

3-in-1  
THE  
VOICE

Published by 3-in-1 Publishing

NEW YEAR  
SPECIAL  
2010

MATT  
SORGER





ON THE COVER Matt Sorger  
Photo: Courtesy of Matt Sorger  
Ministries  
Location: USA

# 3-in-1 THE Voice

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© 3-in-1 The Voice E-zine 2018, 2012 first published by 3-in-1 Published 2010

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# editor's letter



**KARIN McBRIDE CHENOWETH**  
Editor-in-Chief

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## WELCOME!

Hello again and welcome to our New Year Special Edition. Many of you will have been truly well fed with Christmas Turkey by now have welcomed in 2010 so Happy New Year!

Everyone at 3-in-1 The Voice would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone and also wish you all a very prosperous 2010 – spiritually as well as physically. We also pray for financial stability for everyone.

This edition features IN FOCUS International Prophetic Evangelist **MATT SORGER** from the United States. Matt has a very powerful ministry and we are very grateful that he was able to take some time out of his busy schedule to answer some specific questions put to him by 3-in-1 The Voice.

We welcome our newest addition Cecilia Chiwaka to 3-in-1 The Voice, who talks about the *Virus of Suffering* and we are delighted to have another new member of our team to introduce you to Artist **ZARA MATTHEWS**, whose Christian work can be seen here. You can look forward to reading Zara's testimony in a forthcoming edition of 3-in-1 The Voice.

Finally thank you for all your prayers for Brigid who had a 'stint' in hospital just prior to the Christmas period – she was able to get discharged on Christmas Eve and spend time with her family, so Praise God for that! And remember:-

*'He will bless those who fear the LORD, Both small and great'*  
**Ps 115:13**

KARIN McBRIDE CHENOWETH

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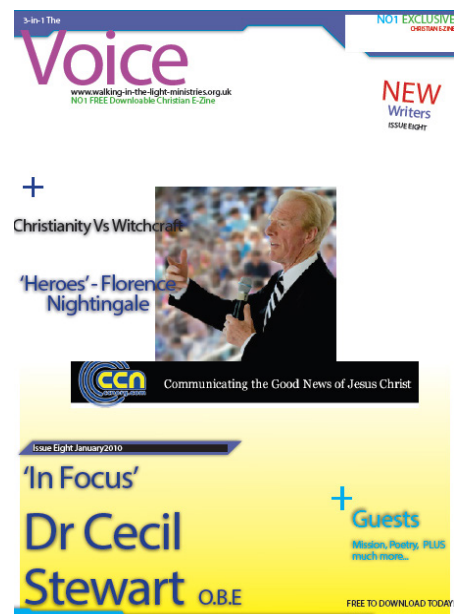
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# Missionary News

## Missionary Section



Brigid Kerr is a young missionary who has been to India in the last 12 months amongst other places! In this issue Brigid reviews 2009 and what work lies up ahead in 2010.

2009-Another year of God's blessings in my life.

Many thanks for prayers. The run up to Christmas was certainly eventful but God in all his graciousness and faithfulness got me through it all so that I could enjoy the Christmas period with family. This gave me a chance to reflect on all the events of 2009 and I shall take you through some of the main events of the year. I am blessed to be part of an outreach team which operates in town centre each weekend. We endeavour to reach out and show God's love practically through being a listening ear, helping people get home safely, warming people up with free tea and coffee and befriending people coming out of the bars answering any questions about our faith readily and praying for them if requested. I feel that God has given me a passion for reaching out to people coming out of the bars as my past is similar. I used to go out and get very drunk and take risks walking home in early hours in the morning and now that God has shown His grace to me, I feel it is so important to reach out to others in the same way. As part of the team and as an individual I have seen the Holy Spirit work powerfully in the bar street areas in the past year and I know He will continue to do mighty works.

This year I have also started a counselling skills course which I feel God pointed me towards in order to help me improve my listening skills and help others with.

The summer months of 2009 proved to be quite busy as I had agreed to help with numerous holidays Bible clubs. I will talk more on the Cork week in a forthcoming issue but will give you a general overview now.

Near the end of July, an all age team went down from our home town to stay in Cork in order to reach out to children and teens in the Mahon area of Cork through a Holiday Bible club week. This club has been going on for the past 15 years and God has worked wonders in the lives of some of these youngsters. This year I decided to become part of this team. Once again it was an opportunity to rely on the Lord more and to reach out and show love to others. We were astounded by the numbers of kids and teens coming through the doors on the first day and thanked the Lord for this. There were wonderful connections made with the kids and teens and we all saw God move in the lives of the kids and teens during this week and some made a commitment and some continued to search. As I mentioned above I will focus more on this time in Cork in the near future.

