



# Special Edition

COMPLIMENTARY ISSUE

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SPECIAL EDITION

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## His Hands and Feet



*"If you then being evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:13).*

**This scripture provoked a questioning in my heart, of what it looks like to be a daughter of the Almighty God, and the depth of hunger for His Spirit that should rise in response to this divine privilege.**

**A**s a believer in Jesus Christ, I have an obligation to represent God in this world. I am called to carry His presence and release His love and power wherever He may take me. This charge is by no means easy according to our fleshly standard, but all things are possible with God, and that truth keeps pulsating through my mind. At my wits end with the fear of man, and my hesitation to surrender, this passage came and coaxed me out of my spiritual slumber. It beckoned me into a deeper submission to the Spirit of God.

In order to put action to my conviction, my best

friend and I decided to venture out into downtown Victoria, to share the love of God. Thankfully, there was a youth group from up island who were setting out to do the same thing, so we joined them and gathered in prayer. While praying, each of us wrote down what we felt God was saying. Some got specific descriptions, others got locations and others various clues, or as us church folk would call it, "words of knowledge."

After our time of prayer, we came together in groups of four and shared what we had written then we hit the road. As we walked down Douglas Street, I saw a woman walking toward us who fit a description I had seen earlier in prayer and wrote down. In my vision, she had a pink sweater with a white shirt and a blonde bob, and she was standing in a London Drugs shampoo aisle, so I had written "shampoo" beside her description. Now this woman walking toward us had a pinkish sweater, a white and black striped shirt and a blonde bob. The girls in my group and I began to question whether we should stop her, and my nerves began to bubble up. However, in the window beside where we stood was a big purple lotus, and on one of the girls sheets of paper was "purple

flower". We felt a nudge of confidence and decided to stop her. As the two of us spoke with her, the other two stayed back and prayed. We started to ask her about herself. After a short while, she allowed us to bless her in prayer and then we joined back with our friends. Little did I know, that in the shop window next door was an array of shampoo bottles and the shop after that had a giant toy giraffe on display, which was another image I saw in the earlier prayer, and had put on my list. Our friends noticed this while we were engaged with the woman and showed us when we were finished. We all felt excited and encouraged, to say the least.

Once again we headed off, but this time, with a sense of expectation. As we walked, a statement suddenly popped into my mind. It appeared very much like a simple thought but I was determined to subdue my filter of doubt, especially on this day. Believing it was from God, I spoke out the statement to my team in an attempt to step out in faith. I told them, "We're going to come into contact with a young man who has a skateboard and trouble with his left shoulder."

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# Miss Fix-it

*I have always enjoyed creating things, like stories and artwork. I also like to fix things. I often get called upon by friends or co-workers to fix a computer issue, or help solve a problem. In certain instances, I have worked for hours to fix something. Even though it can take time, the huge sense of satisfaction I get when I finally succeed motivates me to keep working at it.*

I enjoy fixing things and solving problems so much that this sometimes translates into people and relationships. It might be that family member who is having marriage problems, or that friend who seems to keep allowing herself to be taken advantage of. Then, there is that other friend who doesn't believe in God because if He existed He would not allow so much evil to exist in this world. I desperately want to fix these situations, but over time I have realized that it is not up to me to fix them. God is the only one who can really do that. Besides, He can fix them much better than I ever could! I can still pray for them though, and trust that God will make them work out for His glory!

During a conversation we had recently, a good friend also reminded me that when I try to fix people, and push them along in their journey, I am preventing God from doing His work in that person's heart. In the process, I might also be hindering them from becoming the person that God intended them to be. Despite all that I have learned, I still sometimes find myself getting worked up about a situation and want to put my hand in it to fix it. When that happens, He will often gently remind me of those words from Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in

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They said, "Okay, cool," and we continued on. Another clue written by one of the other girls was "purple hair". While walking by a store window we saw a young woman with purple hair, so we bolted inside and struck up a conversation with her. Two of her family members had severe diabetes and her best friend had arthritis all throughout her body, so we prayed with her for their healings. We said our good-byes and gave her a number she could reach us if she should want to contact us. As we stepped back out onto the sidewalk, a young man walked by with a long board. I knew he was the one God had spoken to me about previously. I quickly whipped around as he was passing and said, "Excuse me, how are you?" He looked extremely confused as to why I had stopped him, and I'm sure he was wondering what I was going to ask him for. I then asked him if he had any pain in his shoulders. He looked at me still confused and a little concerned. Then I said something along the lines of, "God told me we were going to meet you today and He said you have a problem with your left shoulder." His mouth dropped open! He said, "My left shoulder has been dislocating for about ten years." He was stunned and so was I. We began talking and sharing and eventually we ended up praying for him and for healing in his shoulder. It was an amazing encounter. To know that I heard from God so clearly absolutely blew my mind.

