

# Solution for Life



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Dear Friends,

*Over the last four months the events of the world have challenged us and many ask: Why the tragedy and trials all over the globe? We live in enormous difficulty and yet there is joy. Jesus is the answer to the all the whys and yet there is hope for us ahead. It is our deepest desire that the truths we share in this newsletter will encourage you in your personal walk with Christ. We pray His Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven.*

*Blessings, Jessie*

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## It is Not as It Seems | by Daniel Westlund

In John 9:1-3, we find the story of Jesus healing. “A man blind from birth. His disciples asked Him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned,’ said Jesus, ‘but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.’”

I wonder how often we respond like the disciples about a person or an event in a person’s life without giving careful thought to what God may be doing. Too often it is in our human nature to judge, even condemn, someone before gaining the facts or insight into what is taking place from God’s perspective. Too many times we fail to understand Isaiah 55:8: “‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,’ declares the Lord.”

A great example of this is the story of Job. First, his wife tells him to curse God and die. Then his three friends, who came to comfort and console him for the great loss he had suffered, ended up in their counsel to Job, condemning and judging him. In the end, God was angry with Job’s so-called friends who made judgments about Job based on his situation without understanding what was really taking place.

The problem is jumping to a conclusion based on circumstances when we do not know the facts or the cause behind what is taking place. We may even make a judgement about an individual based on hearsay or gossip. In the life of Christ, we see examples of this. When Nathanael was told Jesus was from Nazareth, he responded, “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” When Jesus came to His hometown and began to teach, the people were amazed at His wisdom and miraculous powers. Their response was, “isn’t this the carpenter’s son?” “And they took offense at Him.” (Matthew 13:53-58)

Having faced criticism and been judged for actions I have taken in my life that were meant to help others to know Christ in a deeper way, I have learned to step back and pause and gain a deeper understanding of where the person is coming from, to not judge them if they disagree with me or live by standards contrary to the Bible, but to be kind to them and, if possible, “gently instruct, in hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth...” (II Timothy 2:25)

Jesus taught us to be as “wise as serpents,

continued on page 2

### Inside this issue

Wake Up!	2
Care Beyond Comprehension	3
Watch & Pray	4
Bulletin Board	4

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# Solution for growth

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## Wake Up! | by Stephen Westlund

I am going to share a secret with you... Jesus is coming soon! Ok, that's not a secret, for we know Jesus has promised us:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.” (John 14:1-4)

But if we are all being honest, these past two years have troubled our hearts, have they not? And here is the problem: when the heart is troubled, the emotional and psychological pain of the trouble spills over into our minds, it spills over into our bodies, and we seek something, anything to take the pain away. We often turn from Jesus and to people to fix our pain problem. We turn to church, we turn to family, we turn to relationships. Or we turn to less noble things - things like entertainment, alcohol, drugs, or sex to dull the pain, to put the pain of the trouble asleep.

Then when we get the pain under control, we think maybe it is easier to live life asleep, just going through the motions, going from one activity to the next, asleep. But easy isn't always best. And putting the pain to sleep only means that when you are roused out of sleep, the pain will still be there. It is time we wake up, turn back to Christ, and give Him the pain.

“This is why it is said:

‘Wake up, sleeper,  
rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.’

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the

most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.” (Ephesians 5:14-18)

Did you catch that? The days are evil. Get over it. Stop looking for days that are not evil. You will not find them on this side of heaven. Instead, wake up! Come into the light and Christ will shine on you. Be careful how you live. Make the most of every moment of your life. Rather than turning to the debauchery of the world to numb your pain, be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Why? Because Jesus is coming soon! And when He comes, you want to be ready. There is a story that Jesus told in the book of Matthew of five young women who were ready and five who were not. Jesus tells the story best:

“The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived.

The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don't know you.’

Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.” (Matthew 25:1-13)

Jesus will come again for His bride. Wake up! You will want to be on the inside when the door to the wedding feast is shut. Be wise and understand the Lord's will for your life. Be filled with the Holy Spirit and keep watch. Jesus is coming soon!

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It is Not As it Seems continued from page 1

harmless as a dove.” (Matthew 10:16) We are not to be ignorant of the fact that we live in a fallen world. And though we do not judge others, we are instructed by Jesus to be on our guard and to recognize the fruit, the character, and actions of an individual's life. In Revelation 2:2, the church was commended by Christ for not tolerating wicked men and for testing those who claimed to be apostles, but were found to be false.

We must learn to be wise, asking for wisdom and God's direction to understand what is really taking place. We must learn to not live by sight, but by faith (II Corinthians 5:7), learning from our life experience that things are not always as they seem. ■

# Solution for caring

## Care Beyond Comprehension | by Jessie Westlund

*“See how very much the Father loves us, for He calls us His Children for that is what we are!”*

*1 John 3:1a*

God cares for us beyond our comprehension. Often, we interpret how we see God’s caring and loving through a human lens, when really His love and caring are far beyond our imagination. He is the creator, and His plans are always to draw us to Himself with liberating blessings. In concept I knew this, but just before Christmas, His love took on a deeper meaning which went not by my logic but His miraculous love.

In December, Dan and I became part of the world’s COVID statistics. It was not because we took or did not take the shot. God has been showing us it is much more about His call on us to rest in Him and how to be part of His plan to love people through COVID and hardship. I want to share my story with you.

