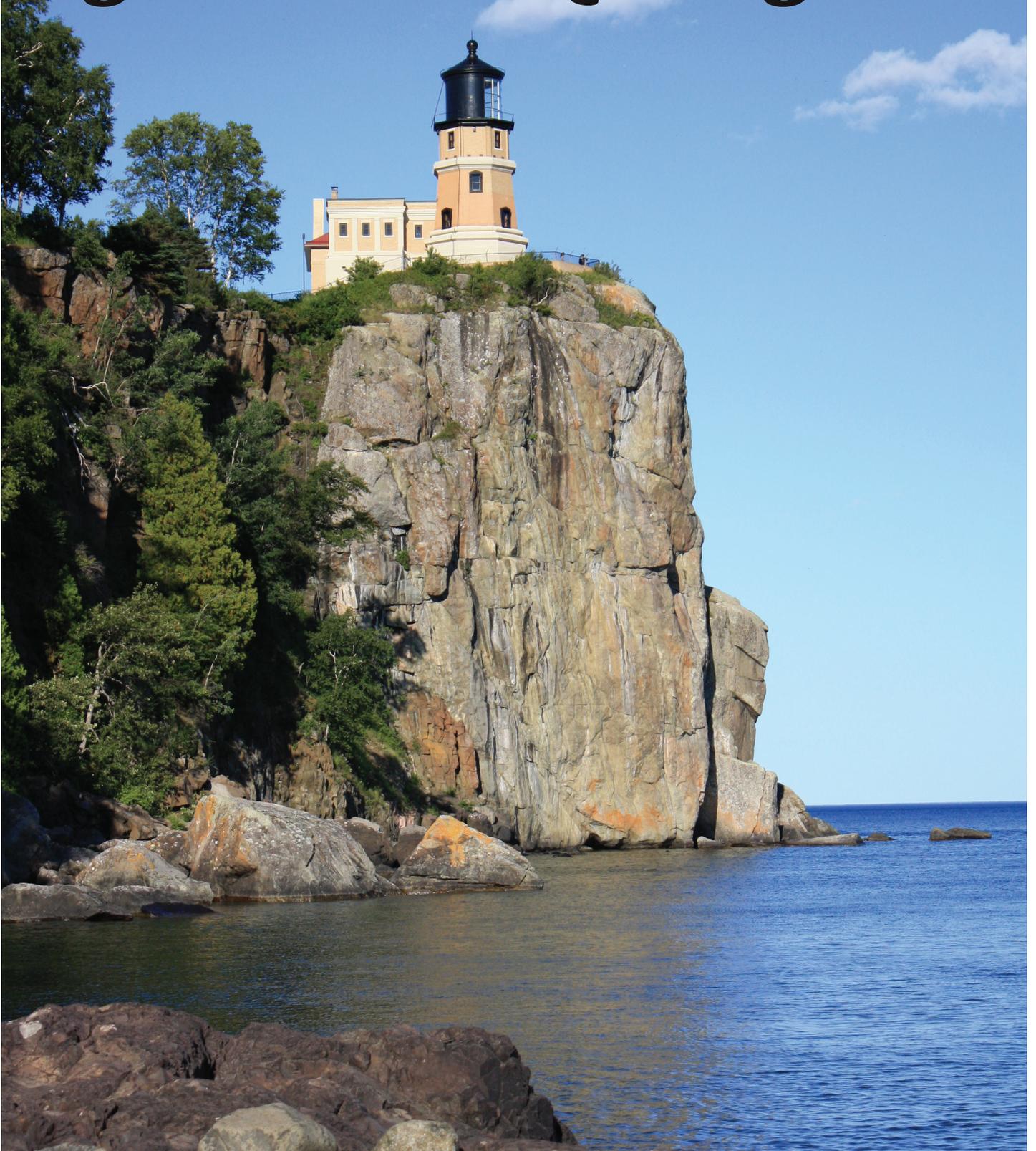


October 2011

# Lighted Lamp Magazine



# From the Editor

Being set apart for God is a wonderful thing. It can be tempting to focus all the things we have been set apart from, and concentrate on not sinning, but the Christian life is not centered around trying to avoid sin. It's centered around trying to have as close of a relationship with God as possible. It's about learning more about His nature and His ways.

