

DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

CLEAVER OF TRUTH MINISTRY

rodneystromstrong73@yahoo.com

14838 Rialto Ave.
Brooksville Fl. 34613 Ph. 239 223
0472



“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword” ... Hebrews 4:12

Dear Friends and Family,

When we help others In this world, we are in fact helping ourselves as is illustrated in the short story following:

I have read of a man who, journeying on a winter's day through the deep, drifted snow, became benumbed by the cold which was almost imperceptibly stealing away his vital powers. And as he was nearly chilled to death by the embrace of the frost king, and about to give up the struggle for life, he heard the moans of a brother traveler, who was perishing with cold as he was about to perish. His humility was aroused to rescue him. He chafed the ice-clad limbs of the unfortunate man, and, after considerable effort, raised him to his feet; and as he could not stand, he bore him in sympathizing arms through the very drifts he had thought he could never succeed in getting through alone. And when he had borne his fellow traveler to a place of safety, the truth flashed home to him that in saving his neighbor he had saved himself also. His earnest efforts to save another quickened the blood which was freezing in his own veins, and created a healthful warmth in the extremities of the body. These lessons must be forced upon young believers continually, not only by precept, but by example, that in their Christian experience they may realize similar results.—Testimonies for the Church 4:319, 320. { ChS 92.3}

MESSAGE THIS MONTH: FAKE NEWS

REDEEMED TWICE

Our story portrays one of the ways that God communicates with us. God communicates with us through Scripture, the Holy Spirit, experiences of life, and lessons in nature. At other times though, when there is something very special or very important to tell us, He may speak to us directly. Sometimes He chooses individuals through whom He communicates His messages of truth to the world. He talks to them by means of dreams and visions. These people are called prophets.

The Bible is full of stories of God's intervention in the affairs of men. He spoke to His people through dreams, visions, impressions, audible voices, strange events, and sometimes even through animals.

Our story today is an amazing account of how God used an odd event, a strong impression, a voice, an animal, and a dream to speak to various people, all for the sake of saving one man from certain disaster.

While Captain Jarvis was fast asleep in his own warm and comfortable Victorian bed, two men got into an argument in a tavern in a country town many miles away.

One man, after being badly beaten by the larger and meaner man, vowed that one day he would kill him. Even though everyone in the tavern felt the same way about the detestable character, he laughed at the poor wounded man.

A month later Jarvis was in Plymouth for an overnight business trip. He had had a long and tense day, could not sleep, and walked around to look at the closed shop windows, the park, and the famous Plymouth courthouse clock.

Since the clock sounded off the hours with an unusual gong, he decided to wait around another few minutes to hear its memorable sound.

As he stood near the decorated marble base, he noticed another man staring at its peak.

"I'm going to hang around till it shakes this whole base with twelve loud gongs," the stranger said. "I've never heard it strike, much less twelve times," Jarvis replied. "I'm sure that from the size

of those bells it must really make quite a noise. I wonder how the poor folks near here can get used to it."

Just then the first striking of the clock began. One, two, three, four. . .

Jarvis had to move away from the base somewhat as the vibrations in his ears began to resound again after each note. . . eight, nine, ten, eleven, and twelve. But before he could move away from his listening place, the strangest thing happened. The clock struck one more time. The clock struck thirteen!

Jarvis went over to the other man and asked him if he had heard anything unusual.

"I was just thinking about coming over to ask you the same thing, but I was afraid that you might think I was a little loony," the other tourist said with a big smile. "You heard it strike thirteen times, too, didn't you?"

"Yes, I did," Jarvis said. "And I thought that I might get laughed at if I told you I heard it go one more time."

They both laughed, discussed the most unusual incident, and then departed their separate ways.

Jarvis told a number of friends about it shortly after returning home. But, as things happen, the cares of business and his heavy involvement in his beloved church work and personal witnessing for the Lord, he soon forgot the clock that struck thirteen.

Several weeks passed and Jarvis found himself unable to sleep. All through the night the scene of the clock striking that extra time passed plaguily through his mind. Then, before dawn he felt a deep impression that he was to go outside his house. The impression came to him, three, four, five times again. Each time there was a greater urgency pressed on him to go downstairs and out the front door.

"Why should I get out of this warm bed, get dressed, and go outside at this unearthly hour?" he asked himself.

