

THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

In Luke 24:35 we read, "He was known to them in the breaking of the bread."

In the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican, Naomi and I saw a large tapestry on the wall of two men sitting on either side of a table. One was Cleopas and the other his unnamed companion. On the other side of the table was Jesus holding the bread in His hands. To anyone looking at the picture, Jesus seemed to be looking straight ahead between the two men. As we approached from the left, the table had shifted, slanted in that direction and Jesus appeared to be looking across the table between the two men directly at me. As we walked even with the tapestry and looked directly full faced at the picture, the table had shifted and Jesus was still looking between the two men straight at me. We passed by and I turned to look back and the table had shifted again and Jesus was still looking between the two men across the table at me. Luke tells us when Jesus took the bread and blessed and breaking it gave to them, their eyes were opened and He vanished out of their sight. They rose up that very hour and went back over the seven miles to Jerusalem and told the eleven and they that were with them how they had seen the risen Lord and how He was made known unto them in the breaking of the bread.

The artist who painted the picture has given us an illusion of what happened, but the story of the two on the road to Emmaus is not an illusion to the Christian. Whether you are seated on the left side of the auditorium, in the center, or on the right, it is no illusion that Jesus is looking directly at you in the communion service as our view of Him as the crucified risen Son of God is renewed in the breaking of the bread. E.B.



Cleopas & unnamed companion meets up with Jesus on the Road to Emmaus



Cleopas & unnamed companion breaking bread with Jesus; He reveals himself to them

SEVEN WORDS FROM THE CROSS

FATHER FORGIVE THEM FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO

When they crucified Jesus He said, "Father forgive them they know not what they do." Who was the "they" He was referring to? Paul tells us Christ died for our sins. Jesus was thinking of me at that moment. My sins are what nailed Him to the cross. His prayer was answered when I obeyed the terms of pardon.

TODAY SHALT THOU BE WITH ME IN PARADISE

"Today shalt thou be with Me in paradise," was spoken to a man who had been on death row. This statement indicates that even the worst of sinners can be a companion of the Lord Jesus in heaven.

BEHOLD THY MOTHER BEHOLD THY SON

"Behold thy mother behold thy son," was spoken during the greatest agony ever suffered. He was thinking of the welfare of others at that time.

MY GOD! MY GOD! WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?

"My God! My God! Why hast Thou forsaken Me?" Jesus was our scapegoat for all of our sins and at that moment even the Father forsook Him. Sin always separates. It separated Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Sin will separate the unredeemed on the Day of Judgment. When Jesus says, "Depart from Me ye cursed into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his angels." Many will realize part of the suffering of hell is separation from God unto eternal association with the Devil and with all the demons and the worst of damned humanity.

I THIRST

"I Thirst," are the words that put emphasis on the humanity of Jesus. He was thirsty. As far as we can tell the last drink that moistened His lips was the fruit of the vine when He instituted the Lord's Supper the night before. His thirst was not only the natural thirst of humanity, but also an indication of the eternal thirst of the damned. The rich man, in one of the incidents Jesus told, suffered from thirst. To have such intense thirst for all of eternity and no one to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool his tongue is one of the tortures of the lost.

IT IS FINISHED

"It is finished." This is the moment that the Lord Jesus had waited for from the moment of Genesis 3:15. "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel." At last it was done. The Son of the woman had smashed the head of the serpent. Paul told the Roman Church of Christ, "The Lord will bruise Satan under your feet shortly." As members of the Body of Christ we can put our foot on the Devil's neck too.

INTO THY HANDS I COMMEND MY SPIRIT

"Into Thy hands I commend My Spirit." Jesus commended His Spirit into the hands of the Father. That is an interesting statement in view of the tenth chapter of Hebrews. There is the statement about those that have trodden underfoot the Son of God and counted the blood of the covenant an unholy thing and have done despite to the spirit of grace. For we know Him that said, "Vengeance belongeth unto Me, I will recompense saith the Lord." And again the Lord shall judge His people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. When we leave this world all will fall into the hands of God.

Think of these statements of Jesus as He died on the cross; as you eat of bread and drink of the fruit of the vine that so fitly represents His blood that was shed for our salvation.

