



CHANGE YOUR LIFE. CHANGE YOUR WORLD.

activated

Vol 27 • Issue 10

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

One heart at a time

A Bingo Hall Sanctuary

Games, coffee, and
conversation

A Drop in the Ocean of Need

It matters to someone



PERSONALLY SPEAKING OUR MISSION

When Jesus appeared to His followers after the resurrection, He greeted them, saying, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you” (John 20:21). Today, as followers of Christ, we have also been commissioned to share the good news of the gospel. This month’s magazine explores many of the ways that we can be His light in the world.

People appreciate it when we are interested in them personally, and a friendly smile is a good start to almost any conversation. Listening is often the first step in showing God’s love. When we listen attentively to someone, we can usually find some common ground that will open the way to a deeper conversation. Sharing our faith doesn’t have to be complicated. Few people want to hear a speech laden with doctrine, yet people often appreciate hearing about personal experiences or some simple words of hope and faith. The time we spend with someone is never wasted or worthless.

“Does anyone really care about me?” It may surprise us to know how many people struggle with this question looming persistently in the back of their minds. And we have the answer. “Yes! God cares and He knows you personally. He knows your very essence, all of your thoughts and concerns. Jesus wants to be a part of your life.”

As the world becomes more impersonal, our little flame of faith shines even brighter. Don’t let it flicker out! Let’s not minimize God’s Spirit within us. If we take the first step, even if we feel shy, the Holy Spirit will speak through us to bring hope and light into someone’s life. As we lift up Jesus, He will draw people to Himself.

“Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours; yours are the eyes through which Christ’s compassion looks out on the world.”¹ The only love of God that many people will see is the love they see in us. It may surprise you to see the effect that a word of kindness and faith and a look of sympathy can have on someone’s soul. If we see each person as one who needs Jesus, our Savior, God’s love will flow through us.

People know enough hell, let’s show them a little bit more heaven!

Gabriel and Sally Garcia
Activated Editorial Team

1. Often attributed to St. Teresa of Avila

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Be as the Dew

BY CURTIS PETER VAN GORDER

THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE, DEW IS A SIGN OF BLESSING, FOR IN A HARSH, ARID CLIMATE, NO PLANT LIFE WOULD SURVIVE WITHOUT IT.

For thousands of years, man has devised ways to harvest the morning dew. In Israel, archaeologists found low circular walls that were built around plants to collect moisture from condensation. In Egypt and South America's Atacama Desert, piles of stones were arranged so that condensation could trickle down the inside walls, where it was collected.

Today, non-profit organizations are developing methods to collect dew in the hope of harvesting precious water. For example, in Chungungo, Chile, the village utilizes a large-scale fog collection system to extract potable water directly from coastal fog. This system captures thousands of liters of fresh water in an extremely arid desert region.

A UK engineering firm and the charity WaterAid held a competition aimed at finding new technologies to help people gain access to clean water in areas where it is scarce. The contest was won by Israeli architects Cory and Malka, who designed a dew-harvesting contraption. They were inspired by seeing drops of water on desert spiders' webs. Their design consists of an inverted pyramid of sheet material, which collects dew and channels it into a filtration unit.

Chinese scientists are studying spider webs to understand why they are effective at collecting water. They found that the spider webs change their structure when they encounter water, which enables them to better direct the water drops.

Like a spider web, we can channel the "water of life" where it is most needed. When all around us is dry and barren, that's our time to flow. That's when the dew is most appreciated. Many people in our world today are fainting for thirst—not for water, but for God's Word and truth. We can be the vessels of that water to slake others' thirst.

Just as the dew brings water out of the air, so we make faith in God come to life. We are to make the invisible things of God's love clearly manifested through our actions. Jesus said, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another" (John 13:35). Let us be known by that love that makes the invisible visible, and the abstract so very real. Let us be the water of life, a very present help in time of trouble for those who need it most.

CURTIS PETER VAN GORDER IS A FREELANCE WRITER AND MIME ARTIST WHO HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN MISSIONS WORK IN 10 COUNTRIES SINCE 1971. HE AND HIS WIFE PAULINE CURRENTLY LIVE IN GERMANY. ■



SHARING THE GOOD NEWS—ONE HEART AT A TIME

SHARING YOUR FAITH WITH PEOPLE AND POINTING THEM TO THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION THROUGH CHRIST CAN BE A CHALLENGING BUT VERY REWARDING TASK.

