



WATCHMAN'S TRUMPET



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FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR

Hello,

I welcome you to this new month and present to you August 2024 edition of Watchman's Trumpet. The theme of this month's edition is "The Sacrifice of Isaac".

Genesis 22 records the greatest test that Abraham ever faced. He was commanded by God to take his only son whom he loved to Mount Moriah and sacrifice him there as burnt offering. It was a test of Abraham's faith, hope, and love. In the "School of Faith" we will inevitably face tests. This is the only way we grow.

As Abraham climbed Mount Moriah with his son, there must have been terrible pain within him as he contemplated what God has commanded him to do. He could not depend on his feelings, nor did he have any friend to counsel or comfort him. Sarah was at home, and the two servants who accompanied him were back at the camp. We thank God for friends and family members who can help us carry our burdens, but there are some tests in life that we must face alone. Abraham had already experienced the resurrection power of God in his own body (Romans 4:19-21), so he knew that God could raise Isaac from the dead if sacrificed. He trusted God to meet his every need. How do we know Abraham depended on God's faithfulness to His promise? Because when Isaac asked where the animal sacrifice was, Abraham replied, "God will provide the lamb." (Gen. 22:8). God did.

Fast forward twenty first century. The story of how Abraham sacrificed Isaac (and perhaps the widow's mite incident in the

Gospel) are common fund-raising passages that preachers often use to enhance the commitment of their congregation in giving to God. This edition of Watchman's magazine examines the appropriateness or otherwise of this practice. The bottom line is that since Isaac is one in a lifetime gift, wisdom dictates that everyone involved in asking as God's mouth-piece and presenting such costly offering to God must have clear evidence of His leading, otherwise, it will end up being an irreplaceable, irreparable daylight loss and robbery. Even Abraham had three days' journey ahead of him within which he could receive further conviction about what the Lord commanded Him to do.

Another unique feature of this month's magazine is that the sacrifice of Isaac was considered within a context of family dedication and commitment, the need for believer's entire consecration and consistent walk with God as revealed in Micah's prophecy. My prayer is that your reading of this magazine will be a faith lifting and life transforming experience. Welcome!

FAMILY CONNECTION IN ABRAHAM'S SACRIFICE OF ISAAC

"And it came to pass after these things that God did tempt Abraham,]



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and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him." **Genesis 22:1-3**

We have in our text a test of Abraham's obedience, loyalty, commitment and consecration by God. God told him to take Isaac, his only beloved son and go to the land of Moriah to sacrifice him on a mountain. The journey from Beersheba to Mount Moriah took three days and they covered an average of fifty miles. Within the period, Abraham had opportunity to change his mind and turn back. He did not. As they approached the final place,

Isaac asked his father where the sacrificial animal was, Abraham responded by saying that the Lord himself will provide. It is clear from the account that this family trusted God, they have infinite confidence in Him, and they also trusted one another.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. One united family under God
2. Submission to the everlasting God
3. Proof of entire consecration

1. One united family under God

“For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.” 1Peter 3:5-6

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;” Ephesians 6:1-2

We sometimes read the account of Abraham’s testing concerning the sacrifice of Isaac as a one man thing but it is not. It is a family experience. Abraham’s family trusted God and trusted one another. The trust was demonstrated by the fact that none stand in each other’s way of commitment and consecration to God. Isaac was not that young as not to be able to resist while being bound and prepared for sacrifice by his elderly father who was over a hundred years old at that time. He deliberately chose not to.

Peter in his epistle presented Sarah as a model of submission to all godly women. This reveals a lot not only on issue relating to the sacrifice of Isaac but everything about her attitude to family life and relationship. She believed God and trusted her husband. The height of Isaac’s confidence in Abraham his father was witnessed when he allowed himself to

be tied and placed on a pile of wood ready to be sacrificed. In this, Isaac was a picture of our Lord Jesus Christ who was obedient to God the Father even when that obedience involves the sacrifice of His life. If we really trusted in God and have confidence in Him, our obedience will show it. A faith without obedience is no faith.

