

November 2009

Update on Ed

Ed continues to struggle with the EBA disease-its symptoms and recovery. We had an MRI done on Friday and saw the neurologist yesterday for the result and all that showed was hardening of the arteries (which I'm sure any 91 year old would have) even though he shows visible weakness in the left side and favoring that arm. We have been dealing with the effects of this disease for over 8 weeks with few answers and not a lot of improvement except most of the blisters are gone, but new are coming on the elbows and upper thigh. We have an appointment at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN for 11/11/09 but they are trying to work us in sooner. The broadcast is going on full speed, no worry there, he recorded several weeks ahead before his surgery. Thank you for your prayers and please continue to pray for us to find the answers to heal Ed's body.

Jesus said: "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh shall stand up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it for they repented at the preaching of Jonah and behold one greater than Jonah is here!" So if Jesus believes it that is good enough for me. After all, do you believe in the resurrection of Jesus? If you believe that, what's the big deal? If God can raise the dead bringing a man alive out of a fish's belly is a minor problem.

Now what kind of fish was it that the Lord prepared to swallow Jonah? Was it an enlarged minnow with a thyroid problem? Was it a Holy Mackerel? It could have been either one since God prepared it for the occasion.

Jesus believed the fish story as a sign of the greater fulfillment of the Resurrection. It is a slippery slope to disbelieve in the lesser and believe the fulfillment.

The Lord also said that the men of Nineveh would stand up in The Judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah and behold one greater than Jonah is here. The men of Nineveh will condemn this generation for the following reasons. For one thing Jesus was greater than Jonah in obedience.

GREATER THAN JONAH IN OBEDIENCE

The Lord told Jonah to go to Nineveh that great city and cry against it. But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.

Jonah made good connections at Joppa. The Devil was his travel agent. A boat was waiting for him. The Devil will always cooperate with you in any act of disobedience to God. He will supply a boat. He will supply drugs. He will supply a woman. He will supply a man. He will supply a bottle. You name it and the Devil will get it for you no problem.

Smoke cigarettes and you will pay the fare thereof. It may be delayed for about thirty years, but you will pay. Shoot cocaine and you will pay the fare thereof. Shack up and you will pay the fare thereof. America can get soft on the death penalty and she will pay the fare thereof in increased violence on our streets. Pay no attention to these people who tell you the death penalty will not deter crime. We have not used it to any great degree for the past forty years and people are getting more violent every day. America has paid the fare thereof.

Notice the spiritual journey of Jonah. He went down to Joppa. He went down into the ship. He went down into the sides of the ship and fell asleep. When he was thrown overboard he said he went down beneath the mountains. Down, down, down, down. That is the spiritual journey of all who go against the wind; down, down, down, down, all the way down to hell, in fact Jonah prayed in his prayer, out of the belly of hell thou heardest me. Jesus was greater than Jonah in obedience. In the garden of Gethsemanee He said, "Not My will, but thine be done." Behold one greater than Jonah is here. Now we notice that Jesus was also greater than Jonah as a preacher.

GREATER THAN JONAH AS A PREACHER

Jonah was a great preacher. His talent as such must have been phenomenal. It would be sufficient to say that when the Lord would send a preacher for the task of preaching to Nineveh He chose the best He could get for the job. Notice what God told Jonah to do. "Arise, go to Nineveh, that Great City, and cry against it for their wickedness is come up before me."

A great preacher in the sight of the Lord is one who will cry against sin. Most preachers today don't cry against anything.

After Jonah disobeyed the Lord and was vomited up by the big fish the Lord sent him again and said, "Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee." The preaching that he had been bidden to do was to cry against it.

Jonah cried against the city and told them yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown. It doesn't seem that the people told Jonah that he did not show any love in his preaching. They believed God and repented. Even the king got in on it. The king said, "But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands."

But Jesus is a greater preacher than Jonah. One time the chief priest and the Pharisees sent some officers to take Jesus. They came back empty handed. They were asked why did not ye bring Him. The officers answered, "Never man so spake."

Stand at the open grave and hear Jesus say, "I am the resurrection and the life." Stand at the Communion Table and hear Jesus say, "This is My body this is My blood." Listen to Jesus tell us that He has gone to prepare a place for us and our reaction is summed up in the words of the song. Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life-Let me more of their beauty see-Wonderful words of life. Behold One greater than Jonah is here. Jesus is also greater than Jonah in evangelism.

GREATER THAN JONAH IN EVANGELISM

Jonah was a great preacher, but he had some weird ideas on evangelism. When he was told to go to Nineveh, he rose up to flee from the presence of the Lord and go to Tarshish. Jonah's idea of evangelism was to preach only to the Hebrews.