Not everyone is interested in knowing about Jesus and entering into a relationship with God. But when people do receive a witness and come to Christ—whether on the spot or later—it is a wonderful privilege to be a part of that in some way.

As ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20), we are like farmers. We do our part to till the ground, plant the seed of truth, and water and fertilize it, but only God can make the seed grow in people's hearts. No matter how

effectively you share the gospel with others, the outcome of your witness is in the Lord's hands and depends on the response of the individual. (See "The Parable of the Sower" in Luke 8:5–15.) You may never see the results of your witness, and many people may be part of a person's journey to Christ over time. One person may till the ground, another may plant the seed, and others may water it. But God is the one who makes it grow (1 Corinthians 3:6).

As we are faithful to share a witness, a gospel tract, or a New Testament with people, we can trust that the Holy Spirit will work in their hearts and lives. Whether that person chooses to come to Christ or not, we are being faithful to our calling to give them the opportunity to know Him (Romans 10:14).

TIPS FOR EFFECTIVELY SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Our commission is to share the good news with all people and to be a living example of God's love (Mark 16:15; John 13:35). In doing so, it is important that we look at each person as having intrinsic worth in the eyes of God



and being loved by Him. We have to look past people's outward appearance to see them as God does. "People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7 NIV).

Jesus gave us an example of reaching out to people who society looked down on. He spoke to the hated tax collectors, such as Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1–10), and called one of them, Matthew, to be His disciple (Matthew 9:9). He reached out to outcasts and healed the "untouchables" of His day. We need to ask God to help us to see each person He sends our way as He sees them and to love them with His love.



It often takes time, love, and patience to bring people to a saving knowledge of Jesus. In some cases, it takes friendship-building and being a good neighbor, friend, colleague, or fellow student. Some people are drawn to Christianity by the way we live and our outgoing love and concern for others.

If the people we interact with aren't ready to receive a Christian witness, we shouldn't give up on them. It may be that our influence is just one part of their journey to Jesus, which in some cases may take years. We can pray for



them and ask the Lord to keep working in their hearts. We can let them know that we'd be happy to continue having conversations with them. We can provide a living example of God's love through our caring actions (1 John 3:18).

Some people we share a witness or a gospel tract with will be open and ready to receive the message, and will want to learn about Christianity. But don't be surprised if some people express disinterest. It can be a bit disheartening when you reach out to people to share the truth that will set them free (John 8:31–32), only to have them brush you off or change the subject. When that happens, don't lose heart.

Some people's reaction to a Christian witness may be negative because they were caught off guard. They weren't expecting or prepared to get into a discussion on such a deep topic as faith in God or their ultimate destiny. Others may have had negative experiences or heard arguments against Christianity that left them disillusioned.

Some people may be concerned that if they were to receive Jesus as their Savior, they would be betraying the religion in which their parents raised them or would be ostracized from their family and culture. Others have yet to realize the futility of seeking truth and purpose in the things of this world, or don't want to be reminded of death, the afterlife, and their eternal destiny.

Some people will criticize your faith or debate Christianity because they are skeptical and unbelieving and want to air their views. But some sincere seekers will argue or debate the Bible and Christianity because they are truly seeking answers; they want their objections to be overcome.

The ways in which Jesus answered the questions He was asked offer helpful examples. Some questions came from people who sincerely wanted to know the truth, like Nicodemus who asked Jesus how one could be born again (John 3:1–21) and

the Samaritan woman at the well who asked Him about the living water (John 4:5–29). Jesus answered their questions with compassion and pointed them to the truth of who He was and how they could enter the kingdom of God.

In other cases, He challenged those whose questions were not sincere, such as when the Pharisees asked Him whether a woman caught in the act of adultery should be stoned for her sin. Jesus replied by saying, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her” (John 8:3–7).



