



# THE STREETCORNER

“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.” John 14:6 NIV

## TURNED AROUND

the testimony of Daren George

I was born in the Bulkley Valley and raised in Telkwa, which is about 10 km east of Smithers BC. When I was young, I saw the love of Jesus radiating from my grandparents, Thomas and Mary George. Their love is what sustained our family. At that time I had Christ in my head, but not in my heart.

I lost my grandfather at an early age. After he died, it seemed that part of my grandmother died with him, but she still showed us the love of Christ. Until my teen years, we attended a small community church in Telkwa, where we knew everyone and they all knew us. It was a close family atmosphere, I liked it that way. In time this church was closed and we all attended the church in Smithers. I noticed a big difference; there were a lot more people, and we didn't know most of them. One day as we left the service some people spoke something derogatory about us, and my grandmother heard it. It broke her heart and I saw her cry. That day I said to myself “I will never go to church again.” So I walked away from the church. At that time I thought the church was a building. That is when my life became like a roller coaster ride. I had seen some alcoholism within our family at the time, and I kept saying I was never going to drink or smoke. I succeeded for a while. After grandmother died, it seemed like anything connected to God disappeared. As I jokingly say, I fell into wine, women and song. I was trying to fill the emptiness that was inside me with one relationship after another.

“I WAS GOING  
TO DRIVE MY-  
SELF INTO THE  
STELLAQUO  
RIVER.”

I always tended to be kind of a leader. So when I was partying I had a lot of people around me and I thought “Hey, this is good.” After a while, I noticed that all my friends were looking at what I had under my arm, or how much money I had in my wallet. This did not fill the longing in my heart, so I kept searching to find something to fill that empty spot in my life.

Through my travels, I met a beautiful woman in Fraser Lake. Slowly we started seeing each other, and fell in love, and were married. I realize now, the kind of love I knew at that time was purely physical. We were blessed with a son, a beautiful son. When I held my son in my arms for the first time, it was just awesome. I really wanted to do something for him. This tended to change my life for a while.

A couple years later, we planned to have another child and we had a beautiful daughter. I thought “Wow, this is it! I have a million dollar family now! A beautiful son, a beautiful daughter and a beautiful wife.” But there was still that emptiness in my life.

With my leadership skills, I found myself into native politics. I saw the pain of our native people on the reserves and wanted to help them, I thought native politics would do it. I started locally and joined the United Native Nations, which I became the vice president of. Soon I was on the Board of Directors for BC. This required me to travel quite a bit. I went to Vancouver almost every second month. I slowly started getting separated from my family. I was a part of the Native Council of Canada and started traveling across the country. But again there was still that emptiness in my life. I kept trying to fill it with something else.

Little did I know, I was losing my family. Again booze



Daren, and his children, D.J. and Amanda

and drugs started to complicate things. I did not notice my spouse was heading in a different direction.

Pretty soon through the drugs and alcohol I found myself in a place I should never have been in.

Then one day, I was at a Christmas party in Fraser Lake, when I realized my marriage had come to an end. I jumped into my truck and was going to drive myself into the Stellaquo River. I was heading for it and the river was in front of me. I just stepped on the gas pedal. As I was driving I heard this audible voice, "What about your kids?". I shook it off. I was just about at the river and I heard the same voice "What about your kids?". I slammed on the brakes and stopped right before the river. It was a full moon and I remember so clearly the rocks hitting the water in front of me. I screamed out, "God help me!". I didn't know what I was going to do and I sat there and cried for what seemed like hours. Later, I picked up my kids from where they were sleeping, at their grandparents place, and I took them home. I realized something had to change in my life.

The road home from Fraser Lake to Telkwa was a trail of tears. I decided that from then on I was going to change my life. I quit drinking and I quit drugs and devoted my whole life to my kids. This went on for about 6 months but loneliness crept in and the kids said, "Dad why don't you just go out for a while?". So I started having a couple drinks with my friends after work on Fridays. Soon it was Friday and Saturday, then all weekend. Next I started with another relationship and my life became another roller coaster ride. I thought in my mind, "This is no way to live.". Just seeing the look on my children's faces, I just couldn't do it anymore. I didn't know what I was going to do.

My Aunt Christine and my sister Caroline invited me to come to family camp at Rock Nest Bible Camp. They kept egging me on, so I said in my mind, "O.K., I'll go, just to shut you up.". So I went, and little did I know God had a plan for me. While I was at the camp I saw a different kind of atmosphere. There was a love there that I never saw anywhere else. This love was shown in how the people there cared for and genuinely accepted my children and I without judgement.

Then the Lord used the Sonrise Band to slowly break through my heart of stone. They were ministering to us through their songs and through the Word of God. Towards the end

they had an altar call. By this time, through the ministry in song, my heart was just breaking. As they called us forward, I was drawn like a magnet. I went forward and gave my life to the Lord. Later I found out that my aunt Irene Brown, Doug and Sherrie Anderson, Warren and Carol Cheek and others had been praying for me.

One thing I found out was that only Christ could fill the hollow emptiness in my life. When I gave my life to the Lord, I started to find freedom. I was able to kick the booze and drugs and I saw what all the ungodly relationships were doing to my kids. I knew it was not honouring to God. Little by little he was taking these things out of my life as I learned from his Word. So I not only gave my life to the Lord, I gave him my body, my mind and my soul.