Living God's way shouldn't be a burden on us, but a great joy. There is an inner peace and happiness that comes out of spending time with God and pleasing Him in our actions, both great and small. We get to marvel at His power and His attention to detail. There are moments when we are reading the Bible and suddenly a passage takes on new meaning. There are answered prayers, and there are mysteries to wonder at.

It is an amazing privilege that God has chosen to work through us. He doesn't need us. He is all-powerful and all-sufficient and could make Himself known without our help. But He allows us to experience Him and learn about Him in our daily lives. I'm so glad to be set apart for Him.

God bless,

*Priscilla*

# Contents

## Articles:

4 A Beacon of Hope

10 In Their Own Tounge: Bible

Translation Around the World

6 Hard Lessons from the

Fruits of the Spirit

14 Free Bondservants

## Poetry:

9 Lighthouse Life

## Regular Features:

12 Wisdom Unlocked

13 Prayer Page



*Photography by Priscilla*

“A baptism of holiness, a demonstration of godly living is the crying need of our day.”  
—Duncan Campbell

*Photography by Priscilla*



**Mission:**

To encourage and strengthen Christian teens to love and follow God with their whole hearts, souls, and minds; and to glorify God.

**Editor:**

Priscilla Carsten

**Writers:**

Elsie Anne Gray  
Leanne Nelson  
RuthAnne Irvin  
Tabitha Hope

**Photographers:**

Mari Carsten

**Cover:**

Priscilla Carsten

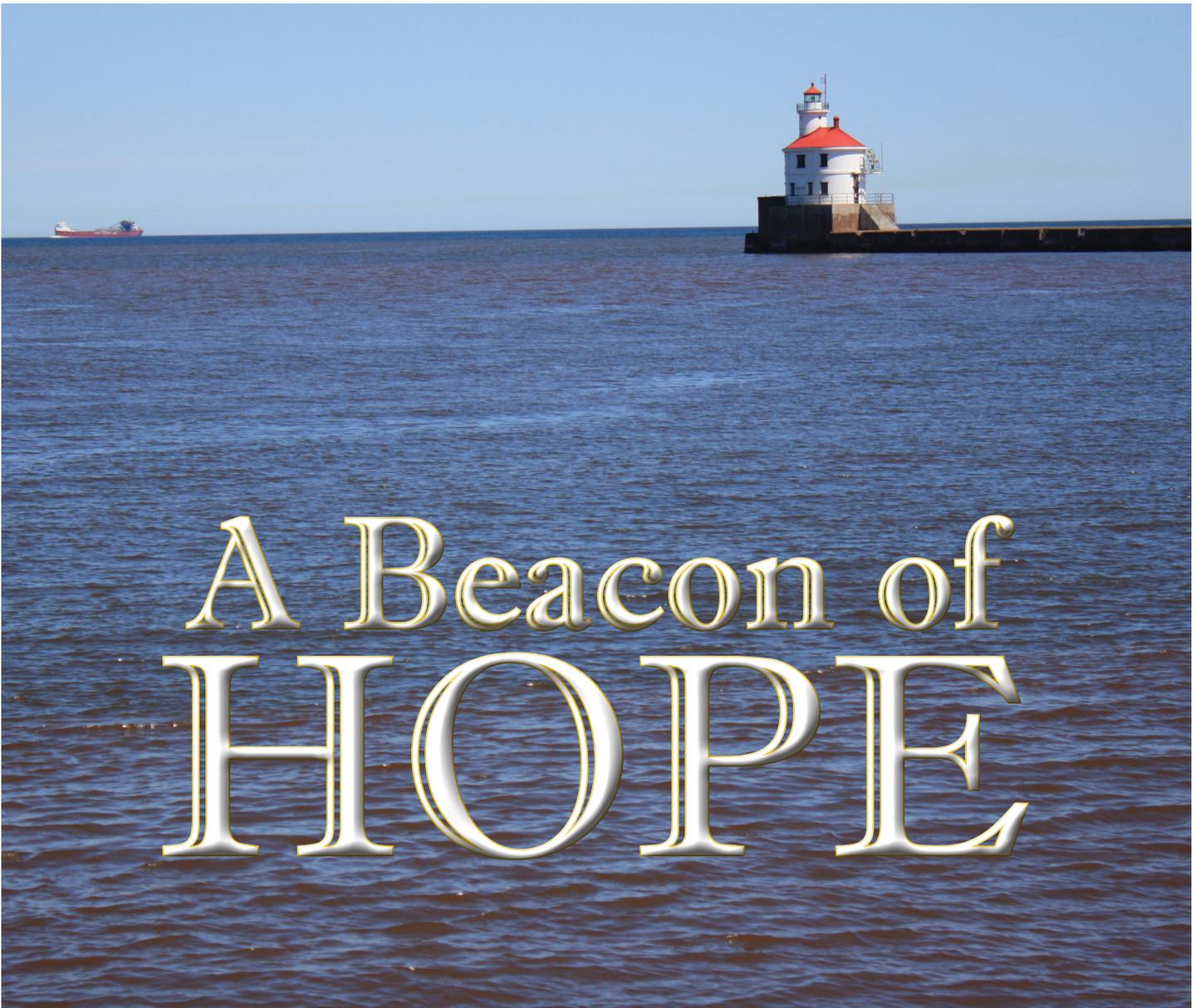
**Graphic Design:**

Ashley Jones  
Elizabeth J.C.

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

-Matthew 5:16 (NKJV)

©2011 Lighted Lamp Magazine



*Photography by Priscilla*

*by RuthAnne Irvin*

A captain's heart races as the seas rage and the fog increases around his ship. There is little hope as the boat tilts to one side then the other. The crew is preparing to be thrown overboard when they see a glorious sight- a light in the distance that is streaming from a lighthouse on shore. With the light comes renewed strength and hope for finally making it home. Just as that lighthouse uses a small amount of reflected light to give lost and weary sailors hope, so should we be reflectors of God's greatness and

the hope that comes through Christ to those around us.

Humans were created to reflect. We were created to reflect the Creator's glory and holiness, to reflect His creativity and to reflect His love. We were created in God's image and are expected to reflect Him. How do we reflect our Maker in everyday life? Here are four practical ways:

**Loving our family- John 13:34 & 35.**

Hard one, isn't it? Our families can be our best

friends and closest confidants but they can also be where Satan tries to trip us up the most. Who hasn't seen the siblings in the mall fighting? When we love our family and actually like them, we are counter-cultural and we reflect (not perfectly) how God cares for us unconditionally.