Following on from Cork, I helped out as a small group leader with another holiday Bible club. This was called Crocodile Dock-where fearless kids shine God's light. Every evening we all met in the church and had a sing-along with the main theme song before each group set off for an evening of Bible stories, games and crafts and memory verses. The theme song called for the children (and probably all the team leaders!) not to be afraid for God is always with us. I like to think this reassured the children as much as it reassured me! I pray that seeds were sown that week and that some of these children were able to experience God's love and provision through this week and may in the future accept Jesus as their saviour if not already.

This year has been such a blessing to me and doors have been opened by the Lord such as becoming missionary editor for the Voice. What an honour to be used by God in this way and I pray that the Lord will bless the Voice and those involved in 2010 and use it for His glory!

**If you are a missionary please forward to Brigid  
your story at: [info@3in1publishing.co.uk](mailto:info@3in1publishing.co.uk)**



# The Feasts - The First Fruits

## Messianic Moment

### Food for Thought

#### **The Feasts of Israel – First Fruits - New Beginnings**

The Hebrew word for 'sheaf' is omer, which in turn means 'a dry measure.' An 'omer' is a tenth of an Ephah, which highlights the idea of the tithe. What was offered would have to be the absolute best.

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In Ancient Israel, First Fruits were a type of terumah that was akin to, but distinct from, terumah gedolah, which was an agricultural tithe. The major obligation to bring First Fruits (Heb. *Bikkurim*) to the Temple began at the festival of Shavuot and continued until the festival of Sukkot. (Bikkurim 1:6), Bikkurim were a sacrificial gift brought up to the altar. (Bikkurim 3:12).

This tithe was limited to the traditional seven agricultural products (wheat, barley, grapes in the form of wine, figs, pomegranates, olives in the form of oil, and dates) grown in Israel.



The Feast of First Fruits is described in Leviticus 23:9-14. This took place the day following the start of the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread on 17 Nisan. When the wheat and barley were ready to be harvested the farmer would bring a sheaf to the priest. The priest would literally wave this sheaf before the Lord in the Tabernacle or Temple.

As we study the Bible we know that Jesus celebrated Passover with the disciples and instituted a new covenant prior to His death, during this time three feasts were fulfilled, Passover (deliverance), Unleavened Bread (whenever our Lord's body lay in the tomb) and on the day of His resurrection this would have coincided with Feast of Firstfruits. Not only is Christ's fulfillment of this feast revealed but God's timing and meaning as we can read regarding this feast...

*'But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.'* 1 Cor 15:20





## The 3 Poets!

By

Cameron McIntyre, Simon Pearson & Keith Dickinson

This issue we have a Guest poet is in missionary Ruth Bell from Carrickfergus in Co.Antrim...

GLORY

SPLENDOUR

WONDER

AWE

the brilliance is too bright  
I shrivel and cower  
He switches off the light and speaks my name  
there is strength and courage to look up

QUIET

STILL

UNAFRAID

He stands up off the Throne  
hand outstretched to me  
"Come" Nothing, no response  
"Come" - again He gently invites

still no movement rooted to the spot  
He moves to approach the captive  
graciously  
deliberately  
His hand still outstretched

Closer He comes, I can see his face  
the gentleness in His eyes  
down in front of me He kneels  
down to me on mine

His movements say it all.  
His hand lifts my face  
to meet His own, no words  
the power of His gaze permeates to the depths  
long untouched and frozen

The warmth is undeniable  
ice melts and flows as tears  
still  
He stares  
filling up the emptiness.  
He takes my hand to rise  
in His presence, I stand

I AM HOME.

©2009 Ruth Bell

# IN FOCUS



## IN FOCUS

**Matt Sorger**

Prophetic Evangelist

Matt Sorger has devoted his life to the Lord and developed a powerful Prophetic and Healing ministry with signs and wonders following the preaching of the Word. 3-in-1 The Voice had an opportunity recently to pose a few questions to Matt not only about MSM (Matt Sorger Ministries) but his view on world events...

**Q** Hi Matt, thank you so much for taking time out of your busy schedule to answer some questions for 3-in-1 The Voice. Firstly was there a pivotal moment in your life that led you to Christ?

I am happy to be able to spend some time with you today! There was a pivotal moment that led me to Christ. I was fourteen years old at the time. When I was twelve my mother became very sick. She was sick for about 2 years, getting worse and worse. She had spent thousands of dollars on medical bills and was up to 24 bottles of medicine a day! The doctors kept diagnosing her with different things. She was practically bedridden. When I was fourteen my grandmother brought my mom to a Catholic charismatic healing mass where the priests were praying for the sick. That night my mom was the worst she had been in 2 years! As she dragged her body into the service she collapsed on the floor in the back of the church sanctuary. When it came time for the priests to pray, she walked forward praying a simple prayer in her heart. "Jesus, tonight I am coming to you. I place all my faith in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." As the priest went to pray for her, the power of the Holy Spirit overshadowed her body. The force was so strong that it flung her back about 10 feet through the air. As she landed on the floor she felt volts of electricity surging through her body. She thought she died and went to heaven! When she got off the floor all the pain and sickness was gone out of her body. She was made completely new inside and out. That night when she came home God's glory was beaming from her and I knew something had happened. That week me and my entire family came to know Jesus as our personal Saviour, Healer and Deliverer! It was an amazing time. Even as a 14 year old teenager I had a conviction of sin and knew I needed forgiveness. I could feel the moment my sins were washed clean from me. It was in October of 1987. That was 22 years ago!



