

Activated

CHANGE YOUR LIFE | CHANGE YOUR WORLD

WHAT IS TRUTH?

Answers to life's biggest questions

THE MEASURE OF FAITH

How to increase yours

WORLD GOVERNMENT

Are current trends preparing the way for the Antichrist?

For a wide range of books and audio and video productions to feed your soul, contact one of our distributors below, or visit our website at www.activated.org

Activated Ministries
PO Box 462805
Escondido, CA 92046-2805
USA
Toll-free: (1-877) 862-3228
E-mail: info@actmin.org

Activated Europe
Bramingham Pk. Business Ctr.
Enterprise Way
Luton, Beds. LU3 4BU
United Kingdom
+44 (0) 845 838 1384
E-mail: activatedEurope@activated.org

Activated Africa
P.O. Box 2150
Westville 3630
South Africa
+27 (83) 556 8213
E-mail: activatedAfrica@activated.org

Activated India
P.O. Box 5215
G.P.O.
Bangalore - 560 001
India
E-mail: activatedIndia@activated.org

Activated Philippines
P.O. Box 1147
Antipolo City P.O.
1870 Antipolo City
Philippines
E-mail: activatedPI@activated.org
Cel: (0922) 8125326



PERSONALLY SPEAKING

Some years ago I became friends with a successful young businessman named Henry. Henry was in perpetual motion, but eventually I got him to stop long enough to tell me how he had gotten where he was. During his first year of college, his father had given him some money to invest, and he had gone into business with a childhood friend. They quickly did so well that Henry doubled his class load so he could graduate a year early and go to work full time. He finished at the top of his class, with a double major. (He'd always been an overachiever, he explained.) By the time I met him ten years later, he had made more money than a lot of people make in a lifetime, but he was still putting in fever-pitch 10- and 12-hour days. He also had an active social life. After observing this (and the inevitable toll it was taking) for a few weeks, I asked him when he found time for reflection. That came as an entirely new thought to him.

We don't have to be living in the fast lane like Henry to miss taking time to think about the deeper things of life. There are more than enough other things to keep us occupied every waking moment, but we miss the best when we fill up on things of little real consequence.

God created us with a hunger for truth and happiness and peace of mind, for total love and complete understanding. That is an inner void that He made to be filled with Himself, and only He can fill it. He wants nothing more than to do just that, and He will if we will just hold still long enough.

When was the last time you stopped to reflect? If you're out of practice or don't know where to start, the tried and proven tips in this issue of *Activated* are sure to help.

Keith Phillips
Keith Phillips
FOR ACTIVATED

VOL 9, ISSUE 7 July 2008
EDITOR Keith Phillips
DESIGN Giselle LeFavre
ILLUSTRATIONS Doug Calder
PRODUCTION Francisco Lopez

© 2008 Aurora Production AG
www.auroraproduction.com
All Rights Reserved. Printed in Taiwan by Chanyi Printing Co., Ltd
All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the New King James Version®.
Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

THE PRESENCE

BY ALEX PETERSON



“Abide with Me”

—HENRY F. LYTE (1793–1847),

*I need Thy presence every passing hour.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter’s power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.*

SIR ERNEST HENRY SHACKLETON (1874–1922) was an Irish explorer who is best remembered for his Antarctic expedition of 1914–1915 in the ship *Endurance*, described in his book *South*. Less well known is that Shackleton had an unseen source of strength to draw from—his faith.

The journey over the frozen deep was fraught with danger. The *Endurance* became trapped in pack ice and was ultimately destroyed by it. The crew had to abandon ship. After trekking over the ice, dragging three of the ship’s lifeboats they had salvaged from the wreck, they managed to get to Elephant Island. From there, Shackleton and four other men set out to summon help. In the largest of the three boats, they journeyed 750 miles (1200 km) through rough seas to the southern Atlantic Ocean island of South Georgia, where Shackleton and two others crossed glaciers and razorback ridges to reach a whaling station. Of that epic journey, Shackleton wrote:

“When I look back on those days I have no doubt that Providence guided us. I know that during that [final] long and racking march of thirty-six hours over the unnamed mountains and glaciers of South Georgia, it seemed to me

often that we were four, and not three. I said nothing to my companions on the point, but afterward Worsley said to me, ‘Boss, I had a curious feeling on that march that there was another Person with us.’ Crean confessed to the same idea. One feels ‘the dearth of human words, the roughness of human speech’ in trying to describe things intangible, but a record of our journeys would not be complete without a reference to a subject so very near to our hearts.”

