

## **Glen Park Gospel Church Inc.**

### **Worship at Home Service for Sunday 9th August.**

Good Morning. We are settling down to our Worship at Home for a month or two yet we are locked down. We do not know how long that all this will remain in place. Our first imperative is that we keep up our loyalty to our Saviour, our commitment to the fellowship and patience with one another over this time. Let us not let things slip.

Joan has kindly provided us with a service schedule for the month and we are doing our best to follow it fully. This week Laurie Maskell is the meditation leader, and he has kindly put his thoughts down on paper. Chris Trinhnam is scheduled as service provider and it is our regular Communion Sunday. So before we begin please ensure that you have on hand the two elements that Jesus gave to us to remind us of His sacrifice. The regular things not on hand? You may have to improvise. That is quite in order!

Next week, according to the Green Leaf schedule, the service is to be organised by Coralie and the message to be provided by Darrell Reeve.

This morning let us all "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!"

#### **Our opening prayer**

Almighty God and our Heavenly Father. We come in prayer before your presence in the name and through the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ. We thank you Lord for your love and kindness toward us. Let this time that we remember your things though individually but we believe together; be a blessing to us. Draw us closer to yourself and one another we pray in Jesus name. Amen.

If you can; sing, read and hum, or just browse the words of these all - time favourites Hymns:

The first is "Great is Thy faithfulness." By  
Thomas Chisholm 1866 - 1960

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changes not, Thy compassions they fail not;  
As Thou hast been Thou for ever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided -  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow  
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside!

#### **Bible Reading : Psalm 33.**

#### **Our Communion Service**

Today being the second Sunday in the month is a Communion Sunday. We must each make our own provision of bread and wine. It could be that you have been caught short. Maybe you do not keep a stock of these elements on hand. Simply use whatever you have. The reality is spiritual, not physical. The emblems are simply that. On that first night, Jesus picked up what was to hand and used it. We see that His symbols were suggestive and meaningful. And yours can be too.

We prepare our hearts with a dedicated well known Communion song.

Here O My Lord Horatio Bonar 1808  
- 1889.

Here O my Lord I see Thee face to face;  
Here would I touch and handle things unseen,  
Here grasp with firmer hand th'eternal grace  
And all my weariness upon Thee lean.

Here would I feed upon the bread of God  
Here drink with Thee the royal wine of Heaven

Here would I leave aside each earthly load,  
Here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven

### **The Communion Table:**

‘And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." '

Take and eat the bread now

‘And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood." ' Luke 22:19 & 20ESV.

Take and drink the cup now,  
then the last verse of our Communion hymn.

Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,  
Yet passing points to the glad feast above.  
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,  
The Lamb's great bridal feast of bliss and love.

### **The Prayers of the Church:**

Our Heavenly Father we come to you now in prayer with the needs of our people upon our hearts. Lord you know all things, and you understand the demands that these days are placing upon us. We bring our people and our nation and our brothers and sisters in the Lord to you. This virus that is afflicting us, and many, many others is causing all kinds of unwanted stresses and misunderstanding because we are not able to meet and discuss things with one another. Our written communication skills are not always as good. Help us to be patient, understanding and forgiving when the other person hurts us and to show love in return. Help us to remember that we also may be hurting them.

We pray in particular for Wendy who has had to put up with so much over the last months. Help her to tolerate the stresses that this causes, and

cope with the added constraints of the virus precautions that are in force. And also Darrell who stands with her.

We remember too those suffering due to the Covid 19 infection. Those who are bereaved, seriously ill, missing income, or locked into uncongenial conditions.

We pray for our missionaries who are greatly inconvenienced by all the added restrictions and demands that are placed upon them. Please enable them to meet these new demands as well as the regular requirement of service, often in a foreign and sometimes hostile community.

Please provide for them from your bounty the resources of strength, finance and initiative that they need to get their work done and done well.

We remember too the work of the fellowship at Glen Park to meet the spiritual needs of the community in which we find ourselves. And the people with whom we live and work. We pray for our governments that they will be constrained to meet the needs of people with wisdom and compassion. May they lead us wisely and well.

At this time we confess our sins and faults, the things we do before we think, our selfish responses and demands, our inconsiderate actions. Forgive us, even as we forgive those who sin against us. May we be more like our Lord Jesus in all we do and say.

Lord, we pray, make us a blessing to others. These things we ask in Jesus name. Amen.

### **Turn your eyes upon Jesus**

No R332

Lauren Daigle

#### **Refrain**

Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look full in His wonderful face  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of His glory and grace

Oh soul are you weary and troubled?  
No light in the darkness you see?  
There's light for a look at the Savior  
And life more abundant and free

Refrain

Through death into life everlasting  
He passed and we follow Him there  
O'er us sin no more hath dominion  
For more than conquerors we are

Refrain

His word shall not fail you, He promised  
Believe Him and all will be well  
Then go to a world that is dying  
His perfect salvation to tell.

Refrain.

### **The Message.**

Laurie Maskell

I am going to base today's message around the letter T.