[Click above to link to site](#)



*'...as it gets darker in the world around us, the glory of God will grow brighter and brighter within and upon us.'* Matt Sorger

(PHOTO: Taiwan during preaching of the Word with Matt Sorger)

**Q** There is undeniable healings and miracles that occur at your events that follow the preaching of the Word of God. Have signs, wonders, healings and miracles always occurred during your ministry, for instance from 'Day 1', or was there a particular meeting/service/event when this started to happen?

I can remember the time healings and miracles began to happen in our meetings. I have been travelling full time in itinerant ministry now for over seven full years. Before that I was an associate pastor for five years. I can remember during my pastoral years the Lord began to place a desire in my heart for signs and wonders. I began to pray for miracles to happen in my ministry. The year God began to stir my heart to step out into travel ministry the Lord spoke to me. He said "I want to heal the sick. But I need you to pray for them." I realized in that moment that God was calling me to pray for the sick. That He wanted to heal them, but I needed to partner with Him and pray for them. The opportunity came during my very first service on the road as an evangelist. It was very new for me. During that service I asked the Holy Spirit to come and heal those who were sick. On mass I prayed for the people. Suddenly a woman in the back of the room began crying and came running forward. She said that she could feel all the pain in her neck and back being pulled out. As tears ran down her face she testified to being pain free! It was our first healing. Since then as we have given God the opportunity to move in our meetings, thousands have been healed. We have seen tumours dissolve, deaf ears open, backs straighten, arthritis healed, cancers healed, eyes healed, Multiple Sclerosis, Fibromyalgia, and so much more healed by the power of God. I believe the healing anointing was upon and within me for years. But only when I stepped out and started praying for people did it manifest. When I began to call out words of knowledge for healing on mass, the Holy Spirit would come into the room on a corporate level and heal people without anyone laying hands on them. I believe a key to the miracles we have seen is the personal relationship I developed with the Holy Spirit in secret. From that personal place with God came an overflow of the anointing that would fill entire rooms bringing healing, freedom and salvation to so many.

**Q** People everywhere, believers and non-believers, are relating about the current crisis in this world, in relation to this we also read in the scriptures about the 'groanings of the spirit that cannot be uttered'. Whether one is a believer or not how can one look forward to a better future?

I think from a non believer's point of view the world's situation looks pretty bleak. Some are saying that the current economic condition is similar to what existed in our nation shortly before the Great Depression. Many are fearful and uncertain. Between bizarre weather patterns, the threat of



**Matt preaching to the hungry in Taiwan**

nuclear weapons, Islamic terrorist threats, the Swine Flu and a declining moral culture it is no wonder so many are on anti-anxiety medication! But there is hope! That hope is found in relationship with Jesus Christ. There are so many wonderful promises in the Bible that fill our future with hope and expectation. I believe the best and brightest days are ahead of us! Isa 60:2 tells us that "darkness shall cover the earth, and dense darkness all peoples, but the Lord shall arise upon you and His glory shall be seen upon you." (AMP) That means that as it gets darker in the world around us, the glory of God will grow brighter and brighter within and upon us. Where sin abounds, God's grace will abound even more. We can expect God's manifest presence, glory, protection, provision, health, joy, peace and stability to increase in our lives. Our relationship with God brings a supernatural blessing that will keep us during difficult times. But this blessing starts with a relationship with God that comes through Jesus Christ.

**Q** I see that you have MSM (Matt Sorger Ministries) on Facebook and Twitter, what role do these outlets play in your ministry?

I love Facebook and Twitter! I think it plays a great role in my life and ministry. The bigger a ministry becomes the more impersonal it can become as well. I have found that Facebook allows me to share personal updates with people, a personal written blog, a video blog, pictures and so much more with those who are in relationship with our ministry. It also allows people to share their personal thoughts and comments with me as well. I especially love to read about the impact our ministry is having on people's lives. Just the

other day I was able to read a comment left by a woman we had prayed for in Illinois and found out that when she went to the doctor after we prayed for her the doctor pronounced her cancer free! It's a great venue to keep me in touch with what is happening through our ministry. I love Twitter as well. This enables me to give short words of encouragement to our subscribers and let them know of important things that are happening with me and the ministry. I encourage everyone to become my friend on Facebook and Twitter! I have a Friend Page, Fan Page, as well as several Prayer Network Pages. My Facebook page is [facebook.com/mattsorger](https://www.facebook.com/mattsorger). My Twitter page is [twitter.com/mattsorger](https://twitter.com/mattsorger)

**Q** Finally Matt it tells us in the bible that there will be signs and wonders in the last days and that God will pour out His spirit on all flesh. Do you believe that we are really living in the last days? If so why?

