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In the context of:

**Testament
Ministries -
Unlimited**

Solomon's Worth

When a rich man dies, the question may be asked: "How much was he worth?" No one knows what Solomon was "worth" when he died, but 1 Kings 10 gives a good idea of his 'worth' when he was alive and firmly on the throne of Israel. This is the chapter of the Queen of Sheba. She came to hear for herself Solomon's wisdom which had become proverbial, *and* she also added handsomely to his riches. Jesus tells us that this queen made the tremendous effort to come "from the ends of the earth" (Mt. 12:42). At the time of judgment her testimony will be heard and it will condemn the Jews, who had the Son of Man - the so much greater son of David - on their 'doorstep' for over three years, yet refused to receive HIM *or* his wisdom. Instead they crucified him.

We are informed that Solomon's annual income came to 666 talents of gold (10:14), apart from a lot more that also entered his coffers. The commentators that have done some arithmetic come out with different equivalents of that 'worth'. In today's money, it might come to \$10,000,000. That is a lot - certainly at that time!

So Solomon's worth was **666!** Solomon, as David's son, certainly is a 'type' of the greater Son of David. We see that especially in Psalm 45. On the other hand, Solomon, the Son of Adam, could not possibly rise above 666, the "number of a man" (Rev. 13:18). In that chapter, it is the 'number of the Beast' - the "son of perdition" - who will be regarded as *the* 'superman', but whose days too are numbered, as were those of Solomon - the 'super-king'. 1 Kings 11 gives us the sorry tale of Solomon's downward spiral into the horrible quagmire of gross idolatry.

But there is **One** coming - infinitely greater than Solomon - whose number and worth could be called '**700**', so to speak: the Son of Man, crowned with glory! In HIM "**are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge**" (Col. 2:3).

Allow HIM to reign in your life and it will be truly **worth** living!

Dear friends,

With a wink at Jeremiah (8:20), I could say: “The harvest is past, the summer is (nearly) ended, and we are not married!”

Yes, I’m being questioned through email, and in other ways: “Are you married yet?” And I keep on having to say: “No, not yet!” And so the questioner wants to know what’s gone wrong... So I tell them; then I always finish by saying: “It’s all in the Lord’s hands. He knows what He is doing!”

Well, if you haven’t asked yet, save your question - here’s the answer:

Myriam went to Costa Rica on Febr. 27 - the idea being that over there it should be easier to make arrangements for the marriage. But she found that one hurdle is just as big there as anywhere else: the simple fact that she cannot get herself registered as a widow! That is because her German husband died in Uganda (04/08/2016), and that country is not part of the Authentications Agreement of The Hague. In other words the Ugandan death-certificate, received through the German Embassy in Uganda, is worth nothing... You’d think the Embassy officials would have alerted her to that problem, but not a word!

At this point, a word of advice to the reader may be in order: Try to avoid dying in Uganda...; your dear ones will thank you for it! That may be black humor, but Myriam does have the problem. Finally, in May, the German Consul in Costa Rica came up with an idea: let’s send photocopies of all your official papers, including the Ugandan death certificate, to the German authorities in Berlin; and let’s hope that they get in on the act and prepare an “International Authenticated Death Certificate”... OK, the lot was sent to Berlin.

Months went by. In August, a year after the death, I found the particular Berlin office on the Internet and emailed them. A kind email came back, saying that all was practically done and we could expect the certificate very soon. Five weeks later, *that* is where we are; German bureaucracy - still alive and kicking!

Whenever Myriam receives the new certificate, she will take it to the Registry in the hope that this time it will be accepted. The actual registering may take some time, but once registered as a widow, and waving her Registry extract, she will visit the lady lawyer, a Christian - who has agreed to marry us - in order to look with her at the best date for the wedding. Then there will be a visit to the Moravian congregation of Miskito Indians, who, in advance, have already assured her of their delight to have a our wedding ceremony among them.

Finally the groom, now the proud possessor of a new passport, will have to take a plane that gets him to San José, Costa Rica’s capital, and bla, bla, bla...

In the mean time, Myriam there and I here, have plenty to keep us busy, while we look to the Lord for all the guidance and enabling needed. We are learning that an impasse too, however senseless it may seem, is at the great Potter's fingertips as He molds the clay of our lives.

One of my jobs has been to get the whole mailing system for PRESSING ON! overhauled. With many of the supposed readers not having reacted to my plea in the former issue, there has been a great shrinkage of the hardcopy mailing list, while the e-list has grown somewhat. If I should not have your e-address on that list, do let me have it.

At the bottom of this page you'll find the titles of the present issue. Especially the marriage article is a gem you mustn't miss. If *your* marriage is truly blessed, then much of the article could be most useful as you seek to help others.

In the Vélez-Málaga work, we are thrilled with the present growth of the congregation. Some of you must have been doing some real knee-work! Keep it up! Some of the folks now attending are confirmed Christians, others aren't. Some are foreigners (México, Peru, Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Colombia, Romania, Ukraine), others are Spaniards. Some are elderly, others are middle-age. Now, there's a point you may want to hold before the Lord: the fact that, in spite of **Michael & Julie's** untiring efforts among children and young people, these are (usually) conspicuously absent in our meetings...!

The home Bible studies are also much better attended and, now, in 1 Corinthians, the fact that Paul, in what he writes, doesn't beat about the bush, nor minces his words about all kinds of practical pitfalls that face a congregation, is being a great help to the folks to grasp important issues.

Another matter that needs much prayer is the forming and preparation of local leadership of spiritually minded men-of-vision.

Thank you for your praying and working with us!!

Jim & Myriam

PRESSING ON!

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<http://ntmu.net/pdf/Presson-may-august2017.pdf>

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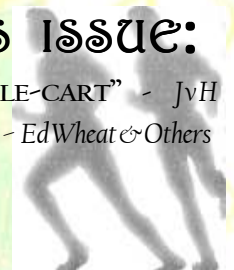
"DON'T BE SURPRISED WHEN GOD UPSETS YOUR APPLE-CART" - JvH

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Praise

Author unknown.

In Psalm 119:164, David said, **“Seven times a day I praise you.”**

On another occasion in Psalm 71, he said, **“Let my mouth be filled with your praise, and with your glory all the day.”**

In Psalm 100:4, David said, **“Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise.”**

And in Psalm 150:2: **“Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him according to his excellent greatness!”**

The Illustration

Praise is an attitude, it is a relationship, and I think in a lot of ways it's a language. Maybe that's where the confusion comes in. It actually is a language. What is the majority language of Brazil? Portuguese. What is the language of Mexico? Spanish. The language of the kingdom of God is Praise. That is how you enter into 'the gates'. That's the language of the kingdom of God. And really that's what the problem is with knowing how to praise God, that somehow or other we have reserved it for when we are all together as a 'church'. That's the only time we do some 'praising', and so we don't really understand the 'language'.

When I was in Germany, I was a real smart-alek - I saw someone at the train station and said “Good Day” to this man in German. And he began to converse with me. I said, “Hold on! I don't know the language! I just learned a few words in school - a bit of “school German”...

I couldn't communicate in that language; I didn't know that language. That's really what has happened a lot of times to the people of God. They learn some words in “church praise”. So they know a few words, but they don't really know the language. As you spend all day talking in another language..., then, suddenly, as you realize God is wanting some conversation, you react: “Whoa! Stop there! I don't talk that language - just a few words. It's not *my* language -

mine is another language, the one I speak all day long.” We're never going to be able to PRAISE the Great Creator-Redeemer from the heart if we spend our whole life talking another language and only now and then try to say a few words in the PRAISE language. It's not going to work that way.

