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Freedom From Bondage by Mary Solari

o you feel like you're just existing? Are the burdens and stress of life weighing you down? Do you feel empty when you are sitting there at church, not able to fully enjoy the presence of the Lord?

Jesus encouraged us in Matthew 11:28-30:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (NIV)

Jesus is the key to our freedom. Romans 3:23-25 says, "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God freely and graciously declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that

Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood......God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he declares sinners to be right in his sight when they believe in Jesus." (NLT)

So, how do we unlock that freedom? By having a close relationship with him. When we pray, we need to really TALK to him, not just recite the same prayers over and over, but be real with him like he is a trusted friend. Make a date with Jesus to tell him like it is, our hurts, fears, worries and stress, leaving nothing out. Do this along with thanksgiving. This kind of contact with God needs to be a daily thing, not just once in a while or whenever there is difficulty. The more you open your heart to God, the more he will fill you with his light, love and Holy Spirit. You will enjoy the peace of God, and that burden you were carrying will be lifted.

May God guide you and bless you as you strive to improve your conscious contact with Him.



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A Visit to England by Bill Powell

et me share a little of the massive trip my wife Cecelia and I just came back from. We had saved for this literally for 20 years. It truly was the trip of a life time. We flew to London and spent four days visiting all the sights, like the London Eye, the British Museum, Buckingham Palace, Big Ben and the House of Commons. We rode a double-decker bus, saw Westminster Abby

and the Tower Bridge over the river Thames. I can't leave out that we took the tube all over the city, rode in a cab, and walked and walked and walked.

Something that is important to us is the churches. We love the old

church architecture. We saw the church where William Penn was baptized and President John Quincy Adams was married. St. Paul's cathedral was a spectacular building and we could only imagine what Princess Diana's wedding was like. I also visited the church Martin Lloyd Jones preached at, but unfortunately it was not open. One of my favorite churches I was able to go inside was The Metropolitan Tabernacle where the prince of preachers, Charles Haden Spurgeon, preached.

After London we rented a car and toured the Cotswold's countryside. Driving the narrow roads was a much bigger challenge than I expected, going through villages like Burton on the Water, Morton in March and Chipping Campden. I cannot express the beauty of the little country villages with the thatched roofs and beautiful gardens. then drove through the country roads of the Yorkshire Dales and Moors. We stayed in Thirsk and enjoyed the James Harriot museum.

The countryside vistas were spectacular. Every village had beautiful buildings, churches, castles and we even took a steam train ride to a seaside village, Whitby, that has a church originally established in the 890's.

Next we took the train to Edinburgh, Scotland, where we saw the home of John Knox, the crown jewels in the Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood Palace

where kings and queens lived back before the time of Mary Queen of Scotts. We toured the Royal Yacht that entertained people like Winston Churchill, Ronald Reagan, and princes and princesses from nations worldwide. I climbed the 274 steps of the Sir Walter Scott tower



that opened to a breathtaking view of the city.

The final leg of our trip was to Dublin, Ireland. There we viewed the spectacle of the Spire and rode the Hop On Hop Off bus tour of the city. We toured St. Patrick's Cathedral established in 1191 and topped off the trip with a bus tour through the hills of Ireland. Once again we saw ancient churches, breathtaking lakes, and spectacular gardens. I hope you enjoy these few photos, just a taste of our trip.

One thing that was as obvious as the beauty of the country was the absence of Christianity. What was once a bastion of the Christian faith is now a beautiful tourist destination. Many of the historic churches look like a church from the outside but are secular businesses on the inside. With a few exceptions like The Metropolitan Tabernacle, which is a fraction of what it once was, the churches are gift shops, tourist attractions and museums. I'm afraid America will follow suit, and soon the only semblances of church here will

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Looking Ahead

July 4 *Independence Day*

Check out the Community
Bulletin Board at
www.wjlu.org for more
reminders about upcoming
events, concerts, and special
services.



ach week we open the prayer room and welcome our friends and listeners to pray with us. There are so many things to pray about - sicknesses, violence, human abuses, broken families. Please join us and let's lift our requests the Lord together!

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him. (1 John 5:14-15)



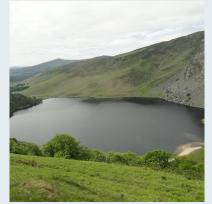
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A Visit to England continued from page 1

be museums or entertainment centers. We need to take heed and hold to the faith once delivered. Jude 1:3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Coffee shops, gift shops and entertainment centers will not bring people to Christ. The Word of God is what is convicting and changes lives. This was the catalyst of past revivals, along with prayer. That is how to bring people to Christ. We cannot expect to entice people to come to Jesus with the things of this world. Those who worship must worship in Spirit and in truth. One of the responsibilities of the Church is the expositional teaching of God's word. We must all collectively and individually make sure that when people visit our country they see our faith, not just Mickey Mouse, amusements parks and malls. Here at The Cornerstone we are working hard to maintain the teaching of the Bible and proclaiming the faith that was once delivered to the saints. You are an integral part of that work, and to those who support us I say thank you. Thanks for letting me share my trip. You only get a once-in-a-lifetime, once in a lifetime.

Have a great summer,

What's Real? by Donna Bramlett



wonder whether the question is not whether it's real but what you believe in your heart, whether you really believe it. And maybe that's the important thing."

Thus ended a network news report about a religious relic that has recently drawn renewed interest. I was somewhat tracking with him until he said that. But reality doesn't matter? Ironically, he missed the fact that his last comment trivialized not only his news segment but his vocation. If reality doesn't matter, why report on the debate at all? Who cares? Move on. What really happened today is moot, and all that matters is our feelings.

Let's put this in perspective. What if we had an entire fire department that wasn't really sure they were firemen. In the middle of dousing a blaze, one might drop his hose to chase a purse snatcher because he felt like a policeman today. Another would shed his gear and head to the beach because he was feeling rather more surfer-ish, and the one at his side would head to Wal-Mart because he felt the calling of a cashier right now. Utter chaos would ensue. The building would be reduced to ashes, the purse snatcher would escape when the fireman tripped up the real policeman, and there would probably be a tussle at the cash register.

People have so bought into the relativism of the

age that they don't know anymore whether they are coming or going, in or out, male or female, white or black, which leads to endless debates and a flush of talk shows. Our culture neutralizes everything and offends no one, but they have no idea who they are. A.W. Tozer wrote, "We cannot really know ourselves until we know God," and since any solid truth about God is taboo, they are left as hollow reeds, tossed and swayed and easily broken.

I'm sure that in a Christian newsletter I am just preaching to the choir, but if we approach this right there is great opportunity here. After all, we do have much to offer that this world so desperately needs.

"Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace." (Eph 6:14-15 ESV)

For starters, we offer truth, righteousness, and the gospel of peace, all from Christ and all completely foreign to this culture. Stand on that. Be firm. We overcome darkness when we shine brightly like a city set on a hill. Hold that hill like a faithful platoon! If we maintain that higher ground, if our lamps burn brightly, if we refuse to be neutralized, those lost and confused souls will have somewhere to turn when the storms really rage. We ARE the church!

Be Still by Chris Johnson



have been listening to the music of Steven Curtis Chapman for as long as I can remember! His powerful lyrics and faithful labor to write and produce Christ centered, God glorifying music has stood the test of time. I will forever be grateful for his Music with a Message and what a wonderful joy and privilege it is to air Steven on The Cornerstone! This month I've been thinking a lot about being still, especially in a world that never seems to stop. Oh, how wonderful it is to be quiet especially when those times are intentionally focused on the Lord and his unchanging Word!

I hope you are encouraged by the lyrics of one of my all-time favorites from Steven Curtis Chapman:

Be still and know that He is God Be still and know that He is holy Be still, O restless soul of mine Bow before the Prince of Peace Let the noise and clamor cease Be still Be still and know that He is God Be still and know that He is faithful Consider all that he has done Stand in awe and be amazed And know that He will never change Be still Be still and know that he is God Be still and know he is our Father Come rest your head upon his breast Listen to the rhythm of his unfailing heart of love Beating for His little ones Calling each of us to come Be still, Be still