When we encounter people who respond negatively or oppose our faith, the Bible teaches us to always be “prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you,” but to do so “with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15). Often the best way to handle points of disagreement is not by refuting what the other person says, but by hearing them out and then presenting the truth in a loving and positive way (Colossians 4:5–6). If you find that someone clearly doesn’t want to hear about God’s truth from the Bible, you can politely bow out of the conversation.

A WINSOME WITNESS

The Apostle Paul declared: “I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them... I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel” (1 Corinthians 9:19–23).

We too can seek to relate to people in their situation, background and culture. We can try to establish as much common ground as possible. When sharing our faith with people from non-Christian backgrounds, we can focus on the person of Jesus, the only religious figure who gave His life for the redemption and salvation of humankind. We can talk about His great love for all people and His power to transform broken hearts and lives for eternity.

As Christians, we have been called and commissioned to be a witness for Jesus and to share the good news with people the Lord places in our path (2 Corinthians 5:20). It is a privilege to play a part in the Lord’s transformation of people’s lives, and to know that someone we shared the truth with has been brought to eternal salvation. “There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (Luke 15:10 NIV), and we, as God’s instruments on earth, also partake of that joy.

It is not always an easy task, and it helps to remember that every sacrifice we make in this life will be worth it all when we see Jesus. One day we will experience the joy of knowing that we played a part in the salvation of others and have been faithful to Jesus’ Great Commission.

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A Life Saved, a Heart Healed

BY CHRISTIAN SERGEI

IN DOWNTOWN NOUMÉA, WHERE I LIVED AT THE TIME, THERE WAS A COZY LOUNGE WHERE MY WIFE AND I WOULD SOCIALIZE WITH FRIENDS AROUND A CUP OF COFFEE. Maria, the waitress who generally attended our table, had grown fond of us. Occasionally we conversed, and she enjoyed it, as long as we didn't bring up religion.

She was a single woman in her 30s, who had been deeply hurt by people she cared about. We had given her a pamphlet that had a picture of Jesus and a beautiful message about salvation, but she later confirmed that she did *not* read it.

We went again one evening and Maria was not herself. She would usually smile, but that day her face was stern. She appeared to be in despair. Nothing we did helped, and eventually she just walked out.

A week later, we stopped by the lounge again. Maria was there and we were stunned when we saw her. She was completely different; her transformation was like night and day! She sat with us and told us the following amazing story:

Last time I saw you was the worst day of my life! I was overwhelmed with hopelessness and discouragement. Just looking at you both so happy and peaceful added to my despair, so I decided to leave the job early and dragged myself home.

I was in pain and wanted to finish it all! I had sleeping pills in my bedside table, and as I lay there, I decided to swallow them all and take my life.

As I opened the drawer to grab the pills, I saw your pamphlet with the picture of Jesus. I felt Him looking at me with such peace and love. I was drawn to it like a magnet and read it, then I burst into uncontrollable tears. I read the prayer at the end over and over, and I gave my heart to Jesus. Then I fell asleep.

Waking up the next morning, I was a different person. All of the burden, anxiety and bitterness was gone. I felt so free, liberated, and truly happy, maybe for the first time in my life!

The love of Jesus is that powerful!

CHRISTIAN SERGEI IS A TEACHER IN ROMANIA. ■



If you have not yet received Jesus as your Savior, you can do so by praying the following prayer:

Dear Jesus, I believe that You are the Son of God and that You died on the cross for me so that I can live forever with You in heaven. I open the door of my heart to You. Please forgive my sins. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Guide my life and help me to follow You. Amen.

A Bingo Hall Sanctuary

BY SAM DE LA CRUZ



WE HAVE DEVOTED THE LAST 26 YEARS TO RUNNING A CHRISTIAN CHARITY, BUT WHO WOULD HAVE IMAGINED THAT A BINGO HALL COULD BECOME A PLACE OF MINISTRY? Twice a week, Diane and I volunteer there, helping our nonprofit and other charities raise funds for their local programs. Over time, it has become much more than fundraising; it has become a space where we meet people, listen to their stories, and quietly walk alongside them in their struggles.

Many of the seniors come not just for the games, but for companionship. Our ministry grew out of simply being there for them. We didn't plan it; we just responded to the needs we saw. Over time, we realized that our presence—and simply listening—made a difference. The bingo hall, with its steady murmur of conversation and the aroma of coffee from the café, is a place where people confront illness, loss, and the realities of aging.

