



Spring Rain

PO Box 314 Ramsgate, NSW 2217 61 2 95290022 www.livingwaters.org.au

A Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2007

A Christmas &

New Year

Meditation

Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." Matt 2:12-13

The assault began the moment that Jesus was born! Having no idea what God was doing Satan *did* know that this baby was God's Son. He must have mused something to the effect: "What is God up to? God Himself, coming to live among men? Whatever it means, it can only be bad news for my plans to destroy God's creation on the earth. He could only be coming to square off against me on my own grounds. Thus, the earlier I eradicate Him, the better!" So he used the Magi's difficult and costly journey, traversing the Middle East to come and worship Him, to spawn his plan. He used their ignorance to his advantage. The wise men, being rulers themselves had access to the king and figured that he would co-operate with them in their search. Rather than ask someone of no particular account, or a religious leader, who should have known, satan guided them to the very man that he figured had the power to destroy that Heavenly Baby. And King Herod's narcissistic jealousy (probably a personality disorder or outright mental illness) played right into his hand. "Go and find the precious baby, and when you do, come and tell me where he is so that I too can make pilgrimage to worship him."

He must have said it in such a convincing way, because even those wise men did not discern his deceit. It took a Godly dream to warn

them to avoid seeing Herod and to return via a different route. After some time waiting, Herod realised that he had been tricked by the magi. He raged. (Another indication of his unstable mental condition! But more so his response:) Commanding infanticide of a whole region ("Kill every boy child under 2!") he was a pawn, displaying the arrogant fury of satan, who had driven him to such psychopathological extremes. However, whatever threat man's maniacal grabs at power might be, they are inevitably miniscule and empty when they come against God's word and will. Thus, He sent an angel to Joseph to warn him of the plan to destroy the babe, and directed him and his young family on a journey, equally as trying as the magi's, down to Egypt. There they lived as refugees for some years, not knowing the local language, living in a pagan land with no synagogue or temple to worship at, with no family support or any of the locals having any inkling as to why they were living there. Their discomfort at feeling alien in the world must have been immense. They could only have survived by worshipping God from their hearts, and finding His peace and consolation, in the midst of such suffering and isolation, in their hearts.

They held tenaciously to a precious promise, and held a precious Child, nurturing and protecting Him. They persevered and endured,

King Herod's narcissistic jealousy (probably a personality disorder or outright mental illness) played right into satan's hand.

recognising that God's will for them involved incredible struggle, but were buoyed by the wonder of what had been revealed to them. Meanwhile satan, being thwarted, bided his time, watching, learning, seeking to work out what God was doing and forming his own strategies for his counter attack, which would eventually wipe the Son of God from the earth. So

began a battle which we are still a part of. We hold fast to the truth that the war has been won. Jesus' submission to satan's final strategy of the Cross, His victory displayed in the power of His indestructible life, in His resurrection out of Hell, is our proof. But we are still aware of the sting of satan's tail. We are still aware that anything of value which Jesus is doing, to rescue the lost, who are still held in satan's grip, is fiercely opposed by his defeated, but vicious enemy. We are painfully conscious of satan's fierce opposition to anything which Jesus is doing to strip from the lives of His saints, the stains, blemishes and blots that the world and satan have engrained into

them. Desperately seeking to seduce the chosen back into his chains of destruction, he stops at nothing.

We who seek to serve Jesus in His washing His church with the water of the Word, from those stains, find fierce opposition. We who seek to be washed and sanctified, who seek to align our lives with the truth of God's Word and ways, to live as bright, shining lights in a dark world, find constant opposition. **Satan produces it through our own flesh, through the world and the troubles which he furiously casts against us. Ill health, fleshly temptation, to the point of falling. Marriage conflict or conflict in churches, leadership groups, or family. Financial struggles, challenges at work, negative self talk or others' condemnation of us. Overwhelming stress and tiredness, the assaults are thrust continually against us. Discouragement.** May be as you contemplate 2008 you cannot see how you will have the resources (time, team or energy) to continue or resume the ministry. May be you're feeling deflated or disheartened. Take heart!!! Contemplate Joseph's and Mary's struggle and consider:

They couldn't understand what was happening to them, and why. They couldn't see what their baby would become and how He would save the world.

