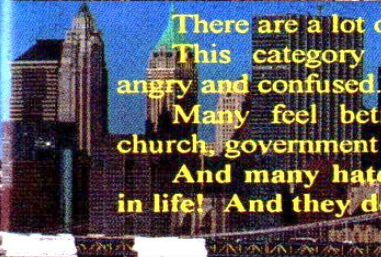
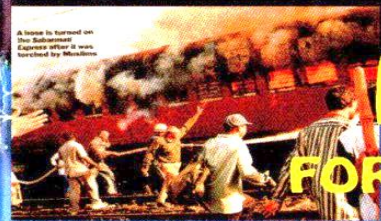


# CRY OF HIS COMING

"And at Midnight a cry was made, behold the bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him." (Matt. 25:13)

APRIL, 2002



## HEALING FOR HURTING PEOPLE !

By Pastor Max Solbrekken, D.D.

There are a lot of hurting people!

This category includes the discouraged, lonely, fearful, suicidal, angry and confused. As well as the sick, poor and unemployed!

Many feel betrayed and let down by family, friends, employer, church, government and society in general!

And many hate themselves because they feel that they have failed in life! And they don't know which way to turn for help!

(continued on page 3)





## Max Solbrekken World Mission

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April, 2002

Dear Friend in Christ,

What a beautiful Easter we have enjoyed here in Canada. How my heart goes out to those in war-torn countries, and where there is no religious freedom for Christians!

I thank God, however, for this wonderful time of the year when we make a concerted effort to glorify God through Jesus Christ our Lord, and make known His terrible sufferings for us, together with His glorious resurrection from the dead!

What a gospel we have to proclaim! What a God we serve and what a wonderful life-style we have to share with non-believers, as well as cold or lukewarm Christians!

Recently, I have been re-studying A.W. Tozer's book, titled '*The Knowledge of the Holy*' which in my opinion is one of the best books in print today! It deals with the attributes of God and every time I re-study it, I get a richer, deeper and more wonderful love for our Lord and understanding of the awesomeness of the Almighty.

Jesus Christ said, "...He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father." (John 14:9) Jesus came to this earth to reveal to us what His Father is like! I am praying for you, my dear friend – that Christ may dwell in your heart by faith, and meet every need in your life!

Please remember us in your prayers and your missionary giving!

Your servant for Jesus' sake,

*Max Solbrekken*

Pastor Max Solbrekken

P.S. When you write, please include your prayer requests so that we may join together with you in fervent prayer. Jesus said, "Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 18:19)

Only those who have gone through a traumatic experience are able to identify with others who are hurting, unless gifted with compassion!

*Compassion* is more than sympathy or consolation. It is feeling the pain, sharing the burden and reaching out to do something about the situation! *Compassion* is finding an answer, bringing about a solution and easing the hurt!

### COMPASSION BRINGS A HEALING AND CURE!

People are hurting because of many and varied reasons - spiritual, psychological, cultural, racial, economic, social and domestic!

There seems to be so much strife, inequality, resentment, fear and frustration everywhere. Trouble is where you find it however, and if you're looking for it, it's not difficult to make contact!

Many Canadians have been hurting for a long time with chronic unemployment and recently, record number of bankruptcies!

It's easy for those who have well-paid jobs and secure, comfortable positions to say no one is suffering. But, the wise old Indian Chief said, "Don't criticize your neighbour until you've walked ten miles in his moccasins".

When the "shoe is on the other foot" and the pink slip lands on your desk, it's often a different story!

**YES, THERE ARE A LOT OF HURTING PEOPLE!** Not only financially, but those troubled by fears, frustrations, anxieties and perplexities!

Since September 11, 2001, many people are living on the edge, 'waiting for the other boot to fall'. Uncertainty can often cause anxiety, worry and fear to rise up within an individual!