With no time to spare, as this young man walked away, a homeless woman started getting beaten up across the street by another woman. Her head was hitting the concrete behind her as she received the blows and she sat doubled over on the ground trying



the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." Sometimes He will also use the words from Isaiah 55:9, "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts your thoughts." Then, once more I am able to hand it back over into His infinitely more capable hands and let Him be the one to do the fixing.

Anita Kuparinen

to protect herself, her hands covering her face. Desperate to bring peace to the situation we ran over and tried to ask them what was going on. We were met with vulgarity and it was made clear that we were not welcome to interfere. The abuse quickly stopped and the attacker and her boyfriend soon left, leaving this broken woman battered on the ground in her own excrement. Immediately we sat with her on the pavement and tried to make her feel safe. I wanted to show her love before the humiliation of hate brought her self worth any lower.

We spent about an hour and a half with this woman as we waited for the police and ambulance to come. My best friend and one of the other girls bought her some new clothes at a nearby salvation army; two of our team members helped her get cleaned up and changed in the back of the police van. At one point, I remember feeling a strong burden for this woman, and as I looked at her, I couldn't begin to imagine the amount of hardship she had faced in her lifetime. She was obviously under the influence of drugs and alcohol, and she explained to us that she had just recently lost a baby. She was only 37 years old but her face looked weathered. Still, under all of that hurt and shame, when she smiled, I could see a glimpse of her. A glimpse of the person God had created her to be. She was meant to be His daughter just as much as I was, and that was hard to swallow.

I felt so blessed in that moment, but I felt so painfully ignorant at the same time. Jesus died for all of mankind, and there sat one of his beautiful creations, broken and bruised both physically and spiritually on the sidewalk of some rich city, her spirit crying out for help. Some time passed and one of the girls

**Nothing is impossible  
when you put your trust in God;  
Nothing is impossible  
when you're trusting in His Word.  
Hearken to the voice of God to thee:  
"Is there anything too hard for Me?"  
Then put your trust in God alone  
and rest upon His Word--  
For ev'rything, O ev'rything,  
Yes, ev'rything is possible with God!**

Eugene L. Clark

realized that on her list she had written "red hair with black trench coat". This woman had red hair and she was wearing a black trench coat. We were astounded!

It's hard when God reveals the ugliness in your heart. But I will admit humbly, that after much reflection, He showed me that when I set out to do His will that day, I had really set out to do my own. Although I wanted to share the love of God, I also wanted to gain some cool stories, some awesome testimonies to share with my unbelieving family and friends. And although that isn't a terrible thing to want, it wasn't the right heart attitude. God treasures a pure heart. In this instance, my heart was certainly divided. It was a lesson that was difficult to learn but priceless in the fruit that it would bring.

As the sons and daughters of God we are called to be the flesh of Jesus. We are to be His hands and feet, mending the broken and standing for justice in love and in righteousness. I want to rise up to this high call. I want to desire God's will more than my own. I want to have character strong enough to host the glory of His Presence. I want to lay down my life for others and have faith that He will take care of me. I want to know what it means to live a life worthy of Jesus. Do you?

Mariah Dantu

# SEARCH, AND YOU WILL FIND

Many times, during the years that we have run a Spanish language Sunday school, we have wondered if our programs are out-dated in this technological era that we live in. However, we have found that many of the small country churches in the various Latin American countries that we have visited have not yet entered the 21st century. These congregations have neither the resources nor the money to obtain Sunday school materials. Everywhere we have gone, our "Through the Bible" programs have been received with gratitude.

Our most recent Sunday school trip was to the Dominican Republic. We had been there many times before, always in a different part of the island. This time, we headed west of Santo Domingo,

along the southern coast towards Haiti. In any country that we go to more than once, we never go to the same place twice. Also, we never know which town or which church we will be going to beforehand. The above Bible verse, "Ask, and God will give to you. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will open for you," is true when we are searching for the Sunday school that God wants us to go to.

This time we headed to Santo Domingo from the Aeropuerto Las Americas in our small Kia rental. Driving in the Dominican Republic was a nightmare. No one seemed to obey any traffic rules; small motorcycles buzzed by on all sides and were a real nuisance.

About 125 km west of Santo Domingo we arrived at a town called Azua. The reason we chose Azua as our 'headquarters' was because we were able to make reservations at what turned out to be the only hotel in town. From there we planned to go out into the

countryside to search for our church.

The next day we continued west along the Carretera Sanchez towards San Juan. The area we drove through had many banana plantations. We saw no churches on the main road. If we had been driving in the eastern part of the island, we would have already passed several. We tried one side road to a small village but had no luck there either.

