



Pastor's Page

Engaged in His Service

I remember as a 15 year old being interviewed by our church minister not long after becoming a Christian. I quoted one of the few verses in the bible that I knew off by heart; Matthew 6:33 "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well". It's quite an easy verse to quote but not such an easy path to walk. However I have recently been inspired by someone who appears to do just this and proves the truth of God's promise.

Two years ago Ms X came to our church whilst training for specific missionary work. This lady clearly loved God and obeyed him willingly though her life had not been easy. Her marriage ended shortly after the birth of her son in 1981 leaving her to bring him up alone. However, when he was about fourteen months old, sensing God's love for her she became a Christian. She says "God started speaking to me one evening before going to work, calling me His infant, and in that initiated a deep and intimate relationship with him that has continued ever since." For many years her life centred around the practical aspects of parenting and working as she tried to keep things together. But her testimony was that God was ever present, supportive, loving, teaching and constantly moving her forward.

A little later when her son was about eleven she planned to marry again. Her fiancée was a good Christian man who loved her and her son. But with marriage just around the corner this thirty-four year old Christian man died suddenly of a brain tumour! Understandably she was devastated and tried to make some sense out of it all. She says "It was one of those difficult situations where asking and praying for God's physical healing didn't happen. It was a tough time, but God was very close to us, and continued to be so in the months and years that followed."

Rather than giving up on God however she continued to trust Him and give her life to Him in faithful service. A year ago she returned from a stint in Africa where she is now working as a missionary with the news that the wife of the Director General of the organisation heading up the work had died unexpectedly following surgery. This caused great desolation and distress to the whole team in North Africa and again this woman had to wrestle with the question; "Where was God in all this?"

That was a year ago and just five days ago I received an email from her saying that she wanted to bring me up to date with some lovely developments in North Africa. She went on to say "My lovely happy news is that I have met a deeply caring Christian man here who has asked me to marry him and I have accepted!" The man in question is the Director General who lost his wife 12 months ago!

Jesus said; "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well." In this lady I have seen someone who strives to do this and has proved God's love and faithfulness to his promises. Let's pray for this couple as they embark on married life that they will continue to 'seek first his kingdom and his righteousness' and pray that we too will do the same.

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