Believers in Christ, however, must not allow those negative powers to overtake us, because the Bible says: "Greater is He that is in you, than he (the devil and his evil forces) that is in the world." (1 John 4:4)

St. Paul foretold these events: "This know also that perilous times shall come." (2 Tim. 3:1) The word *perilous* means *dangerous*!

Jesus warned: "And there shall be...upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of the heaven shall be shaken." (Luke 21: 25,26)

The word *perplexity* means that there is 'no way out' of the problem or situation! And that's how it is in our world today. Without divine help, there is no way out!

**THE BIBLE HAS THE ANSWER.** We are admonished to "Cast all your cares upon Him for He careth for you". (1 Peter 5:7)



Lonely people are often afraid to trust anyone again, since they have already been hurt. *Once bitten, twice shy!* So they refuse to open their hearts to anyone for fear of rejection, complications or simply being hurt again!

The sick and diseased are also hurting! Many feel like social outcasts - especially those affected with mental problems, cancer or AIDS! They need our support, comfort and help through the difficult hours, days and months that lie ahead.

#### **SUPPORT FROM FAMILY. CHURCH. FRIENDS!**

The same goes for those who have been widowed or divorced. And there is *healing* for the bruised, sorrowing and sick - DIVINE HEALING THAT COMES ONLY THROUGH JESUS CHRIST!

Isaiah foretold the good news of the coming Messiah and Saviour, 700 years before His sacrificial death for us on Golgotha!

*"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon Him and by His stripes WE ARE HEALED!"*

*"All we like sheep have gone astray but He (God) hath laid upon Him (The Messiah) the iniquities (sins) of us all!"* (Isaiah 53:5-6)

#### **WHERE WILL YOU SPEND ETERNITY?**

Some fear the *past*, hoping the skeletons will stay hidden, others fear the *present* with its fast-moving, ever-changing complexities! Many fear the *future*, old age and death! And what about Eternity?

Blaise Pascal stated, "There is a blank space (vacuum) in every human being that only God can fill". May every person on this earth understand this truth!

When we invite Jesus Christ into our lives by faith, we receive assurance of sins forgiven and the "peace that passeth understanding" floods our hearts and minds! (Phil. 4:7)

Talk about rest, peace, joy, mental and spiritual health! The Bible says, "The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, bringing forth mire and dirt. There is no peace saith my God to the wicked". (Is. 57:20)

**THE GREATEST PROBLEM FACING HUMANITY IS THE SIN PROBLEM!** And the only remedy for sin is a personal encounter with Jesus Christ!

Why is this? First - All are sinners and, Second - Jesus Christ died for our sins!

*"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God."* (Rom. 3:23)  
*"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* (Rom. 6:23)

An old gospel song however brings reassurance: *"Burdens are lifted at Calvary... so take your burdens to the Lord and leave them there!"*

Jesus Christ pardons our past sins when we come to Him in humility and faith. He gives us power for the present by the power of the Holy Spirit. Our Blessed Lord gives us purpose for the future and a promise for eternity!

Jesus Christ said, "Come unto Me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest!" (Matt. 11:28)

**AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT EVERYONE NEEDS. REST FROM HEARTACHES, FEARS, SINS AND SICKNESSES! THE GUILTY, FEARFUL AND TORMENTED CAN FIND PEACE AND REST THROUGH JESUS CHRIST!**

We can't forgive our own sins. Only God can do that! We can't solve most of our problems, so we bring Him the mess we have created and pray for forgiveness, help and guidance.

Often, sickness and disease strikes us at the most inopportune time and in our weakest and most vulnerable area. What can we do then?

Our only recourse is to present our needs to God our Heavenly Father, in the Name of Jesus Christ - our Saviour, Healer and Redeemer - and He has promised to give us rest!

**NO WAY OUT!** Increasingly more and more young people are getting hooked on cigarettes, alcohol and new and more dangerous drugs! *Ecstasy, crystal methadone and crack cocaine* are becoming the drugs of choice for unsuspecting teenagers and large numbers are getting hooked! Many do not recover and often die from overdoses!