I did have minor COVID pneumonia but, in my situation, it attacked my digestive system. I had immense pain and eating irritated it, so I did not eat. I ended up in the emergency room for fluids and tests. I was sent home and told to eat and drink. If I did not do so, the outcome could be devastating. One night the pain was excruciating. I was alone and called to God for help. The scripture came to me from Phil. 4:6, “Be anxious for nothing but in everything pray.” I did. “I need you Lord. I do not know what is going to happen to Dan and me. Please take this pain away.” I went to sleep and rested for the first time in days.

The next morning, I received a text from my son, Steve. “The Lord woke me to pray for you. He put on my heart to pray this over you. ‘Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be

evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. (Philippians 4:4-8 NIV)’ I am agreeing with you that He will deliver you. Steve” This is not a coincidence. I was awake and he was praying for me.

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I am learning to totally surrender all the fear around this pandemic. I have experienced His great loving care and am thankfully growing in His abundant presence.

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Notice the scripture started with, “Rejoice in Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” My first thoughts were: you’ve got to be kidding me. I can’t find a way to rejoice while in this pain. But in the goodness of God, I have a deeper understanding of His instructions on how to rejoice. I don’t rejoice in the pain, but in God, who loves and wants to care for his child. “Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.” To me this means stay calm, take a deep breath, “the Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Let go of anxious thoughts and pray with supplications. This looks like humble persistence and thanking God that He is taking care of

the worrisome condition. God loves us and knows that totally trusting, surrendering and focusing on Jesus brings peace. His peace is amazing. It transcends all understanding, and guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. As we learn to live this way, we will rejoice.

When I get my focus on Christ, I begin to thank Him for who He is and reflect on times that He has intervened in the past. It guards my heart and causes the battle in my mind to fall away, and His peace fills my body, soul and spirit. It is saying out loud, “Jesus, I love you and I trust you.” This is where I find my relief.

God does not leave it there, but the last verse in the passage gives instructions on how to live daily. It is in the mind. Thinking on, “whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy.” It is impossible to fret, worry, and drift into an anxious state of mind when following God’s loving, caring solution for life.

You may be wondering how I’m doing. I am strong and finding great peace in my heart. COVID is serious, and was for us, but it has led us to a deeper, more loving relationship with Christ. I am learning to totally surrender all the fear around this pandemic. I have experienced His great loving care and am thankfully growing in His abundant presence. ■



# Solution for the future

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## Watch & Pray | by Daniel Westlund

Our world is changing at a very rapid rate. There is a great deal of uncertainty, anxiety, and fear. There are so many voices telling us what we need to do or not do. Who is telling us the truth? I often reflect on the words of Jesus when it comes to understanding the times in which we live. In Luke 17:26-29 Jesus gives us two examples of what is going to take place, the “days of Noah” and the “days of Lot.” In both examples, Jesus tells us life goes on, people will be eating, drinking, marrying, being given in marriage, buying, selling, planting and building. However, in both cases God’s judgement comes and only a total of eleven individuals were saved: in the days of Noah, eight, and in the days of Lot, three. It would appear that everyone was so caught up with life and their activities they

failed to heed the warnings of what was about to take place.

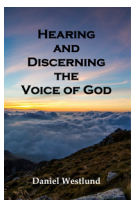
As I reflect on 2022, I see a year filled with continued change. In our last newsletter, I mentioned there is a plan in motion right now for the “Great Reset,” which is designed to create a One World Governing Body by the year 2030. In Revelation 13:11-18, we are shown by Christ that there will be one final Beast (Governing Body) that will control all commerce through some type of mark. This final Beast (Governing Body) has two horns, it will be governmental and religious, note from the passage, worship is involved. What is really noteworthy is God allows it all to fulfill His plan and purpose. Revelation 17:17: “For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by

agreeing to hand over to the beast their royal authority, until God’s words are fulfilled.”

God’s plan is that the Gospel about Jesus and His kingdom “...will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end comes.” (Matthew 24:14). With each day we need to watch (alert) and pray that we can escape all that is about to take place. (Luke 21:36) And we need to remember, “When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” ( Luke 21:28)

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## Bulletin Board



### Hearing and Discerning the Voice of God (second edition)

Dan and Steve Westlund have revised Dan’s book. The book is a practical tool to help God’s children discern the voice of God in a world that has so much confusion. It is available for a donation on the Solution for Life Web Site [www.solutionforlife.org](http://www.solutionforlife.org) under the publishing tab. Also, you can send a request by mail in the enclosed envelope.

### New Seminar: Creative Journaling: Jessie Westlund

God created us all differently and this seminar brings insight to the value of journaling. The goal is to enjoy developing a loving relationship with Christ as you discover journaling in a style that you enjoy. God loves when His children discover who He created them to be with Him.

### Message from Dan and Jessie

Since our last newsletter a lot has happened. We have both had Covid over Christmas and are thankful we are healthy now and able to be sending this newsletter to you. Jessie shared

her story in the Caring section. She loves to tell it to encourage others in their faith walk. Dan was in the hospital and is home now recovering. He will be sharing in the next newsletter his story and miracles that he has experienced since December 2021. We are thankful for the opportunity to share the love of Christ with you. Our days can be challenging, but Jesus never leaves us or forsakes us as we trust in Him.

As always, thank you for your prayers and gifts that make the ministry possible.

In Jesus’ precious name, blessings to you,  
Dan and Jessie