Again an impelling force tried to move his mind to accept the fact that he was to go outside. "It's pitch dark out there," Jarvis told himself. "If I do go outside, what could I see?"

But as the feeling did not decrease but continued to greatly increase, he got up, put on his clothes, and went downstairs. And when he opened the front door there stood his groom with his horse, saddled and bridled, ready to be mounted.

"What's this?" he asked after he had momentarily gotten over the shock. "What are you doing out here with my horse at this terrible hour?"

"Sir," the faithful, long-time servant replied, "I know that you will find this very strange to accept, but I could not sleep. All through the night and up until an hour ago, I kept hearing some kind of mysterious voice telling me that you would be wanting the horse very early this morning. Since you had not given any orders like that, I had a real hard time, trying not to pay any attention. But, Sir, the strange sensation in my ears was like a human's voice and there was no one in the room. I turned on the light and looked. I sure do hope that I haven't done anything wrong."

"Oh, no, you haven't done anything wrong at all," Jarvis said to console the worried groom. "As a matter of fact you did exactly the correct thing, the thing I'm going to do. I'm going to obey those same 'voices' you've been listening to."

Jarvis mounted the horse, but before moving an inch or giving the first command, he prayed out loud. "Lord, some very strange things have happened in the last few weeks. First that clock striking thirteen; then my impressions this night to get outside; and the good groom's instructions to get the horse saddled and bridled for me to ride. I cannot dismiss this as some passing fancy or freak of mind. I believe that You are telling me to do something very important. Now, since I do not know where to go or what it is You want me to do, please let the horse lead me there."

And with this said, he let loose of the reins, gave the horse a gentle nudge in its side and the horse started off at a healthy pace. It was strange to be sitting up on top of the gaiting animal, and not holding on to his reins.

As they moved away from their house, it seemed as if the horse was heading down towards the riverside.

"If he's taking me to the riverside then this is all a mistake. There is only one ferryboat down there and the first run doesn't start until after sunrise. No one would be there for another two or so hours."

But the horse made its way directly to the ferryboat. And standing on the ferryboat was the conductor himself. "I can't believe this!" Jarvis said to himself.

As he approached the ferryboat, he saw that the ramps had been lowered for passengers to board.

"I can't believe my eyes! What are you doing down here so very, very early when I've heard you say so many times that you love to stay in your bed to the very last minute, then quickly dress, and run out of the house eating your breakfast as you run?"

The ferryboat conductor told Jarvis another bewildering story.

"You're mighty right, mate, when you said that I love me sleep. Well, I had a terrible time sleeping. It seems like around the midnight hour I had a dream where I had to run down and ferry a man and his horse across the river. I dream about taking people across the ferry all the time and I still get me sleep. But this dream was different. It was like if I didn't get down there something terrible was going to happen. I woke up and I had been really sweating. I tried to get back to sleep, but sleep just wouldn't come. I kept feeling more and more like that wasn't any dream. So, I decided that if I got me down here and did find a man with his horse waiting to go across, then it was a supernatural thing. So, I had no choice but to come. And I just got here about a minute ago."

Jarvis led his horse up onto the ferry. And as the ferry slowly made its way across the river, he prayed even harder for God to give him the wisdom and strength to handle whatever his job was, wherever it would be.

Mounting his horse on the other side of the river, Jarvis once again let the horse go his own way. Soon the horse was off at an even faster pace. After what seemed an eternity, they approached a large country town where it seemed that not much was going on.

Approaching a man walking away from town, Jarvis stopped and talked with him.

"Sir," he inquired, "is anything of real importance going on in this town today?"

"Well, I guess some folks think it's important," the man answered. "There's a trial going on in the courthouse. Don't mean much to me, though."

"What kind of a trial?" Jarvis asked.

"Oh, some no-gooder shot and killed another no-gooder, that's all."

Captain Jarvis went to the courthouse, hitched the horse, and walked in just as the judge was addressing the prisoner. The courtroom was crowded and Jarvis slipped in the back and stood up against the wall.

"Have you anything to say for yourself?" the judge said, "Anything at all?"

The prisoner's back was to Jarvis and he could not see his face. The prisoner quietly answered the judge, "Your honor, I have nothing to say except what I've said before. I'm innocent of these charges. It's true that I disliked that old sot, and hated him something fierce when he beat me up like that in the tavern.