After we had driven an hour away from Azua, we decided we would not go any farther than the next village on the road. After this village the map did not show any more towns before San Juan. Magueyal, which was the next town, was an agricultural community where they practised subsistence farming. The highway was lined with small stalls where the local people sold their produce of fruits and vegetables.

We took a paved road into the village where we soon located the Catholic church. Beside the church, a local housewife was hanging her laundry up

*Ask, and God will give to you.*

*Search, and you will find. Knock,*

*and the door will open for you.*

*(Matthew 7:7 NCV)*

to dry on a fence in front of her house. We asked her if she knew of an evangelical church in town. She said yes, but she didn't remember the name or where it was. She told us to go back to the highway and ask at one of the stalls.

There was a sign painted on the wall of the farthest stall which said, "Gloria a Dios". I went to ask the stall proprietor whether she knew where the evangelical church was. She did. It was called Monte de los Olivos. She didn't attend the church but her son attended Sunday school there. As we were talking, her son returned from classes on his motorbike. We followed him in our car as he drove his motorcycle slowly to the church, which was on the highway quite close by. We had not noticed it when we had driven through the town.

The pastor's wife was at home with her three small children and we sat outside in the dusty yard on some broken furniture. After we explained to her who we were and why we had come, I showed her the sample lessons we had brought with us. She was immediately very interested and started telling us about their Sunday school. About 25 students gathered in the church on Sunday afternoons for Sunday school. They also had Sunday school on Saturdays at a location farther along on the highway. About 15 younger students attended there. It was too dangerous for them to walk along the highway to the church, so the teachers went there instead. As we suspected, they didn't have teaching materials. Now both groups of children would be able to use the same program.

We waited for the pastor to come home from work. He worked at a nearby banana plantation. Like all the small churches we visit, the congregation often cannot support the pastor and he has to work elsewhere to earn his living. The pastor was a young man but seemed very tired. His job must have been a gruelling one.

The next Sunday we brought with us the 1 ½ year long program, which consisted of lessons, visuals, New Testaments, small children's Bible story booklets, crayons, pencils, and other materials that they needed for their

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**Sunday School kids holding their gift envelopes**

## My Puzzle

*I hold the misplaced pieces  
Of my life within my hand.  
I wonder how could these pieces,  
Ever fit God's perfect plan?*

*I look for the most perfect shape,  
And try to find the best place.  
But on my own the pieces  
Don't seem to fit any space.*

*I can not fit them together,  
Even as hard as I try.  
Until I get so frustrated,  
That all I can do is cry.*

*Then a soft voice speaks  
as quietly as can be.  
The pieces go much easier  
If you ask for help from Me.*

*Lord, please help me with my puzzle.  
I can't do this on my own,  
These pieces don't fit together  
When I work at it alone.*

*Put my puzzled life into place,  
My whole heart is in Your hand.  
Guide me Lord and help me to  
Lay the pieces into Your plan.*

*Danette L. Kettwich*

**So do not fear,  
for I am with you;  
do not be dismayed,  
for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you  
and help you;  
I will uphold you  
with my righteous right hand.**

*Isaiah 41:10*

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activities, plus photocopies of the activities for each lesson. Using these new materials, the pastor's wife taught the lesson, "Jesus walks on the water." The students were an active bunch of kids. Still, they must have paid attention since they were able to answer questions on the lesson. There were 29 kids in attendance and we had gift packs for all of them and enough left over for the Saturday class also. Before the class, I went over the whole program with one of the Sunday school teachers. She was quite sick with the flu and unfortunately we both caught it from her.

On the way back, we hit a horrific

traffic jam in Azua. There was a political rally going on for their next presidential election in 2016. The town was teeming with people and vehicles. Music from the loudspeakers on the trucks was so loud that our car vibrated and we thought our eardrums would burst!

Now, another Sunday school trip is behind us. Once again we had searched and this time found our "Mount of Olives" church among the banana plantations of the Dominican Republic.

Riitta & Oiva Iskanius



Action songs



Prayer time

## Take Hold of Eternal Life

*This column provides a brief overview of God's plan of salvation, and tells you how to be a child of God.*

**1. Every human being is a sinner.**  
"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Sin condemns a person to eternal punishment.

**2. God loves you.**  
"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

**3. Jesus is the only savior.**  
"Neither is there salvation in any other, it has no other name under heaven by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

**4. You need to repent of your sins, ask forgiveness and believe in Jesus' atoning work on the cross, and personally accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour.** When you receive Jesus, you become a child of God. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become children of God, to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12). This is called new birth. Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God (John 3:3).

**5. Pray like this:**  
The Lord Jesus, I understand that I am a sinner, and I believe that You died on the cross for me. I would now like to open the door to my heart and accept you as my Savior and Lord. You control everything from now on and help me to live according to Thy will.

If you prayed that prayer with a sincere heart, you are now a child of God, saved, and on your way to eternal life.