There's Lona, who lost her son on Mother's Day two years ago. She still grieves and carries guilt that she can't shake. Martha recently lost her husband and often tells us she feels alone. Linsey lost her husband this year, and the pain is so fresh that tears come unbidden during a bingo game. (*Names have been changed to protect privacy.*)

Many people carry deep sorrow, and a gentle word, a patient ear, or just sitting quietly together often says more than any advice. Galatians 6:2 comes to mind: "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Even in hard times, life goes on, and there are small ways in which hope surfaces. Sometimes it's a laugh over a shared memory or a hand lightly resting on another's arm. These are the moments where sorrow and comfort meet.

We're still learning from the seniors, from their stories and from how little gestures can mean so much. Each visit teaches us patience, empathy, and the quiet power of showing up. Even a simple "How are you today?" can open a heart.

The bingo hall may seem ordinary, but to those who come seeking company and connection, it is a subtle sanctuary. In the small interactions—listening, laughing, sharing a memory—hope quietly grows.

And let's not forget Sarah, who recently won her fight against cancer. Her smile, laughter, and renewed energy remind everyone that, even after long struggles, life can bring healing, celebration, and new beginnings.

So we keep showing up, week after week, in this unexpected corner of the world where people's stories are heard, where gentle presence matters, and where hope rises quietly and steadily.

SAM DE LA CRUZ AND HIS WIFE, DIANE, HAVE OPERATED A REGISTERED CHARITY IN TORONTO SINCE 1999, SERVING IMMIGRANTS AND LOW-INCOME FAMILIES WITH PRACTICAL HELP, ENCOURAGEMENT, AND CHRISTIAN COMPASSION. ■

Ministering to the Sick

BY GEORGE SOSICH

AS MANY OF MY FRIENDS AGE, AN INCREASING NUMBER ARE SPENDING TIME IN THE HOSPITAL.

My heart goes out to them because I know a lot about this, having spent extensive time in the hospital since experiencing kidney failure in 1999.

Being unwell and hospitalized is tough. You have to endure the pain and side effects of your condition and medical procedures, loneliness, uncertainty about your health and future, the stress on your family, and more.

One thing I've learned through my many stays in the hospital and more than 1,500 visits for dialysis and other issues is that many of the other patients I meet are going through similar difficulties. I believe one very important reason the Lord allowed me to be there was so I could be a witness to them. Here is one example.

I met a Japanese woman in the dining room of the hospital. She was in her late thirties and had also suffered kidney failure, and although she'd received a transplant, she was experiencing complications and faced an uncertain outcome. She had been hospitalized for quite

some time and was very lonely and depressed. She and her husband live on an island, and the distance made it difficult for him to visit her.

I witnessed to her, and she received the Lord gladly. Her transformation was obvious. For the remainder of my stay, she was absolutely radiant! When I was discharged, I gave her a Japanese Bible, and we kept in touch. Eventually, she was discharged and returned home to be with her husband. We would meet during our monthly follow-up appointments with the transplant specialists to check our kidney function, and she was indeed a true convert. She wrote me a beautiful letter thanking me for helping her and expressing how much her life had changed for the better after receiving Jesus.

To be the instrument the Lord used to bring salvation and transformation to this Japanese woman was a beautiful and rewarding experience.

I would rather not have had my chronic illness and the many visits and stays in the hospital. There have been countless hours when all I could do was fight for my own life and health, and I had no strength to reach out to others. But there have *also* been many opportunities to minister to my fellow sufferers, despite my own suffering.

“Who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”—2..

Corinthians 1:4

GEORGE SOSICH IS A FORMER LONG-TIME MISSIONARY TO THE JAPANESE. HE IS NOW BASED IN AUSTRALIA, WHERE HE PRODUCES BIBLE MADE EASY PODCAST, AVAILABLE ON YOUTUBE AND ALL MAJOR PODCAST PLATFORMS. ■





YOUR STORY IS SOMEONE ELSE'S BRIDGE

BY G.L. ELLENS

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LIVE OUR FAITH IN TODAY'S WORLD? For me, it has become something deeply personal. It is no longer just about explaining what I believe; it is about offering the life I have lived as evidence of God's faithfulness.