2. Submission to the everlasting God

“By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.” Hebrews 11:17-19

Abraham’s frame of mind throughout the experience was captured in Hebrews 11:17-19. He did not have problem with giving up Isaac. He remembered the birth of Isaac was like life from death and he trusted God that if indeed Isaac had to die at this time, God will raise him up again. At that point in time, Abraham had developed a transcending faith: a faith that has gone beyond the shore of earthly life, a faith that trusted not only for the things of this world but things with eternal consequences, and life beyond death. The more our faith grows the clearer our vision of eternity becomes. The weaker our faith is, the more our hearts become tied down to the pursuit after earthly ephemerals. Increase in faith makes us to increasingly judge all things around us by scale of eternal significance. Abraham passed God’s test because he kept God before him all the time. Self was gone. The rest of his life he desired to live for God and live in obedience to His words.



3. Blessing of Obedience

“And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.” Genesis 22:16-8

At the last minute when the sacrifice of Isaac was as good as done, God stopped Abraham and in line with his earlier confession provided a lamb for the sacrifice. God stopped him because it was only a test and his intention and frame of mind which he followed through to that moment proved his allegiance and commitment to God. God thereafter by oath confirmed Abrahamic covenant and gave it a final seal of approval because of his obedience to God in the sacrifice of the most precious gift on earth to God when He required it. If we like Abraham know that all we give to God are investments, if we know that whatever we give to God is never lost, if we know that God’s faithfulness imply full restoration of things sacrificed to Him and multiplication of rewards for our sacrifices, it would not be difficult for us to give anything to God, even own very lives. The greatest lesson emanating from the sacrifice of Isaac is one of entire surrender, yieldedness and consecration. We only find our lives and live in the riches and fullness or abundance of it at the point we become like Abraham, like Isaac, like Sarah and like this believing family - entirely consecrated to God.



ABOUT WATCHMAN OUTREACH MISSION

Watchman Outreach Mission as envisioned fundamentally comprises of men and women of faith who watch over one another and together watch for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Next to this primary assignment is an equally important responsibility of bringing others into the same state of watchfulness and readiness as the coming of the Lord draws near. Ours is a trans-ministerial, trans-denominational mission. Our core values include expository teaching, prayer and counselling. We train in principles and practice of Christian discipleship and equip for effective Kingdom Service.

The Lord Jesus Christ in one of His parables said “*While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept*” **Mathew 25:5**. Watchman Outreach Mission is a response of faith to this and similar warnings about events in the last days. Our response is based on the premise that prophecies, visions and revelations about the future such as the one documented in the Lord’s parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins are sign-posts by which men are warned to keep vigil to avoid disastrous end. We serve to wake up the church and men everywhere to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return.

The Mission, based in Ibadan, Nigeria, was launched in 2009 and its maiden outing took place on the 20th November of the same year. On that day, we partnered with All Nations Evangelical Ministry (ANEM), Akobo, Ibadan for Evangelistic and Medical Mission Outreach to Idi - Ose Village on Arulogun - Olorunda Road in Lagelu Local Government, Ibadan.

In the years that followed we networked with churches and other Christian groups too to implement our mandate which include conducting gospel outreaches, discipleship training for new converts, organizing and facilitating workers and ministerial training, conducting administrative reviews in churches and ministries, writing of proposals for reforms and church growth strategies that can enhance social cohesion, improve church finances and foster overall development, unity and growth of such ministries; monitoring and/or supervision of the implementation of such reforms and strategies.

Some of these Christian groups and ministries include with Christ Apostolic Church, Oke - Ife in Ajangboju, Ibadan, Nigerian Military Christian Fellowship, Adekunle Fajuyi Cantonment Chapter in Oyo - State Nigeria, Christ Gospel Mission International, Light of Jesus Evangelistic Ministry with branches in different cities in South Western Nigeria, and Ark of Salvation Church of Christ (ASCC) with headquarters at Molade, Monatan Ibadan.

Till date, although partnered ministries change from time to time depending on the leading we receive from the Lord, we remain committed to our main purpose and vision; that of service to the church and in the world to wake up men everywhere and encourage them to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return. Through our activities, souls had been saved, believers edified and church workers’ spiritual growth and development enhanced, all to the glory of God.