Broken marriages, alcoholic parents, a corrupt society with all its perversions and a bankrupt church, have all added fuel to the fires as the devil rides high in the saddle, seeking to "steal, kill and destroy." (John 10:10)

Jesus promised: **"I will never leave thee nor forsake thee - I will be with thee until the end of the world."** (Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5) The original Greek states, "I will never, *no never* leave thee. I will never, *no never* forsake thee". You can't beat that!

My friend, believe the words of Jesus Christ and appropriate His promises for yourself. By faith, receive His answer to your prayer for help!

Remember that, **"He is faithful that promised"**. (Heb. 10:23) THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME. I BELIEVE IT AND WILL PATIENTLY WAIT UNTIL MY ANSWER COMES FROM JESUS' NAIL-PIERCED HAND!

Drop that heavy load, my friend and let Christ carry it for you - He's a lot stronger than all of us!



# DIVINE FORGIVENESS!

by Pastor Max Solbrekken, D.D.

*"Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."* (Luke 23:34)

~ JESUS

Hanging between two thieves upon a rugged cross, dying for the sins of the world, Jesus set the ultimate example. He prayed for mercy for his enemies!

In their ignorance and spiritual blindness they had crucified their own Messiah. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, exhibited the same godly spirit. In his agony and pain, he prayed, "Father, lay not this sin to their charge". (Acts 7:51)

It has been said: "To err is human and to forgive is divine". The human family is born in SIN and has a natural inclination toward that which is immoral, illegal and sinful! The easiest thing in the world however, is to criticize, judge and malign another. That trait comes naturally to we humans, who are arrogant, selfish and proud!

## **WHAT MAKES PEOPLE SO VENGEFUL?**

Assassination of character is also becoming commonplace in our society. What a sin and shame! Where do all these base, carnal and sensual thoughts and actions come from? What makes mortal man so vengeful, deplorable and mean?

Is it not often because of jealousy, envy and a sense of insecurity, rather than a vindication of truth? Dragging a great person into the mud, undoubtedly, makes gossipers and antagonists feel equal or even superior for the moment.

The Bible says, "For he (Pilate) knew that the chief priests had delivered Him for envy" and even though they "found no guilt in Him" yet they crucified Him "without a cause". (Luke 23:13-16; Matt. 27:24; Acts 13:28)

Joseph's brothers sold him into 'Egyptian slavery', because they were "moved with envy". (Acts 7:9). The Bible warns against the sin of envy, including it in a long list of sins ranging from homosexuality to murder. (Rom. 1:29)

St. John warned about the devastating effects of the lusts of the flesh. St. Paul spoke of devouring one another through fighting and back-biting. (Gal. 5:15).

And St. James, the pastor of the first Pentecostal Church in Jerusalem, asked: "From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?" In his epistle,

Jesus' half - brother, spoke of lust and hatred as underlying causes of war and strife!

Missionary Evangelist T.L. Osborn stated: "Don't let criticism bother you. Criticism is really admiration in reverse. As a rule, your critics admire you, or they wouldn't talk about you."

Oh! How difficult for all of us to receive criticism, but how easy to dish it out. And for many, it is even harder to forgive and forget. Bitterness, hatred and jealousy will destroy the one who harbors them. Carrying a grudge can produce insomnia, nervous tension, ulcers and other illnesses.

**A FORGIVING SPIRIT** is beautiful and Christ-like, while an unforgiving spirit is demanding, cold and uncaring!

Pope John Paul was following in Jesus' footsteps when he visited Mehmet Ali Ağa in his prison cell and prayed for the man who had tried to kill him. He stated recently: "Peace and forgiveness go together as an inseparable pair. One cannot remain a prisoner of the past... Individuals and people need a sort of healing of memories so that past evils will not come back again".

Dr. Oral Roberts, who had been the subject of harsh ridicule in the press, delivered a powerful sermon on forgiveness to 5,000 ministers at a conference, shortly after being vilified in the media!