### **Serving others- John 13:5.**

When we serve, people stare. No kidding. They wonder why we're being nice and if we have a hidden agenda. Jesus washed His disciples' feet and we are to do the same because He must become greater and we must become less. What better way to be like Jesus than to serve? And what reflects God more than laying down our wishes for someone else's need? Jesus did it, so can we.

### **Having a life that is different from the world- 1 John 2:15-17.**

When we don't act, talk, dress, or enjoy entertainment like the world does, we are different and people notice. I'm not saying we can't see a movie or listen to music other than gospel but our hearts and attitudes should be different than the world's. When we hold purity and marriage to a higher standard, we reflect God's holiness and we are also obeying Him.

### **Perseverance in the small things- Luke 16:10.**

Washing dishes, not cheating on that test, doing what we are told without complaining. The small things, if we're faithful, lead to bigger things; and they also produce Christ-likeness and the fruit of the spirit in our lives. Life, if you're a Christ-follower, is all about sanctification leading to holy reflection of the Creator.

Why God's children reflect? To showcase our God! We need to be salt and light to the world

like Jesus said in Mark 9:50. We need to be a beacon like the lighthouse. There are weary souls walking around us everyday thinking the fog will never lift and that the only option left is to jump ship. We have an opportunity to be a glimmer of hope by sharing the hope we have in Christ. We can use what God has given us to reflect Him and in doing so, hopefully point a weary sailor home, just like the lighthouse. May we shine as a beacon of hope to the dark and dreary world around us as we live out our faith in everyday life. 🙏

*Below: The rotating prisms in a lighthouse that magnify and reflect the light.*



# Hard Lessons from the Fruits of the Spirit

by Leanne Nelson



Photography by Mari Carsten

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. If you've grown up going to church you've probably learned them all by heart and repeated them hundreds of times in Sunday school. But have they really touched all of your life? There are little things that a lot of us struggle with that have roots in the Fruits of the Spirit. Here are a few:

### *Love*

We see this as an easy one, but when Luke reminds us that we are to love everyone, even our enemies it's gets a little tougher. As he puts it Luke 6:32 even sinners love those who love them. Truly loving means loving even when you don't get anything in return. Are there people in your life who you could love a little more?

