



THE STREETCORNER

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

"I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE. NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME." JOHN 14:6 NIV

SET FREE!

THE TESTIMONY OF SUSAN GOGAG

Hi, my name is Susan. I've been a child of God since June 2nd, 1983. In October of 1973, at the age of fifteen, I was out hitchhiking and my future husband picked me up. In February of 1974 we became engaged and in August of that year we were married. I was sixteen. We will celebrate our 29th wedding anniversary this summer. Our God is awesome.

It's great to be able to share my story. It's great to be willing and excited about sharing. I recently attended a healing service at my church where we prayed with those who desired prayer. I wished I could weep with those who were weeping, but I couldn't. Let me explain why. Ten or eleven years ago, Pastor Ron Rooker and the elders came to our home to pray and anoint our children and myself. Although I didn't realize it at the time it was the beginning of my healing journey. At that time I was suffering from constant headaches, weekly migraines and numerous allergies.

TWIN FALLS,
SMITHERS, B.C.

To cope with an abusive past, I simply blocked it from my mind. I had my first migraine when I was pregnant with our third child, who is now 19 years old, I was 23 then. Over two years later the migraines became a constant companion. The doctors said learn to live with it. They couldn't do anything.

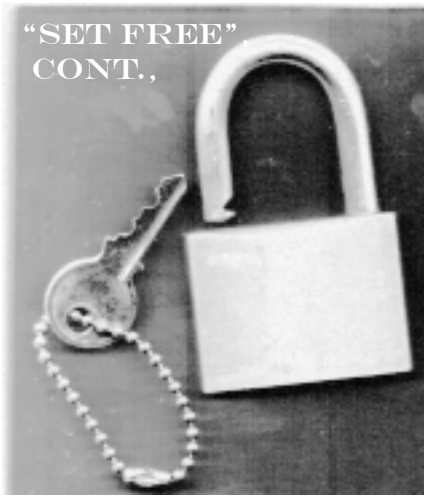
Soon after the birth of our next child, we moved to my husband's village of Kitwancool. I found it to be a very lonely place where I constantly stood on guard to ensure the safety of our children. The abuse rate was at a percentage that soared into the high nineties. We lived in the village for five years and then moved into Thornhill, (Terrace, B.C.).

When we left the village we said, "Let's go to a church with nice classrooms and just sit in our chairs." I had been teaching Sunday School in the village church which had only one big room and no bathrooms. The moment I saw the TCC (Thornhill Community Church) sign outside the Elementary School I knew that that's where we were to go. There were classrooms, just not the kind I'd thought of. The first Sunday we were there we had three lunch invitations. Praise God. We felt so welcome.

Being a small church it was soon known that I suffered from migraines. One day Pastor Ron and his wife came to the house to offer encouragement and help for the migraines. Ron's inquiry as to whether I had been abused dove deep, inside I wept, knowing it was time to acknowledge the past hurts, but, not wanting to. After they left I sat at the table and knew I had to phone Pastor Ron and ask for counseling. It was the beginning of the greatest pain and greatest joy I'd ever experienced.

After the first counseling session I never had another migraine. Praise the Lord! My Father in heaven is so good, so loving. Through the counseling God revealed many precious things to me. One was that in His sight I am good and precious and beautiful. I hold on to this gift tightly. It is deep within me and no one can take it away.

"SET FREE"
CONT.,



Next, I was healed of my allergies. Wow! I went to our Ladies retreat which meant camping in tents at the lake and I brought a good supply of allergy pills for the campfire smoke, flowers, food...and I didn't have to use even one. Amazing! Later that week as I lay in the comfort of my bed I questioned my Lord, "Why did you heal me?" He reached down into my innermost being and whispered, "So you would know a Father's love."

Once again let me explain the reason it took me so long to share my story with anyone. My Dad had sexually abused me. Those of you with a past like mine will understand that we don't want our families hurt. We want to protect them. Recently, God showed me this verse. Psalm 45:10-11:

"Hear, O daughter, consider, submit and consent to my instruction, forget also your own people and your father's house; So will the King desire your beauty; because He is your Lord, be submissive and reverence and honor Him." (NIV)

Did you notice He called me daughter? And How He mentioned my Dad? Back to my story, at this time my Dad was dying of cancer. I chose not to visit him in the hospital because I hated him the most. Pastor Ron reminded me the Bible said that I must love my enemies - How? Pastor Ron told me to, "Ask God for His love for your Dad."