A lot of people told you that they heard me tell him that I was going to one day kill him for what he did, but I was mad, hurt, and ashamed. I had to say something.

The courtroom was hushed. It seemed as if everyone was on the accused man's side. Then the prisoner added something that shook Jarvis terribly.

"Your honor," the prisoner said. "I was not here the night of the killing. I was on my way home from over beyond Plymouth. There is one man who can prove that I wasn't here at midnight of the killing 'cause we stood and talked together about the Plymouth clock striking thirteen. . ."

The courtroom rocked with laughter, and the judge rapped his gavel on the desk to quiet things down.

"You say that you can prove that you didn't kill him because you were in Plymouth the night of his death, and that you can prove it if some man who talked with you there when the clock struck thirteen (the audience laughed again at this) in-

stead of twelve would come up and attest to that. Well, all I can say is. . ."

"Just a minute, your Honor," Jarvis said as he walked directly up to the judge's desk and chair. "This man is telling the truth. I would like to be sworn in as a witness. In a matter of thirty minutes the condemned man was proved innocent, and was at once set free.

As Jarvis and the liberated man talked together outside the courthouse, the stunned man asked him what brought him to the trial.

"Well, my friend," Jarvis answered, "some time back I came to know the Lord as a personal Saviour and friend. He redeemed me at Calvary. Now, through His mysterious intervention in the affairs and minds of my servant, a good ferryboat conductor, my old faithful horse, and myself, He has given you redemption from a death sentence."

As the two men spent the remainder of the day discussing the plan of salvation, the freed man vowed to look into his becoming a Christian, too. Two months later, Jarvis received a small note from the happy and most appreciative man. It simply read, "Redeemed Twice!"

How amazing to know that God could be so interested in us. "Nothing that in any way concerns our peace is too small for Him to notice. . . . No perplexity is too difficult for Him to unravel. No calamity can befall the least of His children. . . of which our heavenly Father is unobservant, or in which He takes no immediate interest. " Happiness Digest pp. 49,50.

How thankful we can be that God will still reveal His secrets of the future to us just as He did to Daniel...

DECODING THE BOOK OF DANIEL AND REVELATION (con't)

Read Revelation Chapter 5

REVELATION CHAPTER FIVE

John saw in the right hand of the one on the throne a book written within and on the back side, sealed with seven seals (remember seven denotes completeness and perfection) John saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, who is worthy to open the book and loose the seals thereof. No man in heaven, the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or look thereon.

John said he wept much because no one was found worthy to open and read the book.

One of the elders said, weep not behold the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has prevailed to open the book and release the seals. He looked in the middle of the seven elders and saw a lamb as it had been slain having seven horns and seven eyes. Which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth. (The seven horns represent complete power and the seven eyes represent wisdom so this means God is all powerful and all wise.)

He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him that sat on the throne. When he had taken the book the four beasts and twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb each of them having harps and golden vials full of odors which are the prayers of the saints and they sang a new song saying, thou are worthy to take the book and open the seals for you were slain and have redeemed us by thy blood out of every kingdom, people and nation and have made us unto our God kings and priests and we shall reign on the earth

Note: We shall be kings and priests and reign on the earth. It does not say we will reign in heaven

but on the earth. God is going to set up His kingdom upon this earth after the earth is made new.

“ For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.” Isaiah 67:17“ For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the Lord so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one *SABBATH* to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.” Isaiah 66: 22, 23

“Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.” 2 Peter 2:13

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.” Revelation 21: 1

John saw and heard the voices of many angels and beasts and elders and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands saying with a loud voice, worthy is the lamb that was slain to receive POWER and riches, and WISDOM and strength and honor and blessing.

And every creature in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and in the sea and all that are in them, he heard saying blessing, honor and glory and power be unto Him who sits upon the throne and unto the Lamb forever and ever. The four beasts said amen and the twenty four elders fell down and worshiped Him that lives forever and ever. . . . Our study in Revelation continues next month.

MARCHING ORDERS

The duke of Wellington was once present where a party of Christian men were discussing the possi-

bility of success in missionary effort among the heathen. They appealed to the duke to say whether in his judgment such efforts were likely to prove a success commensurate to the cost. The old soldier replied: “Gentlemen, what are your marching orders? Success is not the question for you to discuss. If I read your orders aright, they run thus, ‘Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.’ Gentlemen, obey your marching orders.”

“The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly.” Zephaniah 1:14. Let us be shod with the gospel shoes, ready to march at a moment’s notice.—CS

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!” Isaiah 52:7

Church members ... are to be ever ready to spring into action in obedience to the Master’s commands. Wherever we see work waiting to be done, we are to take it up and do it, constantly looking unto Jesus.... If every church member were a living missionary, the gospel would speedily be proclaimed in all countries, to all peoples, nations, and tongues.

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

Eternity stretches before us. The curtain is about to be lifted. What are we thinking of, that we cling to our selfish love of ease, while all around us souls are perishing? Have our hearts become utterly callous? Can we not see and understand that we have a work to do in behalf of others?

My brethren and sisters, are you among those who, having eyes, see not, and having ears, hear not? Is it in vain that God has given you a

knowledge of His will? Is it in vain that He has sent you warning after warning of the nearness of the end? Do you believe the declarations of His word concerning what is coming upon the world? Do you believe that God's judgments are hanging over the inhabitants of the earth? How, then, can you sit at ease, careless and indifferent?—CS

HEALTH NUGGET

TEA FOR UPSET STOMACH AND NAUSEA

In a mug, pour boiling hot water over:

2 tsp. fresh mint leaves, rinsed

1/2 tsp. fresh cut ginger, rinsed

2 tsp. fresh squeezed lemon juice

1 tsp. maple syrup or your favorite organic unrefined sweetener

Let the hot tea steep for 30 minutes until the herbs blend well and is very potent. When the aroma fills the air and the tea tastes very minty and gingery, you know the tea is ready to sip. You can enjoy this delicious, healing, herbal tea on cold days, but you can also enjoy it chilled on hot days. It's wonderful to sip it slowly throughout the day and the herbal potency will help you feel good for hours.

FROM KATIE'S COOKBOOKS

Vegan Bean Burritos

Tortillas - (you can use store brought whole wheat flour tortillas) or make your own:

1 cup whole wheat flour

1/3 cup water

1 tsp salt

Filling:

3 oz salsa (oil free and low sugar if possible)

1/2 cup beans (kidney, pinto or black)

1/2 green onion, finely chopped

salt, cayenne to taste

brown rice

avocado, sliced

2 tsp corn kernels

2 leaves lettuce, shredded

1/2 medium fresh tomato, chopped

3 tsp red bell pepper, sliced or chopped

Tortillas: (if making your own)

Combine flour, water and salt in bowl and knead well. Add more flour or water if needed to make consistency like that of

bread dough. Knead on a floured surface until soft. Divide dough into 2 even balls then roll each ball as flat as you can on a floured surface into the shape of the tortilla. (use hands or rolling pin)

In non-stick skillet, heat to medium-high heat. Place tortilla in your heated skillet for 30 seconds to 1 minute or until it starts to bubble and turn brown. Turn over and do same on other side.

Repeat until all tortillas are done on both sides. Let cool a little before filling.

Filling: Mix together the salsa, beans and green onions and mash slightly with fork. It is ok to let some beans retain their texture. Season the mix with salt, cayenne to taste. Fill each tortilla with some of all the other ingredients. Not too full so you can still roll them.

Making the burrito: Fold in all the sides and roll into tight burritos closed on all sides. Place them seam down into a frying pan and grill on medium-high heat for about 3 – 5 minutes until brown and crispy. Flip over and grill for another 3 – 5 minutes. Add some more salsa, soy yogurt or guacamole.

Until next month, may God bless each one of you and keep you all in good health. I encourage you to have a good relationship with God our Father and Jesus Christ His only begotten son. He's coming soon!

Remember God loves you and so do we!

Katie and Rodney

FAKE NEWS

When I go shopping or just see people out my window jogging by or riding their bicycles or golf carts I wonder how they can be reached for the Lord.

Just as it has always been in times of spiritual crisis's; I realize most of the world's population is going to ignore God's call.

We are told in scripture, "And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. Luke" Luke 17:26

"Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all." Luke 17: 28

Eight were saved in the flood and three from Sodom and Gomorrah.

My question is, "why so few?" What is it about serving God that makes it so un-desirable for people?

