't have to wait for salvation any more, that he has already worked it all out for you? What's stopping you from living like that?*



## WHEN YOU LIFT THE CROSS, IT LIFTS YOU

**Where there is no going down into the valley of grief,  
there can be no rising up to the mountain of glory.**

*Take up your cross, and follow me (Matthew 16:24).*

Our Lord's life was a life of suffering in order that suffering might be sanctified. He was a refugee in Egypt during his childhood, that refugees might draw comfort from his plight. In youth, he lived in a home of poverty, that the poor might know that his sympathies are always with them. He knows what it is to be despised and rejected of men, in order that you and I might feel that he is always sufficient.

And on the Cross he thought of every person who would ever suffer. In those six hours he sanctified every agony through which every son and daughter of God could ever pass.

But our Lord turned Black Friday into a Good Friday, because where there is no Black Friday, there can be no resurrection Sunday. Where there is no going down into the valley of grief, there can be no rising up to the mountain of glory. Where there is no tom flesh, there can be no glorified body.

There is no such thing as the Christian life without bearing the cross. If we will accept the cross, it will become like wings to a bird; it will become like sails to a ship. In lifting the Cross, we shall find that it lifts us.

▼ **DES FORD**

---

**Eli's Reflection:** *Think of one thing that causes you suffering today. Could this be part of the cross Christ calls you to carry? The Apostle Paul tells us to give thanks always to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 5:20). Can you thank God for the Cross, even the cross that he asks you to carry? If you are able to, thank God for it. If not, ask God to give you grace.*

# CHRIST INVITES US TO SUFFER

The call to follow Jesus  
is a call to suffering.

*Whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple (Luke 14:27).*

Not only was it certain to him that he must move steadily toward the Cross, but it was equally clear that every man who would do the work that he was engaged in must also move toward a cross. His experience was not to be exceptional, but it was to be the established rule.

He never attempted to conceal from his disciples the fact that they would suffer persecution. Repeatedly he reminded them that to be his follower meant to be a sufferer, and that unless they were willing to endure afflictions they need not attempt to come after him...

It is impossible to modify the marching orders. He would not allow men to follow him unless he was first assured that they understood the condition on which discipleship became possible.... And what he said to one he said to all. When he spoke to the multitude he held before them the picture of crucifixion.... Count the cost before you make the start. "Whosoever he be of you that forsakes not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple"...

The call to follow Jesus is a call to suffering; so the New Testament represents it from the first page to the last. You read the Scriptures with your eyes shut if you fail to see that.

▼ **CHARLES E. JEFFERSON**

**Eli's Reflection:** *Don't many people become Christians precisely to avoid hardship and suffering? Are there supposed to be blessings? This calls for some deep reflection. Think prayerfully about this question: Why would Christ's call to suffer with him possibly be good news? Examine your own heart as to why you follow Jesus.*

## PROMISES TO HOLD ONTO

*Take some time to reflect on this group of devotionals.  
What promise would you especially like to hold onto?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*Letter from India...*

## **A DESPERATE FAMILY FINDS HOPE IN JESUS!**

Jeevan and his family are among the thousands of people in India whose lives are being transformed as you help to introduce them to Jesus through the Good News Unlimited TV Gospel broadcasts.

Jeevan is wheelchair-bound after an accident caused the loss of his leg. He, his wife and two daughters felt trapped in their poverty. They often had no food to eat.

Every day, Jeevan wondered whether life had any meaning. But thanks to generous friends like you, he found the Word of God through the GNU programme on TV, and he felt "empowered" to pray for the things he and his family needed.

Unexpectedly, a man gave them rice. Acknowledging God's faithfulness to supply his need, Jeevan and his family continued to pray and to watch the gospel messages presented by Pr Joseph Usala each week.

God continued to demonstrate his faithfulness, this time helping Jeevan's daughters attend school. These new believers experienced God's miracles and their faith in Jesus became stronger. Jeevan says:

*I never knew about Jesus. I had so much anguish about losing my leg and my family members cried for me for months. But it is Jesus who heard my prayers and my family's prayers.*

*It was the gospel message on the GNU TV channel which changed my family's entire life. Now we are so happy in Christ Jesus. I am very thankful to Jesus for everything he has done.*

Thank you for helping this family find that hope through your prayers.

---

▼ **Prayer Point:** *We pray for families like Jeevan's who often don't know where their next meal will come from. May God's love and faithfulness abound in difficult circumstances and point them to him.*

# UNLIMITED

Please subscribe me  
to receive Good News Unlimited's  
bi-monthly devotional, UNLIMITED

Title:

First Name:

Surname:

Address:


Town / Suburb:

Postcode:

State:

Phone:

Email:



*Please remove this subscription form and return to the  
address below.*

*Alternatively, you can complete this form online. Please go  
to [www.goodnewsunlimited.com](http://www.goodnewsunlimited.com) and follow the prompts.*

Postal Address: **PO Box 973, Penrith NSW 2751**

Phone: **1300 013 237** (Australia) or  
**+61 247 219 051** (International)

**[goodnewsunlimited.com](http://goodnewsunlimited.com)**

**GNU** WORD  
SPREADS  
FAST.  
Good News Unlimited

© Good News Unlimited Ltd 2016

All rights reserved. Without limiting the rights under copyright reserved above, no part of this work/publication may be reproduced, stored in or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, print, photocopying, recording or otherwise), without the prior written permission of the copyright owners.

Category: Religious/Christian life/Inspirational

ISBN: 978-0-9945446-2-9

#### Biblical Quotations

Where Bible passages have been referenced, the following translations have been used: The Living Bible, New Living Translation, Good News Translation, NET Bible, The Message, New International Version, English Standard Version, International Standard Version, Word English Bible.

Where no Bible reference appears, the authors have paraphrased the original text.

## GET TO KNOW THE AUTHORS

### DR DESMOND FORD



Dr Desmond Ford has a vibrant enthusiasm for spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. Affectionately known as “Des”, he’s worked as a pastor, and been a Bible teacher, minister and theologian for more than sixty years. He’s earned several degrees including two PhDs in theology, and has written twenty books.

Des Ford’s preaching emphasises justification by faith – the Good News that Christ, by his life and death, redeemed the world so that now “whosoever will, may come” to God. He affirms that the gospel is for everyone, following the instruction that Christ’s name should “be declared throughout all the earth”.

### DR ELIEZER GONZALEZ



Eliezer Gonzalez is passionate about the gospel. With a previous background in teaching and management, he was called by the Lord into the gospel ministry. He’s earned Master’s degrees in Theology and Early Christian History, and a PhD in Early Christian History.

Most importantly, Eliezer communicates the gospel of Jesus Christ in a simple yet powerful way, and has presented this life-changing message in many countries and in many different forums. He’s praying for “millions upon millions of people to be in the Kingdom of God” as Good News Unlimited partners with you to spread the Word fast about Jesus.

**God's Unlimited Promises  
to Hold On To**

# UNLIMITED LOVE

Unlimited Love is the first in our ongoing series of nine-week devotional booklets produced by Good News Unlimited. Written by Des Ford and Eliezer Gonzalez, these devotionals are interspersed with the classic writings of greater Christian thinkers. Personal reflections that are designed to apply practical lessons to your daily life, and testimonies from GNU's global ministry which will inspire you with the proven power of God's love in action.

It's our prayer that Unlimited Love will take you deeper in God's promises about His unlimited love for you.

[goodnewsunlimited.com](http://goodnewsunlimited.com)



ISBN 978-0-9945446-2-9



9 780994 544629 >



**GNU** WORD  
SPREADS  
FAST.  
Good News Unlimited