### *Joy*

I recently heard the quote "comparison is the thief of joy," on one of the podcasts I was listening to from Passion City Church, and it turned my outlook on joy around. I think that we often get caught up in being jealous of what others have and what we don't have, and that often leads to us feeling depressed or stressed out. This may be taking place in your school life, maybe someone has that phone that you've been wanting to get for a long time, or even at home, maybe your siblings have been doing better at something than you have. Take a look into your life, and ask yourself if you are comparing yourself to others. If so, you might be robbing yourself of joy.

### *Peace*

Philippians 4:6-7 says "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your re-

quests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Too often we get caught up in being anxious about our futures. The only way you'll find peace is by surrendering your anxiety to God. Is there a fear or concern in your life that is keeping you from the peace of God? If there is, take some time to pray about it... God is always there, and willing to give us the peace we seek.

### *Patience*

Patience is a really hard one for me. Especially when it comes to my parents. God says that we are to submit to or parents and listen to them, a practice that isn't preached in this day and age. Are you being patient with your parents or the authorities God has placed over your life, like a teacher? If not, ask God to help you with this. He is the only one that can give us the strength to follow His commandments.

### *Kindness*

This is another one that seems easy but if you take a look through your life it may actually seem like the hardest to follow through on sometimes. Maybe put it this way: did you respond to your sibling with kindness when they asked you a question today? Or did sarcasm or anger come out instead?



## Goodness

The lies of our world sometimes twist our views of goodness. No one is good. Jesus was the only good person. How are we to be good then, you ask? By turning to God. King David knew he wasn't good, so he pleaded to God for His help. In Psalm 139:23, David says: "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts." Is there something in your life that God has been nudging you to give up lately? Or maybe there is a part of your life that needs to change in order to be more in tune with God's plan for you. Ask Him to search you and let you know.

## Faithfulness

I often find that faithfulness goes hand in hand with trust. Psalm 145:13 says "Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does." Are you staying firm in your faith, or is your heart being pummeled with doubts? Either way, reach out to God. He wants to walk through the valleys and the mountains with us. In fact He'll carry us when we don't have the strength to keep going.

## Gentleness

This is one Fruit of the Spirit that is often passed over, but if God included it in the list it is definitely important.

For girls: Peter wrote in 1 Peter 3:4 that a gentle and quiet spirit is an imperishable beauty that is precious in God's sight. Now don't take this as a commandment that you have to all be shy and timid because that might not be how God made you! I think that being gentle and quiet in

spirit is having a loving, God-filled heart. Ask God what part of your life might need a little gentleness in it!

For guys: don't laugh awkwardly and pass over the word 'gentle'. It does not mean be girly - not at all! Maybe, in your life, it means being a bit more compassionate to those around you, or maybe being chivalrous in a macho, tough-guy world. Ask God what gentleness means in your life.

## Self-control

Let's say you and Jesus were hanging out at school one day. Would you swear in front of Him? Would you say some of those jokes that you tell to impress your friends? Probably not. Romans 12:2 says that we are not to conform to the world. That includes the way we act, dress and talk. If all your non-Christian friends are swearing, acting crude and using God's name in vain do you follow along or control your mouth in a way that is pleasing to God? Maybe when you're in a difficult scenario again, ask yourself "what would Jesus do." It may seem like a Sunday school type of thing, but I guarantee it will force you to make a few changes in your life.

After taking a deeper look into these Fruits, you might feel a bit discouraged... don't be! God gives us tasks that seem impossible so that we have to turn to Him for help! Remember: God is all of these traits, and He is the only one that can help you through whatever struggles you're having right now.

LORD my God, I called to you for help,  
and you healed me.

-Psalm 30:2



# *Lighthouse Life*

by Tabitha Hope

The ships set off---but soon the wind  
Grew heavy with its pregnant hate,  
And bolts of flame which break and bend  
Shot sizzling from the sky of slate.

The rolling hooves of thunder bore  
Their mark against the hollow masts,  
And men, so calm and proud before,  
Went weeping through the wild blasts.