LETTERS



DATELINE: GIJAPA IN PHILIPPINES:

"... been most encouraged..." Hello Madame Naomi! I am very much pleased to make a report for y'all today! As planned we have done Special Mission Work recently for Pangasinan, a three-hour bus ride from my province La Union that covers at least three towns of Lingayen, Bugallon, and Aguilar. We have distributed Bibles, clothes, and tracts (What Saves A Man). We have contacted as many individuals as we could, and have done and introduced Bible studies in their homes. Follow-up studies are now being held by our brethren in those areas with regular 'new' schedules. It's been completely inspiring not only for them, but for me. Yes, while writing this piece, I could still sense how happy they are in welcoming us in their houses with our mission gifts to start spiritual conversations and studies. Some families are located in the middle of rice fields, (see picture above) some are in suburbs or rural areas, and some are in the heart of the town. I could not be with them regularly for the time being. But at least once in a while I could be with them in their spiritual gatherings. That is their request to us. This special mission is a welcome surprise & spiritual uplift to our local brethren, but for their folks in the midst of our calamities in the Philippines that struck us during our rainy season. They are to be encouraged and uplifted more to work for the Lord. We have left more Bibles, clothes, and tracts. Our local brethren say they would distribute them while expanding their work in their communities. Again and again, Thank You So Much GIJAPA "Supporters & Staff" for Encouraging Us With Your Gifts of Bibles, Clothes, & Tracts. We are your "hands & feet" in this part of the world to help spread the gospel to those whom we could not possibly reach. Please keep on praying for us too as we are praying for your health & finances. I have received another three boxes of clothing recently in the post office, and these too will replenish our mission materials for the 2nd week of April in my place La Union as we planned for a greater special mission work. Take care always with your health as we needed you more than before for the Lord's work. May God Always Be Praised God Bless!

Ed Domingo, Sunset Beach Church of Christ, Philippines

GIJAPA heard in Ethiopia, Russia, Sweden via GIJAPA Shortwave Broadcast.

Greetings in our God the Father and His soon coming Son, Jesus Christ. I thank God for this ministry and many thanks for you who have been doing this wonderful work reaching us here in Ethiopia. Please send me the Bible and Bible Course that you mentioned at the end of your broadcast that is available for the asking. Please continue to keep up the good work in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. May God bless you richly!

Amanuel Addis Aboba, Ethiopia

It is with great pleasure that I report the reception of your broadcast. Your broadcast was in the English language by a male preacher based on a story about Abraham talking and a rich man telling him to remember his deeds. At the end of the program the male voice gave an address to receive free program material and stated it was Ed Bousman who was speaking. A song was played, "God Is Just A Prayer Away." I really enjoyed listening and thought the story was very good and told in a manner that was easy to understand. Good luck and 73.

John P. Moscow, Russia

Dear Friends, It's with great happiness that I listened to your radio station - Bible Voice-Europe and the reception was very good. The program was a sermon about good or bad. The minister talked about the rich man and life and death. It was good sermon, but I did not understand all as I don't speak English as good as Swedish, but I understood most of it. At the end of the sermon a very beautiful gospel song was played. I wrote for the free material that was offered at the end of the broadcast. I'm 72 years old, married and two grown children, and me and my wife are Christians and go regularly to our Church.

Lars from Goteborg, Sweden

Naomi, With much thanks for your SW broadcast on Sunday mornings here in *Bristol*, *UK*.

Dear Naomi & Everyone, Thank you Naomi and everyone who makes GIJAPA broadcasts possible. All of you are much loved, respected and appreciated. Looking forward to hearing Ed's sermons every Sunday continuously until Christ comes back, because too many souls are going to hell in a hand-basket they refuse to live for Christ. Praise God for GIJAPA broadcasts and thank God for those who teach, preach the word of God, and do so without any hesitation whatsoever. God bless you and "Keep on Keeping on!"

Sincerely, and respectfully, for Christ Jesus. Art from Columbus, OH

Dear Naomi, I'm so bored sitting in this cell 23 hours a day with nothing to do. Some of the lessons that I've done from you I didn't even know anything about it, but as I kept doing them my knowledge increased dramatically from studying them and reading the Bible. So I do want to continue to do the studies you have to offer. They're getting ready to cut the lights off for the night and I'm getting ready to go to sleep. May the good Lord continue to bless you for what you're doing for people like me. I wish you loving, joy, peace, happiness and a blessed life.