I do believe we are living in the Last Days. The bible is very clear what the signs of the times will be. Mt 24:3-33 gives a tremendous list of what will be happening in the earth before the Lord returns. We see many things found in this scripture



happening in the earth. I believe from the days of John the Baptist till now we have been in the Last Days. Many are eagerly awaiting Christ's return. With each day we are getting closer and closer to that glorious moment in history. But the Bible is also very clear that the good news of the kingdom (Gospel) will be preached throughout the whole world as a testimony to all the nations and that Jesus is coming back for a glorious church without spot or wrinkle. God is bringing His people to maturity. With each passing generation the church is maturing more and more. We will be a glorious bride for Jesus. Especially with the full restoration of the 5-fold gift ministries, including the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher the body of Christ can be fully equipped and empowered to be all she has been called to be. The restoration of the prophetic gift during the 1980's and the apostolic gift during the 1990's are signs that the church is coming into a greater place of maturity than ever before. The saints are being raised up and empowered to do great exploits in these Last Days. Every nation will hear the Good News of the Kingdom. And in the twinkling of an eye, Jesus will come back as the glorious King of Kings establishing His Kingdom with a new heaven and a new earth. But we must work while it is still day. There is a lot more to do for Him!

**Thanks and blessings to Lou and Matt at MSM**

# HEROES

## HEROES



By  
Lianne Henderson

### LANGUAGE

The language spoken in *The Passion* says more than just words they speak about the culture and about where the people come from and I personally feel that is what makes the *Passion* stand out from any other bible film. According to Mel Gibson

"it requires something different from the actors in performance, they have to compensate and be very clear; more than normal because language is a great tool for clarity and you can use different ways to play against it or with it...but that was not the only criteria, not only did they have to have their musical ear for the dialect and the language; they also had to be interesting to look at and have the goods to where acting was concerned"



### THE CAST

Jesus - Jim Caviezel

When it came to casting Jesus The Christ Mel Gibson didn't want any actor who looked like Jesus and could say the lines he was very specific. He wanted someone who emits a good light or you see goodness shine through them. Mel stated that unworlly knowledge seems to envelop Jim Caviezel like a glow and that very presence was a key thing. For that reason Jim Caviezel was chosen to play Jesus The Christ.

Mary the Mother of Jesus - Maia Morgenstern

Mel Gibson relied heavily of Shila Reuben who was his casting lady. She knew where everybody was, if it wasn't for her he would not have found Maia Morgenstern who played Mary the mother of Jesus, Mel said that "she was hiding in Romania". When Mel

Looked at her audition one close-up of her and Mel knew that she was perfect for playing Mary. He said that "she was oozing volumes of wonderful stuff and was utterly watch able, you drawn into her eyes"

Mary Magdalene - Monica Bellucci

Mel Gibson credited Monica Bellucci as a "rare creature" speaking of the scenes she filmed when she was nearly stoned to death and Jesus rescued her. "she's a very good actress and she hardly says a word but she is not afraid to look filthy dirty and beat up and crying. No matter how many times you made her more dirtier and messier, the more better looking she got." There were some intense scenes when she looked at Jesus on the cross even though she did not say a word she was able to make people believe that this was The Christ that was being put to death she was very believable in that sense.

Judas - Luca Lionello

Mel Gibson wanted to cast a Judas that made people feel sorry for him because he felt sorry for him as he killed himself in despair. When it came to casting Judas he liked Luca Lionello because you felt sympathetic towards him when you looked at him.

Satan - Rosalinda Celentano

Mel Gibson always imagined that if evil was going to be personified it was going to be in a form that was attractive or at least dynamic and Rosalinda is both. "She has masculine features but at the same time the symmetry of her eyes and her face is beautiful and whenever you put her in a man's voice it makes her weird." Mel Gibson stated that if you are going to personify evil it should not be in a form of it scaring you but be in a form that is Magnetic and you kind of look at it and Rosalinda did that.

### THE REACTION TO JIM CAVIEZEL



Jim Caviezel had to deal with a lot of new experiences people came up to him thinking he was Jesus Jim a devout Roman Catholic replied that he was not because at the end of the day he is an actor and he was given a role to play. He did not feel inadequate about people saying that he was Jesus because as an actor and Christian he wanted people to see Jesus and not "the actor playing Jesus" when it came to seeing the movie. His devotion to portraying Jesus won great admiration from the director Mel Gibson:

*'Jim Caviezel was perfect when acting as Jesus he did not make one mistake and was perfectly unflawed, you never saw him acting or doing anything holy to be like Jesus it was so natural to him.'*

Mel was amazed at his portrayal as Jesus the Christ saying that it is very hard to play Jesus without trying something.