Shackleton made one last expedition, from which he did not return. Just before leaving, he repeated his testimony concerning their unseen companion and quoted the Bible. “Whither shall I go from Thy Spirit? Or whither shall I flee from Thy presence? If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall Thy hand lead me and Thy right hand shall hold me” (Psalm 139:7–10 KJV).

On his last voyage, Shackleton took a recording of the song “Abide with Me”—another testament to his belief in his unseen Companion. A London writer commented at the time, “Just think of those words—‘I need Thy presence every passing hour’—ringing out across the icebound wastes of the Antarctic!” ❁

what is TRUTH?



BY ABI F. MAY

Let mental culture go on
advancing, let the natural sciences
progress in ever greater extent
and depth, and the human
mind widen itself as much as it
desires—beyond the elevation and
moral culture of Christianity, as
it shines forth in the Gospels, it
will not go.—*Johann Wolfgang Von
Goethe, German poet (1749–1832)*

STANDING IN THE JUDGMENT HALL OF ROMAN-CONTROLLED JERUSALEM, face to face with the prophet of Galilee, the procurator Pontius Pilate asked what was to become one of the most famous questions of all time: “What is truth?” Pilate apparently failed to realize that the answer was standing right in front of him. The Bible tells us that “grace and truth came through Jesus Christ,”¹ and Jesus Himself said, “I am the way, the truth and the life.”²

Today we live in a world of relativism, where it would seem there are no absolutes. Relativism alleges that truth is subjective, elusive, changeable. Politicians utter promises they can’t or don’t intend to keep; spin doctors mislead; the world’s commerce is driven by greed at the expense of integrity; history is revised; news reports are frequently biased, sensationalized, or otherwise distorted; modern entertainment blurs the lines between reality and fantasy; the Bible is viewed as mythical, irrelevant, and inappropriate for today’s needs—if ever it was.

People may imagine what they will, disparage as they will, and try to make reality conform to their own desires and agendas, but that doesn’t change the truth. As Mohandas Gandhi put it, “God *is*, even though the whole world deny Him. Truth stands, even if there be no public support. It is self-sustained.” Those who close their minds to that reality unwittingly fulfill some of the saddest words in the Bible: “[Jesus] was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.”³ Even many

¹ John 1:17

² John 14:6

³ John 1:10–11

sincere seekers of the truth look first in the wrong places. While they explore new forms of spirituality or take a psychological route toward self-improvement, for example, like Pilate they miss what is right in front of them: the liberating truth and love of God, which He freely extends to them.

But those who read the Bible with open minds and believing hearts find what they've been searching for—answers to life's deepest questions and love enough to fill the deepest void—truth. "If you abide in My word," Jesus promises, "you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."¹

The Bible—Fact or Fable?

Despite popular dismissals of the Bible as little more than fables and fabrication, archaeology has provided remarkable evidence of its historical accuracy. For example, the archive of the ancient city of Ebla in northern Syria was discovered in the 1970s. The documents it contained, written on clay tablets around 2300 BC, demonstrate that personal and place names in the accounts of the Hebrew patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are real. Ancient customs reflected in the stories of the patriarchs have also been found in clay tablets.

Another example concerns Sargon, king of Assyria, who is referred to in the book of Isaiah, but whose existence historians long disputed: "In the year that Tartan came to Ashdod, when Sargon the king of Assyria sent him, and fought against Ashdod and took it" (Isaiah 20:1). We now know that Sargon II was indeed an Assyrian king who started his reign in 722 BC. Sargon's palace at Khorsabad, Iraq, was discovered by Paul-Émile Botta in 1843. Further excavation of the site some 90 years later found the very event

All human discoveries seem to be made only for the purpose of confirming more and more strongly the truth contained in the sacred Scriptures.

—*Sir William Herschel, German astronomer (1738–1822)*

The Bible is the sacred collection, preserved under the name of Book of books, which contains the doctrinal, moral, and religious system relatively most profound, popular, and intelligible that has come into existence in the history of mankind.

—*Francisco Giner de los Ríos, Spanish educator and philosopher (1839–1915)*

mentioned in Isaiah—Assyria's conquest of Ashdod—recorded on the palace walls. Visitors to the British Museum in London can see the colossal winged bull taken from the palace.