He tried to go to Tarshish. Tarshish was at the other end of the Mediterranean Sea. Joppa was in the western end of the Mediterranean Sea, and Tarshish was as far west as far as he could go all the way to the southern coast of Spain. On the gates of Gibraltar was engraved these words-Ne Plus Uultra; there is nothing beyond. Some think today there is nothing beyond the grave. What a surprise they will learn when there is much beyond-there is the second coming of Jesus, there is the judgment day, there is heaven, and there is hell.

Perhaps most folk would not blame him for not wanting to preach to the Ninevites. They were a cruel and violent people. In the prayer of repentance of the king of Nineveh he mentioned their violent nature. Remember he said, "But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands." I have seen a sketch of the cruelty of these people in a history book. The sketch shows captive people lined up to pass before their captors and as they passed down the line their eyes were gauged out. This is the kind of people that Jonah had no desire to evangelize.

Jesus was greater than Jonah in evangelism. He even wants the violent people of America evangelized. In the Great Commission of Matthew, Jesus told the Apostles, "Go ye therefore, and teach ALL nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." In the book of Mark He told them, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to EVERY creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." According to Luke He said, that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among ALL nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

GREATER THAN JONAH AS A SAVIOR

During the great tempest when the ship was like to be broken, Jonah seemed to be oblivious to the danger. He had gone down below and was fast asleep. Jonah at this point is a likeness of the Church today. The world is breaking apart, dying and going to hell and there you are in bed. Asleep to the greatest opportunities one can have to make a positive impression on the world. Paul says it for us in Romans, "It is high time to wake out of sleep, the night is far spent and the day is at hand." So wake up!

They cast lots and the lot fell upon Jonah. They asked him what they should do to him. And he said unto them, "Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you." Jonah was willing to die that others on the boat might come out of the storm and live.

Before they took him up on this generous offer, they tried to save themselves by works. Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring the ship to land; but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them. The action of the sailors is a microcosm of our experience in the storms of life. Row your boat. Row as hard as you can and you will never by your own power come out of the sin storm. Like these sailors, you need a Savior that can do for you what you cannot do. So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging.

Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. The fish that swallowed up Jonah had a hard time holding him down. The great fish probably told the other fish, "Boys I ate something rotten. It was the worst thing I ever tasted." He suffered with it three days and then threw it up.

GREATER THAN JONAH IN THE SIGN

The real secret of the great success of Jonah was in the sign. Jesus said in Luke that Jonah was a sign unto Nineveh. He had no quartet, or hi-Tec sound system to preach to the masses at Nineveh. His power was the sign. People heard what happened to him and they were willing to listen to a man who had been swallowed by the great fish and vomited up alive. That sign gave credence to his message. The power of the message of Christ is in the fulfillment of that sign—the resurrection of Christ. A preacher's message today without the resurrection is a powerless message. A message without our own resurrection from the watery grave is a powerless message.

In Romans Paul states it for us in words that cannot be misunderstood without professional help. Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Jonah was a sign unto the Ninevites and Jesus is the fulfillment of that sign unto us. Jesus said, "An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of Jonah the prophet." Jesus is our sign of salvation and the only sign we will ever get. Behold, one greater than Jonah is here!

IKE & LEE UPDATE

Our soul winning work together with GIJAPA

We were at Utopias Thursday September 24 and Friday 25. We had a successful program the first day but had troubles with the hired generator that we couldn't work the Friday after I talked to you. The Thursday was very successful with over 120 people in attendance and we had 11 souls baptized. All these new converts will worship at Fianko Church of Christ (and yes, they did with 6 more non-baptized souls last Sunday September 27 when we worshiped at Fianko just as I told you). We are going to Ofaada today to strengthen the brethren this evening but will get back and then go back to Utopias tomorrow to continue with the job we couldn't do due to the failed generator. These brethren who are to walk miles to worship at Fianko, we need to be frequenting there to strengthen them or they may lose courage to continue.

