

August 2009

Moments With Father By Keith Yoder

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Impressions while listening to God in prayer after the death of a friend

Life goes on for your friend. Because he knows Me and My Son, because he has trusted in the Way, the Truth, and the Life, your friend is eternally alive. He is alive with the absolute life of My Spirit. His life is indestructible. The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead has also raised your friend to a position with Christ in the heavenly realm with a life that is ever vibrant, ever overcoming, and ever secure.

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His life is everlasting; it is enduringly strong; he is ever present with Me and I with him. Rejoice with Me in this. Take comfort in this, and share this comfort with others. Declare it; life goes on for the departed believer. Life goes on, not by reincarnation, but by the incarnation, sacrificial death, and resurrection of My Son, Jesus the Christ. Your friend may have departed from human activity, but he has not ceased to exist.

Life goes on for family and friends. Come to Me with your sense of loss, and I will fill your heart with peace and truth. Each day brings some adjustment to the absence of voice, heart, mind, and touch. Support one another with listening, affection, reason, and presence. Daily responsibilities become daily opportunities to measure life by My presence in the face of his absence. Daily I am with you to let go and grieve the loss as well as to adjust to what is missing. In this rhythm, life goes on.

Life goes on for the world around you. Around you are others coping with loss, pressure, and anxiety. Your world needs compassion and hope. Give to others what I have already given to you in life, in grief, and in presence. As you give consolation, your consolation will increase. As you give, the life I have given you goes on to others. From person to person, from generation to generation, from earth to heaven, and from heaven to earth—life goes on.

Divisions:

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Bob Petersheim
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(Confirming Scriptures: Genesis 2:7; Psalm 116:15; John 17:3; II Corinthians 1:4; 4:14; 5:8; Colossians 3:1-3)

India Report

For several years Teaching the Word Ministries has had an ongoing relationship with Bennett Walter. Bennett serves as a Pastor to the tribal leaders in Salem, India. He is joined in the ministry with his wife-Sasi, daughter-Mercy, and his son-Billy. Together they have opened their home to educate and provide for over thirty orphans!

Pastor Bennett had been searching for an effective way to instruct the tribal leaders, which would allow them to be more productive in spreading the gospel message to their villages. By divine appointment Don was able to travel to India and instruct the leaders in the ConneXions Mentoring Program. Brother Bennett and the tribal pastors found the material easy to grasp and readily accepted by the people they were training. The program was a perfect fit for the villages!

When asked what he sensed was urgent right now in India, Pastor Bennett expressed a great hunger and thirst for the things of God. He said the harvest is very ripe in India. The response to the word of God has been great! He feels a great burden for the many Hindus who do not know the Lord as their savior. The Lord is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9 NKJ)

Recently a group of Hindus were sent by the government to visit Bennett and Sasi's home. They were instructed to talk with the children about their Hindu beliefs. Bennett and Sasi were going over the children's lesson plans for the day and they were reciting their Bible memory work. Bennett reported that before the Hindu men left they had asked for prayer and received Christ! Nothing is impossible for God!

In India they have seen an increased move of the anti-Christ spirit. There continues to be persecution in the tribal villages. Threats have been made on the tribal pastors' lives, yet Pastor Bennett says the persecution is a blessing because they are seeing many come to the Lord and be baptized in the river daily.

As the time of Christ's return draws near we can expect the anti-Christ spirit to become more prominent not only in India, but throughout the world. Let us pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ, for there is no distance in the Spirit. Remember Paul's proclamation from the scriptures: I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile (Romans 1:16 NIV).

At the close of our conversation Brother Bennett exhorted us all to remember: "This is a Holy business we are about!"