A third example was discovered in the British Museum itself. In the summer of 2007, visiting professor Michael Jursa, an Assyriologist, was searching through the museum's collection of 130,000 Assyrian cuneiform tablets when he came across a name he half remembered—Nabu-sharrussu-ukin, described there in a hand 2,500 years old as "the chief eunuch" of Nebuchadnezzar II, king of Babylon. The small tablet on which the name appears is a bill of receipt acknowledging Nabu-sharrussu-ukin's payment of about 0.75 kg of gold to a temple in Babylon. Jursa checked the Old Testament and found the same name, rendered differently by the Bible's translators, in chapter 39 of the book of Jeremiah. Nebo-Sarsekim, according to Jeremiah, was "chief officer" to Nebuchadnezzar II and was with him at the siege of Jerusalem in 587 BC, when the Babylonians overran the city. Dr. Irving

¹John 8:31–32

Finkel of the British Museum summed up the significance. “This is a fantastic discovery, a world-class find. A throwaway detail in the Old Testament turns out to be accurate and true. I think that it means that the whole of the narrative [of Jeremiah] takes on a new kind of power.”¹

What of Jesus Himself?

Dozens of ancient non-biblical manuscripts confirm that Jesus was a genuine historical figure who lived in Palestine in the early part of the first century. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* states: “These independent accounts prove that in ancient times even the opponents of Christianity never doubted the historicity of Jesus, which was disputed for the first time—and on inadequate grounds—by several authors during the 19th and at the beginning of the 20th centuries.”²

For instance, the Roman historian Cornelius Tacitus mentions “Christus” in his annals published around 115 AD: “Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus.”³

Another example is Lucian of Samosatam, a Greek satirist who lived during the second century. He was scornful of Christians, but nevertheless his writings attest to the spread of Christianity at that time: “The Christians ... worship a man to this day—the distinguished personage who introduced this new cult, and was crucified on that account. ... You see, these misguided creatures start with the general conviction that they are immortal for all time, which explains their contempt for death and self

There is abundant evidence that the Bible, though written by men, is not the product of the human mind. By countless multitudes it has always been revered as a communication to us from the Creator of the universe. —*Sir Ambrose*

Fleming, English inventor (1849–1945)

All that I think, all that I hope, all that I write, all that I live for, is based upon the divinity of Jesus Christ, the central joy of my poor, wayward life. —*William Gladstone, English Prime Minister (1809–1898)*

In books I converse with men, in the Bible I converse with God. —*William Romaine, English preacher (1714–1795)*

For me, the Bible is the Book. I cannot see how anybody can live without it. —*Gabriela Mistral, Chilean poetess and Nobel prizewinner (1889–1957)*

devotion ... their lawgiver [taught] they are all brothers, from the moment that they are converted, and deny the gods of Greece, and worship the crucified sage, and live after his laws. All this they take on faith.”⁴

ABI F. MAY IS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL IN ENGLAND. ❁

¹<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/07/11/ntablet111.xml>; July 13, 2007

²*Encyclopedia Britannica* (1980), Vol. 10, page 145

³ Annals 15.44.2–8

⁴*The Passing Peregrinus*

THE GOLDEN THREAD

BY IRIS RICHARD

HAVE YOU EVER FELT LIKE LIFE TOOK YOU DOWN THE WRONG ROAD, or that things just weren't meant to work out for you? There was a time when my life didn't seem to make any sense, like the tangle of threads on the back of a tapestry.

A serious case of scoliosis, or curvature of the spine, left me depressed as a child and then heightened the usual teenage worries about the future. By the time I was 15, I was on drugs. It was a wonder that I managed to make it through those troubled years, but I did. I can see now that it was God's love and mercy, but at the time I couldn't have felt more lost and helpless; God was the furthest thing from my mind.

In my early twenties I worked for several years as a nurse in a cancer ward, but witnessing so much suffering, day after day, month after month, was too much for me. I became increasingly disillusioned with life, and not knowing who to turn to, decided to leave my native Germany and travel the world in search of truth. I wound up in India, where, after a failed attempt to become a Buddhist nun, I trudged the dusty roads on a pilgrimage for peace, happiness, and a reason to live.

Then one day in northern India, I got into a deep conversation with a young member of the Family International. I explained my many questions about life, and one by one he pointed me to the answers in the pocket-sized Bible that he carried with him. Seven hours later I ran out of questions and decided to put what he called "promises from the Bible" to the



test. My life was about to take a turn for the better; I was about to get a glance of my "tapestry" from the front, and things would begin to make sense.

I didn't have a big emotional experience when I invited Jesus into my life, but over the next few days something wonderful happened. Words from the Bible fed my soul and became clearer by the day.

That was 25 years ago. Since then, like a golden thread weaving through the tapestry of my life, God's Word has led me over mountains and through valleys, through sunshine and shadows, beside refreshing brooks and across desert plains. Regardless of the path or place, they have never failed to cause my soul to flourish with joy, peace, and spiritual growth. ❁

IRIS RICHARD IS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL IN KENYA.



the measure of *Faith*

BY VIRGINIA BRANDT BERG

In the spiritual life, faith conveys to us evidence of spiritual truths, just as our five senses convey evidence of physical things.