One soul alone, with folded hands  
A pastoral sailor still,  
In lone appeal on that brigand  
Cried out Christ's words, "Be still!"

But wind and rain did not obey,  
It seemed his faith was weak,  
Until a sparkling golden ray  
Illumined his sallow cheek.

Through flashing bolts, and rolling waves  
The beam kept up its guide,  
Until the sailors' passed their graves  
And found their coastal side.

Some say the light was just a fake,  
The house's final try  
To give the men another break,  
Or calm the whirlwind's eye,

But one meek man, with misty gaze  
Remembers God alone  
Can turn a dusty bulb to rays  
And light a house of stone.

The summer sun had passed away,  
Dark shadows slunk upon the shore,  
And autumn, with her mellow days  
Was moaning on the ocean floor.

A storm was brewing in the deep,  
Its presence seemed to swell and grow,  
But sailor's prideful hearts will sleep  
Although their intuition knows.

The lighthouse on the rocky coast  
Had long ago grown dim with time,  
Perhaps an age of age ago,  
It used to burn its beams sublime,

But on that evening, ripe with rain,  
It stood, a stalwart, broken frame  
A gutted thing that watched with shame  
As sailors left to make their names.



*Photography by Priscilla*

*by Elsie Anne Gray*

Nearly 2,000 people groups around the world do not have access to the Word of God in their native language. They cannot understand the gospel, let alone grow in their fledgling faith, if they do not have a Bible in the language that they best understand. In the past thirty to fifty years the Church (primarily in America) has risen up with the goal of translating God's Word into the languages of all people. The process of Bible translation is long and difficult among any tribe or people, and the methods and complications vary from location to location. Today I will discuss with you two major methods of Bible translation taking place around the world.

ble has not yet been translated from the common trade language to the specific languages of the various people groups. These languages are usually isolated and often less than 1,000 people may speak them. Because of the isolation not much research has been done for these languages and there may not even be written forms of them. So, how is the Bible translated into a language that has never even been written down? It is a long and tedious process, sometimes taking two to three decades to complete, but it is more than worth the effort. Areas like the Amazon rainforests, and countries like Papua New Guinea require this method of translation.

In many tribal areas across the globe the Bi-

The translation process begins with an under-

standing of the language. The missionaries involved in the translation project move into the village in the midst of the people and begin to learn the language. Usually it takes roughly two years to become proficient in a foreign language, but in the case of tribal translation it may take slightly longer because there is no formal language-learning program available. As the missionaries become proficient in the language they can begin to keep logs of vocabulary, analyze the language, and ask the natives questions about what certain idioms or expressions mean.

Slowly the missionaries will begin to translate basic Bible stories into the local language with the help of several natives who are dedicated to being their “language helpers.” As the stories are told it is vital that the natives understand them very well. If there are aspects of a story that seem ambiguous then it must be reworked and tested again. Slowly, as the language becomes more and more familiar to the missionaries, and the natives become more and more excited about the translation work, the work of formally translating the New Testament verse by verse will begin. Portions of the Old Testament will also be translated to supplement the New Testament translation, and eventually the entire Bible may be completed.

Bible translation also takes place in more populated areas among clusters of people groups who speak similar dialects. One team of missionaries may go through the tribal translation process explained above, spring boarding translation projects for all of the surrounding people groups.

In this translation method missionaries take the data gathered by the first translation team and use it to begin translating several new languag-

es simultaneously. Because they are using existing information, and essentially standing on the shoulders of previous teams, they can translate much more quickly. Computers are a vital component in this method of translation. Using this method it can take as little as seven to five years to translate the entire New Testament.

Bible Translation requires a great deal of education, training, passion, and patience. The process must be done with skill, and so Bible translators often spend between four and eight years learning how languages work, as well as studying the people they are planning to work among and mission methods relevant to their culture. Translators must be dedicated to their task; willing to spend years and possibly decades in bringing the Word of God to the unreached in a language that they can understand. ◊

### **Biography**

Elsie Anne is a freshman at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. She hopes for the opportunity to participate in Bible translation after graduating with degrees in Biblical Studies, Applied Linguistics, and Biblical Greek. If you are interested in Bible translation and want to know more please email her at [elsieanne@sbcglobal.net](mailto:elsieanne@sbcglobal.net).



