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In the context of:

***New
Testament
Ministries -
Unlimited***

HEROES

Heroes rise, heroes run, heroes stand, heroes battle, heroes conquer, heroes win gold medals, heroes become role models for the young.

But heroes may fall...!

Take hero Usain Bolt! All those gold medals and then he makes that awful, pathetic mess of his life, from one continent to another. Role model...?

“Saul and Jonathan were beloved and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided; they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions. ‘How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle!’...”

‘How the mighty have fallen...!’” That was David’s lament when he heard about their deaths in 2 Samuel 1.

Many years later, when David, as fighter, strategist, poet, prophet and king, had become a living legend himself, what a sad tumble he took! Truly, death would have been preferable to his adultery and all that went with it.

What happens when a servant of God, a hero of his people, takes a nose dive? Prophet Nathan told David straight: “**You have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme!**” (2 Samuel 12:14). And the Lord’s people? They feel cornered, confounded, ashamed and defeated.

The apostle Paul did not instruct Timothy, his coworker, to make ‘heroes’ of the Christian leaders he was dealing with, and so invite ‘hero-worship’. Rather he told him: “[A leader] **MUST HAVE A GOOD TESTIMONY among those who are outside** (in other words, a testimony of clean living and honesty, and true commitment to Christ Jesus), **lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil!**” (1 Ti. 3:7).

Dear friends,

As I am writing, a good team of Irish youngsters is here again for the four-days'-summer-outreach to children and young teenagers through football and confrontation with the Gospel, organized by **Michael**. They arrived just on time for our Lord's Day meetings and one of them, a young lady, spoke to us about their aims and faith, and about the team's recent experiences in Cork, Rep. of Ireland. We pray that in Southern Spain too there may be eternal fruit in many kids' lives, as well as in parents' lives.

Talking about 'ministry', one interesting modern 'niche' for that is Facebook. With nearly 2,000 'friends' and nearly 200 'followers' in many countries - most of them from all over Latin America - I have legion opportunities to 'pass the word'. The beautiful thing in FB is the system of 'sharing'. If I particularly 'like' something from someone else, I can also 'share' it on my own page for others to see and read, and on many other pages. That, and whatever I 'publish' myself, is potentially seen by the 2,000 friends. Many then share it, especially the 'followers', and, of course, *their* friends may in turn share it too, and on and on it goes. So there can be an enormous multiplication of one little seed sown. I try to be responsible and publish items from the Bible and on many topics like e.g. Creation/evolution, salvation, Christian life, incentives-to-read-the-Bible, worry, abortion, marriage, bereavement, missions, 'church'-as-in-the-NT, sectarian beliefs, the future, Rome, Islam, etc. - usually accompanied by some kind of picture illustration. Of course, quite a few of these items don't originate with me. They may be quotes from men and women like John Newton, Charles Spurgeon, JC Ryle, CS Lewis, Corrie ten Boom, etc. Most of all I publish in Spanish, but now and then something in English. The effort is tremendously appreciated, although, at times, a bit of a backlash comes my way from Catholics or other nominal Christians, or from JW and 7thDA friends. But that affords new opportunities to share from the Word and manifest more of the reality of the Lord's love, appreciation and interest.

Practically every day of the year there are from 3 to 8 'friends' who celebrate their birthdays. FB reminds you of them all, and I try to send a greeting to each and every one, but with Christian content. With the 'copy-and-paste' option that doesn't take too much time. What does take more time is being asked for spiritual help, counsel, light on certain Bible passages, etc., and then seeking to respond adequately from the Word. It is great to be able to point them to the Spanish menu on the website where many of their questions are already answered.

To give you a little bit of an idea, here are two items placed in FB not long ago. Of course, they were accompanied with further comment.

“**Tradition**” is what the RC church majors in, but 99% of all Protestants wouldn't know what to do without their **traditional** hierarchy, so I tried to be a bit confrontational about it, hopefully shaking things up somewhat:

FOUR REASONS from the Bible why No Christian Can (Consistently) Accept the Institutionalized PPP (Professional Paid Pastor):



- 1st Reason: **The Gospels**
- 2nd Reason: **The Acts**
- 3rd Reason: **The Epistles**
- 4th Reason: **The Revelation**

The ABCD of why the Christian Accepts the PPP anyway:

1. Absence of NT Searching
2. Bondage to Tradition
3. Convenience of System
4. Dread of Man

This picture of the storm would really have been very apt for **Myriam López**, and she would answer the question wholeheartedly. **Myriam knows and loves her Captain**. If having to go back to her native Costa Rica, Central America, two years ago, was already quite a 'storm' blowing up, now, while still waiting for her German husband to join her from Uganda, West Africa, the storm suddenly took on hurricane force...

Word got through that he'd had a stroke and, the following day, that he had died (Aug. 4). Needless to say Myriam was devastated, *and* her son in Spain. Being on the other side of the world, *and* penniless, there was only God she could turn to.

Her times in Costa Rica, with her elderly mother and the rest of the large family, had been a great blessing. Having maintained close contact with us, the bad news immediately got through to us too. And then we heard how the Lord stepped in through a brother of hers, who kindly got her a ticket for Spain. On Aug. 22 she was back - yes, the Captain is still at the helm! Stay tuned...



Daughter **Lydia** and husband **Dave** moved to southern Spain at the end of January, and are just a 2-hour drive to the West of me, so it is very nice, indeed, to have them so much nearer. In the mean time I'm wondering and praying about the possibility of another working-trip to S. America in 2017. We'll see. Thank you for *your* prayer-help!

Jim

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For a hardcopy, drop us a line.



<http://ntmu.net/pdf/may-aug2016.pdf>

IN THIS ISSUE:

"THAT GENOCIDAL ESCHATOLOGY!"

"KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE BIBLE AND THE QUR'AN."

"The Bride & Her Friends" - JvH / "Keep On Going!" (2 Thess.) - Howel Jones

"Those Amazing Evangelicals"

"My Truly Amazing Discovery"



DRESSING ON!

"In the night his song shall be with me"

Psalms 42:8.

Bob Gass

The Illustration

TRY PRAYING ABOUT IT!

Nothing fuels prayer like real need. In a crisis, even those who say they don't believe in God, pray secretly. It's an admission that there are certain things we can't resolve. David said, "**In the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.**" Some prayers are midnight cries for help, intended for God's ears only; the fear is too deep and the feelings too private; we don't want others around when those inner feelings surface. In prayer you "**cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you**" (1 Peter 5:7 NIV), and because you know He will handle it for you.

A mother watched her son run into the house clutching his bloody hand. "Let me see!" she said. Backing away he cried, "No, you'll hurt me". When he finally opened his hand, instead of a major injury, she saw a tiny scrape that bled a lot. As she marveled at his theatrics, she realized she'd done the same to God. When her husband left her she was so hurt, she refused to pray. God kept saying, "Let me help you", as she clenched her fists and said, "No, you'll hurt me". Once she realized this, she gave it to God and her healing began.

Catherine Marshall called this "the prayer of relinquishment," which means giving the situation to God, taking your hands off it completely, refusing to discuss it any further, and trusting the One who makes

"all things work together for good" (Romans 8:28).

That's why prayer makes it possible for you to stop struggling with the situation and have peace about it!



*I will sing to
the LORD
as long as I live.*

Psalms 104: