

BY GEORGE

156 Years

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And they
were all
filled
with the
Holy
Spirit



Humility and Honour



A meditation on the Ascension of Christ

James (Quick) Tillis was a former heavyweight boxer. He was a cowboy from Oklahoma, who was based out of Chicago in the 1980's. When he arrived in the Windy City from Tulsa, he was euphoric as he considered his future. Too euphoric.

He alighted from the bus with two suitcases in hand. He strolled through downtown Chicago and stopped in front of the Sears Tower. Putting his suitcases down on the pavement, he looked up and said, "I am going to conquer Chicago!" When he looked down, his suitcases were gone.

That's a great example of

those whose pride overreaches their enthusiasm. It sets us up for a fall as Solomon records [Proverbs 16:18].

In his classic work, "Mere Christianity", C. S. Lewis addresses the subject of human pride. The chapter is called "The Greatest Sin in the World". In it, he defines the right kind of pride ("I'm proud of my son"). Then he writes about the wrong kind of pride, egoism ("I have to be the best. I have to be number one.") After discussing this subject with his usual candour and clarity, he ends the chapter with this observation: "If you have read this and you're convinced that it does not apply to you, then it certainly does apply to you" (emphasis mine).

Pride is so subtle. It distorts our abilities and overestimates our accomplishments. Again, Lewis

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calls it “spiritual cancer” which eats up love and contentment. It is actually a sign of our own insecurity and feelings of inferiority. Spurgeon poetically warns us against pride of race, face, or place (and of space and grace, I might add!).

Sinful pride can be described as “the way up is the way down.”

Scripture illustrates the fall pride takes. In the parable of Jesus, the younger son left his father’s house with lots of money and head held high. He ended up feeding pigs and surviving on their diet. He finally returned.

Then there is the real life story of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. He took to himself honours bestowed on him by God as though he were deserving of them. As though he were the creator of them! You know the result. God removed his reason from him for a period. He went from the palace to the pasture; from dining in finery to foraging for the grass of the field like an animal.

It was a hard lesson. His own testimony [Daniel 4:34] says it all. “. . . My reason returned to me and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honoured him who lives forever.”

Pride led to Nebuchadnezzar’s ruin. Humil-

ity led to his restoration.

But God’s word also underscores the contrasting truth. The way down is the way up.

Joseph went down to Egypt, sold to slave traders by his envious brothers. There he was slandered by his master’s wife and went down to prison. But his unjust humiliation was finally bested by his humility in trying circumstances. He was promoted in prison and ultimately placed next to Pharaoh in governing the Egyptian empire. The way down was the way up. So it was also with Daniel.

Humility is not the ability to denigrate yourself with false modesty or condemnation. It is rather the proper evaluation of who we are and where our gifts come from.

The famous 18th century evangelist, George Whitefield (1714 -1770), once received a vicious letter, castigating him and accusing him of wrongdoing. His response was amazing. “I heartily thank you for your letter. As for what you and my other enemies are saying against me, I know worse things about myself than you will ever say . . . with love in Christ, George Whitefield.” His true humility saved him from wasting time and talent in futile self-defence.

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At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow

Sunday School Picnic

**Sunday School children, their whole family,
teachers and helpers and supporters are all invited.**

Sunday June 10th (right after church)



**At the Lovelesses
3319 Britannia Road
905-331-2054**



**We will provide Burgers, Hot Dogs and Drinks
But we are asking each family to bring salad, snacks
or desert**

**Please bring clothes that can get dirty and lawn
chairs for your family**

**We will have games, lots of space to play and good
food.**

Fun for the whole family.



And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord



Our mission partners write

Norm and Audrey Henderson, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Angola

Breaking from our past style, in this newsletter we want to share something that we've been doing other than our full-time roles at the CEMIL hospital. We are rejoicing and want to thank God for a successful first Alpha course ever held – as far as we know - in Lubango, Angola!

We ran the 10-week course on Saturdays at 8:00 (or 8:30 or 9!) with “mata-bicho” (“kill the beast”) which is local slang for breakfast - a simple meal with bread, margarine and drinks. We added jam, although apparently that isn't usual.

Those of you who have taken an Alpha course know that we try to have fun, but we discovered humour does not translate well. A very careful translation of a joke was received with polite stares. One of the older fellows finally got it and retold it, to more puzzled stares. People love to laugh and joke here, but apparently it will be a while before we can tell jokes!



Lunchtime during the Alpha weekend

It was also a challenge to get people to share their thoughts. The education system is mostly one-way teaching with rote repetition and people don't have much experience in expressing original ideas and personal emotions.

The highlight of the course was our weekend away. Most of them got only a few hours of sleep over the Friday night so we asked if they always stayed up late during retreats. They responded that they'd never had a retreat before! Women and babies slept on one classroom floor and the men on the other. One of the youth had brought some lively worship music, getting the tired women up to dance with smiles on their faces.

Meal planning for the weekend began with a live goat and several flapping chickens, unceremoniously dumped in the back of our truck leading us to wonder if supper would escape before being prepared! We brought most everything we needed, including the kitchen sink (we washed dishes in basins) and a stove – which was too small for all the cooking, so the “funge” (a stiff mixture of corn and cassava porridge, a staple) was cooked outdoors over charcoal. Lack of consistent power, running water and refrigeration didn't faze anyone, as many live all the time in similar circumstances. By the way, the goat was excellent, and the piece of chicken gizzard Audrey got was the best she'd ever eaten.

The Holy Spirit worked in a wonderful way on the Saturday afternoon, filling us with joy and ministering in a powerful way. On Sunday morning, the 30 enthusiastic participants trooped back to the church in various trucks and minivan 'taxis', and we had a truly God-inspired service together.

There were many absences during the 10 week period, often due to deaths in the family. One participant had 3 funerals in one week—two nephews, aged 1 and 5, and the third was his fifty year old brother-in-law, all due to illnesses. This was a vivid illustration of the high mortality rates in Angola. As well as at the hospital and in this kind of contact, we see it when we pass the coffin-maker's shop on our daily drive home. He's always busy, all sizes.

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow

Here are some translated comments from our course participants: “The Alpha course brought many good things to my spiritual and personal life, also to my home”; “taught me how to share Jesus”, “marvelous”; “I’m no longer the same person I was”; “I learned that God wants to communicate with us”.

Pastor André has started a follow-up course on life transformation - putting Christian faith into practice. Pray with us as we take the next steps. We have agreed to help a couple in the town of Matala (three hours east) run an Alpha course to help plant a church. We have also agreed to offer the course in English for advanced students from the school run by our friends the Holden family. Both courses are to start in May, God willing.

We’ll let you know more about things happening at the hospital in our next newsletter, but for now - pray for the staff as they adapt to much-needed changes.

On the lighter side we were recently warned of a multi-sector inspection, including police, fire services, ministry of health, consumer protection etc. – in all of which areas we are aware of major flaws. Only the police showed up and their only comment was that they would prefer the night guards to carry shotguns rather than AK-47’s!

We treasure your faithful support, your encouraging emails and letters, and especially your prayers. As we go through our financial reports from the MAF Canada office, we are humbled by the faithfulness and generosity of so many who support our ministry with MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship). We could not do this without you. We pray that your Easter has been, like ours, a joyous celebration of the risen Christ who does, indeed, want to communicate with us.

With our love, in the Risen and Transforming Christ,

Norm and Audrey Henderson

Women’s Fellowship Luncheon



Ladies, circle your calendar and come out to enjoy “pot luck” gourmet delicacies, fellowship, and worship at Margaret Harris’ home, 4448 Lakeshore Rd., Burlington.

Date: June 14

Time: 12: 30 p.m.



And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord



The Church of Good Shepherd Moves

On the last Sunday of April our ANiC brothers and sisters in St. Catharines, the Church of the Good Shepherd, held a service of transition, which began in the building that has been their church home for many years, and concluded in their new place of worship, Grace Mennonite Church. Several took part in this memorable service, with two wardens giving touching testimonies of the Lord's work in their lives and the lives of family members, ministry from the clergy, the Reverends Gerry Brodie and Jim Carriere, a carefully selected combination of traditional and contemporary music led by Jamie Wood, and a sermon from Bishop Charlie which blessed all who were present. Even the Sunday School children participated by handing out an 'authorized ticket' to every church member leaving the old church, for the journey to the new one.

The Communion service incorporated a litany of prayer for the journey and the reading of a list of loved ones who have gone home to be with the Lord since February 18th, 2008, when this church became part of ANiC. Following the sermon Bishop Charlie gave a prayer of closure and all sang, "Be Not Afraid". The people then drove to Grace Mennonite Church for the rest of the service.

What a wonderful surprise awaited them! The people of Grace Mennonite had been waiting for over an hour to welcome the Good Shepherd congregation, and the Rev'd Waldo Pauls put that welcome into warm words. These combined churches continued the celebration of Holy Communion together, after which the closing hymn, 'Shout to the North...Jesus is Saviour to All' rang out loud and clear. The members of Grace Mennonite were invited to the celebratory luncheon which the Good Shepherd folks had brought with them.

It 'just happened' that the lectionary Scriptures appointed for the day focused on the Good Shepherd. Let us pray that the ministry of this ANiC sister will take off in a powerful way as the Good Shepherd and Grace Mennonite people partner together in their neighbourhood to bring the Gospel to those of all ages and conditions. To God be the glory!

Pam Bales

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow

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A guest at an official reception told Abraham Lincoln that in his home state people thought the welfare of the nation rested on God and Abraham Lincoln. “You are half- right” was Lincoln’s response. That’s true humility! It is a well-known fact that “Honest Abe” suffered crushing defeats before he ever came close to entering the White House. The way down was the way up.

“Get someone else to blow your horn,” Will Rogers advised, “and the sound will carry twice as far.”

Undoubtedly, our finest EXAMPLE of humility is our blessed Lord Jesus. Indisputably! He has demonstrated the principle that the way down is the way up. It is presented as metaphor in St. John’s account of the Last Supper:

*“Jesus . . . rose from supper
laid aside his garments
and taking a towel, tied it around his waist.
Then he poured water into a basin
and began to wash the disciples feet
and to wipe them with the towel . . .”* [John 13:3 – 5, ESV]

Jesus rose from the banquet rooms of glory, laid aside His splendor and took the towel of the servant here among us. He poured out His soul to death, and by that death He has washed, not only our feet, but wiped us totally from the filth of sin.

But at what cost!

He descended from heaven to Hades. Then He was raised to Easter’s resurrection and exaltation in glory. The way down is indeed the way up.

Consider again, in the light of His present glory, the picture St. Paul uses to remind us of this fact so that we might serve one another in love:



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And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord



“Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” [Phil. 2: 4 – 11, ESV]

The emptying of Christ ends in the exaltation of Christ! He has finished His journey but we are still “in process.” The searching prayer of Ruth Harris Calkin speaks to my journey powerfully today:

*“You know, Lord, how I serve You,
with great emotional fervour in the limelight . . .
You know how eagerly I speak for You at the Women’s Club.
You know my genuine enthusiasm at a Bible Study.
But how would I react, I wonder,
if You pointed to a basin of water
and asked me to wash calloused feet
of a bent and wrinkled old woman
day after day, month after month
in a room where nobody saw and nobody knew?”*

Before the seating at the Father’s side, Jesus went through the slander, sweat, suffering, sorrow and shame of Calvary. Before Pentecost, the disciples endured the disillusionment of the Cross and Death of the Lord. They had to re-adjust their amazed souls to His post-resurrection experience. They watched as He was taken out of their sight. They waited, and WAITED in the upper room. Before the power, preaching, and Gospel penetration of Pentecost, and after Pentecost, was the patience of a rocky journey. Before the harvest of souls was the humiliation of hiding away for fear of reprisal from the religious and political authorities in Jerusalem.

But finally the test of endurance gave way to the triumph of the Gospel. The way down

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow

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was the way up.

So is the lesson of the Ascension. As the Proverbs inform us, “By humility and the fear of the Lord, are riches and honour and life [22:4 NKJV].” And again, “The Fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, and before honour is humility.”

In our time of growth, testing, and trial on this planet, let us fix our gaze on the awesome condescension and majestic exaltation of our Lord. In them be a clear road map for our final ascent to where He now prays for us.

Ken Bombay

Garage sale at Palladium Way Saturday, May 5



And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord



think this way!

“let those of us who are mature think this way”

Philippians 3: 15a ESV

Paul’s letter to the Philippians is very personal, personal in its expression of Paul himself, and personal in its appeal to the Philippians. The letter reveals Paul’s attitudes, his motives, his mindset and his heart. No surprise that this letter is about Jesus. Jesus is the center of his heart and his life. This letter is a life-changer if we let our minds be changed by the Spirit of God as we read it.

