

August 2006: The Resurrection and the Life

by Aaron Greenway

Mothers are very special, very important people, and when we don't have them with us, it seems like a different world. I saw my grandmother grieve after finding my great-grandmother, her mother. Also, my mother-in-law died when my wife, Gleyser, was only 20 years old. I never knew her. We don't like missing our 'mamas', but when we know that they are with the Lord, hopefully it makes the pain a little easier to bear. How do I know this? Because of my wife.

We spent two weeks in South America. First we went to Peru to see some friends and to continue our preparation for the mission field, and also to Bolivia to see Gleyser's family. During this time we visited her mother's burial site. When we got to the grave, I totally expected it to be a tearful scene, but it wasn't. When I asked her why, she told me that her mother was with the Lord. For her there is always a hope that she will see her again, because years ago Marina Aguirre had given her life to the Lord Jesus always praying for that day when her children would do the same.

Witnessing all of this I decided to leave a little note, not for her mother but to all that might see it as they passed by. The note says something like this, "I never knew her mother, but I love her daughter, and one day we will both see her in Heaven with Jesus." We wanted to be a testimony to all as well as to our own family. We love our family and only with a relationship with Jesus Christ can one honestly be saved and go to Heaven to be with Him.

What am I speaking about? Well one day came in John chapter eleven when Jesus had lost one of his best friends, a family of two sisters, Mary and Martha and their brother Lazarus. Lazarus got very sick and so they sent for

My brothers and sisters, for this reason we should be sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Resurrection and the Life, with those who don't know Him. The reality of Hell should awaken us to the fact that there are so many who don't know Him and without Him will go to a place that was originally intended for the devil and his angels. These past two or three months you have read about a lot of my convictions about being a witness for Christ to lost people. Hell is a real place but Jesus is a real Savior and is willing to save any who would call upon His name. We cannot let our family and friends down. We cannot let anyone down for whom Christ died. How can we start reaching those around us before it is too late?

Jesus to come and heal him. But the Lord delayed even until the third day. But it was too late because Lazarus had already died. It seemed that the Lord had failed this family. Martha even said, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died." But Jesus knew that death was not the end especially if one knows Him. For this reason He said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though He dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die" (John 11:25-26). With this He called out to the tomb where they had buried Lazarus, "Lazarus, come out!" All of the sudden a man all bandaged up in grave clothes walked out. "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." Jesus said. The Lord had brought Lazarus back from the dead, a much greater miracle than if He had only come to heal him.

Christ isn't just about healing people, but about giving them eternal life. We have all been dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1). No one is good (Romans 3:10). No one deserves an eternity with Christ but to be separated from God forever. But Jesus came not just to heal but to rescue a lost people. Even a healthy person doesn't mean much if their soul is sick. Christ loved His people and had compassion on them, but His mission was to die on a cross and to resurrect Himself to save us from our sin.

A few weeks before our trip my wife and I were sitting on the couch watching one of the Christian television programs. We saw a woman interviewing Bill Wiese, the author of "23 Days in Hell", a man that had once died clinically and then had been resuscitated. When someone is clinically dead they are consciously absent from their body. In other words, they are not there. This man in particular said that he had died and had gone to hell and witnessed others being tortured. He smelled a toxic stench so strong that it would have killed any living being. He saw the worm that never dies. He felt a darkness so penetrating that it carried a depression. He heard the screams of people begging him to go back. Then he saw a light come near him in which Jesus appeared. He asked him, "Lord, I was a Christian. Why did you send me here?" The Lord answered him saying, "Because there are so many who do not believe that Hell exists." When the doctors had finally brought him back, Bill says that for one year he was not able to speak about what had happen to him, about the horror that he had witnessed. Only finally he was able to share these events. But even if we were not to believe his story, he says, "Believe what the Bible says about Hell and avoid it."

My brothers and sisters, for this reason we should be sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Resurrection and the Life, with those who don't know Him. The reality of Hell should awaken us to the fact that there are so many who don't know Him and without Him will go to a place that was originally intended for the devil and his angels. These past two or three months you have read about a lot of my convictions about being a witness for Christ to lost people. Hell is a real place but Jesus is a real Savior and is willing to save any who would call upon His name. We cannot let our family and friends down. We cannot let anyone down for whom Christ died. How can we start reaching those around us before it is too late?

Something to ponder...

Your brother,

Aaron Greenway