A FRIEND OF MINE ASKED THE MANAGER OF A SUPERMARKET if he had ever cashed a bad check for a stranger. “No, I never did,” he said, “because I never look at the check—I look at the man. If I can trust the man, I take his check.” What a lesson in faith!

In Hebrews 10:23 we find these words: “He who promised is faithful.” Who makes the promises in God’s Word?—God does. Look at the Maker of the promises, and then there can be no question as to their absolute validity. God’s Word says, “Now acquaint yourself with Him, and be at peace; thereby good will come to you” (Job 22:21).

To know God is to be sure that He keeps every promise He has made. Abraham knew God and “did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith ... being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform” (Romans 4:20–21).

Some people think of faith as something very mysterious and far beyond their reach. Others think of faith as a gift that some people are born with; some have it to a great degree, but others don’t. Both of those are misconceptions.

God has dealt to each one a measure of faith (Romans 12:3). *Everyone* who has received Jesus has been given a measure of faith, but many people don’t *use* their faith. If you don’t use your faith, it becomes flabby, just like muscles when you don’t use them. For faith to grow, you’ve got to keep exercising it.

Faith is not gained through scholarly analysis; it's not to the wise and prudent that the deepest secrets of God are revealed (Matthew 11:25). It's to those who dare to take God at His word.

Those of childlike faith push right through all the arguing and doubting. They put the intellectuals to shame as they reach out and take from God the fulfillment of some promise that the intellectuals don't seem to be able to grasp.

Faith operates in an entirely different realm from our five senses, but some of the same principles apply. When we taste something sweet, we have evidence that it is sweet because our taste buds tell us so. No matter what anyone else says, we know it's sweet because we have evidence.

In the spiritual life, faith conveys to us evidence of spiritual truths, just as our five senses convey evidence of physical things. Just as we accept what our five senses tell us, we must accept as evidence what our faith tells us. When we do, our faith brings that thing to pass and makes it real to us. As you have *believed*, so let it be *done* for you (Matthew 8:13).

Take God at His word. When the troubles and trials come, instead of letting

Just as an unseen force of attraction holds the material world together and the unseen principle of confidence holds the financial world together, so the unseen law of faith is the underlying force that holds the spiritual world together.—*V.B.B.*

them grow and grow, get your Bible, find a promise, and claim it in Jesus' name. Here is one that is surely too big for me to comprehend, but I often claim it: "Whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son" (John 14:13). And here's another one: "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know" (Jeremiah 33:3).

No wonder the Word calls these promises exceedingly great and precious and tells us that through them we can become partakers of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4). All you need is simple faith! ❀

MEET THE AUTHOR

Adapted from David Brandt Berg

A college student was assigned to read a certain book, which she quickly concluded was boring and academic. She would read it some other time, she told herself as she tossed it into her closet. Some weeks later, a guest lecturer visited the college, and the girl went to hear him. Immediately she was captivated by his good looks, personality, knowledge, and enthusiasm for his subject matter. Halfway through the lecture, she realized that he was the author of the book that she had so quickly dismissed. As soon as she got home, she dug the book out of her closet and read it cover to cover. Why had the book suddenly become so interesting?—Because she had met and been love-struck by its author.

If you think the Bible is dry and uninteresting, maybe you just need to meet its Author. You can right now by praying this simple prayer:

Jesus, I want to meet and get to know You. If You really are who people say You are—the Son of God who died in my place so I could be forgiven my wrongs and have eternal life—please show me. I open my heart to You now and invite You in. Amen.

12 tips for *quality* spiritual feeding

Just as good food is essential for physical health, we must nourish our spirits in order to stay healthy and grow spiritually. We do that by reading or listening to the Bible and other faith-building material.

1. Pick a time and duration.

Try setting aside at least 20 minutes daily for spiritual feeding through reading God's Word. It is difficult to get much out of this time if you don't spend at least that long taking in and reflecting. If you aren't able to fit it in daily, then try three or four days each week. Whatever you decide, make it a specific goal. It will be easier to follow through if you establish a definite time slot and make it part of your routine.

2. Find a place.

Find a quiet place to read where you will not be interrupted or distracted. You also might want to turn off your cell phone and stay away from your email.

3. Decide what to read.

It's good to make a plan of what to read over a period of time, such as working your way through a book of the Bible or a devotional book, but be flexible. Some days, Jesus may direct you to something different.

