

ON THE SPOT

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In the context of: **New**

Testament

Ministries -

Unlimited

THE SECRET

“I met God in the morning
When my day was at its best,
And his Presence came like sunrise,
Like a glory in my breast.

All day long the Presence lingered,
All day long He stayed with me,
And we sailed in perfect calmness
O'er a very troubled sea.

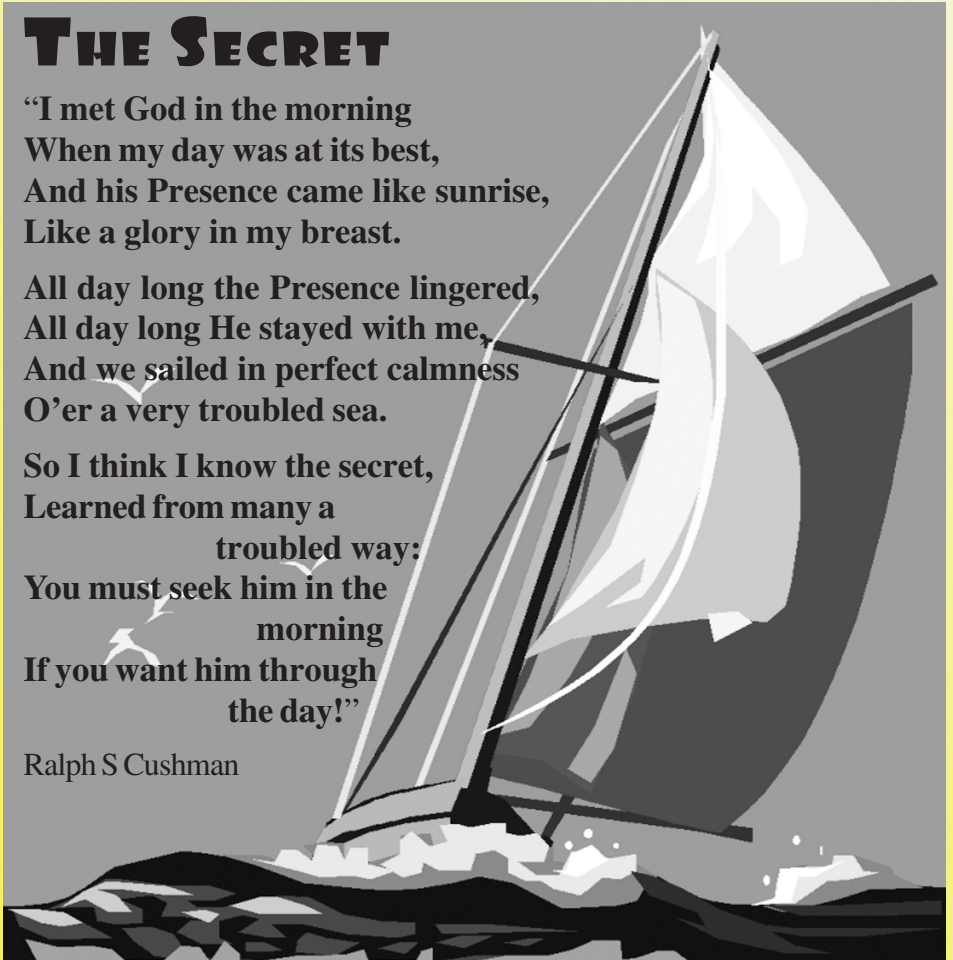
So I think I know the secret,
Learned from many a

troubled way:

You must seek him in the
morning

If you want him through
the day!”

Ralph S Cushman



Dear friends,

This was supposed to have been written in 2015, but, still, I'm glad for the opportunity to give you a bit of news, even if rather late. May your new year be a true blessing - to you and yours - *and* through you to many more!

One thing that stood out in my experience this past year was the concern for 'the Swedish ladies', as we have been calling them, **Asa & Mira**. The first one is a bit over 70, the other one just under. For ten months, my only option as a Christian was to help them - materially that is. Though spiritually too there have been great opportunities. There was **no** one else that would (or could) do anything, not even their Consulate. When they first came to my door in February, they were at the end of their tether, in utter desperation, clutching at straws. For three weeks they had been roaming the streets without shelter and without a cent to live on. As many of you know, with new European tax laws in place, their account in Switzerland had been frozen five months earlier and they didn't have a clue as to the reason behind that, nor what to do about it, nor did I. The good friends who knew more, and who initially tried to help out, had to give up; it was beyond them too.

To make a long story short, after much to-ing and fro-ing, and after a providential prod at the Swiss bank by a business relation of a nephew of mine, the ball started rolling, and... at long last the money came through at the Spanish bank where they had now opened an account! This coincided with the date by which they had to vacate the little-farm-in-the-hills, where I had been able to put them up with the kind permission of the owner in England.