The Finako Church is doing very, very well even apart form the members from Oradea and Topiase. We were so glad last Sunday when we worshiped there to see how they were doing. We numbered 116 adults with only 5 of us from Park Side Church of Christ. All the other congregations too are doing very well by the grace of God and we thank you all for your involvement in getting these congregations planted. But without you, all these congregations and souls would not have been planted and won respectively. Thank you Our need for Bibles keeps increasing daily as the new converts are increasing. Bibles in local languages are much needed and we have been buying the quantities we can but they are still not enough. The used clothing ministry has been a blessing to many, many people and a very effective tool for souls winning! Several people are not attending church because they simply do not have the clothing so given them the clothing have gingered them to be very apt with their church attendance and they thank God for all the nice things they are getting from people in the US.. Thank you for donating your used clothing- help some one to worship God and be blessed. **Prayer for Ed**. We had a two hour prayer session for end at Oradea after our public preaching and 22 brethren from PSCC joined us from Bawjiase when they heard that we were holding a prayer for Ed. thank God. Naomi wrote to say that upon Ed hearing that brethren from Africa are praying for him in Africa, he said, 'then I can go to the computer to write a sermon and yes, he did! PTL!! Our women's ministry "Daughters of Eve" also hold a two hour prayer session for Naomi at our home and Lee joined them. We want to assure Ed and Naomi that God has restored Ed's life and has given him more strengthen and years in addition to what he gave him. We are still praying and will keep praying. Please, keep praying for us so that we can be able to continue our soul winning work. Please, keep praying for Lee and Bobby for their health issues. Thank you.

STRANGE, WEIRD, CRAZY, BAZAAR

There are no secrets anymore. Our lives are an open book. The other night I was roaming around on the internet I saw a blank spot where you could type in a subject and get information on it. So I typed in my name. Ed Bousman, I then punched the enter key and the line at the bottom of the screen said, wait for reply. A few seconds later my name appeared with my phone number, and address, P.O. Box 511 Lynchburg, Ohio 45142.

But the most amazing thing about the knowledge the computer has about me is the category under which I was listed. Above my name in large print it said, PEOPLE WHO ARE STRANGE, WEIRD. CRAZY AND BAZAAR.

I wonder how they found out I belong in that category? But considering the source I felt rather complimented that I am indeed listed with people who are strange, weird, crazy, and bazaar. After all the opinion of the computer is the world view of things. I can understand why I am listed as strange, weird crazy, and bazaar. For one thing I have the view that two men or two women getting married to each other is the most low down, rotten, stinking, thing that two humans could do. The world view of this procedure is that it is an acceptable life style. So from this stand point in their view I definitely am strange, weird, crazy, and bazaar.

For another thing I have the view that two people living together in what they call a relationship (shacked up) are immoral whoremongers and/or fornicators. Others excuse the prob-



lem by making the asinine remark, "But this is the nineties." Since this is the world view I really do belong in the category of people who are strange, weird, crazy and bazaar.

Perhaps the view that I have of sports is the one that really does me in. In my view America has made a god of sports. In ancient Rome one of the signs of decadence was the love of sports. Christians sometimes had to enter the arena to fight wild beasts. Today is the same only worse. Ancient Christians did not want to be devoured by wild beasts, but modern Christians enjoy the ordeal. Some are devoured by the Nitany Lions. How about the Detroit Tigers. Then there are the Bengals, actually the Bengals don't do much damage. Some arenas have a low budget and cannot afford lions and tigers so they use wildcats. I understand they turn five of them lose at one time. I will spare you the details of how some suffer as they go into the arena with the bears, the bulls, the rams, and the bulldogs

In my view most of the quote Christians unquote have a greater love for the lions. tigers, wildcats, bears, bulls, rams, and bulldogs than they do for the LAMB.

And so dear friends it should come as no surprise that I found my name listed on the Internet in the category of those who are STRANGE, WEIRD, CRAZY AND BAZAAR.

letters

Dear Sister Naomi,

Thanks so much, we took delivery of two boxes containing used clothing and shoes and also tooth pastes and brushes. We are grateful so much. We are happy to receive email that brother Bousman is getting better. Praise be to God. This is a good news to us. We shall never rest in prayers until our beloved brother gets well. Our Lord is in control in Jesus name, Amen.

Thanks, Alexander Ofori, a servant of The Most High God from The Gambia

Dear Fellow Brethren,

Calvary greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ our soon coming King. Giving all praise in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We thank the living God for our conversion. We are villagers controlled by Hindu gods and we always sacrifice human beings yearly to this Hindu gods in which all of us knew that was the road to salvation. But it was one day that a friend came to our village and tell us abut your program on Radio Africa and on the next day we tuned to your program on Radio Africa and hear your message which you said Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation and we were touched and sorry for our former wrong doing and w have all accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as our Personal Lord and Saviour and were immersed into Christ and we now used our Hindu gods shrine place to be our place of worshipping the living God and we always listen to your weekly radio programme. As new converts we need to grow spiritually so this is the reason we write you this letter jointly. As new converts help us to grow by sending a copy of the complete Bible to each of us in this village we are 52 in this village that fellowship together and we have 2 Bibles so we want you to help us in sending the Bibles to us even if they are second hands but still in good condition. Here are our names if you need them: (52 names listed).

May God be with you and bless you in all your ways on earth.

Yours sincerely, Ganiu Bouku & friends from Nigeria, W. Africa

Happy Thanksgiving!





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