4. Pray before you read.

Ask Jesus to help you concentrate and have an open heart so you can get as much as possible from this time. "Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law" (Psalm 119:18).

5. Read the Word carefully, prayerfully, and thoughtfully.

If you were to gulp down a meal as fast as you could, you wouldn't get as much out of that food or enjoy it as much as you would by eating slower. The same principle applies to your spiritual food. To be nourished spiritually, you must take time to absorb what you read.

6. Apply what you read.

When you're reading, often a certain point will stand out. You may have read the same passage before without grasping its meaning, but suddenly it comes to life and you understand how the spiritual principles apply to you personally.

7. Put what you read into action.

The only way you can really experience the power of the Word of God is by doing what it says to do. "Be *doers* of the Word," the Bible admonishes us, "and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:22). And Jesus Himself promised, "If you know these things, blessed are you if you *do* them" (John 13:17).

"The Bible was not given to increase our knowledge, but to change our lives."—

Dwight L. Moody

8. Keep a “spiritual diary.”

Copy key points or passages from what you read into a special notebook for future reference, and make note of how it applies to you. Putting your thoughts about what you read into words serves two purposes: It crystallizes the lessons and reinforces them in your mind so you will be more likely to remember them when opportunities to apply them arise. You can also use this diary to record spiritual lessons and turning points or milestones in your relationships with Jesus and others that aren't necessarily connected to your times of spiritual feeding.

9. Memorize.

For better or worse, whatever we take in through our senses, consciously or unconsciously, by choice or by chance, has an effect on our thinking and thus on our actions. But we can each *choose* what we want to change and motivate us most, and focus on that. If you want that to be God's Word, commit to memory key Bible verses or points you come across in your times of spiritual feeding. Pray for those things to override all the rest—everything from advertising jingles to ungodly attitudes and bad habits—and do your part by filtering your intake when possible. “Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You” (Psalm 119:11). Scriptures that you've memorized will also be a source of comfort and strength in times of trouble or decision, as well as provide help and answers to share with others in need.

10. Don't be overly concerned if you don't understand something.

It is said that Augustine of Hippo (354–430 AD) hit on this principle once when he was greatly perplexed about a particular aspect of faith. While walking by the seashore, he saw a little boy with a seashell repeatedly running to the water's edge, filling the shell with water, and pouring it into a hole in the sand. When Augustine asked what he was doing, the boy explained matter-of-factly that he was putting the ocean in the hole. “That is what I am trying to do,” Augustine realized. “Standing on the shores of time, I am trying to get into this little finite mind of mine things which are infinite.” Remember that the next time you come across something in your reading that you don't understand. If God wants you to understand that thing, He will reveal it to you in His time. Meanwhile, accept it by faith.

11. Don't worry about all the details of Bible history and geography.

History and geography can be interesting, but spiritual principles are of far greater value. For example, when we read the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles, we see a pattern of love in action that we know we should try to follow; or when we read the Psalms and other devotional passages, we can apply thoughts and principles found there to our own prayers.

12. Spice it up.

If you're new to Bible study, the Gospel of John is a great place to start, as it contains more words of Jesus than any other Gospel. The four Gospels, Psalms, and Proverbs are the most read (and most frequently reread) devotional books of all time, but don't stop there. Branch out. Variety is the spice of life—and a key to making your times of spiritual feeding a can't-miss daily high point.

THIS ARTICLE WAS ADAPTED FROM 12 FOUNDATION STONES, A COURSE FOR GETTING TO KNOW AND LIVE GOD'S WORD. IF YOU'D LIKE TO TAKE THIS COURSE, CONTACT A BRANCH OF THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL AT ONE OF THE ADDRESSES ON PAGE 2.

THE SMILE CYCLE

FOR MANY YEARS, DAVID BERG AND HIS WIFE, MARIA, TOOK VIGOROUS WALKS FOR THEIR DAILY EXERCISE. At one point, they kept crossing paths with a certain older man. They eventually learned that he was a bachelor and that his name was Feliciano, meaning “happy.” He seemed anything but happy, though. “He had the grumpiest look you ever saw,” Berg later recalled. “He was always well dressed in a nice suit, and he seemed to be an important man in town, but he would walk along with his hands folded behind his back, staring at the ground. Whenever Maria or I tried to catch his eye and smile at him, he quickly looked the other way. We wanted so much to turn his frown into a smile that we made that our secret project. It took two years, but finally he smiled back at us. From that day on, Feliciano’s countenance and whole manner changed.”