What has God done to turn people off? The answer is, "absolutely nothing". God is Love and if people would take time to find out who He is and what He has done for them, more of them would love Him in return.

The ninth commandment tells us not to bear false witness. Exodus 20:16

Our president is famous for the term 'Fake News'. I know he is not a very diplomatic person but he does not deserve all the flack he is getting from the left. There is a war raging between him and his opponents and honesty is turned away backward.

We have been made to believe God is a 'tyrant' looking over our shoulder for an excuse to punish us.

When we have a tornado, hurricane or earthquake God gets the blame for it. They say it is an 'act of God'. Nothing could be farther from the truth. All of these destructive events are the result of sin. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God a curse was brought upon the world.

Adam lost his dominion and Satan became the governor of this world by default.

Satan is now in control of the world and also the weather. He is the prince of the air.

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:" Ephesians 2:2

God sent His son Jesus Christ to rescue us from Satan's power but we must choose to follow Him.

Christianity is far from what it was in Christ's day. It has been watered down to where it does not even resemble the real thing.

The Reformers made an attempt to bring Christianity back; however, the reformation was no more successful than the Israelites were in going into the promised land. All the original ones, except for Joshua and Caleb, died in the wilderness because of their sin and rebellion. Only their children were eventually allowed to enter. Even Moses was not allowed to go in because of his disobedience.

We call ourselves Protestants; but who is protesting?

Just as there is 'fake news', there is 'fake Christianity'. This is one more reason the masses do not desire to follow a loving God.

Satan has planted his disciples in the churches and as a result, people say, "if that is Christianity I don't want any part of it". It is true the devil has more preachers and more bench warmers in the churches than God has real Christians.

God has been misrepresented and Christianity has suffered because of bad publicity.

We have failed to demonstrate the practicality of real Christianity.

"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not

that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

This is the condition of God's church today, *wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:*

"And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. "Revelation 3:1

Christianity is like one of your muscles, it only grows when it is exercised. If you don't use it you lose it.

In almost every church I have been a member I have read of a man who, journeying on a winter's day through the deep, drifted snow, became benumbed by the cold which was almost imperceptibly stealing away his vital powers. And as he was nearly chilled to death by the embrace of the frost king, and about to give up the struggle for life, he heard the moans of a brother traveler, who was perishing with cold as he was about to perish. His

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humility was aroused to rescue him. He chafed the ice-clad limbs of the unfortunate man, and, after considerable effort, raised him to his feet; and as he could not stand, he bore him in sympathizing arms through the very drifts he had thought he could never succeed in getting through alone. And when he had borne his fellow traveler to a place of safety, the truth flashed home to him that in saving his neighbor he had saved himself also. His earnest efforts to save another quickened the blood which was freezing in his own veins, and created a healthful warmth in the extremities of

the body. These lessons must be forced upon young believers continually, not only by precept, but by example, that in their Christian experience they may realize similar results.—Testimonies for the Church 4:319, 320. { ChS 92.3} member of, except where I now worship, only a small handful of people were willing to do anything. I have lived in thirteen states and been a member of many churches.

There will be no idlers in heaven.

We can love God and follow Him or we can love the world and follow it; but the world cannot save us!

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." 1 John 2: 15-17

What is real Christianity?

In order to be a real Christian every selfish cell in our body must be eradicated. This is impossible without supernatural help but if we want to be like Jesus it is absolutely necessary.

When this happens we will act like Jesus, think like Jesus and do the kind of works Jesus did.

Today It is difficult to tell a Christian from a worldling. They watch the same television programs, listen to the same music, go to the same places, dress the same way and act the same way.

You can definitely tell a real Christian from a fake one. If you listen to a person long enough they will eventually tell you what they love. If you keep your mouth shut and your ears open you will find out who and what they are.

If you love Jesus you will love His children. He said, "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:40

The apostle Paul said, "If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship

of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves." Philippians 2:1-3

This also is impossible without supernatural help. If we really want it and if we sincerely pray for it, I guarantee it will happen.

" Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Matthew 7: 22, 23

Satan has misrepresented God, attributing to Him the wicked deeds he has done and attributing his wicked character to God.

Although a world of damage has been done by Satan, if real Christians will stand up by the power of Christ, the devil and his followers will be exposed, God's church will revive, the work will get done and we can go home!

Rodney Armstrong