I'm so thankful that God blessed me with overwhelming love for my Dad. I rejoice that God touched my Dad's heart for he repented and accepted Jesus Christ on March 17, 1991 and went home to be with our Lord on April 16th of that year. Before Dad departed he asked me to forgive him for the abuse. God is so good! The one and only time Dad told me he loved me was the morning he passed away. So much pain, so much joy. Our God is Awesome!

Getting back to why I couldn't weep at the healing service. I was so excited for each person who came forward for prayer, knowing our Father has many great and wondrous things in store for each one. (Susan previously published this testimony in "Lifeline", the official publication of Thornhill Community Church; Susan's home church. Used by permission of the author.)

THE ULTIMATE HEALER

BY MIKE CUNNINGHAM

"...I AM THE LORD, WHO HEALS YOU."

EX. 15:26 NIV

There is a great need in our world today, for healing. You don't have to go very far to find someone depressed, someone battling a disease, or someone struggling to deal with an emotional wound from the past.

Unfortunately, for so many people, this hurt carries on for years and years. Perhaps they have tried different ways of burying it, or ignoring it. But the recurring pain and frustration prove that the wound is anything but healed. Susan's life is just one example of the story that is retold over and over again in people everywhere. Perhaps you can identify with one of the struggles that she faced.

As Susan shares, it wasn't until she met the healer, Jesus Christ, that she was set free: set free from hatred, set free from bitterness, and set free even from her constant migraines.

Perhaps this raises even more questions in your mind. Maybe you've asked God for help, but you feel like you haven't gotten any response. Perhaps this has left you confused and even frustrated with God. Please consider these 3 things that the Bible teaches on the subject of God's healing.

1. GOD IS MOST CONCERNED ABOUT OUR ETERNAL WELFARE.

God is in the business of providing *ultimate* healing. He doesn't want to put a band-aid on something that needs to be made brand new. He isn't as concerned about the temporary things, as he is about things that last forever.

God wants you to know that sin is man's greatest sickness. Romans 5:12 says that "Sin came into the world by one man Adam. Sin brought death with it (eternal separation from God). Death spread to all men, because all have sinned." (New Life Version)

The greatest healing we need is what God calls *salvation*. This is the moment where we look to Jesus for forgiveness, and where we receive God's Holy Spirit into our life. This is the moment when we are granted eternal life, and we become God's child.

Consider what Isaiah has to say about our eternal cure. *"Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows...he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed."* Isaiah 53:4,5 NIV

Have you had peace made with God? This is the most important issue facing you today. All other earthly concerns are insignificant next to this. God stands ready to heal eternally all who will call on him in simple faith.

2. GOD USES HARD TIMES TO CHANGE US, AND MAKE US MORE LIKE CHRIST.

Let's face it, there is none of us that gives God the attention that he deserves. Also, we live so selfishly so much of the time. I know in my life, that I seek God most when I really need Him. And it is in my greatest struggles that I cry out to God out of intense searching and need.

The Bible says that God is working all the time to change me to be more like Jesus. As a Father lovingly trains his children, allowing them to go through some hard experiences to see them grow, so our Heavenly Father does with us. Again and again, he shows me my weakness, he shows me my selfishness, and he teaches me there's a better way.

As the clay in the hands of the potter, so we must become soft and moldable to the Father's touch. Are we ready to obey what God says for us to do? Are we ready to forgive? Are we ready to humble ourselves? Are we ready to bless instead of curse?

Have you accepted the fact that more than wanting to change your circumstances, God wants to change you? When we submit to this, we will find God's power freely flowing in our lives, and affecting all the relationships around us.

3. GOD WANTS US TO DEPEND ON HIM, AND LEARN TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.

Why does God allow hard times? God wants us to lean entirely on Him. He wants us to learn that he is present, and he is trustworthy to meet our needs even in the middle of circumstances that seem overwhelming.

Proverbs 3:5,6 says. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths."* (NIV)

Have we laid down our solutions and asked for God's? Have we put aside our plans and sought for God to reveal His? Have we become broken enough, to let God have complete control? This is the path to freedom, and it is one that doesn't depend on circumstances!

Perhaps God will miraculously set you free from a struggle; He is more than able to do that. He did for Susan! But his greater desire is to provide us with ultimate healing; that we might become prepared for eternity; that we might be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ; and that we might have a personal relationship with the God of the universe.

Do you need healing in your life today? I invite you to come to the Great Healer Himself. He made you, He loves you and He knows exactly what you have been through. He stands ready to bear your burden and give you a strength that you can't live without. Open your heart to the only one who can offer you the Ultimate Healing.

THIS I BELIEVE!

BY KEN PENNER

BLESS AND DO NOT CURSE!