They had no idea of the kind of Kingdom He was going to bring. They just knew that God had revealed Himself and given them a special charge. They knew that they were a small part of a much larger picture. They knew that God was with them, leading and protecting them. Isolated by the enemy, they knew how to find their strength in God. In their journeying they knew they were on another journey. It was a heart journey whose destination was Zion, the City of God, that one way or another their son was going to bring. They held fast to the promises of Ps 84:5-8. As they passed continually through difficult places, the valleys of weeping, they knew how to transform them into springs! Already the Holy Spirit was at work in their hearts, causing living water to well up to eternal life. They knew how to find inner peace in their God, no matter how much turmoil and conflict raged around them, or how isolated,

Meanwhile satan, being thwarted, bided his time, watching, learning, seeking to work out what God was doing & forming his own strategies for his counter attack

rejected and lonely, they felt within. They knew how to have their eyes open to see the spring rain which fell, to cover them with blessings as they sojourned in an alien country, amid a strange people. As discouraged and bewildered as they could have become, they knew how to strengthen themselves in God and to go from strength to strength, until they appeared before God in Zion. In hope they clung to that time when all the struggles of life, and resisting the enemy, would be over, and they would know the glory of God, where they would live with Him in the awe-inspiring, yet hitherto unknown challenges of His Coming Kingdom! They knew how daily to cry 'O, Lord God of Hosts, hear our prayer, Give ear, O God of Jacob'. They knew how to receive the promise of greater blessings here on earth which diminish the troubles and struggles they had to endure: Ps 84:9-12

*O God, behold our shield,
And look upon the face of Your anointed.
For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.*

*For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
The Lord will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly.
O Lord of hosts, Blessed is the man who trusts in You!*

Though they didn't have Jesus, their son, living within them, casting His peace, hope, joy and love abroad in their hearts, they held fast to the promise given them. And they did have Jesus, their growing child to bless them and reveal truths about God to them. How much more we have, having the Light of His resurrected and ascended Face shining brightly in our hearts?!!

As we, in Living Waters, open our hearts to receive a still brighter shining of His face, in our own lives and in the hearts of those we serve and lead, do not be surprised by the fiery ordeals which come to discourage you or set you back.

As you seek to have the image of God shine more brightly in your own person and those whom you serve; as you seek to release transforming grace from the Cross, and resurrection power from Jesus' Throne into participants' lives; as you seek to draw nearer to the heart of your Heavenly Father, and help others do so too; as you seek to walk in the power, gifts, fruit and fellowship of the Holy Spirit, putting to death the deeds of the flesh in your own lives, and releasing healing into the lives of others, DO NOT BE OVERWHELMED by the inevitable attacks which will come upon you.

Hold fast to the greater blessings of Jesus' constant presence with you, of His working to bring good out of every situation. Look for the blessings He brings to you new each morning, for the strength He imparts and the ways He confounds the enemy and his attacks against you. Look for how He builds His character into you, and causes the prizes that this world values, to grow dull to you. See how He opens the eyes and ears of your heart to behold Him, and through perseverance and endurance, causes you to forsake what once was held dear, in order to attain the Heavenly Prize!!! Meditate on how He is building your faith and your love, and so is making the way for His Kingdom to come on earth through you! Above all do not give up! Wait for Him. He will surely show the way through!!!

With love, **RON**

* * * * *
ANDY COMISKEY,
*Author, Founder and Director
of Living Waters will be in Sydney on
Saturday 26th January
at the Wesley Auditorium.*

WHAT BETTER WAY TO CELEBRATE AUSTRALIA DAY THAN TO STAND WITH ANDY AND THE TEAM IN THE BATTLE FOR SEXUAL INTEGRITY AND PURITY IN OUR OWN LIVES AND THAT OF THE NATION!!!!