## Wisdom Unlocked



Proverbs 11:14 says, “Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.”

After the death of Solomon, his son Rehoboam became king, and right away he had a decision to make. The people of Isreal, led by Jeroboam, said that Solomon had demanded a lot of them, but if Rehoboam would lighten that yoke, they would serve him.

Rehoboam consulted his father’s elders, and they advised him to do as the people asked so they would respond to Rehoboam’s kindness and be loyal to him. Then Rehoboam asked young men who had grown up with him for advice, and they had a different opinion. They thought Rehoboam should say that he would make the yoke much heavier.

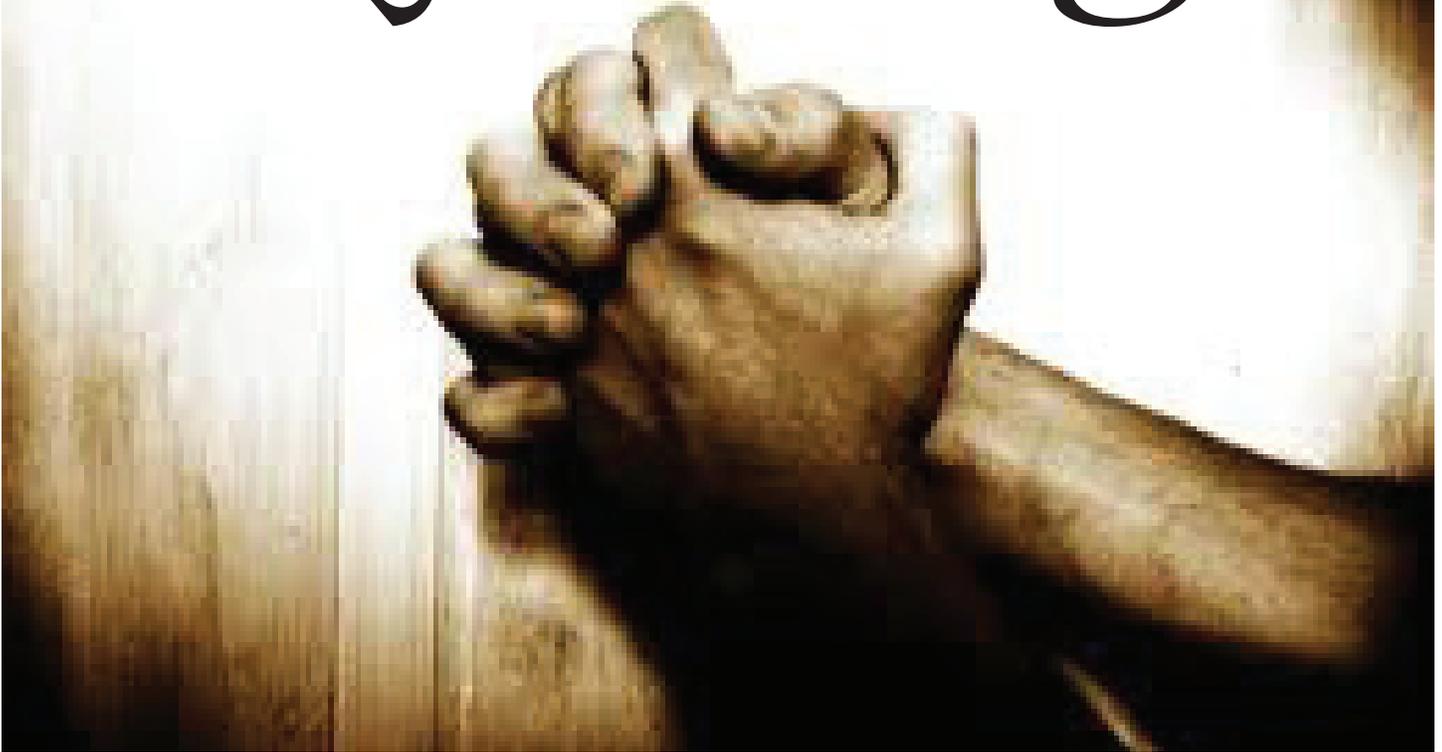
When the people came back to hear Rehoboam’s answer, he did as the young men had suggested. The people of Isreal decided that they did not want to follow Rehoboam, so they made Jeroboam their king, leaving only Judah to follow Rehoboam. Rehoboam could have avoided a big mistake if he’d only listened to wise advice.