They are now very happily and gratefully settled in an apartment in the center of town, just their size, with plenty of sun and views and at a good price. My good neighbor, Esteban, has been helping them to get set up, as well as taking over my job to get them properly lined up with the Spanish laws and provisions. They and their doggies

will miss the little farm after living there for ten months.

The photograph is not one of the best, but it gives you an idea, as they sit out on one of their balconies. We are so glad that they happily continue to partake in our meetings.

Michael & Julie should be back from the UK this week after lovely times there with their respective families. Undoubtedly, fresh ideas, thoughts and plans will already be brimming in their minds for the year that lies ahead.

I keep very busy with the literature work. Underneath you will see what dominates the present issue of **PRESSING ON!** It's all about the 'burning' question of the Rapture - the opening act of that spectacular last part of our great Redemption, when the redeemed suddenly find they have a redeemed body. And, snatched away from earth, they 'meet their Lord in the air'.

Lydia & Dave's removal to Spain is now becoming imminent, with Lydia hoping to fly out on the 19th to stay with me for a week, while Dave and a friend make the journey by van, stuffed with their belongings, including the two collies. Once all that is delivered to the house rented in Casares, the friend takes the empty van back to England. Based at Casares, situated at two hours west from here, they'll do a lot of exploring to find a permanent place.

Then, on Feb. 1, I should be flying out to Uruguay for studies in the capital and in the town of Colonia, where a camp is to be held, starting on the 6th. After that, some weeks of activities in Argentina will follow. My return is planned for the beginning of March. Prayer will be greatly appreciated! Joshua and friends, down in the valley, weren't alone fighting Amalek. Moses, Aaron and Hur had a mountain prayer meeting. It was the secret behind the victory!

Favio & Inés have moved house, so I see less of them. They, like all of us, need to learn to put first things first. **Natalia** is a Russian-speaking Ukrainian, who has learned Spanish very well. She truly loves the Lord, but can only get one hour off from her demanding care job to be with us on Sunday evenings. **Adam**, who loves the Gospel, but has never come through for the Lord, has been having his usual problems with binge drinking over the holiday period. Fortnightly, Bible studies in homes are proving to be a real blessing.

Re **2016**, remember that, in spite of dark forebodings, **HE** is your peace!

In HIS love, *Jim*

PRESSING ON!

IN THIS ISSUE:

**NOW IN HARDCOPY AND PDF!
LET US KNOW WHICH YOU PREFER.**

"VAST OIL CRISIS JUST AHEAD"

JvH

"SHOCK AND AWE"

- Tim Cameron



BIG ONES FIRST!



The Illustration

A teacher set a large jar on his desk in front his class. He took some big rocks and began putting them in the jar. When they reached the very top, he asked the class if the jar was full. The class responded “yes”. The teacher then took some smaller pebbles and started pouring the pebbles into the jar. The pebbles fell in between the much larger rocks. When the jar was filled to the top with the pebbles, he again asked the class if the jar was full. The class had caught on by now and said, “No”. The teacher then took some sand and poured it into the jar, filling the jar to the top.

“Now”, he asked the class, “what do you think I am teaching you by this demonstration?” The class replied, “That there is always room for more.” “No”, the teacher responded. “What I am trying to teach you is that you have to put your biggest things in **first** or there won’t be room for them later on. You can squeeze your smaller things around your bigger things, but you can’t squeeze your bigger things around your smaller things. There’s always room for the smaller things in life, but **not** for the bigger things, if... you’ve already put the smaller things in first.”

The illustration fits the teaching of the Great Teacher beautifully. He said: **“Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these [other] things shall be added to you”** (Mt. 6:33). In John 3, Nicodemus, aware of lots of things - good things - that he had been filling his life with, understands from what the Teacher tells him there, that he had been omitting the one Big One! Imagine, the only one that is truly important! Might it still fit in...? Should he perhaps take some of those other things out first?

1) The “Kingdom of God” is represented by the big rock of **“Being born of the Spirit”**. Without that ‘new life’ you can’t even *see* the Kingdom, Jesus says! Good things, religious things, moral things? Fine! Fill your life with all that, and there will be no more room for ‘The Kingdom’. No Spirit-birth for you!

2) Rock n° 2 is **“Growing in the Spirit”**, also called ‘sanctification’, which consists simply of learning to always bow to the will of the King on his Throne. Who’s reigning on *your* throne? To who’s will are *you* bowing? You were ‘born of the Spirit’, to then fill up on pebbles? **“Love not the world!”**, He tells you.

3) Rock n° 3 is **“Abounding in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit!”** If Rock 1 is concerned with your ‘spirit’ and your new ‘faith’; and Rock 2 is all about your ‘soul’ and your new ‘love’; Rock 3 has everything to do with your ‘body’ (He promised you a new one when He comes back) - *and* with your new ‘hope’. Pebbles and sand will never be lacking. ***Why not just concentrate on the big ‘Rocks’?*** **“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it”** (1 Ths. 5:23-24).