## Struck By Lightning



The Passion took a life of its own no matter how many times the Director and the crew wanted to plan something for the movie; someone would take The Passion to the way they wanted it to go.

One of the most prominent moments where The Passion took a life on its own was when Jim Caviezel was struck by lightning. Jim was filming Jesus' crucifixion at Golgotha and would stay on the cross for many hours going through lines. However the weather would soon change to its most aggressive form.

*"It got really quiet like an eery silence I knew it I am going to get struck by lightning; and sure enough I felt as though someone took their hands and slapped them against my ears and I saw was a bright static colour for about seven of eight seconds but the moment it hit I heard people scream and a couple of guys before Mel grabbed the ground and what they saw was fire coming from the right and left side of my head"* Jim Caviezel on being struck by lightning.

Cavaziel said the experience made him feel like he wanted to quit, he was physically hurt by being on the cross for hours and the stormy weather added to that burden; he said that Jesus was defiantly not smiling on the cross. Jim did feel guilty whenever he complained during filming of the crucifixion scene because he read a book where it said that Jesus suffered 5000 blows and that affected him when it came to portraying him. No matter how many times it was hard for him as an actor he fully understood that it was nothing to what Jesus went through.

Jim called it a gift and a privilege playing "Our Lord" and he cannot forget that no matter how hard it was going to be at times. The first thing he said to Mel was: *"If we don't carry our cross, we are going to be crushed under the weight of it"*. This was during the time that Mel Gibson had undergone tremendous spiritual attack. Jim said Mel Gibson was fighting wars all over the place and said that he did not know how he even finished the movie. He called the whole thing a miracle, and that God gave them barely enough strength to get through.

## Violence

Mel Gibson was fully aware of the suffering one goes through during scourging and crucifixion the torturous methods were indescribable and horrific. Mel had to keep thinking that it was a movie and when it was appropriate to pull back or draw a line on the violence. Mel stated that he gave the audience ways to escape from the more gruesome tortures of scourging and crucifixion to stop audiences from running away, such as Satan lurking through the crowds while the scourging is taking place. His job as a director is to make it bearable to watch but at the same time he wanted to put people over the edge. He wanted people to remember the violence that Jesus went through and to think about it.

This movie was very different to any other movie that Mel Gibson directed because he was not starring in the movie thus allowing him to channel his creativity into one role. Braveheart was the standing movie that made Mel a capable Director let alone an actor and stood him in good stead. However more was expected from him, as he was now just the director. One of the big challenges for Mel was the language barriers and the challenge of filming in a different country that does not speak English. Mel had to depend on interpreters when it came to giving direction and enthusiasm. Directing 'The Passion' was one of the hardest things he had to do in his life and it was not as big as Braveheart he was taken to a new form of director that he had never experienced before; The detail of getting the sequences and scenes done; placed with the language barriers were new things that Mel had to grasp. He never really talked about what he wanted the actors to do but physically showed them instead. He did this so that the actors could re-enact not their vision of The Passion or their interpretation of what Mel wanted but the directors. Altogether everything from the costumes, locations, language and cast all served their purpose of portraying the original vision of Mel Gibsons The Passion of the Christ.

## AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

National Board of Review, Award for Freedom of Expression (2004)

People's Choice Awards — Favorite Motion Picture Drama (2004)

Satellite Awards – Best Director – Mel Gibson

Moviefone Moviegoer Awards - Best Picture

Ethnic Multicultural Media Academy Award – Best Film Production

Ethnic Multicultural Media Academy Award – Best Film Actress – Maia Morgenstern

Motion Picture Sound Editors, USA, Golden Reel Award – Best Sound Editing in a Feature Film - Music – Michael T. Ryan

Golden Knight Film Festival – Grand Prix – Mel Gibson

Golden Knight Film Festival – Best Actor – Hristo Shopov

ShoWest / USA Today / Coca-Cola – Consumers Choice for Favorite Movie Award

American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers –ASCAP Henry Mancini Award – John Debney

Hollywood Film Festival, USA – Hollywood Producer of the Year – Mel Gibson

Catholics in Media Associates – Film Award – Mel Gibson

Cinema Writers Circle Awards, Spain – Best Foreign Film

GMA Dove Award, *The Passion of the Christ Original Motion Picture Soundtrack*, Instrumental Album of the Year (2004)

## NOMINATED FOR 3 ACADEMY AWARDS (OSCAR)

Academy Awards, USA - Oscar for *Academy Award for Best Cinematography* (2004) - Caleb Deschanel

Academy Awards, USA - Oscar for *Best Makeup* (2004) - Keith Vanderlaan, Christien Tinsley Academy Awards,