WATCHMAN PRAYER HOUR



Prayer Points - For August 2024

1. Thank God for exemplary life of faith evident in the Patriarchs
2. Pray for increasing faith in God and patience like the Patriarchs so that God’s great, rich and abundant promises will be yours
3. Pray for prompt and implicit obedience to God at all times
4. Pray for unity of purpose and grace to obey God in your family
5. Pray for demonstrable supreme love for God at all times.
6. Pray for the Spirit of discernment so as not to be misled by false visions, prophecies and teachers/preachers
7. Pray for grace to remain faithful and true whenever your faith is tested
8. Pray that the sacrifice of Christ will not be in vain in your life
9. Pray that the blessing of obedience to God will be yours whenever you take steps in that direction.

“ men ought always to pray, and not to faint;” **Luke 18:1**

May the Lord hear and answer all our prayers - AMEN!

Watchman Prayer Hour holds every Saturday from 10.30am - 12.00MD. We invite you to join us at our office at Amazing Grace House, Joy Estate, Olorunda -Abaa, Ibadan . Oyo - State. Follow us on any of our social media platforms and send your inquiries or prayer requests to any of our digital addresses.

**MINISTERIAL
DIMENSION TO
ABRAHAM'S SACRIFICE
OF ISAAC**

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" **1 John 4:1**

Many out of sheer zeal over the years have attempted or have sacrificed their Isaac to God without God requiring it and others have failed to sacrifice their Isaac when it was clear to them God wanted it. Isaac to believers today is like the widow's mite; the most precious and only gift a man or woman possesses. To sacrifice our Isaac without God asking for it is mere presumption and amounted to man tempting God. On the other hand, to refuse to sacrifice Isaac when it is clear to us God wanted him simply implies that we love our Isaac much more than we loved God. It simply implies that that Isaac had become a kind of idol in our lives.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Proving all things
2. Demand for consecration addressed to a matured believer/minister
3. Dispensational implication of the sacrifice of Isaac

1. Proving all things

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." **1 Thessalonians 5:21**

The lesson must be learnt that at this time in the household of Abraham, he was the head and the priest of family. The demand for Isaac to be sacrificed was not Abraham's lofty, fancied idea. Many church leaders today out of covetousness in their minds demand for members' Isaac when God did not ask for it. Such members are therefore impoverished by such demand. We must be weary of ministers' demand upon our lives or upon our Isaac not



met by clear witness of the Spirit in our minds. This also implies that ministers who demand for members' Isaac must have taken time to pray and hear clearly from the Lord otherwise they will be misleading the people. It is also expected that they would allow the people themselves time to pray and confirm such demands upon their lives. Where there is necessity to sacrifice Isaac anytime, anywhere, the Holy Spirit will be at work in everyone.

**2. Demand for consecration
addressed to a matured minister**

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you." **John 16:13-14**

Abraham has the Spirit of God by which he has been trained to discern the difference between truth and error. God earlier described him as a prophet. The test came at the time, when already trained in act of hearing from God to know when God speaks or when men, Satan or human spirit speaks. He is therefore able to affirm without doubt messages, instructions or commandments coming from God.

The commandment came to him directly from God. The seed is of the man. He therefore had a choice in the matter. Besides, nothing in the circumstance attempted manipulating or forcing him to sacrifice Isaac. His was free-will choice to obey God. Isaac at that time too was still living with his father, under his supervision. He himself also has a choice in the matter. If he so chooses he could have fought and freed himself from his father and run away.

All actions of everyone involved in the matter therefore were expression of faith and confidence in God and love for Him. All these factors ought to be in the appraisal, interpretation and application of the story of the sacrifice of Isaac.

**3. Dispensational implication of
the sacrifice of Isaac**

"...having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;" **Romans 2:14-15**

There is also a dispensational perspective to the interpretation of the account. Men under that dispensation were under the rule of conscience by which they judge what is good or bad. The law had not been given. In spite of that, those closer to God have the help of Holy Spirit. Abraham had prophetic anointing to intercede before God on behalf of men and receive answers. So the Holy Spirit was at work in him. Holy Spirit is given to those who know God to help incline their consciences towards decision approved by God or disagreeable to Him.

It was under such circumstances that the call to sacrifice Isaac came. So there could not have been any doubt in Abraham regarding the authority of the commission even if others who heard from God have told him that that was not what God wanted him to do. He has the means and the time to check and confirm the commission. The call to sacrifice Isaac was therefore never in doubt as well as the One who gave it. It was therefore left to Abraham whether he wanted to obey or not. He chose to obey and thereafter receives a seal upon all the great promises that God had given him. We have personal responsibility to check up every leading and prophecy from God before acting so we are not derailed especially on issues like the sacrifice of our Isaac.