Thankfully, most people aren’t such tough cases. Your smile can chase away the clouds hanging over someone else, and you’ll brighten your own day in the process. It is almost impossible to smile on the outside without feeling better on the inside. Smiling relaxes you and those around you. Smiling starts a positive cycle: It chases away the blues and helps create a positive atmosphere, which causes everything to go smoother, which gives you more to smile and be happy about, which causes you to thank God for His blessings, which pleases Him and makes Him want to bless you more, which gives you more to smile about. ... You get the idea.

Over the next hour, make an effort to smile more. See if you can keep that smile all day. Try keeping it up for a week, and see what a difference that makes. ❀

Smile, though your heart is aching,
 Smile, even though it’s breaking,
 When there are clouds in the sky you’ll get by if you
 Smile through your pain and sorrow,
 Smile, and maybe tomorrow
 You’ll see the sun come shining through for you,
 if you just smile.

—LYRICS BY JOHN TURNER AND GEOFFREY PARSONS (1954), SET TO
 MUSIC COMPOSED BY CHARLIE CHAPLIN FOR HIS 1936 SILENT FILM
 CLASSIC MODERN TIMES.

FEEDING READING What is truth?

Today “truth” has come to mean “something honest or factual,” but here it is used in the deeper sense of “a transcendent fundamental or spiritual reality.”

We should seek truth.
 Psalm 25:5
 Proverbs 23:23
 1 Timothy 2:4

God has promised to reveal His truth to us.
 Jeremiah 33:6
 John 15:26
 John 8:31–32

God’s Word is truth.
 Psalm 119:142
 Psalm 119:151
 John 17:17

Jesus is the Word made flesh; He is the truth.
 John 1:14
 John 1:17
 John 14:6
 Ephesians 4:21

Don’t be led away from the truth.
 Colossians 2:8
 2 Timothy 4:4
 1 John 4:6

Truth is pervasive and timeless.
 Psalm 85:10–11
 Psalm 100:5
 Psalm 108:4

My two-year-old, Teddy, and Jesus

By Becky Hayes

I HAD BEEN PRAYING FOR MY SON, DENITH, to develop a close and personal relationship with Jesus while he was young, capitalizing on how much faith and capacity to believe two-year-olds have. I prayed that he wouldn't only come to know Jesus as his Savior, but also as the close and personal Friend that Jesus desires to be to everyone. I wanted Denith to sense His Spirit and to hear His voice.

One night something very special happened that encouraged me and made me determined to teach my son more about how to hear from Jesus on his own.

Denith had received a teddy bear when he was a baby, affectionately named "Teddy," and he was very attached to his stuffed friend. Everywhere Denith went—to preschool, to lunch, or to the supermarket—Teddy came along. One day Teddy was misplaced and could not be found. For three days we searched the house. I pulled everything out from under the bed in case he had fallen behind the bed and gotten stuck.

