

# Lighthouse Beacon

January 2010

## Trials That Build Trust

**"Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take." Proverbs 3:5-6**

As we begin the year 2010, we find the world in a state of uneasiness. The economy is still uncertain and easily panicked. War in the Middle East continues to expand, with no end in sight. And insane terrorists continue with their suicide attacks throughout the world. In response to these worries, people are searching desperately for something or someone that they can trust with their welfare and their future.

Therefore, 2010 might prove to be one of the greatest years of harvest for God's kingdom. The trials we find ourselves in might be the very catalyst that brings millions of people to trust in God. As lighthouses, we need to be prepared to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with a world filled with fear, uncertainty and doubt. Dear lighthouses, in this coming year, let's resolve once more to....*Let Him Shine!* ~Kim

According to the National Archives and Records Administration, on May 31, 1911, an employee of the White Star Line made the following statement at the launch of the Titanic: "Not even God himself could sink this ship."

Unfortunately, the object of this employee's faith now rests at the bottom of the ocean. Fortunately, there have been many reports of people coming to faith in God during those last terrible hours when the ship they trusted failed them.

**"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." Proverbs 3:5**

During the last couple of centuries there have been many claims that governments, medicine, religion and science were going to save us from the perils of the world. However, all of these institutions have fallen short on their

promises and their "ships of salvation" have sprung leaks and sank rapidly when faced with the trials of the world. Every time humanity has placed its trust in those things created by the

result has been disastrous, destructive and devastating to untold numbers of people. Even today, billions of people look to other people for their hope and salvation.

**"But the LORD watches over those who fear Him, those who rely on His unfailing love." Psalm 33:18**

By contrast, when God's children have faced the same circumstances as the rest of the world they have turned not to man-made institutions, but to God, not to escape, but to endure the test in such a way that God could be glorified. Their trust in God continues to be a testimony to those of us who



**"Let your light shine so that others may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Matt 5:16**

still face the trials of life. They have shown us how to be at peace, resting in His love regardless of the conditions they face.

Here are a few points we should all keep in mind when we are faced with adversities:

- **God allows trials:** "And the Lord said, 'Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift *you* as wheat.'" Luke 22:31
- **Trials produce perseverance:** "And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance." Romans 5:3;
- **God comforts believers during trials:** "[God] comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." 2 Corinthians 1:4
- **Believers are to face them with joy:** "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials." James 1:2
- **God uses them to prove and strengthen our faith:** "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 1:6-7

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Thanks to Patricia

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DEAR GOD, PLEASE GIVE ME PATIENCE ...  
AND I NEED IT RIGHT NOW!!!

### **What results from trusting God?**

**A lack of fear:** "I will trust and not be afraid." Isaiah 12:2

**God's care:** "He cares for those who trust in Him." Nahum 1:7

**Safety:** "Whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe." Proverbs 29:25

### **God and the Spider:**

During World War II, a US marine was separated from his unit on a Pacific island. The fighting had been intense, and in the smoke and the

crossfire he had lost touch with his comrades.

Alone in the jungle, he could hear enemy soldiers coming in his direction. Scrambling for cover, he found his way up a high ridge to

several small caves in the rock. Quickly he crawled inside one of the caves. Although safe for the moment, he realized that once the enemy soldiers looking for him swept up the ridge, they would quickly search all the caves and he would be killed.

As he waited, he prayed, "Lord, if it be Your will, please protect me. Whatever Your will though, I love You and trust You. Amen."

After praying, he lay quietly listening to the enemy begin to draw close. He thought, "Well, I guess the Lord isn't going to help me out of this one." Then he saw a spider begin to build a web over the front of his cave.

**"...you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light." —Ephesians 5:8**

As he watched, listening to the enemy searching for him all the while, the spider layered strand after strand of web across the opening of the cave.

"Hah, he thought, "What I need is a brick wall and what the Lord has sent me is a spider web. God does have a sense of humor."

As the enemy drew closer he watched from the darkness of his hideout and could see them searching one cave after another. As they came to his, he got ready to make his last stand. To his amazement, however, after glancing in the direction of his cave, they moved on. Suddenly, he realized that with the spider web over

### **Gwen's Corner**

As Kim and I were driving across the beautiful New Mexico terrain to spend Christmas with my sister and brother-in-law in Cloudcroft, we listened to a sermon on CD by a preacher named Jim Shaddix. His message was from Acts 18:9-10: And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, *for I have many people in this city.*" (Italics mine) He taught that salvation is God's work, not man's. We are merely to be His faithful servants, useful for His work. I like to picture it as we are "pins" in God's big pin-ball machine. He'll send a lost soul or a hurting Christian (the ball) to us (the pin) and—PING!—we get to be used by God to share the gospel and the love of Christ with that person.

And aren't you continually amazed that yes, God does have His faithful witnesses everywhere! We met one in a tiny little gift shop at the top of the Sacramento Mountains in Cloudcroft, we saw many homes across 250 miles of New Mexico witnessing of Christ's birth as they displayed their nativity scenes in their yards. Recently, there was even a profound witness in the Journal and newspapers across America in an article by syndicated columnist Cal Thomas. The article was actually telling of another witness by a child who, when asked by President Obama "why we celebrate Christmas" answered—"The birth of baby Jesus." We hear a lot of athletes on television giving glory to God and testifying of their Christian faith, and on and on and on.

Witnesses, witnesses everywhere. Are you one? Yes, you are! And we pray your light will shine brightly for Christ in this coming new year and God will use your witness to draw others to Himself.

*"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us." 2 Corinthians 5:20*