Over the years, I have discovered something precious. When I share Christ with someone, it is not a carefully prepared talk that touches their heart. More often, it is an experience I have gone through myself.

Again and again, I have found that when I talk to someone who is hurting, grieving, discouraged, or anxious about the future, the Lord often brings to mind a similar experience I once had. I remember talking with my friend Nona after her sister had a biking accident and died of a brain hemorrhage shortly thereafter. Nona was distraught. I'd had a similar experience when I lost my brother to a sudden heart attack and was overcome by grief. At that time, God gave me the most loving comfort

and assurance that my brother was in heaven enjoying the presence of Jesus and our loved ones there.

As I began to share what God did for me in that place of sorrow, something shifted. Nona's eyes softened. Her shoulders relaxed, and she began to lower her defenses. She was no longer listening to an abstract idea; she was hearing words of eternal life that comforted her soul. Not long after that, Nona gave her heart to Jesus and is now steadfast in her Christian faith.

I am so thankful when the Lord works in this way. I do not have to actively search for the "right" story because He simply brings to mind an incident from my past. He uses even the hardest experiences to bring comfort and hope to someone else. What once felt like my private pain then becomes a bridge for another soul.

The Apostle Paul writes that God "comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God" (2 [Corinthians 1:4](#) NIV). I have seen this verse lived out so often. The comfort He gave me was never meant to end with me; it was meant to overflow on others.

People today are not impressed by religious language. They are hungry for authenticity. They ask: *Does what you're saying hold up when life falls apart? Will it sustain me even when my prayers seem unanswered?*

When we share how God met us in our personal dark nights, we answer those questions without argument. Our lived experience becomes evidence.

Yet living our faith is not only about what we share; it is also about how we live. Actions often speak long before words are ever spoken. A gentle response in a tense conversation. An apology offered quickly. Integrity maintained when compromise would be easier. A refusal to gossip when others do. These are sermons without pulpits.

I have also learned that vulnerability carries power. When we admit "I struggled too" or "I did not understand what God was doing either," we create space

for honesty. We show that faith is not the absence of hardship—it is trust in the middle of it. When I became friends with Sari, a single mother with four children, I found that sharing my experiences as a single mom encouraged her to keep trusting God and looking to Him for solutions.

Our personal example carries enormous weight in today's fractured world. Our lives either reinforce or weaken the message we proclaim. When love governs our responses, humility steadies our convictions, and grace shapes our tone, people notice.

Living our faith today is not necessarily about being dynamic or vocal. Often, it is about allowing God to use our life stories, our valleys as well as our victories. It is about remembering that people are watching not only what we say, but how we live.

When we offer our experiences as bridges, and choose actions that reflect Christ, and trust the Holy Spirit to bring the right words at the right time, our witness becomes both personal and powerful. The comfort God gives us becomes comfort we can pass on. Our lives become living testimonies.

And so, my heart turns to a prayer we can all pray:

Dear Jesus, let my life tell the story my words proclaim. When I am tempted to offer quick advice, teach me to offer understanding. When I meet someone in pain, remind me of how You carried me through my own. Guard my actions so they reflect Your character. May my responses be marked by grace, my words by gentleness, and my example by integrity. And when others see anything good in me, may they see You. In Jesus' name, amen.

If my life can bring even one person closer to Christ, that is enough.

G.L. ELLENS HAS BEEN A MISSIONARY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA FOR FOUR DECADES. SHE IS ACTIVE IN VOLUNTEER WORK FOR CHILDREN IN NEED AND IS PURSUING HER INTEREST IN WRITING. ■

A DROP IN THE OCEAN OF NEED

BY LILIA POTTERS

THE OTHER DAY, WHILE VISITING AN ELDERLY FRIEND IN AN ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY, I STRUCK UP A CONVERSATION WITH THE MANAGER, SEIN.

She told me that she was originally from Burma (now Myanmar). I explained that I had lived in Thailand for ten years in the 1990s and had visited the Karen refugees in the jungle on the Thai border on several occasions.

To my surprise, she exclaimed, “I was a Karen refugee! Were you with the people that came with gifts and sang songs with us?” When I confirmed I was, she hugged me tightly, tears brimming in her eyes.

She recounted how she and her family fled on foot, with only what they could carry, through the jungle to escape the Burmese forces. She said that our visit meant the world to them. She vividly remembered lining up to choose a piece of clothing from the items we brought. We could only reach their encampment via longboats, which limited what we could bring. Despite our efforts feeling like a mere drop in the huge bucket of need, hearing her appreciation was deeply moving.

Sein shared that, after some time, her family secured resident permits and moved to Bangkok, where they worked on obtaining visas to the US. After many years here, she graduated from university, married another



Karen refugee, and together they have a son. They are very happy and grateful to be here, though the memories of fleeing their homeland remain ever present.

She recounted her fear of being shoeless, having walked barefoot as a teenager in the refugee encampment. She explained that her small stature and thin frame are due to the malnutrition they endured.

I told her about our efforts to gather supplies and how we passed them on to a pastor who regularly drove to Bangkok to

pick up whatever we had collected. Amazed, she revealed that this very pastor was a friend of her family, and his daughter was her best friend.

Later, she told me that she and her family agreed that meeting again here after more than 30 years was nothing short of a miracle orchestrated by God. Now, when I visit my elderly friend, Sein is always at the door waiting. Seeing her reminds me that every act of kindness, no matter how small, makes a difference. Even when it feels like a drop in an ocean of need, it matters to someone.

“Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days.”—*Ecclesiastes 11:1*

LILIA POTTERS IS AN AUTHOR AND CERTIFIED AUTISM RESOURCE SPECIALIST WHO LIVES IN THE U.S. ■



PEACE

—A Journey More than a Destination

BY IRINA MUNTEANU

WHAT IS PEACE OF MIND? Is it a thought, a feeling, or a choice we have to make daily? How can we be serene in a world of perpetual uncertainty, stress, conflicts, and crises? These questions have been on my mind for years. However, my perspective on peace has changed over the decades.

In my 20s, life seemed exciting and motivating. My goal was to explore the world, meet new people, and have new experiences. By the time I turned 30, I had lived in three countries in Europe (Romania, my native land, Hungary and Spain) and had work projects in the UK and Denmark. It was a time of growth and learning. However, exhaustion and anxiety started to creep in, and my soul yearned for rest and calm, for a deeper meaning to life than wandering from one place to another and leaping from one job to another and from one group of people to another.

Little did I know about God's plan for my life. In 2011, He led me to a group of Christian missionaries who soon became my dear friends. As a volunteer for their NGO, I found a new purpose, giving back to the community. As time passed, my friends' genuine kindness, love, and care for people shone through more and more. They have always had a peaceful aura, true joy, faith

and wisdom. They gently took my hand and brought me to Jesus, and I will be forever grateful to them.

I thought that once I opened my heart to the Lord, my path would be smooth. However, my life still involves heartbreak, failure, and instability, and I still make wrong choices and mistakes. Jesus said that in the world we would have tribulations. However, in Him we can have peace, and for that we should be of good cheer. (See [John 16:33](#).) He also said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" ([John 14:27](#)).

We can always turn to Jesus in times of chaos and trouble. His words and promises support and comfort us. His compassion and wisdom have always been there for me, helping me find calm and strength, faith and joy.

So, my mind might perceive peace as an experience or a state. But ultimately, we find peace when we trust God and experience His steadfast, unconditional, and everlasting love.

IRINA MUNTEANU IS AN ACTRESS, SCRIPTWRITER, AND THEATRE TEACHER LIVING IN ROMANIA, AND A VOLUNTEER WITH NOI ORIZONTURI FAMILIA. ■

HONESTY AND INTEGRITY IN THE WORKPLACE

BY MARIE KNIGHT

IN A WORLD WHERE THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WILL DO ALMOST ANYTHING TO GET AHEAD, WITH LITTLE REGARD TO CONSCIENCE OR THE FEELINGS OF OTHERS, IT IS REFRESHING TO MEET SOMEONE WHO BEHAVES WITH HONESTY AND INTEGRITY IN THEIR WORK.