JESUS THE TRUE ISAAC

“By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.” **Hebrews 11:17-29**

Jesus is a type of Isaac. Both are miraculously conceived, offered up as sacrifice by their fathers who loved them; both were their father's only son, models of obedience and submission to their father even when their submission demanded that they lay down their lives. However, Isaac was not sacrificed because one day, Jesus would be.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Concept of burnt offering
2. The lamb that God provided
3. Universal invitation to all men

1. Concept of burnt offering

“And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.”

Genesis 22:2

God specifically instructed Abraham to offer Isaac on Mount Moriah as a “burnt offering” Burnt offering is the first and most significant offering in the Bible. This offerings were slowly and completely consumed by fire and turned into ashes. The ashes is sprinkled in a clean place. Burnt offering symbolized the offerer's atonement for his sins, desire for acceptance through entire consecration of himself, soul and body to God including submission of his will



and entire devotion of himself and all his substance to God. Isaac, if offered as God commanded would have atoned for Abraham's sins, provided evidence of his entire consecration to God and submission to his will. God stopped him and provided a substitute because Jesus Christ is the only person who could acceptably atone for man's sins and God has a plan to send Him into the world at the appropriate time.

2. The Lamb that God provided

“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” **John 1:29**

When it became clear that Abraham was resolved to go ahead with the sacrifice of Isaac his son and implicitly obeyed God, God stopped him and provided a lamb as a substitute for Isaac. Abraham sacrificed the lamb as burnt offering instead of his son. This sacrifice prefigured Christ's sacrifice for our sins on the cross of Calvary. He is the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world. In the sacrifice of Christ, Abraham's prophetic reply to Isaac found fulfillment. God indeed provided “HIMSELF” as the Sacrificial Lamb for the atonement of our sins.

God so love the world and gave His only begotten Son so that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. It is in Jesus Christ only that Isaac's picture of being a sacrificial lamb find real and true fulfillment. Unlike the story of Isaac in Genesis, Jesus was actually sacrificed. He rose and lived again by the power of God and became

the author of eternal life to all who come to God through Him and obey Him. In that sense, no sacrifice of any Isaac anywhere in any dispensation is really going to be like the sacrifice of our lord Jesus Christ for our sins. Notwithstanding, followers of Christ are to consecrate their lives to God and give their very best to Him at all times, most especially when He specifically demands for it.

3. Universal invitation to all men

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” **Mathew 11:28**

We have through God's demand for Abraham to offer Isaac as burnt offering the necessity of sacrifice for sin and atonement. We have in its typology a call for sinners to repent and turn to Christ, by so doing receive pardon and cleansing. The story of Abraham's sacrifice on Moriah is an invitation to worship and live in the presence of Jehovah Jireh, where our problems will be solved and our needs shall be met. It is an invitation of believers to take permanent oath of allegiance to God and wholly yield to His counsel. It is an invitation to the inner sanctuary, to fellowship with God in the Holy of Holies where the presence of God is revealed and opportunity granted to dwell in heaven forever eventually. We all need salvation and entire consecration to God like Isaac to do that. We must become living sacrifices to God.

Everyone's faith in God will one day come under test. God's demand upon Abraham was for him to give up irreplaceable relationship. For others it may be a demand to walk away from a thriving career that predisposes us to sinning against God and compromise. By such demand God will try the genuineness of our love for Him. Isaac represent those things, people, events or places that make our world go round, things that characterizes our comfort zones. The guarantee of unprecedented manifestation of God's power and glory are reserved only for those who can give to God willingly, promptly and joyfully whatever He demands.

BEYOND ONE GREAT SACRIFICE

“Wherewith shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the high God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” Micah 6:6-8



It should be on record that God's word in Micah 6:6-8 takes the issue of sacrificial services to the Lord further than the demand for our Isaac. What the Lord requires from most men today is not just a once and for all sacrifice of our Isaac while we return from the place of sacrifice to continue to live sinful and depraved lives.