When we have to make big decisions, it is nice to know that we do not have to make them on our own. There are people around us with more wisdom and experience than we have, and they can be a great resource for information about the potential consequences of our decisions.

Rehoboam followed advice, but it turned out to be bad advice. How can we know whether the advice we get is wise or foolish? First, age and experience count for something. Solomon’s elders had advised Solomon successfully for years in the past, while Rehoboam’s friends hadn’t experienced enough life lessons to know what could happen. Secondly, the elders gave a reason for their answer. They said that the people would be loyal to Rehoboam if he did what they asked. Rehoboam’s friends gave no answer. Finally, we can tell the wisdom of any advice by comparing it to what the Bible says.

Parents, grandparents, teachers, neighbors, pastors; God has put so many people in our lives who can help us unlock life’s perplexities. All we have to do is ask their advice. 

# Prayer Page



Many of us are from homes and communities where knowledge of the gospel is taken for granted. But there are many, many people who know nothing about Jesus. Elsie Anne wrote about some of them, whole tribes who don't have access to a Bible in their own language. This month, please pray for the gospel to be spread to those who have never heard it, and that God will hasten the work of the translators who are making it possible for groups of people to read the Bible.

Not only are there people in far away places who don't know about Jesus, but there are some who are nearer than we think. Every day we interact with people who might have totally different backgrounds than we have, and have not been to church, or been taught by anyone who

Jesus is. Pray also for those people to come into contact with Christians who will share their faith with them.

## **Luke 24:46-47 (NKJV)**

Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ☩

# FREE BONDSERVANTS

## FOREIGNERS SERIES

*by Priscilla Carsten*

In the chapter about strength, we thought about how God has all the power to act in heaven and on earth. We also thought about how sin is hard to avoid. But I Corinthians 7:21(NKJV) says, “For he who is called in the Lord while a slave is the Lord’s freedman. Likewise he who is called while free is Christ’s slave.” Jesus has freed us from sin, and we do not need to serve it any longer. At the same time, we must serve Jesus.

Matthew 9:29 says, “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” Jesus is a much better Master than sin. He has bought us with His life in order to give us life forever. Not only has Jesus freed us from sin, but He has also adopted us as sons. Galations 4:1-5 says, “Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.” Satan, on the other hand, plans for his slaves to be tortured eternally in hell.

God’s rescue of the Israelites from Egypt is like His rescue of us from sin. Deuteronomy 5:15 says, “And remember that you were a slave

in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.” He rescued the Israelites from slavery to the Egyptians, which led them to death (killing of their male children) just like our slavery to sin would have led us to death. Later, He saved the Israelites from the plague of death by the blood of the lamb on their doorposts and lintels. He saved us because of the blood of the Lamb that covered our sin.

Since God has bought us with the blood of Jesus, we belong to Him, and we should serve Him out of our love for Him. John 12:26 says, “If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.”

When we serve God, we must stop serving other things. Luke 16:13 says, “No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” Mammon means money. We can also relate it to anything else in life that relates to our own advancement. We can’t serve ourselves anymore. We can’t serve pleasure and wealth and sin because we don’t belong to it anymore.

Why not? The verse says that if a servant has two masters, he will like one better than the other. When one says to do something and the

other says to do something else, then what? The servant can only be loyal to one of the masters. I certainly don't want to realize one day that I am more loyal to my selfish desires than to God. We have to make a conscious effort to follow Him above our other desires or we will find it harder and harder to do so. We have to be willing to give Him everything.

I Peter 2:21 says, "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:" Jesus is our example, and He served God regardless of the cost to Himself.

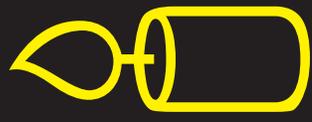
Phillippians 4:5-7 says, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men."

Jesus was equal with God, but He was still willing to become a servant. He is the perfect example of obedience to God even when what God wanted was not to His personal immediate benefit. He was humble. Remember the last supper, when He washed the disciples' feet?

John 13:3-17 says, "Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know af-

ter this." Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean." So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."

Blessed are we when we serve God with our whole hearts! ☩



# LL Magazine

Matthew 5:16