Michael, Grady, AR

It has been a real pleasure to do the Bible studies while in prison, I have learned so much. I will be released on parole 3-21-14, to a halfway home in Houston, TX where I will be basically homeless starting over. Please pray for me as I rebuild my life and serve our Lord where I can. I would like to give you a new address to forward my lessons. Please know all of Ed Bousman's workers will be blessed it matters to us in prison and jail all that you are doing for us.

Texas Human Services, Dr. Glen

Hello, I would like to thank you for bringing the gospel message on the radio - 1090-KAAY, out of Little Rock. I'm writing this to ask you to please send me some Bible correspondence courses so I can start learning the Bible. I'm a full blooded Navajo Indian and we are knowing as a DINE people as we are known about that word too! I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely, Jimmie from Brickey, AR

Dear Naomi, Just last week I got to experience God's power. I was released from jail after being in here for going on a year fighting my case. I was placed in administrative segregation which is just about the same as solitary confinement. I got super stressed out and nearly thought it was going to be the end. However, God saved me again. The court system "worldly business" messed up and the system released me accidentally. I, however, knew that there was something up and ended up turning myself back in and since then God has given me peace and not allowed me to stress out. I have a trial coming up - March 10th. Everyone here at the jail were amazed and even the judge and DA that I returned. I pray that God will give them wisdom to come up with a plan, decision that will lead me in the path toward God's will. Can you send me another Bible; we have to leave everything behind when we leave. I loved those study guides; can you include the study guides as well? Thanks, Naomi and God bless you.

Dell Valle, TX

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Dear Sister Naomi, It is quite a long time we heard from you, but we trust in the Lord that you are fine with the children and the entire family there. Praise be to God for your life on earth. Thanks be to God we are on the work here and always need your prayers, sister. We thank you so much for the Bibles and clothes you send to us that makes our lives on this hard soil easier.

Alexander Ofori, a servant of The Most High God, London Corner Church of Christ, The Gambia

Dear Sister Naomi, I thank you for your support and prayers into our ministry and the Lord's Church. I am thankful to our God for His blessing and help. I also thank all your family members for your faithfulness to the Lord. May God reward you richly for all of this. We have received one box of Bibles you sent on 15th January 2014. Send more for Evangelism, women conference in April 2014, and general conference in July 2014.

Send me also some shoes size 8. Thank you so much for your continued support of Bibles and clothes. Without you and all this support, work for the Lord would be very difficult. Naomi is fine. The Messenger Church of Christ here is growing. On Sunday, 9th March, 2014, the attendance was excellent with 107 men, women, and children. About 70 brethren celebrated the Lord's Supper, witnessing to all men that Jesus Christ died for our salvation, carrying all our sins and that He rose again. One brother, Joseph Mukuma, stood to repent and asked to hear more about Jesus, then be baptized. God was glorified and you brothers and sister making things to happen here through gifts of Bibles, clothes, and prayers were a significant part of it all. We have not yet recorded any baptisms this year 2014, we pray and hope that Joseph Mukuma, will make a good decision very soon. I wish and hope times like this you are in Solwezi, Zambia, so that you see how we are doing.

Evangelist John Maseka, Messenger Church of Christ, Zambia

The Cross Was His Own

They borrowed a bed to lay His head When Christ the Lord came down; They borrowed the ass in the mountain pass For Him to ride to town: But the crown He wore and cross He bore Were His own-The cross was His own. He borrowed the bread When the crowed He fed On the grassy mountain side, He borrowed the dish of broken fish With which He satisfied; But the crown He wore and cross He bore Were His own-The cross was His own. He borrowed a ship in which to sit To teach the multitude: He borrowed a nest in which to rest, He never had a home so crude: Were His own-The cross was His own. But the crown He wore and cross He bore Were His own-The cross was His own. He borrowed a room on His way to the tomb, The Passover lamb to eat; They borrowed a cave for Him a grave;

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Were His own-The cross was His own--Author unknown

But the crown He wore and cross He bore

They borrowed a winding sheet;