God asks for justice, love of mercy and humble consistent walk with Himself all the time. Summarily, it is evident therefore that true faith must be under-guarded by implicit obedience, consistent, godly walk with God and faithfulness at all times and in all things to be worth its salt.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Walk in humility
2. Faithfulness in all things
3. Living sacrifice unto God



1. Walk in humility

“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.” James 4:10

Abraham walked intimately with God as a bosom friend. God trusted him and can confide in him. It takes humility and self-abasement to be as close to God as Abraham was. Walking with God is not an exclusive preserve of a privileged few. Rather, it is an ideal normal universal invitation extended to all who come into God's kingdom through salvation gateway. God desired and commanded all His children to walk (humbly) with Him Micah 6:8. Such walk He values much more than thousands of sacrifices.

The command to sacrifice Isaac was not a foundational instruction in Abraham's walk with God. Rather it is an invitation for a dear and bosom friend to prove his commitment and loyalty. Humility is central in our walk with God and acceptance of our sacrifices. God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Pride will taint our sacrifice and our entire relationship with God.

Whatever is the worth or value of our sacrifices and however great, it will bring rejection. We must therefore learn to bring offering, sacrifices and worship to the Lord with the right attitude. As wonderful as the sacrifice of Isaac is, trace of pride or arrogance in Abraham's live will make such expensive sacrifice unacceptable. Even the offerer will be rejected.

1. Faithfulness in all things

“Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful.” 1 Corinthians 4:1-12

Another thing that endeared Abraham to God and made Him a friend of God is his faithfulness. This faithfulness can be seen first in his prompt response when he was commanded by God to sacrifice Isaac and his rising early to travel to the place of sacrifice. It is also evident in His implicit obedience to God not only in the matter of sacrifice of Isaac but in all things. The net worth of the values of our sacrifice is important like the sacrifice of Solomon in Gibeon, however, beyond that, God price much more faithfulness and consistency. This is where Solomon failed. Receiving enduring blessing from the Lord including the prospect of living with Him eternally is hinged on our faithfulness in all things and at all times.



“By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure..”

Hebrews 11:17-19



Faithfulness is a character/attribute of God expected to be found in those who are close to Him. Faithfulness is a virtue or character trait that is expected in those who believe in God and are followers of Christ; those whose heart and life is full of faith. If we are full of faith, our conduct and character must show it.

Literally, faithfulness means being filled with faith and living lives regulated by it. Faith in God finds expression in faithful living and trustworthiness. Those who have Faith in God are expected to live trustworthy lives. Faithfulness is about being reliable and dependable; being epitomes of moral rectitude, being models of righteousness, living lives worthy of emulation and praise worthy; shining the light of truth, sincerity, uprightness and probity in the darkness of this world.

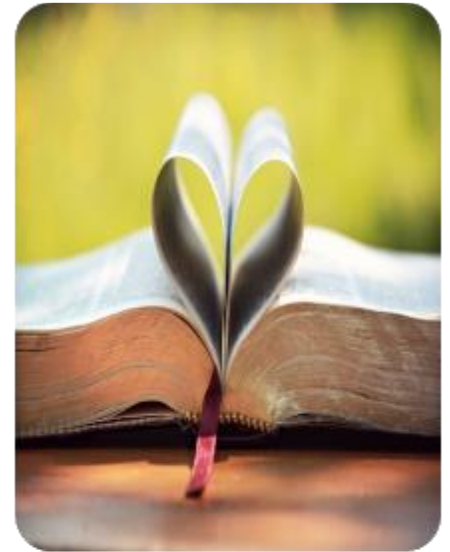
Believers as stewards and custodians of God's manifold graces are expected to be faithful, walking in the fear of God, living with clean, clear and sensitive conscience always. We must be faithful by being prompt to obey God in all things and at all times like Abraham.

2. Living sacrifice unto God

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." **Romans 12:1**

The Sacrifice of Isaac is not just one big isolated event inspired by emotions. It is part of sustained relationship and daily walk in humility and the fear of God. From the time Abraham left the Hur of Chardees, he has become sold out and totally consecrated to God and to things that has eternal significance. He has burnt the bridge that connected him with the world.

We cannot be men of God and darling of the society at the same time. It must be clear at all times where our allegiance and priority lies. Our giving to God no matter how sacrificial can be nullified by inconsistency and worldliness. Like Isaac in the hand of his father, before God we are expected to live a life of total surrender and crucifixion to self to get the best from our commitment to God and dedication to His service.