"THE WEAPONS WE FIGHT WITH ARE NOT THE WEAPONS OF THE WORLD. ON THE CONTRARY, THEY HAVE DIVINE POWER TO DEMOLISH STRONGHOLDS." 2 CORINTHIANS 10:4 NIV

Isn't it amazing how the ways of God are so opposite to the ways of the natural man? When one is confronted with abuse or a curse, the natural thing to do is to abuse or curse back, and most likely hate the one who has inflicted this hurt upon us. But the Bible makes it very clear that we are to bless even those who persecute us. It also says to forgive those who have done us wrong. This does not seem to make sense to our human reasoning, but it is God's way of dealing with our enemies. When one forgives an offender the strongholds of guilt, shame, condemnation and fear, linking the offended to the offender, are broken and the offended is set free. The offender still has to face God for the offence he has done. I think God can do a better job of dealing with the offender than I can, don't you? Possibly the offender will seek forgiveness from God and from the one he has offended, just as Susan's father did before he died. God's divine power brings down strongholds; His way is always the best!

JESUS SAID "BUT I TELL YOU WHO HEAR ME: LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, DO GOOD TO THOSE WHO HATE YOU, BLESS THOSE WHO CURSE YOU, PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MISTREAT YOU.".... "FORGIVE AND YOU WILL BE FORGIVEN." LUKE 6:27,28 & 37 NIV

This I believe!

SET FREE, FOR ETERNITY!

1

GOD'S DESIRE

God created man to live with him for all eternity! Scripture tells us that he is our Creator, that he knows each of us by name, and that he cares intimately about us. It says in 2 Peter 3:9, that God is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (KJV) This is God's heart! He wants you to be with him. He wants you to live with him forever. He wants you to enjoy a perfect relationship with Himself. The Bible clearly teaches that **GOD LOVES YOU!** (1 John 4:10)

2

MAN'S PROBLEM

There is one thing, however, that keeps us from this relationship with God—OUR SIN! Scripture teaches that "without holiness, no one will see the Lord." (Hebrews 12:14 NIV) In other words God's standard is perfection. There must not be one sin on our record if we are to be acceptable to God. However, Scripture tells us that "...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23 NIV). It also says that "the wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23 NIV) or separation from God for all eternity! If we physically die in this condition, there are no second chances. It is too late to turn to God then.

3

GOD'S GIFT

Fortunately, this is not the end of the story. For God saw our helplessness, and in great compassion sent us what we needed most, a Savior, His one and only Son - Jesus Christ. Scripture tells us that, "(Christ) Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree..." (1 Peter 2:24 NIV)

"He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our sins; the punishment that brought us peace [with God] was upon him." (Isaiah 53:4,5 NIV)

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8 NIV)

4

MAN'S RESPONSE

God has made a way for us to be acceptable and right before Him. "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out." (Acts 3:19 NIV) "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." (Acts 16:31 NIV) Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die." (John 11:25-27 NIV)

You can be saved right now, whoever you are, whatever your situation. Confess to God that you are a sinner. Thank Jesus for taking the punishment for your sins by dying on the cross. Place your life in Christ's hands. Trust Him to forgive your sin. He alone has the power to save!

IF THIS IS SOMETHING YOU HAVE JUST DONE, PLEASE CONTACT A PERSON WHO YOU KNOW IS A SINCERE CHRISTIAN AND TELL THEM THE GOOD NEWS! FEEL FREE TO CALL US AT STREETCORNERS IF YOU NEED TO. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU HAVE SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE AS YOU BEGIN YOUR NEW LIFE AS A CHRISTIAN!



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WHAT WE BELIEVE

The Bible and Its Authority

a) We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired by God and inerrant in the original writings, and that they are the supreme and final authority in faith and conduct.

The Eternal Godhead

b) We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Man and His Need

c) We believe that man was created in the image of God: that through sin man incurred both spiritual and physical death. Consequently, man is totally depraved, alienated from God, under his righteous anger, and in need of the new birth.

Jesus Christ and His Work

d) We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary and is true God and true man.

e) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that all who believe in him are justified on the ground of his shed blood.

f) We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord Jesus Christ, in his ascension into heaven, his present life there for us as High Priest and Advocate and in his personal return.

Salvation for Sinners

g) We believe that by the grace of God, all who in repentance and faith receive the Lord Jesus Christ are born again by the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God. Such are sealed unto the day of redemption. Nevertheless, the believer is commanded to be filled with the Spirit, moment by moment.

The Future

h) We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, in the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and in the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost.

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www.thestreetcorner.org

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