USA - Oscar for *Best Original Score* (2004) - John Debney American Society of Cinematographers,

# The Pathway



By  
Cecilia Chiwaka

A couple of weeks ago, I was sick with the flu. Now I mean the flu. I do not mean "the sniffles", a cough or a cold. I am talking a headache that feels like you have been hit with a sledgehammer and joints that ached in protest when I made the slightest movement. I felt chilled to the bone. No amount of paracetamol, hot tea with lemon or steamy showers made me feel any better. I just had to "ride it out" as the doctors put it. Well, this was not a journey that could be undertaken on a motorcycle with a crash helmet or a boat ride with a life jacket to protect you from the perils of the journey. This was agony, unbelievable pain that your body had to fight on its own with no outside help. I survived (barely!) and lived to enjoy food again and to tolerate the screams of my three children without feeling like putting a gun to my head. It got me thinking about the millions of people around the world who go through individual pain in the privacy of their homes with no relief. I thought of the people in Ethiopia who live with drought, famine and hunger, the helpless mothers who have to watch their babies with bloated stomachs of malnutrition die a slow death, sitting on a sunbaked ground that refuses to yield anything green, people in India who have to somehow "ride out" the devastation that is left behind by floods and many wives, husbands, sons and daughters in Europe and America who suffer the weight of depression on their shoulders and no amount of platitudes such as "It's going to be alright" can lighten that yoke. Suffering with no hope in sight is like that flu virus. You are under attack from a strong enemy and feel that death would be a relief. As with the flu virus, some people, like me, survive the attack but others die having buckled under the weight of enormous suffering.

Jesus said, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few (Matthew 9:37) and it is a scripture

that has rung so true for me. I have spoken to people who are ill, poor, widowed, orphaned and depressed. People who have no-one to talk to because many people are in a rush doing other things that they cannot be bothered to listen to someone who might be teetering on a precipice that could plunge them to their death. I have noticed that once these suffering people have someone who LISTENS, they talk for hours. Everything that has been building up on the inside of them wells up and spews over. Most people are generally like the doctors who, having no cure for the virus, will tell you to "ride it out". If you have lost a loved one, you will be told that time is a healer. No-one wants to confront the raw emotions that come with death. No-one besides those that have lost a loved one themselves, can imagine the emptiness in your soul, the feeling that you are going to go mad with agony and loneliness. It is hard for someone who is used to eating a roast dinner to imagine digging through an unyielding earth hoping to find something edible, looking into the horizon and seeing nothing but dust. Many of us find it difficult to imagine that a rich person can sit in a cavernous mansion and try to numb depression with prescription tablets or worse. Many Christians around the world have stickers or bracelets that have the letters WWJD i.e. What Would Jesus Do? Jesus had compassion and He knew what people were going through and so it made it easy for Him to reach out to them and for people to be drawn to Him. When Lazarus died, He wept (John 11:35). He felt the pain of loss that Martha and Mary were feeling. He had compassion on those who had gone for many hours without eating and were hungry and turned five loaves and two fish into hundreds of baskets to feed them (Matthew 14:13-21). He understood the pain of working hard and having nothing to show for it when He came to the aid of Simon Peter, James and John who had fished all night but caught nothing (Luke 5:3-6). He knows how many children around the world feel when they are abandoned by their parents because when He died on the cross He had to be separated from the Father because of the sin of the world that He carried...

To be continued...

Contact Cecilia @ [info@3in1publishing.co.uk](mailto:info@3in1publishing.co.uk)

## SHORT STORY SECTION

### *Prodigalitis*



By Loraine Wylie

When it comes to young people and promiscuity, drug abuse or homosexuality, there aren't many who sit on the moral fence. Everyone knows exactly which way to jump. Given the option, the firm clean sod of respectability is the ground most parents would chose for their adult offspring. But, it isn't always their choice. Very often, despite our careful input of moral guidance, parental discipline or even a dollop or two of spiritual nourishment kids end up in the mucky mire of the world. Suddenly, the tools that once seemed adequate weapons against the rebellion of childhood or adolescence now fire useless blanks. Adult progeny do not respond to curfews or sweet rationing. So how do parents cope when the children they have so faithfully guided step off the straight and narrow?

Many are left feeling bewildered, confused and ashamed by the direction their children take. Most blame themselves for not listening, talking, guiding or even praying enough. Yet this sense of failure is nothing new. Far from being a symptom of contemporary lifestyles, the condition, known as 'prodigalitis,' can be traced to more ancient times.

As far back as the gospel of Luke, there is proof that, despite difference in time and culture, parents have suffered the heartache of watching their children make mistakes with catastrophic consequences. Regardless of individual faith, the tale of the 'prodigal son' strikes a poignant chord in the heart of many mums and dads. The biblical account may belong to another era but it does impart a few valuable lessons.