Those qualities are invaluable. Customers who have been treated well will come back again. Doctors who are kind and honest in their practice will develop a personal relationship with their patients, who will in turn recommend them highly to their family and friends. A handyman who does his work without cutting corners will be sought after for many other jobs. A repair shop with fair prices and good mechanics will have a booming business.

People expect Christians to be honest and have integrity. People often watch to see whether we are Christians in deed and truth, or if we are Christians in name only. Here are a few Bible verses that help to remind me of what is expected of my actions as a Christian:

“We aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord’s sight but also in the sight of man” (2 Corinthians 8:21).

“To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice” (Proverbs 21:3 NIV).

“The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy” (Proverbs 12:22 NIV).

“Remind them ... to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people” (Titus 3:1–2).

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth” (1 Corinthians 13:4–6).

“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35).

“As you wish that others would do to you, do so to them” (Luke 6:31).

It’s helpful to think about how you would feel if you were in the place of your coworker or customer, and then act accordingly. Treat others as you would want to be treated, not in response to how they treat you.

God wants to love others through us, and it’s important to keep in mind that actions speak louder than words.

MARIE KNIGHT IS A MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER IN THE USA. ■





ONE OF THE WAYS MANY OF US CHRISTIANS CAN BE TEMPTED TO HIDE OUR LIGHT IS BY COMPARING OUR GIFTS WITH THOSE OF OTHERS. I see the singer who pours out beautiful, heartfelt songs of worship and praise, and I wonder what my squeaky voice can do compared with that. I hear the powerful words of a pastor or speaker, or someone who really knows the Bible, and my words and testimony feel weak. I am in awe of someone who leads a charity or does impactful acts in a community, and my impact feels so small.

My gifts are quiet gifts. They feel a lot like “second-fiddle gifts” such as supporting the people who shine, encouraging the people who lead, and serving behind the scenes. The minute I belittle my gifts and think they’re not helpful is the minute our collective testimony gets a bit weaker, our light begins to flicker. And this has happened to me more times than I care to admit.

Scripture speaks to this:

“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them” (Romans 12:6).

“Let each one remain in the same calling in which he was called” (1 Corinthians 7:20 NKJV).

“If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body” (1... [Corinthians 12:19–20](#)).

To God, all of our gifts are significant and impactful. In fact, the way we have the biggest impact is when we use our gifts, even the quiet ones, to the best of our ability. Our gifts are meant to be used in concert with others, all harmonizing and supporting each other. In an orchestra each instrument matters, each sound is needed to complete the experience. An orchestra of only violins, all playing the same notes in the same key, is nowhere near as impactful as all the different strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion instruments coming together to fully create the symphony.

So, I challenge you to use your quiet gifts “out loud.” You are part of God’s big, beautiful orchestra. The notes you’re called to play matter. Remember, the sound of the piccolo does not come from the violin.

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A woman with dark hair, wearing a light blue cardigan over a pink shirt, is sitting at a wooden table. She is smiling and gesturing with her right hand while holding a dark green mug with her left. On the table are several books, a glass of orange juice with a straw and orange slices, a spoon, and a small pinecone. The background shows a window with green foliage outside.

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

EVERYDAY MISSION

Each of My followers has been given a mission and a calling to be a witness and a living example of My love for the world and every person in it (John 3:16-17). Never minimize the opportunities to reach out and share My love and My Word with those you encounter. You never know what effect a tract or a touch of My love or some words of encouragement will have in the lives of those who are in desperate need and seeking the truth.

Every sacrifice you make to do good and to share what you have received, to encourage people's hearts and point them to Me is pleasing in My sight (Hebrews 13:16). You may feel that you don't have much to give, but as you open your heart to the people around you who have so little truth and do not know Me, you will realize how spiritually rich and blessed you are. Imagine what your life would be like if you did not know that there was a God who loved you unconditionally and an eternal purpose for your life!

There are people who cross your path each day who are lost in darkness and despair, waiting to find purpose, truth, and the meaning of life. So don't hesitate to take advantage of even the small opportunities to plant the seeds of My love and truth in people's hearts, and trust in Me to work in their lives through your witness.