Please pass these brochures, or forward the PDF electronically, to as many folk as you can. Come, & encourage others to come!! Andy is powerfully used in the Holy Spirit. You will receive from Jesus through him!

* * * * *

May be you're not up to conducting a full Living Waters Course this year. Have you considered doing one of the

Special 8 week Short Courses:

- * Cross Current (8 week intro into broken sexuality)
- * Recovering Love (8 week evangelistic course on sexuality)
- * Beauty & The Breach (unfaithfulness in marriage)
- * Men Pursuing Purity (dealing with sexual compulsions)
- * Where Do I Go From Here? (facing husbands' betrayal)
- * Women At The Well (co-dependency)

Here are some testimonies:

A real sense of release in the spirit – Gerry

There is a light at the end of the tunnel and I know God can use my brokenness – Jonathan

I believe that I can take control of what battles that come across in my life – Lhymel

To trust in my own spirit and emotions to let the Lord to heal my past relationships, hurts, and to let down the barrier to my emotional healing – Sean

A new understanding of bringing things to the Cross – Darren

An understanding of I'm not the only one. There are others who are going through what I'm going through, or who have gone through it. And they can help me cut through it, and I can help them – Aaron

He gave me a deep conviction – Daniel

I've been given a deeper understanding of my own weaknesses and how to combat this in these areas Dave

I have come to understand that with God's help and using his weapons that I can be healed and come into wholeness – Peter

Crossing Over

Ron has completed his autobiography, which will be a uniquely Australian account of coming out of homosexuality, sexual addiction and his dealing with such strongholds as anger, rage, unforgiveness, narcissism, self hatred etc. However to get it published he needs to employ a Christian and skilled editor to get it to the stage where a reputable publisher will consider it. This could take \$5000 which neither he nor the ministry has. Those who have read it thus far commend it highly. Is there a benefactor out there who would be willing to help make this important work available by underwriting the costs to get it to publication? Is there anyone who has some contacts among reputable Christian publishers who could help pave a way?

* * * * *

To keep up to date with ministry matters keep an eye on our web site:

www.livingwaters.org.au

* * * * *

Care To Support Living Waters?

This ministry only exists through the provision which the Lord bountifully bestows upon us in a manner which keeps us on our toes and our knees! If He moves through you, or you are simply inclined to give, you can:

Make a credit card donation by ringing the office Tuesday to Thursday 02 9529 0022

Arrange a regular debit from your account. Pls ring the office.

Electronically transfer funds to our account Living Waters, at Ramsgate Commonwealth Bank BSB: 062-250; A/c No: 1005 3664; Please mark it "donation"

Send a cheque to LW,

PO Box 314, Ramsgate, NSW 2217

Prayer Corner

Give thanks for the many volunteers who have worked constantly through the year to co-ordinate or lead groups, interceded, helped in practical ways. Give thanks for the churches who have enabled LW groups to be a part of their ministry. Give thanks for Cheryl who has co-ordinated the LW office so efficiently and faithfully, for Helen who has overseen intercession and been a practical support in so many ways, for Kevin who has done a sterling job in keeping our books and keeping us to account! And for the Board for their oversight!

Pray for the participants who concluded courses in 07, that they will continue to engage in the process and to keep their hearts open to receive deeper healing.

Pray for the groups and churches which will sponsor groups in 08, that the Lord will lead the right leaders and ready-to-receive participants to them.

Pray for refreshing over the Summer for all leaders.

Pray that the Australia Day Sexuality and the Cross Seminar with Andy and the international team will be a great event, to which many come. Ask that it will launch a new momentum of the ministry in Australia and that through 08 we will have new avenues open to bring hope, truth and healing to the nation.

Pray for the publication of *Crossing Over*, and that it will bring hope and healing to many who struggle with homosexuality and other dysfunctions.

Thanks to all who supported LW in 2007!