For a start, the father of the prodigal son may have carried a heavy burden. But it was sorrow, not guilt. He had done his best and was not responsible for the lad's desire to explore the seedier side of life. Interestingly, there is no mention of arguments, debate or pleading. The boy was of age and his dad merely accepted, albeit with great pain, his decisions. Too often, in an attempt to make them see sense, rows and arguments have managed to destroy a precious family relationship.

No doubt, the knowledge that his lad was living a hedonistic lifestyle that would only end in despair, was a major cause of grief for the old man. Yet, he did nothing. There was no attempt to cajole, threaten, beg or bribe his son to repentance. It isn't until the last scenes of poverty and loneliness that we begin to understand the attraction of home. The young man realised that, instead of the world's temporary and fading pleasure, it was his at father's place that he would find the reality of family treasure and unconditional love.

As children of God, we too wander in a land that is far from home. We sample all the transient pleasures of the world without a thought to our royal inheritance. Nevertheless, the Father waits. Every day, He looks over our life, watching and waiting for a sign of repentance and return, hoping for the day when He can embrace us with total forgiveness and welcome us home.



*"Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. " Rev 5:5 (NIV)*

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# The Gate

Melanie Henderson

3-in-1 Publishing welcomes regular columnist Melanie Henderson to The Voice. Melanie will explore the Holy Land in this series. She will explore the different biblical sites throughout Israel.



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## THE LION'S GATE



The Lions' Gate, also known as *St. Stephen's Gate* or *Sheep Gate*, is located in the Old City Walls of Jerusalem and is the seventh Gate in Jerusalem's Old City Walls.

At the location of the east wall, the entrance of the gate marks the start of the last walk of Jesus from the time of His prison sentence; to His execution the path is called the *Via Dolorosa*. Near to the gate's crest are four figures of panthers, which are often mistaken for lions with two on the left and two on the right. They were placed there by Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent to celebrate the Ottoman defeat of the Mamluks in 1517.

There is a legend that Suleiman's predecessor Selim I was captured by lions that were going to eat him because of his plans to level the city. He was spared only after promising to protect the city by building a wall around it. This led to the lion becoming the heraldic symbol of Jerusalem.

In another version of the legend, Suleiman taxed the residents of Jerusalem with heavy taxes which they could not afford to pay out. That night, Suleiman had a dream of two lions coming to devour him. When he woke up, he asked his dream solvers what his dream meant. A wise and respected man came forward and asked Suleiman what was on his mind before drifting to sleep.

His response to the wise man was that he was thinking about how to punish all the men who didn't pay taxes. The wise man responded that since Suleiman thought badly about the Holy City, God was angry. To atone, Suleiman built the Lions' Gate in order to protect Jerusalem from invaders.

## Attractions

### THE POOL OF BETHESDA



Bethesda is located in the Muslim Quarter of Jerusalem, and Bethesda is the name of a series of pools.

The name is said to have come from the Aramaic language *beth* *hesd*, which means either house of mercy or house of grace. In the closely related Syriac branch of this ancient language, the similar term *hesdo* has two opposite meanings – grace and disgrace. This dual meaning may have been thought appropriate as the location was seen as a place of disgrace due to the presence of the sick, and a place of grace, due to the granting of healing.

The way the pool began started in the eighth century BC, when there was a dam built right across the short Beth Zeta valley, by turning it into a reservoir for the rain water.

*'Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades.'* John 5:2

According to the Gospel of John the Baptist, Bethesda was a swimming bath (in Greek: *kolumbethra*) with five porches, which is close to the Sheep Gate.



*'The Cross'* (watercolour) by Zara Matthews ©2008



## The Grapevine



## Down Memory Lane

By  
Sylvia Reeve

Do you have times of reflection?

Winter is not my favourite season, needing to stay indoors during wet and damp weather, but it does give *me* time for reflection. How had the past year enriched my life? What happened to re open old memories which at the time hurt, but now are memories of joy?

It was a sunny day last August when I picked up the small envelope from the mat, wondering who could be sending me a card. It wasn't my birthday but I knew it was a card because the envelope was pink with small flowers painted on the bottom right-hand corner. Carefully, I opened it and pulled out the content, smiling when I saw who was from, but then my heart leaped as I remembered that day...

The sun had been shining for the past week, and all the local farmers had been rejoicing, because they had managed to harvest their crops. Now, all the empty fields were ready for ploughing, treating, and planting the next crop. It was Saturday evening and since early afternoon hundreds had gathered for the annual celebration of thanks. The children had enjoyed the organised games, as had the adults, and most were now exhausted ready for a sit down. There were several Christian music groups playing throughout the evening; people giving testimonies, sharing how God had been very much a part of their personal and working life. As was the norm for any Christian gathering, food was a high priority. Due to the dry weather, barbecues had been banned, but there was no shortage of food as people distributed their '*bring and share*' contributions. This was very important, because the celebration was open to the general public, and it was hoped that people who did not already have Christ in their lives might come along to see what it was all about.