Trusting through. Testings will be my focus for today, but we could also consider Trials, and Temptations.

How do you respond in each of these situations? Each Testing, each Trial, each Temptation will likely look different for each of us.

Most of us do not choose testings or trials but they seem to come anyway. For the purpose of this message I am defining Tests as intense experiences which come upon us suddenly but are usually of short duration compared to Trials which are generally less intense but because they are longer lasting experiences they will wear us down, unless we are able to draw on strength from outside of ourselves. In both cases the beginning of the event is usually unexpected and in both cases we may be uncertain of the outcomes.

Last week, we had a message about Gideon, and how he responded to the trial, then on to his response to the message that God sent through the angel. We know what deliverance was brought about later as He obeyed the promptings of God.

Today, I am going to give a couple of stories of much more recent experiences of tests that God allowed and how he protected His people through them. The first example I am giving of a test is a story from somebody else's experience. Martin Knauber was a translator in a village in the South-Eastern area of Papua New Guinea. The following account is transcribed from a tape in which he tells part of the story.

Quote: `In 1988, in the first day when we allocated into our village near Milne Bay, our Regional Area Director went with us and spent one night there, and the next morning, the RAD left, and right after he had left, the witch-doctor of the area showed up from the other village. He is the main witch-doctor for the whole area.

He came to me, speaking English, with a Bible in his hand, with two other men. He acted in what seemed to me to be a strange way, with odd breathing, and I wondered at his sanity.

He said; "Those two are my apostles. We are here to test you." I asked what he meant, and he said, "I am going to test you with the bush-knife."

I said, "I would rather you didn't test me." I was quite afraid, but he said, "No worries, I am not going to test you. It's the man, my man is going to test you." I asked, "What man?" And he said "I always have a man and he's here, he's always with me. He is going to do it."

When he said that, the idea came to me to say, "Well, that's interesting. I have a man too. He's right here. He's always with me. He is the Lord of the universe, Jesus Christ."

The moment that I had said that, he stumbled back, almost as if I had pushed him, and he was shouting at me. He was stumbling away from me. I called him back, and asked him what he was shouting at me and he said, "I don't know. The man said that."

It was speaking in demonic tongues.

Then he proceeded with his testing.  
The people disappeared.

My family went into the house and began to pray, and I prayed too.

He began to wield his bush knife as if he were trying to strike me but never actually doing so. He was all the time talking and speaking in these strange tongues. I was praying and commanding him in the Name of the Lord.

After a while, he stopped, came up to me, and he said, "I know now. I have to call you my lord." That was very amazing to me. It was a great relief also.

Since that day, he has stayed out of our way, even when we go to his village. When he comes to ours for some reason, he keeps away from us.' End of quote.

That people group now has the Word of God in their own language.

Next, a story from my own experience. The location was north-West of Madang. The incident took place a little over a year after we first went to Papua New Guinea.

It was about four in the afternoon and I had driven six kilometres off the main coastal road into the foothills of the mountains to a village where I planned to spend the night in hopes of meeting a local leader. My task was to find places where newly arrived mission staff would be able to stay for a few weeks to consolidate the training they had received in the first few weeks of their orientation to PNG. I had visited the village earlier that week and had been told that the leader was clearing bush for a new garden and only came back to the village for the night. I had arranged to stay the night in a house near to his so I parked in front of that house, took my sleeping bag and some food into the house and settled down to chat with my host while I waited. We were standing on an elevated veranda with a sturdy rail around it. From there we could see the house of the leader off to the left. We could also see some distance back down the track along

which I had come. After a while, I noticed three young men, each carrying a long bush knife in his hand wandering along the track toward us. This is not an uncommon sight in or near any remote village in PNG. I saw no sign of danger in that.

Quite abruptly I thought, my host invited me to come into the house again, but since I wanted to keep the house of the village leader in sight I declined and remained leaning on the rail and idly watched the three young men approach. They paused quite close by as they studied my vehicle and I greeted them politely. They barely acknowledged me but after a brief huddle one of them stepped toward the veranda while the other two waited and watched near the vehicle. The steps up to the veranda were on my right so as the young man came up the steps toward me I opened the gate to him and, offering him my right hand I bid him a cheery good afternoon.

What happened next took me completely by surprise as instead of returning my greeting he swung the bush knife back to his right, behind and about level with his shoulder, and asked me if I would like to eat ripe pawpaw. What a contradiction between the two messages I was receiving. How would you react to that?

I must have frozen in place for several seconds as I processed the conflicting information plus a lot more. Some of the things I still remember were:-

Is this my last few moments on earth?

How have I offended them?

This is not a situation where I am in control. (But I know Who is. Short silent prayer. There were a few more of those as the events unfolded.)

If the food is the message why the knife?

If the knife is the message what is the offer of food?

I remembered my brother Alan telling me a few months before we left Australia that he had seen many friendships destroyed when a person had chosen to feel insulted when insult had not been intended. Meaning: it is better to interpret

favourably where such an interpretation is possible.