Paul delights to call himself a slave of Jesus Christ[1:1]. And he meant it too! He said “To me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” Translators of the New Testament seem to choke when they come to this word “slave” so they write “servant” instead, “Paul, a ‘servant’ of Jesus Christ”. The best that they can do is put the word “slave” or “bondservant” in a footnote. But Paul considered himself a slave of Jesus. Surely proud Paul, Paul Pharisee, would choke too in his natural human thinking, but Paul, a changed man, considered himself Jesus’ slave. Would our lives change in any way if we considered ourselves Jesus’ slaves?

Paul says we should “have this mind” among ourselves. He says even more: that in Christ Jesus, this is the mind that we have. This is the mind of Jesus. Paul says about the Lord Jesus, that though He was in the form of God, He made Himself nothing, taking the form of a slave (again the word slave is only in the footnote.) He says that Jesus humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. This is Jesus, the Son of God, who did this, taking the form of a slave, humbly obedient to His Father.

This same Jesus God has highly exalted! God has bestowed on Him the Name, the name that is above every name. If you had a choice of being king over yourself or being a slave to Jesus the Lord to whom every knee shall bow, what would you choose?

Paul himself had his thinking turned upside down as he sat in blindness in Damascus pondering his own “righteousness”, meticulous adherence to the law of God, zealous Phariseism in the extreme, “blameless” observance of the law, and pondering Jesus. Paul had no choice; he chose Jesus. Put everything in his life on one side and Jesus on the other. Everything on the one side amounted to rubbish, all his life up to that moment, all his good deeds, his zeal before God, all of it just rubbish. On the other side, Jesus: the “surpassing worth” of knowing Jesus, being “found in Him”, having gained Christ, having “the righteousness from God that depends on faith.” He had his thinking turned upside down and his life turned upside down, and he be-

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came a slave. Jesus made Paul “His own”!

“To live is Christ!” Now that’s a “mission statement!” This is not a sour person-limiting bondage, but a slavery of love. This is not the end of everything, but the beginning of a wonderful, continuing “gain”, with a glorious goal ahead. It is precious to know Jesus more and more, even to share his sufferings, to become like Him in His death. To live is Christ! Paul said, “Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, I press on”, “I press on toward the goal”. “To die is gain!” To quote an old Advent hymn:

“Christ is the end, for Christ was the beginning,
Christ the beginning, for the end is Christ.”

[Frederick William Henry Myers 1867]

If Paul knew all the people who would read his letter, would he have changed anything, perhaps tempered his words? Not one syllable! He says to us, “let those of us who are mature, think this way.”

Certainly Paul was persecuted, beaten, harassed, pursued, even stoned. But his words “rejoice in the Lord always” match his life. He speaks about peace from his own experience. “The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.[4: 5 – 7]” Where else can you find such peace? Paul was able to say from the trials and testings of his own life, “I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.[4: 11 – 13, ESV]”

If you are on the threshold of adult life and are pondering your life goals, “I’m going to be a slave” may not seem a laudable ambition. But “To live is Christ” is a wonderful foundation for a rich and fruitful life, the best life ever! You might not be wealthy, famous, or popular. You might not be comfortable even, but surely you are building with “gold, silver, precious stones.” Whatever your state or time of life, to be able to say truly the words “my God” or “Christ Jesus, my Lord” or to confess truly “Christ Jesus has made me his own”[3:12], this is treasure indeed!

Mary Ann Masters



And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord

**St. George's Anglican Church,
Lowville,
member congregation of the
Anglican Network in Canada
and part of
the Anglican Church in North America**

Rector: the Rev'd Ray David Glenn

**Pastoral Assistant: the Rev'd Ken
Bombay**

Honorary Assistants:

the Rev'd Garth Hunt

the Rev'd Peter Parent

the Rev'd Keith Stodart

the Rev'd Deacon Ray Smith

Worship/Media Pastor: Bryan Hunt

Exec. Administrator: Gillian Fernie

Ministry Coordinator: Naomi Neeb

Church Secretary: Donna Rigo

**Crossroads Centre Chapel, 1295
North Service Road, Burlington**

**8:30 am Morning Prayer or Holy
Communion**

**10:15 family service, nursery and Sunday
school**

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Come down, O Love
divine,
Seek thou this soul
of mine,
And visit it with
thine own ardour
glowing;
O Comforter, draw
near, within my heart
appear, and kindle it,
thy holy flame
bestowing.

R. F. Littledale

1867