After this I started attending Kyah Bible Fellowship. Due to the sickness of their son, Doug and Sherrie Anderson who were leading the church, had to leave for an extended period and I had to take on additional leadership in the church. The Lord broke my heart for the youth, so I started a youth group in Moricetown. I did not know how to run it at the time but through my prayers and the prayers of others, God guided me and showed me what to do and what to say, to reach the youth. Mike Cunningham and I still lead this youth group today. One outreach of these youth is to perform God centered drama, witnessing to the power of God to change lives.

As I walk in obedience to Christ I see His many blessings. I found my father had come to a faith in Christ before I had. Since then, I have seen my mother, both my children and many others come to a living faith in Christ.

One day, the Lord willing, I would like to go into full time ministry for Him! Only by His leading!

**Editors Note:** Daren is the Vice-president of Streetcorners Ministries as well as a director on the Boards of UIM Canada and UIM International. He is furthering his education through correspondence courses from Prairie Bible Institute and remains very busy in leadership at Kyah Bible Fellowship while still holding down a full time job at West Fraser sawmill in Smithers. Daren also leads a 2 week trails program for youth in the mountains of the Bulkley Valley. If you are interested in this program you can contact Daren at (250) 846-9686.



**Daren (standing on right) leading a trails group from Mt. Seaton to Suskwa.**

# THE CHURCH IS THE PEOPLE!

**"To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ – their Lord and ours." 1 Corinthians 1:2 NIV**

I remember singing a song in Sunday School that included the words, "I am the Church, You are the Church....". Little did I know that a scriptural principle was being taught us, even at that young age. Daren, in his testimony, indicated that at one time he thought the church was only a building. Have you ever heard someone say "I am going to church today", meaning the building where the Christians gather? In actual fact the church building is only the place where the real church, that is, the Christians themselves gather.

In the scripture quoted above, Paul addressed the Corinthian Christians as the church. The church of God are the people of God, those who have been born again into God's family through faith in Christ and his finished work on Calvary. Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3 NIV Have you been born again into God's family?

When Daren met the people at family camp, he noticed the love that emanated from them. This was because he met Christians who were practicing their faith, the true church in action. They showed the love of Jesus to all those around them. These people were not Christians because of the camp they were at, or because they attend a certain church. One cannot become a Christian by attending a church anymore than a mouse can become a cookie by visiting a cookie jar. We become a part of the church by being born again into God's family, the church. Then and only then will we find peace with God. Then and only then will we be able to show others the love of Christ, as those at family camp did to Daren and his family. Then and only then will that emptiness in our life be filled.

When Daren became a Christian he was born again and became part of the church. The change God brought about in his life is evident in him wanting to meet with other Christians, in his desire to serve God in all he does and in the fruit of the spirit being shown in his day to day life.

Are you a part of God's family, the church?

**"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12 NIV**

This I Believe!

## BECOMING A CHILD OF GOD

### GOD'S DESIRE

1

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)

### MAN'S PROBLEM

2

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.

### GOD'S GIFT

3

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)

### MAN'S RESPONSE

4

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!

# JUST PASSING THROUGH

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth...but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven” Matt 6:19,20 NIV

I have known Daren for a number of years now, and I have had the privilege of going on one of his yearly two week trails programs. This tent pictured was my tent during our portage of the Nanika-Kidprice chain of lakes. I will never forget this experience. Living out of a backpack. Miles away from the hurry-up world, and the millions of voices clamouring for immediate attention. It was truly a time to seek God, and learn to hear His still, small voice.

The Bible says that God has put us here on this earth for a purpose: to learn to KNOW Him, and to build a relationship with the Creator of the universe. What an awesome thought! Can this be possible? Through Jesus God has made such a way open for us. The problem is, however, that our life here on earth is so short, and so full of distractions. God warns us in his Word of the dangers of getting so caught up with the cares of this world, that we have no time or attention for getting to know God.

Jesus himself urged us to “store up for yourselves treasures in heaven,” or in other words, begin investing in the things that will really last. What kind of things are these? One of the most important is the human soul. The Bible says that our souls will live forever. Either forever in heaven, with God. Or forever in hell, shut out from God’s presence. The message throughout the Word of God is that each human soul is infinitely valuable to God. You are known by God, created by God, and even kept alive by God. He has given us a gift of time on this earth. Not time to do as we please, but time to prepare for eternity. Only those who have their treasure in heaven; those whose greatest love is for Jesus and what he did for them on the cross are truly prepared.

I urge you to consider where your true treasure lies. Have you like Daren learned to put God first in your life? All eternity will you enjoy the rewards of such an investment. The joy of knowing God can begin for you today. (See pg. 3 “Becoming a Child of God.”)



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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.

## NEED BIBLE STUDY?

If you are interested in beginning a free introductory Bible Study, please contact us by mail, phone, or visit our website below.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**  
We have had some problem receiving faxed Bible studies. If you have faxed us a completed study, and gotten no response, please contact us so we can get you the next lesson. Sorry!

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**www.thestreetcorner.org**

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