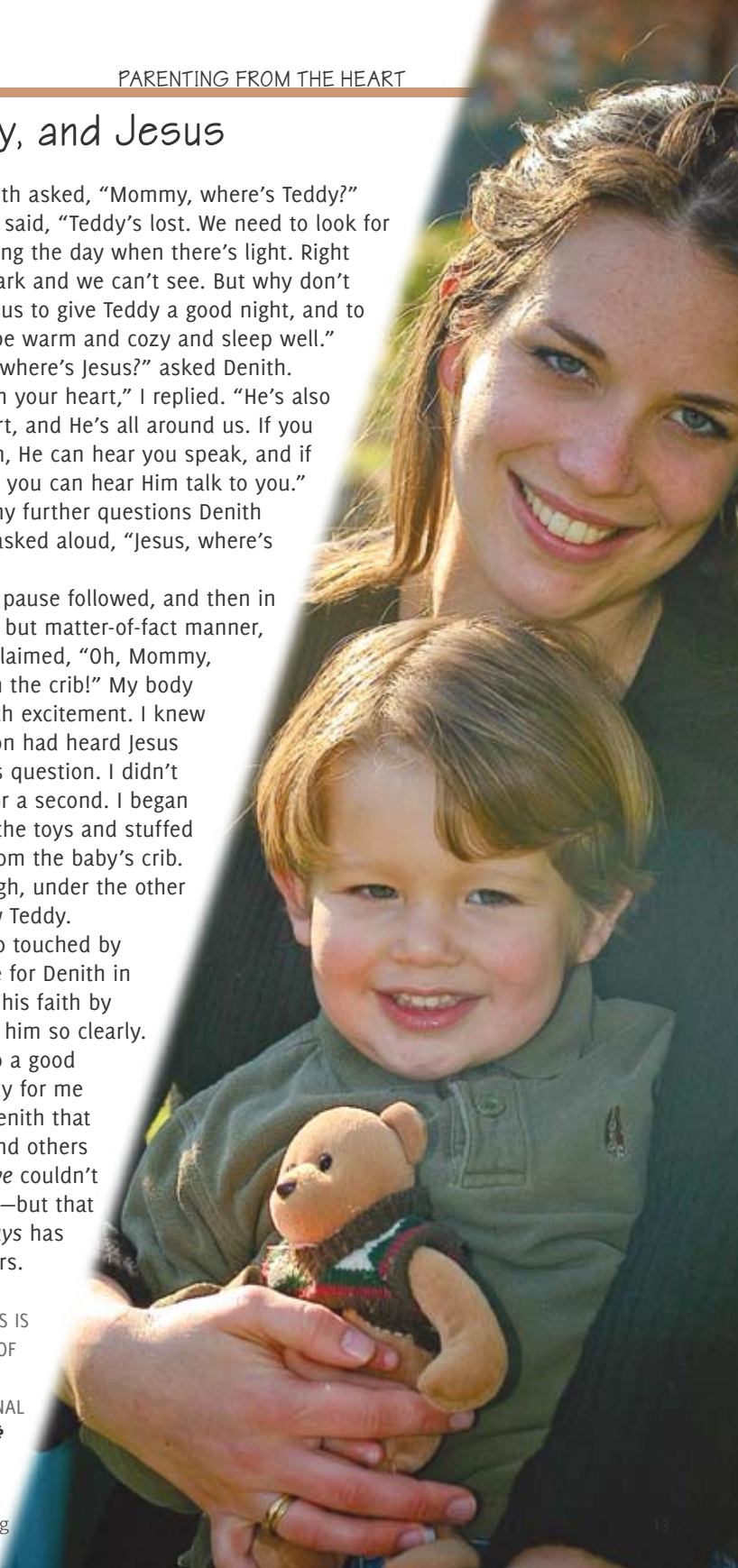
The third night that Teddy was lost, I was putting my nine-month-old, Leilani, and Denith to sleep. The lights were out, and the children were all tucked into bed and ready to pray for the night,

when Denith asked, "Mommy, where's Teddy?" "Honey," I said, "Teddy's lost. We need to look for Teddy during the day when there's light. Right now it's dark and we can't see. But why don't we ask Jesus to give Teddy a good night, and to help him be warm and cozy and sleep well." "Mommy, where's Jesus?" asked Denith. "Jesus is in your heart," I replied. "He's also in my heart, and He's all around us. If you talk to Him, He can hear you speak, and if you listen, you can hear Him talk to you." Without any further questions Denith promptly asked aloud, "Jesus, where's Teddy?"

A short pause followed, and then in an excited but matter-of-fact manner, Denith exclaimed, "Oh, Mommy, Teddy is in the crib!" My body tingled with excitement. I knew that my son had heard Jesus answer his question. I didn't hesitate for a second. I began removing the toys and stuffed animals from the baby's crib. Sure enough, under the other toys, I saw Teddy.

I was so touched by Jesus' love for Denith in rewarding his faith by answering him so clearly. It was also a good opportunity for me to show Denith that Mommy and others can fail—we couldn't find Teddy—but that Jesus *always* has the answers.

BECKY HAYES IS
A MEMBER OF
THE FAMILY
INTERNATIONAL
IN CHILE. ❁



WORLD GOVERNMENT

BY SCOTT MACGREGOR

The most outstanding and ominous sign of the end of the world as we know it, to which the Bible devotes numerous chapters, is the rise of a Devil-possessed tyrant known as the Antichrist, or “the Beast,” who is given authority “over every tribe, tongue, and nation” (Revelation 13:7). Is the world heading towards a global government, as this verse seems to imply?

The idea of a world government has been discussed since ancient Greek and Roman times, and in the last few hundred years by such notables as Dante, Hugo Grotius, Immanuel Kant, Victor Hugo, Karl Krause, Alfred Tennyson, H. G. Wells, Albert Einstein, Winston Churchill, Bertrand Russell, and Mahatma Gandhi. The decade or two after World War II is regarded as a sort of “golden age” of the movement for world government. Seventy-two million people died in that war, 47 million of them civilians, and a general revulsion against such barbarity led to many people embracing such things as the World Federalist Movement in the hope that a strong global body would not let the nations of the world go to war again like they had. The European Union (which now includes 27 nations, with more seeking admittance) had its beginnings at this time.

