

The Way

STEPS TO CHRIST

January 2024 Newsletter

Web: www.found.rest

A Refiners Fire, and What's A Horse Got To Do With It?



Refiners Fire!

Another year has past and the new one is already racing ahead. Half of January has already disappeared! Deadlines have come and gone - some projects have been completed whilst others are either sitting on the shelf or part way through. We're already behind on a number of things - even publishing this newsletter!

Is it just me or are there times in your life when no matter what you do to follow a schedule, circumstances come about that take your best plans and turn them upside down? Welcome to the past 3 months of my schedule!

Ambitious is the word that one person used to describe this entire project. A few months back, I recalled his sentiment and I smiled. Why? He was confirming the magnitude of work and finance required to successfully complete the task before us. When the Lord first revealed His plan, I knew it was impossible for us to complete. But I thanked Him for His promises. The things that are impossible with men are possible with God. (Luke 18:27) During the past eight weeks that word “ambitious” no longer made me smile. When I thought about the enormity of what’s before us - deadlines passing, projects incomplete because of equipment failure, the intense pressure to pay bills - I crumbled.

Friends, I was very close to walking away from our entire ministry. I wanted to pull the website and YouTube channel down. I thought I had everything wrong. All these years I thought I had been listening to the enemy’s voice and I couldn’t bare the thought of doing anything else wrong!

I had no where to turn - except to my Savior. I knew I needed Him more than I have ever needed Him. I prayed earnestly, I pleaded with Him to show me where I had gone so wrong. He did! Jesus carefully guided me over my journey reminding me where He had led me. He showed me each time He had corrected me - scripture, inspired writings, friends, and family. Would you believe He even used an atheist to correct me during my years walking with Him? He can speak to us through so many ways - yes, even a donkey!

The Polishing Process

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. 1 Peter 4:12, 13.

Not without a purpose does God send trial to His children. He never leads them otherwise than they would choose to be led if they could see the end from the beginning, and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as workers together with Him. He subjects them to discipline to humble them, to lead them, through trial and affliction, to see their weakness and draw near to Him....

Christians are Christ’s jewels. They are to shine brightly for Him, shedding forth the light of His loveliness. Their luster depends on the polishing they receive. They may CHOOSE to be polished or to remain unpolished. But everyone who is pronounced worthy of a place in the Lord’s temple must submit to the polishing process. Without the polishing that the Lord gives, they can reflect no more light than a common pebble. Christ says to man, You are mine. I have bought you. You are now only a rough stone; but if you will place yourself in My hands, I will polish you, and the luster with which you shall shine will bring honor to My name. No man shall pluck you out of My hand. I will make you My peculiar treasure. On My coronation day, you will be a jewel in My crown of rejoicing.

The Divine Worker spends little time on worthless material. Only the precious jewels does He polish after the similitude of a palace, cutting away all rough edges. This process is severe and trying; it hurts human pride. Christ cuts deep into the experience that man in his self-sufficiency has regarded as complete and takes away self-uplifting from the character. He cuts away the surplus surface, and putting the stone to the polishing wheel, presses it close, that all roughness may be worn away. Then, holding the jewel up to the light, the Master sees in it a reflection of Himself, and He pronounces it worthy of a place in His casket. Blessed be the experience, however severe, that gives new value to the stone. Heavenly Places P267.

The pressure I had felt was so intense. It was painful. He showed me that He was doing this - refining me! Oh how I long for a place in His casket! I am not worthy of such love, grace and mercy. I have so many faults and so much to learn. One thing Jesus did show me is that I'm not to doubt His leading anymore. He has indeed set up this ministry and guided this project and He will continue to do so. He is using every aspect of this ministry. He is searching hearts and minds the world over.

When I finally surrendered my understanding and confessed my sins, He gave me an incredible peace that only He can give. Praise be to Jesus!

So what's next?

Praise God we are moving forward. They maybe baby steps but we're going forward! Speaking of baby steps (or maybe puppy steps), we have a litter of purebred English Cocker Spaniel puppies available to our Australian friends. Should you be interested or know anyone who may be interested please message me direct on 0416 295 514. All proceeds from the sale of these precious puppies goes directly into the Lord's work. It's a blessing for us to potentially provide a bundle of joy to someone who is interested in supporting this ministry. I digress . . . back to moving forward.

We have started scripting our 'Ten Commandments' series (part of 'The Truth' component of the overall project). As soon as the scripts are complete we are planning to film the series in Singapore at Gardens by the Bay. This is a beautiful location constructed as a small scale, modern representation of Eden. We have other scripts (Truth Clips) underway that we will film locally. We'll update you as we progress.

Hope, one of the magnificent Clydesdale horses has been completely paid for. Marise is only needing \$3,500 USD for her payment to be completed. We then have two more precious geldings, Hamish and Starlight awaiting their purchase. We need \$30,000 USD to complete this. Praise the Lord!