St. John wrote, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness". (1 John 1:9)

The Bible says, "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity". (Ps. 32:1-2) It's wonderful to know that God has forgiven us, on the merits of Jesus' death, as our substitute!

The Bible says: "...And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous: And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." (1 John 2: 1,2)

The word 'propitiation' means 'appeasement'; that God is satisfied with Jesus' death on the cross! His sacrificial, vicarious death for us satisfied the 'demands of divine justice', in the courts of Heaven!

Jesus taught His disciples to pray: "And forgive us, our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation. For if we forgive men their trespasses (offences), your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

"But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses." (Matt. 6:12-15)

That is a sobering thought! If I do not forgive those who have wronged me, God will not forgive me! Refusing to forgive, is therefore,



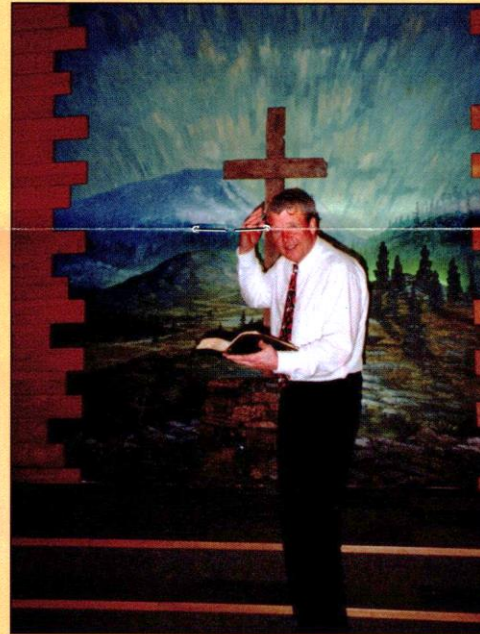
*Pastor Max Solbrekken Proclaims*  
**THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST!**



Pastor Lawrence Hueppelshauser  
and Pastor Max Solbrekken at  
People's Church, Edmonton

- EDMONTON, AB – June 23, 6:30 PM – People's Church, 15641 – 96 Ave
- RED DEER, AB – June 14, 6:30 PM – Big Gospel Tent
- FORT ASSINABOINE, AB – July 7, 2:00 PM – Hockey Arena

**CBC TV** will be filming these services for the documentary *'What it Means to be an Albertan'* to be released across Canada in the fall! Various Albertans in other fields of endeavour will also be interviewed. Our crusades will be called *'Forgiveness Crusades'* to bring Canadians together through the Gospel of Jesus Christ!



*Pastor Max Solbrekken preaching in Norway!*



*Pastor Max Solbrekken preaches in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 1998*



an unpardonable sin. God cannot forgive the sins of an individual, who refuses to forgive those who have wronged him or her!

### **BY GOD'S GRACE ALONE!**

It took God's grace through Jesus Christ, to forgive us, and it takes His grace for us to forgive one another, as well as to forgive ourselves when we have done wrong!

The Bible says, "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." (Col. 3:12-13)

St. Paul warned: "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and evil speaking, be put away from you with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." (Eph. 4:27-32)

### **FORGIVENESS OF SINS: WHAT DOES IT ENTAIL?**

In the Hebrew, the word forgiveness has a strong connection with the word 'kaphar' (atonement) meaning "to cover". God instituted the sacrificial system which pointed to the cross where His Son, Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God would shed His blood to wash away the sins of all those who believe on Him!

The Bible says, "But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin". (1 John 1:7)

In the Old Testament system, the blood of the sacrificial animal covered the sin, but through the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ on Golgotha, our sins are purged, cleansed and washed away!

#### **HERE'S GOOD NEWS:**

"For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

"How much more shall the blood of Christ, Who through the Eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Heb. 9:11-14)

Writing to believers, St. Peter admonished: "And above all things have fervent charity (gr. agape, love) among yourselves: for charity shall cover a multitude of sins." (1 Pet. 4:8)

The **SECOND** meaning of the word forgiveness is conveyed by the Hebrew word 'nasa' which was used in the Old Testament to express the carrying away of Israel's sins. It means to "lift up or away", by the scapegoat. When God forgives unworthy sinners (us all), he lifts from us all the burdens, guilt and condemnation that those sins have created!

