



THE PROCLAIMER

Issue 2, May/June, 2003

A LOVE THAT WILL NOT QUIT

PSALM 103:8-13

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

Life is full of highs and lows. When things are all coming up roses, when it seems as if we are growing in spirituality and acting in holy ways, it may not be difficult to believe that God really loves us. However, when it seems that God is raining on our parade, when the clouds of gloom are waxing heavy, when we yield to the ways of our flesh and engage in God dishonoring behavior, it may seem to us that God has utterly disowned and washed his hands of us.

King David was a man after God's own heart---the apple of his eye. From his days as a small shepherd boy, David raised his voice to God in praise. David's courage in slaying the giant that intimidated a nation is renowned. But, as with all of humankind, David had his down moments, his failures. When David sinned, it was no small thing. A leisurely stroll on the rooftop of his palace in the cool of the evening led to a lustful thought as he saw Bathsheba bathing. The thought quickly led to an evil action---adultery. Adultery led to lying and cheating which led to deception and the murder of Uriah, a famous warrior who had devoted his life to fighting for his beloved king.

When David's sin was revealed through Nathan the prophet, David went through the process of terrible grief and guilt. His sin would not be without detrimental consequences, but losing the love of his God would not be one of them. David's godly sorrow would lead to a godly repentance and he would again come to know the close fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Through his dark experience, David would learn the lessons that would allow him to write the words of the Psalm above.

Most of us have not bothered to catalogue our sins. If we did so honestly, we would have a book of sins small and great--sins of commission and omission.



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Most of us have not bothered to catalogue our sins. If we did so honestly, we would have a book of sins small and great--sins of commission and omission. Think of the times we fail to render submission or service to God. What chance would we have if God's anger suddenly flared each time we missed the mark. No, the Lord is slow to anger, merciful and gracious, steadfast in love. His love has been described as unrelenting.

The dictionary defines "unrelenting" as *undiminished in intensity and effort, unyielding, uncompromising, incapable of being changed or persuaded by argument, to stick to the course.*

Imagine, we can't chase God away by telling him how unworthy we are of His love. He is a God of "Divine Mercy"! Rather than imposing the "wages of sin", he sends the Holy Spirit to help us repent from sin, he offers freedom and blessing and restoration through Jesus who died for us.

The truth is that God the Father felt terrible for his son David who had gone astray. Nothing can exceed the pity of a parent when his or her child is in pain or trouble. "As a mother comforts a son, so will I comfort you "Isa... 66:13". Such words describe the perfect tenderness and exquisite sympathy of God's comfort.

The Psalmist seeks to impart to us an understanding of the magnitude of "unrelenting love". Think about it--- "How high are the heavens?---How far does the universe extend?---Man cannot answer that question even with the power of the Hubble Telescope. Now we can see billions of light years into space. What appears to be a small dot in the universe is discovered to be another galaxy itself made up of millions and millions of stars. Think of a love that is so immense that it transcends all of that like a coat that's too big.

Is God really willing to totally forget about our most terrible of sins. Well sit down for a while with you slide rule (or computer) and try to figure out the distance that lies between the east and the west. When you get the answer, then you will know how far away from himself that God is willing to send your sins.

He does not deal with us according to our many iniquities! Is that a reason to rejoice or what? He will not keep pointing the finger of accusation at me. Some people view God as a giant in heaven who is waiting to step on them when they do something wrong. If that were true we would all have been squashed like bugs long before now. No! Rather God is looking down from heaven waiting for us to do something right so that he can bless us all the more.

Knowing the unrelenting love of God is the true motivator for Christian service. Trying to be a good person, obeying rules, fearing punishment, all of these have their place, but nothing will promote a sacrificial life like knowing the sacrificial love of Jesus. The apostle Paul, while yet Saul, spent a good part of his life beating up Christians, torturing, arresting,

Lenten Missions-----2003

New Mexico



Above: St. Bernadette's, is a beautiful parish seated in the foothills of the Sandia Mountains in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This was the site of our first parish mission in the 2003 Lenten season. The wonderful parishioners of St. Bernadette's were highly responsive to the move of the Holy Spirit and eager to hear the Word of God in both the morning and evening sessions.

The mission at St. Bernadette's was followed by a series of meetings, some in Albuquerque, but also including out-reaches to Santa Fe, Grants, Las Vegas, and Pojoaque, New Mexico. Tom and Pam also presented a parish mission at St. Alphonsus in MaComb, Mississippi and then Tom went on to Holy Name of Mary in Montrose, Pa.



Above: Peggy Valdez (seated in front of podium) has hosted a prayer meeting in her little home in Albuquerque on Sunday night for 19 years. The rosary, intercession, Bible teaching, praise with a fabulous family music group, all followed by lots of hot Mexican food are all part of the program. It was great being back with Peggy's group after the last time 8 years ago.

Below: A University Student Union Center was the venue for a Lenten Day of a Renewal in the old Western town of Las Vegas, New Mexico



WILL YOU HELP US TO CONTINUE?

Yes Tom and Pam, add me to your Co-Missionary supporters. Keep me informed--send me some envelopes. I'll do my best as God enables me to pray for your ministry and support your ministry on a monthly basis.

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Left: Pam and her group of Marian Servants brought the beautiful "Tent of Meeting" to the annual 2003 Diocese of St. Augustine Catholic Charismatic Conference in Feb. Here Jesus was adored in His Eucharistic Presence throughout the conference. Many were profoundly touched as they entered into the tent during the healing service.

Your continued help is needed. Please pray for and support these efforts.

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