

HEALING FOR HURTING PEOPLE

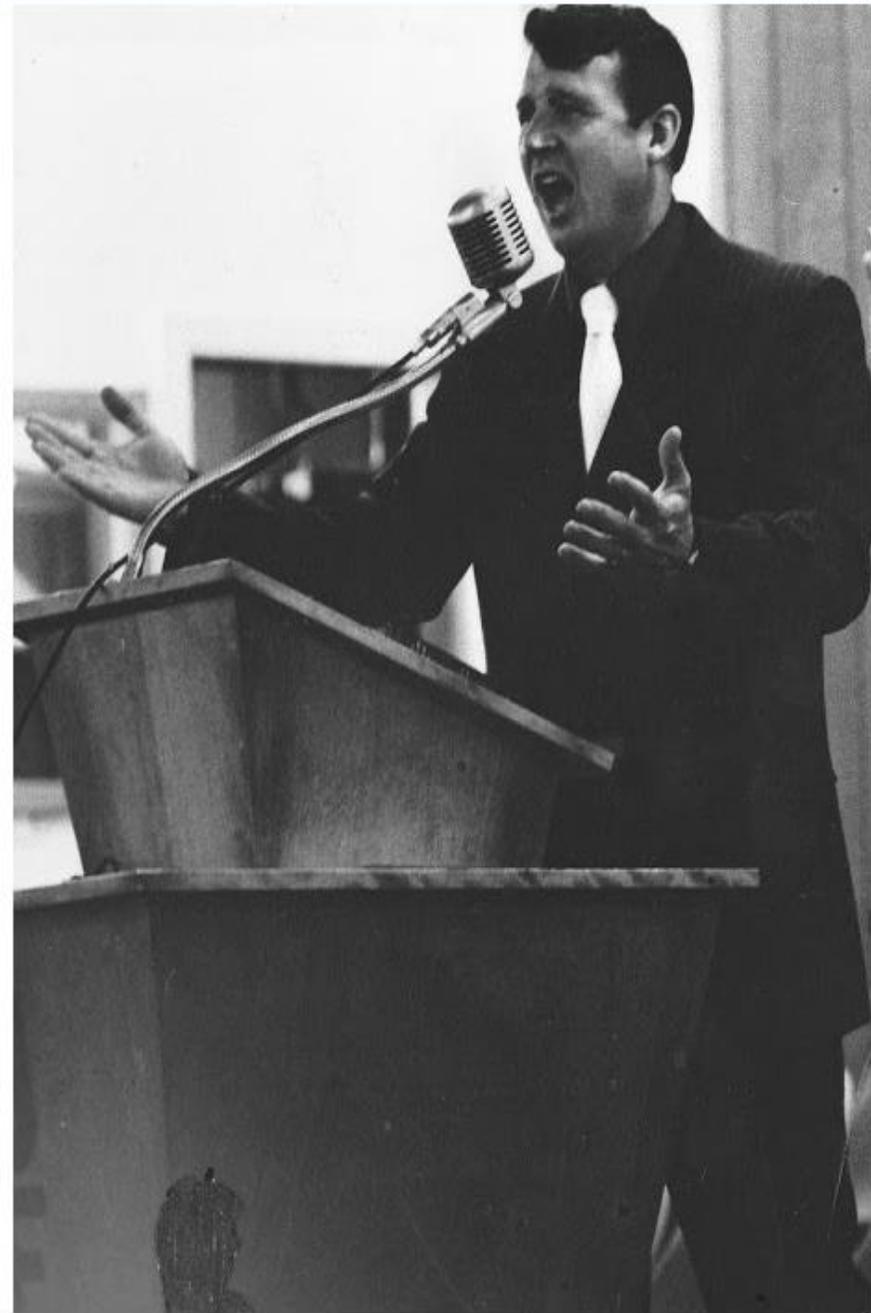
By Pastor Max Solbrekken, D.D.

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!



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: physical, spiritual, mental, 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, to make contact!

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

It's easy for those who have well-paid jobs and secure, comfortable positions to say that no one is suffering. But, the wise old Indian Chief, **“Don't criticize your neighbor 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.”

Many are not only financially, but are troubled by fears, frustration, 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, hazardous, risky, unsafe!

Jesus warned: “ (Luke 21: 25, 26)

The word ‘*perplexity*’ means that there is **no way out**’ of the problem or situation! There is confusion, and bewilderment. 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). **Jesus is our 'Burden Bearer'!**

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 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. The same goes for those who have been widowed or divorced!

And there is healing for the bruised, the sorrowing and sick – **divine healing that comes only through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

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 (Messiah) the inequities (sins) of us all!” (Isaiah 53: 5-6)

WHERE WILL YOU SPEND ETERNITY?

Some fear the *past*, hoping the skeletons will stay hid, others fear the *present* with its fast-moving, ever-changing complexities! Many fear the *future*, old age and death! And the real fear, *eternity*! **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 come to fully understand this enormously important 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)

GREATEST PROBLEM FACING HUMANITY: 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 sickness! 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 our Heavenly Father, in the Name of Jesus Christ – our Saviour, Healer, and Redeemer- and He has promised to give us rest!

JESUS: THE WAY OUT!

Increasing 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 drug of choice for unsuspecting teenagers, and large numbers are getting hooked.

Some do not recover and often die from overdoses! How tragic, yet preventable! Broken marriages, alcoholic parents, a lost, corrupt, perversion-driven society and a bankrupt church, have all added fuel to take the fire as Satan 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 promise for yourself. By faith call out to Him now and receive His answer to your prayer!

The Bible states: **“He is faithful that promised”**. (Heb.10:23). And, that is good enough for me. I believe it and will patiently wait until my answer comes from Jesus’ nail-pierced hands!

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

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A small portion of the great A.O.G. Crusade at Parque Brasil, Paulinia, A.P. Brazil, 2005. All glory to God through Jesus Christ our Lord. All praise to the Lamb of God! Amen.

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