Now there is a European Parliament and a European Commission (which is in many ways similar to a cabinet), and if the EU reform treaty is ratified

there will be an elected President of the European Council. Many of these nations are also members of NATO and have a common and somewhat integrated military structure. Eighteen countries (three are not even in the European Union) have now adopted the euro as a common currency.

The African Union (which includes 53 African nations) was formed in 2001 and aims eventually to have a single currency, a single integrated defense force, as well as other institutions of state, including a cabinet for the AU Head of State.

In 2004 the nations of South America signed the Cuzco Declaration, a two-page statement of intent, announcing the foundation of the South American Community, modeled after the European Union, including a common currency, parliament, and passport. According to Allan Wagner, former Secretary General of the Andean Community, a complete union like that of the EU should be possible by 2019.

The stated aim of the Asian Cooperation Dialogue (comprised of 30 Asian countries, including the mega states of Russia, China, and India) is to ultimately transform the Asian continent into an Asian Community.

And then of course there is the United Nations (which is the only truly global organization, with 192 member states). Although seemingly impotent on many fronts, it still is the hub for many organizations that affect our lives, such as the World Trade Organization, the World Health Organization, the

International Atomic Energy Commission, the International Labor Organization, UNESCO, the International Court of Justice (the World Court), the International Criminal Court, and the World Bank.

The globalization of the economy is now a reality, with each national economy—some to a very large extent—dependent on other nations' economies. The mass media is also global through satellite TV and the Internet. In fact, the Internet is a virtual global community, with millions of its users living vicariously as avatars in global online "lives" in places like Second Life, not to mention global social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace.

The idea of global governance is also getting enthusiastic support. Global governance isn't necessarily global government. In fact, its advocates will adamantly deny that global government is anywhere on their agenda. Their idea is that international agreements and protocols will govern international behavior. A good example of this approach is the United Nations Global Compact, which is an initiative to encourage businesses worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies.

When you start looking into it, a multitude of international and supranational bodies, treaties, and protocols have at their core the idea of promoting regional and global cooperation and integration. Now even when taken as a whole, this all might seem to still be light years away from the formation of the world government that Revelation 13:7 implies. Consider, though, that as recently as 40 years ago few people took the idea of a European Union seriously. Some of those countries had been bitter enemies and fought untold wars for centuries, but look at them now. Perhaps a world government isn't so far away after all.

In addition, Europe is a region that students of Endtime prophecy look to for signs of change in the directions foretold in the Bible. This interest is primarily generated by the visions of the Old Testament prophet Daniel, especially the vision recorded in chapter 7 of the book that bears his

name. There he saw a dreadful ten-horned monster, which most Bible scholars agree symbolized the Roman Empire—ancient to us, but futuristic to Daniel. "I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one [identified in other passages as the Antichrist], coming up among them" (Daniel 7:8). Geographically the Roman Empire included a big slice of Europe, but perhaps even more importantly, Rome's forms of government, law, heritage, and culture permeate that part of the world to this day. Those 10 horns make another appearance later in the Bible, on the last head of a seven-headed monster—the Beast of Revelation chapter 13. Could Europe be destined for such prominence in the Antichrist's scheme of things?

Back to a global government. Will it happen? The Bible seems to indicate that it will. However, it seems it will have trouble remaining cohesive, as the Bible describes the Antichrist waging a number of wars with rebel nations.

In any case, two things are certain: Whatever happens, God will take care of His own, and if you are on His side, you will be on the winning side when the Antichrist comes to his ignominious end and Jesus Christ establishes His kingdom of love and peace on Earth. Then we will have global government, but it will be the best one imaginable, where everyone can be truly happy. ❀

The Real Thing

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

I am not a fabrication, a figment of the imagination, or a fable. I am *real*—and I am what you need. I am the great problem-solver. If you want to know how to overcome life's trials, come to Me. I will give you comfort to replace anxiety, faith to replace fear, rest in place of struggle, peace in place of worry, happiness in place of sadness, and answers to your questions. I will be your strength, your help in time of need, your friend and companion. That does not mean you will never have

another problem or challenge in life, but I will be able to help you with life's problems. You will no longer have to try to handle things on your own, because you can call on Me.

Your life consists of more than the physical, the material. You also have spiritual needs, and I have the power to fill those needs and to satisfy your spiritual hunger. In My Spirit you will find real love and satisfaction and the fulfillment of *all* your needs. I understand your deepest desires and dreams. I can fill your life with much more than you've ever imagined: true love, peace of mind and heart, unflinching friendship, answers, strength for every task.

I have all that you need, but you must open your heart to receive My blessings and love. Reach out and receive My love, and there you will find fulfillment.