The **THIRD** meaning of forgiveness comes from the Hebrew word 'salach', which is "to send away, let go". Again, this refers to God's grace in removing the sin from us. It denotes a separation of the sin from the sinner. The sin and its penalty - which is death - is separated from the believing penitent soul, and he is divorced from his carnal, evil and wicked state!

The Bible says: "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot...

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever". (1 Peter 1:18,19,23)

The **FOURTH** meaning comes to us from the Greek language. The word 'Apoluo' is "to loose away" and the **FIFTH** meaning comes from the Greek word 'charisomai' means "to be gracious to".

Jesus Christ has "loosed us away" and separated us from our sins, fear, torment and guilt, because God has been 'gracious' toward us. Praise His Holy name!

The Bible states, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Eph. 2:8-9)

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

"For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." (Rom. 5:6-10)

Jesus 'lifted off' from us the burden of guilt and shame and carried our sins far away. He is our substitute and like the scapegoat, removed our sin and its penalty from us. (Lev. 16:21,22)

Only the blood of Jesus Christ, and the Word of God, has the power and ability to purge the conscience from guilt! No amount of counselling or other form of therapy has that ability!

The Bible says: "There is therefore no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (Rom.8:1)

Remember, the basis of all forgiveness is **God's unfathomable love!**



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# JESUS THE CHRIST: SON OF THE LIVING GOD!

By Pastor Max Solbrekken, D.D.

"Of all these messianic claimants, only one - Jesus of Nazareth - so impressed His disciples that He became their Messiah. And He did so after the crucifixion, which should have refuted His claims decisively. But it was not Jesus' life, which proved beyond question that He was the Messiah, the Christ. It was His resurrection".

-Ellis Rivkin, history professor, Hebrew Union College

Who is Jesus Christ? Without question, He is the 'Son of the Living God' and the only 'Saviour of the world'! He was God the Son, Who was incarnated in human flesh so that He could save us from our sins, through His vicarious, sacrificial death for us on 'the cursed tree'!

The Bible says, *"And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:"* (Rom. 1:4)

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ confirms and ratifies our justification. The Bible says, "But for us also, to whom righteousness shall be imputed, *if we believe on Him who raised up Jesus from the dead*; who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification." (Rom. 4:25)

The word *justification* signifies a gracious act of God, whereby He pardons and accepts sinners on the account of Christ's righteousness imputed to them, and received by faith. (Rom. 5:16,18).

## THE MAN WHO STILL LIVES!

After his much-publicized conversion to our Lord Jesus, **Malcolm Muggeridge** - former Marxist, celebrated writer, broadcaster and actor - poured his time and talents into writing Christian apologetics, which portray a living Saviour!

In his book, *'The Man Who Lives'*, Muggeridge writes: "That the Resurrection happened, and that in consequence of it Jesus' followers who had scattered drew together again, and resolved to go about their Master's business, seems to me indubitably true.

"Likewise Jesus' claim to be the light of the world, and His related promise that through Him we may be reborn into new men, liberated from servitude to the ego and our appetites into the glorious liberty of the children of God...

"If the story of Jesus ended on Golgotha, it would indeed be of a Man Who Died, but as two thousand years later the Man's promise that 'where

two or three are gathered in My Name, there I am in the midst of them' manifestly still holds, *it is actually the story of a Man Who Lives!*"

Muggeridge's counsel to a troubled world is worth listening to. He writes: *"Christ is the only answer to an insane world...they will not understand that the trouble with the western civilization is not economics, but more - good and evil! They are thinking they can make things work by policies, inventions, but man will never live on this planet without God!"*

**Newsweek (3/29/99)** carried this account: "Art and science, the self and society, politics and economics, marriage and family, right and wrong, body and soul - all have been touched and often radically transformed by Christian influence.

