

COMMENTS ON OUR LIVES

During the past several months Pat and I have found ourselves ministering to people who are in totally impossible circumstances, situations and relationships. We do not know if it is just that more people are experiencing these problems or that it has always been this way and we are just seeing how impossible things really are so that we learn to lean on Jesus and to know that without Him there is no ministry. He is the only one who can actually fix or mend broken lives, relationships, health situations and set people free from demons, habits and unusual personality quirks and other such problems.

It seems as though everyone we come in contact with has an on going serious problem of some sort and are just in total despair, frustration and a general state of helplessness. In all our fifty plus years of ministry I have never seen anything exactly like this. Nearly all of these people are church members or professed Christians. Many of them have been or still are in some sort of ministry or church work.

If we had not learned to cast all our cares on Jesus and depend on Him in all things we would just absolutely be washed away in this deluge of problems. We see these types of people nearly every week and witness miracles in some lives each week. Yet many are still struggling along waiting for a miracle. We are experiencing the miraculous power of God in our own lives as we go on in His work. We experience His presence, His love for us and the people, His peace and His strength to get us through each day. We have learned and experience nearly every day His word which says that "His strength is made perfect in our weakness." We live it. We have too. There is no other way to survive.

Quite often we just want to run away from all this. We want to hide. To turn off the phones and just go to bed to get some rest or find some means of relaxing or escapism. It seems that nearly every phone call is someone calling with another impossible problem, some need or a special prayer request. It is only by His grace and strength that we find happiness, peace, joy, and rest but especially hope in these times.

We are not in touch with many ministers and other churches. We have heard that many churches are experiencing similar problems and that attendance is falling off. We do not know this to be true. We watch some of the TV ministries and see all the thousands of people with happy smiling faces and what appears to be a successful ministry and wonder if they ever experience the same problems we are. We hear and read some about the success sermons, books and testimonies and thank God for these. Yet we have many people to whom we minister that read the same success books, hear the same sermons via radio and TV and yet experience little or no improvement in their situations and difficulties. Their nagging questions are why doesn't this work for me or us? What's wrong with us? Doesn't God love us? We try to apply all this information in our lives and it just doesn't work, WHY?

We use the scriptures to explain many truths about life. We speak of patience and God's perfect timing and will for ones life. We talk about being tested and tried so that our faith will be made strong. We talk about the life of Jesus on this earth and what He had to go through in His dedication and service too His Father and we point out that we are suppose to walk in His steps. We speak of the truth in His word that says, we should walk as He walked and that we are too take up our cross and follow Him. We tell them that worldly success is not godly success. That we are too not lay up for our selves treasure on earth but in Heaven. We explain that where our treasure is there our hearts will be also. That our primary rewards here on earth are to experience the presence of God in our lives, His Peace, and the Joy He brings. That HE is our life. We tell them that there is HOPE in HIM and that we are not HOME YET. We explain that we are strangers and pilgrims in this world and that we are just passing through. We tell them that having food and raiment we should be content that they who would be rich fall in to a temptation and a snare that will bring much sorrowful and hurtful lust into their lives.

We also speak of spiritual warfare and how the Christian is to personally put on the whole armor of God. How that we are to resist the Devil and that he will flee from US. We speak of spiritual growth and of putting off the Old man and putting on the New. We tell them how to be sober and to be vigilant for our adversary the devil walks about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour and that our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against wicked spirits in heavenly places.

So we go on speaking and teaching the word of God. Praying for and helping in what ever ways we can. Laughing with them, crying with them and encouraging them in the Lord. And with His help we go along helping one another and encouraging one another and so much the more as we see THE DAY approaching. We look forward to that day when Our Lord will come and take us out of this place; that day when our race is finished and we have run the course and have fought a good fight; that day when we will hear HIS voice saying, well done good and faithful servants.

**In Christ,
Lewis & Pat Cowan**