I believe Satan was behind the thought of my imminent demise and of the next thought where I wondered what would happen to my wife and two little girls without me. For me, that second question was not really much of a test because I am already aware that it is God Who provides for us all, not me.

Would my family even find out what had happened to me?

One unarmed man against three strong young men with long bush knives was not my preferred option.

Greater is He who is in you than he who is of the world (1 John 4:4) was an encouragement.

If I make any move beyond talking that will likely be equivalent to me choosing to fight instead of leaving the situation in the most capable hands of the God I claim to trust.

So, in the hope of avoiding battle, I took the food option as if it was the intended message even though that action ignored the threatening knife, so I responded, "Yes, I like to eat ripe pawpaw." He just stared at me without moving so I responded further, "My wife and two little girls also like ripe pawpaw." Another pause and no response. I was aware that the two young men behind me were laughing quietly but a glance from the man facing me silenced them. To me that was confirmation that the real message was the knife and the reference to ripe pawpaw must somehow relate to that. But the knife had not swung yet, and as the man facing me still said nothing I continued in my bluff. "Do you have some ripe pawpaw that you would like to give me or that I can buy from you?" No response! "Do you get the pawpaw from your own garden or from your mother's garden? Still no response! "Is your garden nearby or is it a long way away?" At that, with the young men behind me laughing again, the man facing me made a movement, almost a sigh of despair as he lowered the knife, turned on his heel without another word and

walked down the steps and back to the other two.

After a further brief talk which was almost inaudible to me they all walked on without further comment.

That was the last I saw of them. Although my host (who had locked himself in the house while this was going on) suggested that maybe I had better leave, I did stay the night. I waited until about ten AM the next day but never did get to see the leader I sought and by this time I was extremely doubtful that I would want to be responsible for placing anybody, especially a young family who were relatively new to PNG in that village anyway.

What is common to these two stories?

Both events were completely unexpected.

There is an initial impact to facing a large knife held in a threatening manner that is difficult to describe.

Once the event started, neither of us could opt out.

Both events appeared to be life-threatening.

For both events, we were brought safely through them, not around them.

Both events were intense but were of short duration.

In both cases our first response was prayer, then trust and wait on God for the outcome.

I have not talked to Martin about it but for me, as soon as I started praying, placing my future firmly in God's hands, I could feel myself relaxing again. So what could have been a terrifying experience became something where my only real fear was the possibility of a painful death. Death itself was not a cause of fear, only the possibility of a rather painful transition. And as the event proceeded the smile on my face was no longer frozen in place but genuine as I thought of the absurdity (humanly speaking) of the situation of an unarmed man smiling, talking trivialities, with a hand held out in apparent friendship, in a face off with a frowning man holding a bush knife in a very threatening manner.

As that man turned away from me, that  
"Greater is He that is in you...." Saying was very  
real to me. More real than ever before.

The experience remains very firmly in my mind as  
I have often rehearsed the details of it when  
difficulties come my way. The Lord got me  
through that one therefore I have confidence that  
He can bring me through anything else that He  
allows me to face. Do you have that confidence  
too?

One of my favourite hymns is "Count your  
blessings." It is a favourite because it reminds me  
to focus on the blessings and be encouraged  
instead of focussing too much on the test or the  
trial I am currently facing. That would make me  
become depressed and gloomy, and probably not  
a person anybody would like to be with much.  
That downward spiral needs to be broken.

The words of that hymn are:  
"When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed.  
When you are discouraged thinking all is lost.  
Count your many blessings, name them one by  
one  
and it will surprise you what the Lord has done."

(The chorus repeats those last two lines.)

"Are you ever burdened with a load of care?  
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?  
Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly,  
and you will keep singing as the days go by.

When you look at others with their lands and  
gold,  
think that Christ has promised you His wealth  
untold.  
Count your many blessings wealth can never buy  
your reward in Heaven, nor your home on high.

So, amid the conflicts whether great or small,  
do not be disheartened, God is over all.  
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,

help and comfort give you to your journey's end."

A Wycliffe friend who is under the uncertainty  
of cancer treatment sums it up well In a recent  
newsletter describing a number of changes of  
direction, and hospitals over just a few days, he  
wrote:- "I learnt again that when events are  
totally out of our control the Lord is holding us in  
the palms of His hands."

No better place to be.  
Do you know for sure that is where you are?  
Whatever comes?

I am Trusting Thee Lord Jesus  
Frances Havergal 1836 - 1879

1 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,  
Trusting only Thee;  
Trusting Thee for full salvation,  
Great and free.

2 I am trusting Thee for pardon;  
At Thy feet I bow,  
For Thy grace and tender mercy  
Trusting now.

3 I am trusting Thee for cleansing  
In the crimson flood;  
Trusting Thee to make me holy  
By Thy blood.

4 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;  
Never let me fall.  
I am trusting Thee forever  
And for all.

### **Benediction.**

Now, The Lord bless thee and keep thee. The  
Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be  
gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his  
countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.  
Amen.