By now we were hoping to have the incredible testimony that we filmed in October up on our YouTube channel. Unfortunately our audio interface, a hardware unit used in our edit process, failed. It is over 10 years old now and has served us well. In order to push ahead and complete this powerful testimony we need to replace it. The Lord's timing is perfect. He knew this interface had to be replaced sometime soon to accommodate the demands of the Steps To Christ series. So in that sense, now is as best a time as any.

We'd be so grateful if someone would donate the \$3,500 USD required, that in turn will facilitate the publishing of this powerful testimony.

I will leave more team introductions for another newsletter. Look out for our Bella - a young lady who truly gives all to her Lord and Savior. I'll venture to give you a little background of myself as well as other vital team members.

We trust the Lord blesses you in all you are doing for Him. This year will no doubt hold many more challenges and trials for us to face. However, we claim this promise in God's Word. . .

Have I not commanded thee? Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with you withersoever thou goest. (Joshua 1:9)

Blessings to you all,

Nicole

2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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So What's A Horse Got To Do With It!

It's a reasonable question. It's not everyday that a ministry has selected a team of Clydesdales to further the Gospel commission. But I guess we're not an everyday ministry. Who else is crazy enough to embark on a 10 million dollar evangelistic campaign?

But why a horse? In fact, why a team of horses? The simple answer we should all be able to give to any question regarding any of our actions is simply, God told me so. Truthfully, I was a little surprised at the Lord's leading but I was OK with it. My journey has repeatedly told me, trust and obey, for there's no other way.

However, I do sympathize with those looking on who may not be so convinced. After all, how could a horse possibly fit into ministry? If you've had a moment to consider the information on our website and previous newsletters, you will know that a key component of the horse team is to pull a wagon displaying an 8 foot Daniel 2 statue. Yes - it will turn heads and that's the point. Quite simply, something wholesome drawing attention to the Lord's imminent return to the many who will see it.

But the other week, as I was considering the authenticity of the Lord's request (it's called doubting), He brought me a message from heaven that put me in my rightful place (which is being totally surrendered to what ever He asks irrespective of how it may appear). This is despite the numerous miracles the Lord used to bring these horses to us.

I was about to cross the road in our local neighborhood. I turned to check for oncoming traffic when I noticed a familiar sight. Approaching was an old vintage car. The driver was an older gentleman who lives just around the corner - a lovely man who is often up for a chat. He slowed and pulled up next to me. We greeted and exchanged the usual for this time of year. I casually asked how Christmas was. He paused, slowly muffled the word lonely, but quickly moved on to other conversation. I instantly felt sick. I wasn't sure if it was because I asked a question I shouldn't have or whether it was because of the answer he gave. Rightly or wrongly I chose not to dwell on it. I too moved the conversation on.

He began sharing with me the story behind the old car he was driving. Yes, he had shared the story before, but I was more than happy to hear it again. At an appropriate time I suggested that maybe one day soon I could give him a race in his old car! I'm sure at first he didn't know quite what to make of my request. Quickly I clarified my statement. I would drive our team of horses and he could drive his old car. He laughed. It was a great opportunity to share the soon arrival of our Clydesdale horse team and the purpose behind having them. Interestingly, as I gave him the detail his face lit up.

You see, this is what I didn't know. He is a Vietnam war veteran who has had and still does suffer from PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). A number of years ago he begrudgingly moved to this neighborhood. It was his wife who wanted to move - he was happy to stay put. However due to her request, he sold the house they were living in and built her this new house. Tragically soon after they moved, she left him for another relationship. This had only compounded an earlier tragedy that had prevented him from having his own children. The use of agent orange in the war had rendered him sterile. Can you imagine - what a desperately sad situation!

Now I understood why his Christmas had been lonely. How my heart ached for him. All by himself in a place he would rather not be. What a sin sick world we live in.

As I finished sharing about our horse team, he volunteered the reason for his excitement. He said to me, "I love animals. . . and I especially love Clydesdales. They played a significant role in my healing during the dark times of coping with my PTSD. I can't wait until you get them."

I knew the Lord was speaking to me through this man.

Dear reader, I can promise you this. As soon as our horse team arrives, I will be leading them up the street to visit and spend time with this dear man. The least I can do is to use these magnificent creatures to bring joy into the life of this lonely man.

For those of us who doubt, the message is clear. The Lord says, these animals are mine. They will declare My soon return and bring joy and hope to the lonely. Sounds familiar doesn't it.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. (Luke 4:18,19)

This is the job Jesus has now given us. We need to use all of the resources He makes available to us.

So, with all of that said is the horse worth it? Maybe the better question is, is this man's life worth it . . .

Every so often, I find time to write what the Lord places on my heart. I trust you are blessed in reading as I was in writing!

Blessings,

Craig

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