To get the best from our walk with God here on earth and be greatly rewarded in eternity, we must deny self, carry our cross daily, consecrate our talents, time, resources, ability, gifts and desires to God; and accept to live a life that put God first and others second and ahead of ourselves and interests as we serve God. This may not be an easy thing to do, without grace from God and brokenness but if and when we do in obedience to Christ's commandment, in the end, the entire world shall discover that those who live for Christ are happier and will be eternally happier than those who do not.

**TO DOWNLOAD INSPIRING
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Thomas John Barnardo was born in Dublin on 4 July 1845 to Christian parents. As an infant, he was baptized in St. Andrew's Church, Dublin, where his father was an office-holder and his mother a member. He attended Sunday school too in this church, and at fifteen he was confirmed by the Archbishop of Dublin. But there is no evidence that these ministrations left any abiding mark on him. His chief idols were atheists - Voltaire, Rousseau, and Paine.

An awakening began far North in 1859, and the following year reached Belfast where its influence was profound. Then, proceeding south, a tidal wave of spiritual power passed over Dublin. As enthusiasm spread, several members of the Barnardo family, including two of Tom's elder brothers accepted the Lord Jesus Christ. Although these brothers pleaded with him to consecrate his life to Christ, he still scoffed. Finally however, he agreed to attend the revival meetings and judge for himself. Here he witnessed striking demonstrations of spiritual power. But his masters had taught him subtle arguments wherewith to explain away religious experiences. However, his explanations did not quite explain things to himself. Finally on May 26th, 1862, five weeks before his seventeenth birthday, he had revealed to him the Light of God. He became converted.

Afterwards, he decided he wanted to become a Protestant medical missionary in China. He moved to London in order to train to be a doctor. He studied at the London Hospital, but never actually completed the course to earn a doctorate. During his time in London, he was appalled by the number of people living on the streets of London and he witnessed the horrific effects of cholera, unemployment and overcrowding. Barnardo decided to put aside his aside his plans to visit China. He opened his first 'ragged school' in 1867 in the East End of London to educate and care for poor orphans. One of his pupils, a boy called Jim Jarvis, took him on a walk of the

MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

THOMAS JOHN BARNARDO
1845- 1905



East End, showing him the sheer number of poor children sleeping rough. He was so moved by the sight that he decided to do something about it. In 1870, he opened a home for boys in Stepney Causeway, providing shelter for orphans and destitute children. A sign hang on the building which said: '*No Destitute Child Ever Refused Admission*'

Following his marriage in 1873 to Sara Louise Elmslie, they were given a piece of land to live on in Barkingside, east London. They used this land to open the Girls' Village Home where needy girls were looked after. By 1900, there were 65 cottages, a school, a hospital and a church on the land which housed over 1,500 girls. They also learnt skills, such as how to look after a home, and were kept safe. The number of cottages grew to 66 in 1906 and housed over 1,300 girls. A multi-denominational Children's Church was built and the area become a real "Garden city".

Barnardo died of angina pectoris in London on September 19, 1905. By the time of his death he had authored 192 books dealing with the charitable work, rescued some 60,000 children. Today, the Barnados charity is made up of some 17,000 volunteers and 5,000 permanent employees. As of 2013, the charity was spending around £200 million each year running over 900 services for British children.

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. Romans 12:1

SONG OF THE MONTH

LOWER AND LOWER DEAR LORD

1. Lower and lower, dear Lord, at Thy feet,
Seeking Thy Spirit, Thy mercy so sweet;
Down in our need, blessed Master, we fall,
Lower and lower; be Thou all in all.
*Lower and lower, down at Thy cross,
All the world's treasure counting but dross;
Down at Thy feet, blessed Savior, we fall,
Lower, still lower, Christ all in all!*
2. Lower and lower, dear Savior, we pray,
Losing the self-life still more every day;
Weak and unworthy, we're looking above:
Empty us wholly; then fill us with love.
3. Lower and lower; yet higher we rise
Lifted in Christ, freed from all the earth ties:
Humbly we follow the way of the cross.
Then, crowns of glory, and gain for all loss.

Author: Eliza E. Hewitt

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