"Nearly a third of the world's population claims to be His followers. The first Christians were Jews who preached in the name of Jesus. ...As Jewish monotheists, they believed in one God - the Father to Whom Jesus was obedient to death. But they also worshiped Jesus as His 'only begotten Son', conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit. ...

"The doctrine of the Trinity says that even the divine reality in all its incomprehensible mystery is intrinsically relational. In short, Christianity bequeathed to Western culture a God Who revealed Himself definitively in the person of Jesus, and Who continues to redeem the world by the work of the Holy Spirit."

A recent poll in the USA found that over 88 percent of Christians responding said they believe that Jesus rose from the dead, and a surprising 32 percent of non - Christians said they also believe He did!

## **THE CHURCH ALIVE AND WELL IN ALBERTA!**

I was pleasantly surprised and blessed when I read the comments of local pastors who had been interviewed by the *'Edmonton Journal'* (30/3/10), under the byline: 'What does the resurrection mean for believers'? Here are some excerpts of their replies:

**Pastor Neil Otke, St. Peter's Historic Lutheran Church and Christ the King Lutheran Community Church:** "The simple message of the resurrection means HOPE. Mankind can now claim access to God because the thing that stood in the way, sin, has been removed and put on Christ on the cross. It is at the resurrection that our hope is realized as being certain through the visible appearance of Christ. To know and believe in this is true and certain HOPE."

**Pastor Sieg Koslowski, Northgate Baptist Church:** "For Christians the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most important event in history. If



it didn't happen our faith is futile, there is no forgiveness, no salvation and those who died believing in Jesus are lost. (This a paraphrase of what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15: 14-19).

**Pastor John Ooms, Inglewood Christian Reformed Church:** "First, by His resurrection Jesus has overcome death so that we can have a share in being right with God.

Second, by His power we too are already now resurrected to a new way of life in the service to God. This new life will come to full expression when Jesus returns. Third, Christ's resurrection is a guarantee of our glorious resurrection and the renewal of all creation.

Fourth, Christ's resurrection is evidence that God can be trusted to keep all of the promises that God has made to us."

**Pastor Bert Gibson, Crestwood Presbyterian Church:** "The resurrection of Jesus Christ is an historical fact attested to by many witnesses.

His resurrection is the fulfillment of the prophetic promise that God would provide a Deliverer who would defeat evil, who would reverse the effects of the curse placed upon creation as a result of man's rebellion (his unbelief) against his Creator and who would reconcile both man to God and God to man, restoring the relationship that had been shattered. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the final revelation of God's plan of reconciliation. The benefits of the resurrection of Jesus Christ are received only by placing one's faith in Him."

**Pastor David Dyck, Lendrum Mennonite Church:** "We believe that the resurrection of Jesus is the crowning achievement of God in His mission of love to the world. Through the resurrection of Jesus, God has proven that there is no power in the universe greater than His love and His life-giving purpose for the creation.

In the resurrection of Jesus, God shows us the first glimpse of the new world God is making and the new bodies that man and woman will have in that world. Because of the resurrection of Jesus, the world is now open to a new future and a new hope that can be ours by following the risen Christ in daily life.

**Rev. Shane Symyrozum, West Edmonton Christian Assembly:** The resurrection of Jesus means absolutely everything to the believer! In fact it means everything to the unbeliever as well.

It is the central truth of the Christian faith and its implications extend to all humanity: past, present and future. The resurrection provides the believer with gifts essential to a meaningful life. We never have to wonder whether our sins are forgiven; the resurrection proves it.

The resurrection is not just for those who would believe. It is not a take it or leave it proposition. It is either for everyone or it is for no one

because truth by its very nature is not subjective. The resurrection of the Son of God is in a sense like gravity in that it affects everyone, whether they choose to believe it or not.

