

A POWERFUL FLOW



Niagara Falls is big and beautiful with a height of 167 feet and a total width of 3947 feet. There are two other major waterfalls with even greater dimensions and whose surroundings are still in their natural pristine state. The Iguazu Falls is 8858 feet wide with a height of 210-269 feet and is situated at the border of Argentina and Brazil. When Elinor Roosevelt first saw Iguazu Falls, she exclaimed, "Poor Niagara". Another spectacular falls in the world is Victoria Falls which borders the African countries of Zambia and Zimbabwe. It is 5604 feet wide and an impressive 360 feet high. The mist of its waterfall rises 100 feet above it. The missionary David Livingstone discovered this

waterfall and named it after Queen Victoria.

The average flow rates of these falls in cubic feet per second are this. Niagara leads in volume of water at 85,000, Iguazu at 61,600 and Victoria at 38,430. Only at Niagara has the river source been harnessed to produce electrical power to millions of homes through a hydroelectric plant. There are three names that come to mind when one thinks of the early days of electrical power.....Edison, Tesla and Westinghouse.

When it comes to thoughts of divine love and its power, we are also reminded of three persons; God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Their presence exudes incomparable love and from it emanates unparalleled power. The apostle Paul knew of that love and experienced its power. He prayed that believers would also know.....

'.....this love that surpasses knowledge -that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.' - Ephesians 3:19-20 NIV

There are many types of power in the world, but the greatest is the power from love. The river of God flows in the heavenly city. It also flows in the inner beings of those who allow the Holy Spirit to run freely in their lives. It was the theme of a chorus we sang during the charismatic renewal decades ago.

'I've got a river of life flowing out of me. Makes the lame to walk and the blind to see. Opens prison doors sets the captives free. I've got river of life flowing out of me. Spring up O well, within my soul. Spring up O well, and make me whole. Spring up O well, and give to me. That life, abundantly.'

Jesus came to earth for many reasons, one was to bring a new type of life.

'The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows]'. John 10:10 Amplified

God desires that our lives overflow with his love for others. Jesus is the source of abundant life. He lived and died as an example of such love. **The volume of love that flowed from Jesus is immeasurable.** He wants us to walk in that same love. In the coming messages we will look at the various expressions of love, some active and some passive.

The great waterfalls impress the world because of their immense flow of water. Jesus wants to quench our thirst by the great flow of water that comes out of our inner being.

*'He who believes in Me, as the scripture has said, **out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.**' But this He spoke concerning the Spirit.... - John 17:38 NKJV*

The Niagara river brings wonder into the lives of the tourists who visit its falls. It also brings light into many homes and other places because it has come under the control of intelligent persons who converted its power into electricity. How much more should the presence of Jesus' followers bring wonder to the world and light up the lives of those who have been living in darkness. It will happen as they come under the control of the Spirit who helped create this universe, raised Jesus from the dead and who now resides in the hearts and lives of believers in Jesus.

HOLY RIVERS IN INDIA

Water is mentioned in the Genesis 1 creation story before any other substance. Mankind and much of creation depends upon it for life. One of the purest sources of water in the world comes from the mountains of Himalaya. Its glacier water becomes mineral rich as its pristine waters descend over the rocks below. Over 1.4 billion people depend on the water source of those mountains.

The mighty Ganges river flows into India and provides water to 500 million people (40% of its population). The rivers of India provide water for irrigation, cheap transportation, electricity, and livelihood for the people. In Hinduism, the predominate religion in India, water is thought of as sacred. India has several great rivers that are used as places to wash away one's sins. Himalaya is thought to be the abode of the soul of the gods and the creation of the universe was done by Brahma at Prayag (Allahabad) where there is convergence of 3 rivers, the Ganges, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati, which is said to run unseen underground.

The Kumbh Mela festival which began 2000 years ago, is held every 3 years in one of 4 cities. The largest gathering is held every 12 years at Prayag (Allahabad). The last one attracted 100 million devotees from around the world, making it the largest religious festival in the world and it went for 55 days. Its date is set according to the zodiac based on the position of Jupiter, the sun and the moon. The sunrise is seen as a source of 'enlightenment'. During this mass Hindu pilgrimage, devotees come to bathe in the waters in search of eternal truth, enlightenment, cleansing from sins and freedom from the cycle of reincarnation. They also come to meet the gurus, the self proclaimed Hindu holy men who are seen as god-men who have come to enlightenment due to their extreme devotion, meditation, self renunciation and

detachment from the world. Some of these holy men cover their bodies with cremation ashes, put cow dung in their hair and walk naked in the streets. The apex of a Hindu holy man is to live a life of asceticism and to only possess a walking stick, a begging bowl and a loin cloth.

God has a mighty river flowing too. It comes from a mountain much higher than Himalaya it comes from his majestic throne in heaven. It is unseen to the human eye, but its life transforming results have been seen for the past 2000 years. We have seen before how the **river of God flows from his throne.** / Rev.22:1-2

“There will be **large numbers of fish**, because the water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the water flows everything will live.” / Ezekiel 47:9

When Jesus was in public ministry he did not reach a vast number of fish, instead he taught his disciples how to fish for men. He sometimes showed his disciples where the fish were when they were catching nothing - John 21:1-11. Jesus is still leading his disciples this day to where the plentiful fish are.

One example of good fishing is what is taking place in the city of Hyderabad in SE India (pop. 7 million) but whose metropolitan area now totals nearly 10 million persons. Its religion makeup is 65% Hindu, 30% Muslim and 2.75% Christian and the rest other.

Satish Kumar was converted to Christ at the age of 12 and was preaching the gospel of Christ in less than 10 years after that. In 2003 he began a TV ministry to reach all of India. By 2005 God led him to start a church in Hyderabad. Calvary Temple grew from 25 to its current attendance of 155,000. In 2012 the church was going through the story of Nehemiah and began prayer and fasting for 4 months as they sought God's will for a new building, as they had to endure the rainy season outdoors. By Nov. 11 Pastor Kumar proclaimed that they were going to build a new church building of 18,000 seats. It was a bold statement, because God directed him to do it in only 52 days! Few contractors believed it could be done, but somehow God provided the workmen to help build. 52 days later on Jan. 1, 2013 the church was finished and dedicated to the glory of God. Thousands still come to Calvary Temple each weekend from as far away as 220 miles, taking 5-10 hours to get there. Pastor Kumar has now planned to build a campus church in that distant city which will seat 52,000 persons. You can listen to Satish Kumar tell his story if you go to You Tube and look for his interviews on TBN and on Daystar. You can get perspective on the Kumbh Mela festival on You Tube where the National Geographic has a good documentary. Even if you only watch 5 minutes of it, you will get an idea of the festival's flavor and immensity.

Millions of people still look to the Ganges River in hopes of a better future. Unfortunately, it is neither sacred, holy nor pure. It is polluted from human bathing, clothes washing, dead animals and cremated remains, animal bathing and waste, industrial wastes and large intake of sewage water.

God's river is more accessible to everyone wherever they may be. **It is pure, holy and life giving.** God is no respecter of persons or locations. He respects those who seek him and trust in Him with child like faith. **The Holy Spirit is that river of life for us.** Calvary Temple has seen rapid growth because many members have become fishers of men under the influence of Holy Spirit.
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