Although I personally was not part of the farming community, many of the farmers were friends. Many people had brought their own chairs, included myself, but there were plenty of

bales of hay for people to sit on. It was a wonderful evening, and there was definitely a feeling of God's presence in that field.

As dusk finally descended on that warm August evening, people began to pack up and leave. I looked at the young couple sitting on a bale of hay close to me thinking that they should soon be setting off on their journey home. I wanted to remind them of the long drive in front of them, but when I saw their faces, I couldn't intrude on the looks they were giving each other. The love shining forth from both of them was evident. Nothing could spoil the day for me as I witnessed their love for each other, their love for Jesus, and the love for their baby, which was due in a few weeks time.

This new life being nurtured in the mother's womb was a child blessed by God. Early on in the pregnancy a scan had shown four small, dark images on the baby's brain, which were thought to be tumours. At first the couple had kept this news to themselves, but a second scan showed these dark images were growing. Immediately, a prayer chain was set up, and this continued for several weeks until we heard the news that a third scan had revealed no sign of any abnormality. Truly, God had listened to those prayers for this baby.

"Look after that baby, and let me know if there is anything I can do." I hugged them both and wished them a safe journey. What a perfect day it had been and yet as I waved them off and went indoors, why were the tears running down my face?

*I had just said goodbye to my baby.*

That handsome man, my youngest son, had always been *my baby*, even at twenty one years of age. I knew that the next time I saw him; he would not be my baby, but a father to his own; my grandchild. Now exactly eighteen years to the day since I had said goodbye to '*my baby*', '*his baby*' was inviting me to her eighteenth birthday in three weeks time...

It's amazing how little things bring back memories; sometimes ones you wished had remained in the memory. Over the years our life's experiences, good or bad, are, without our realising it, carefully stored in that unknown place, ready to erupt just when we either need them, or would prefer they remained in wraps. I pray that my spiritual experiences will not be stored out of sight, but always remain in the 'shop window' for all passersby to see.

Thank you Jesus

Sylvia

## The Word of God January



1<sup>st</sup> As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. Ps 42:1

2<sup>nd</sup> In that day the mountains will drip new wine, and the hills will flow with milk; all the ravines of Judah will run with water. A fountain will flow out of the LORD's house and will water the valley of acacias. Joel 3:18

3<sup>rd</sup> But God found fault with the people and said: "The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. Heb 8:8

4<sup>th</sup> Then will I ever sing praise to your name and fulfill my vows day after day. Ps 61:8

5<sup>th</sup> Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway Proverbs 8:34

6<sup>th</sup> leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother, then come and offer your gift. Matthew 5:24

7<sup>th</sup> I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshipers there. Rev 11:1

8<sup>th</sup> And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. Rom 8:27

9<sup>th</sup> Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, 1 Peter 1:10

10<sup>th</sup> Then I said: "O LORD, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his commands Nehemiah 1:5

11<sup>th</sup> The LORD examines the righteous, but the wicked and those who love violence his soul hates. Psalm 11:5

12<sup>th</sup> And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. Romans 5:5

13<sup>th</sup> If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing 1 Corinthians 13:2

14<sup>th</sup> prophets of Israel who prophesied to Jerusalem and saw visions of peace for her when there was no peace, declares the Sovereign LORD Ezekiel 13:16

15<sup>th</sup> For the Jews it was a time of happiness and joy, gladness and honour Esther 8:16

16<sup>th</sup> His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of

many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" Matthew 25:21

17<sup>th</sup> He replied, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.' Matthew 26:18

18<sup>th</sup> Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1

19<sup>th</sup> and the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder. Then Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him. Exodus 19:19

20<sup>th</sup> Be joyful always 1 Thessalonians 5:16

21<sup>st</sup> I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, Philemon 1:4

22<sup>nd</sup> Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Heb 7:25

23<sup>rd</sup>  
As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Luke 9:57

24<sup>th</sup> On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. Revelation 21:25

25<sup>th</sup> And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. Matthew 16:18

26<sup>th</sup> with the choicest gifts of the ancient mountains and the fruitfulness of the everlasting hills; Deuteronomy 33:15

27<sup>th</sup> After that you will go to Gibeah of God, where there is a Philistine outpost. As you approach the town, you will meet a procession of prophets coming down from the high place with lyres, tambourines, flutes and harps being played before them, and they will be prophesying. 1 Samuel 10:5

28<sup>th</sup> My people have been lost sheep; their shepherds have led them astray and caused them to roam on the mountains. They wandered over mountain and hill and forgot their own resting place. Jeremiah 50:6

29<sup>th</sup> "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes. New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills. Amos 9:13

30<sup>th</sup> is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called Ephesians 4:4

31<sup>st</sup> Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:5-7

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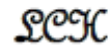
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