**Rev. Ronald L. Simpson, King of Kings Lutheran Church:** What Jesus Christ said and did is of no consequence or importance if He remained dead. The historical event of His walking out of and leaving behind the grave is what makes Him unique from all other dead people. No other well-liked person, historical figure, or even religious leader has ever done, or will ever do, that. Because His body came back to life, the claims of His teachings and wisdom of His words merit any fair-minded, thinking person's attention - unlike the empty assertions, hollow ideas, and vain hopes of all other dead people."

**Pastor Harold Gniewotta (retired)** who attends **Ascension Lutheran Church:** wrote: "I love the Easter Gospel with its message of hope, love, forgiveness and restoration. It is like greeting the bright morning sun after a black stormy night. On the first Easter morning Christ's followers thought their Lord was dead, but they found Him to be alive and well. The story of Easter is a call to share the good news of the resurrection with a confused and bewildered world.

This is the first Easter since the horrible events of Sept.11. On that black morning we saw two skyscrapers in New York City with thousands of people inside, suddenly vanish before our eyes in clouds of smoke, dust and debris. The shock, grief and suffering are still unimaginable.

The risen Christ saw Mary's tears; He came to her and called her by name. Jesus knows the name of every victim, and every grieving family member associated with the Sept.11 tragedies. God's love and compassion is not selective.

Jesus invites all who mourn, "*Come to Me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.*" (Mathew 11:28) We grieve for the dead, and pray that their families may find peace. All need courage to rebuild their lives. Those of us who are rooted in the Christian faith know that death is not the end of the story. On that Easter morning Jesus broke the cycle of death. He lives, and we too will live. Because Christ rose from the dead, all believers have a future with God and His people in the glories of eternity.

Closer to home, everyday there are painful incidents that get little media coverage. The Easter story holds out the same promises for each person who mourns and needs to rebuild his or her life. Jesus comes to us because He loves us. The risen Lord is our hope, comfort and strength."

My prayer is that all of us will draw closer to Him, "Who to know is Life Eternal." (1 John 5:13-15) **Call upon Him and He will save you!**





## **I WAS ON HEROIN, ALCOHOL AND AMPHETAMINES FOR ABOUT 10 YEARS, UNTIL JESUS DELIVERED ME!**

*Says Svein Erik Aasmul, Lyngdal, Norway*

When I was about 15 or 16 years of age, I got hooked on heroin and for 10 long years I was in and out of *institutions* and *prisons* because of my addiction to drugs.

Nothing helped and my addiction grew worse and I would use any drug I could get my hands on – *heroin*, *amphetamines* as well as *alcohol*!

One day in March 1998 I heard about a **Max Solbrekken** crusade in Bergen and somehow in my stupor of drugs and alcohol I got to his meeting. A group of Canadian Indians called the *Resurrection Band* were singing and playing their instruments. **Pastor Max** preached about Jesus Christ and His power to save, heal and deliver. He told in graphic detail **how Jesus had suffered for our sins**. I went forward to receive Jesus and receive prayer for my terrible addictions!

After the meeting, I went outside to take a fix but the needle didn't work! Then, I realized that I was free from all drug addiction. Later, I checked myself into the *Evangelistic Rehab Centre*. After a year there, I moved to **Tønsberg** and began to work, something I had hardly ever done in my life.

There, I met a lovely young lady named Gunhild and we got married. We are now living in **Lyngdal**, and are awaiting the arrival of a baby this summer. **I have been drug and alcohol free since March 1998** (4 ½ years) and all the glory goes to Jesus! And I have good job as a welder!

It's good to have a new foundation in life, ONE that you can trust in all situations! All honour and glory to Jesus!



*Svein Erik & Pastor Max in Jan. 2002*



*Svein Erik & Gunhild Aasmul*

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It is my privilege to pray for you. God loves you and so do I. If you have been healed saved, delivered through a Dr. Max Solbrekken Crusade. Please write and we will share your testimony. Thank You for your support and may God bless you!