

## ***From the Editor's Desk***

*“But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, ... For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” - Matthew 6:20-21*

Whenever her parents would ask my niece, Diane, what she wanted to do for her birthday, she would always say, “I want to go to Gramma's.” She once said to me, “I'm glad I come from the family I come from!”

I'll never forget those words. We've always been a close-knit bunch, but to hear it confirmed by a loved one of the younger generation means so much, for I realize that not all families are as fortunate. It tells me that we must be doing something right – and I believe we have faith, hope and love to thank for that.

My parents were raised during the Great Depression, and each came from large families. My mum used to say they didn't know they were poor because everyone else was in the same boat. Neighbours helped neighbours and families pulled together. They had each other – and their faith in God, too – and that was all they really needed. I still have the big family Bible my Gramma left to me.

They passed that legacy of honesty, hard work, decency and love on to their children and their children's children – values that come from the God they believed in. While I'll admit that not all in our family profess that same faith, most of us know there's a higher power and we still share those common values.

For my part, I want to honour that legacy of faith. This year and always, I want simply to resolve, with God's grace and guidance, to be the best “me” that I can be. It's the best way I can honour not only their memory, but God, too.

I think about my mum and dad, my grandparents and my aunts and uncles often, and like to imagine that God lets them look in on us, from time to time, as part of that great cloud of witnesses, cheering us on to the finish line. And when I think of my treasures in heaven, I know that my real treasures are those friends and loved ones waiting there for me that I will see again someday.

While it's true that we are saved by grace and not by works, lest anyone should boast, we still want to be the best for God that we can possibly be. When we finally get to Heaven, we want the Lord to smile and say, “Well done.”

*Tim*

*“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, ... let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, ... and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” - Hebrews 12:1-2*

*As I was preparing this newsletter, the words of this beautiful hymn of commitment kept turning around in my head. It makes a wonderful prayer, as we commit ourselves each day to Our Lord.*

*Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.  
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in endless praise,  
let them flow in endless praise.*

*Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Thy love.  
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee,  
swift and beautiful for Thee.*

*Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from Thee,  
filled with messages from Thee.*

*Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect and use every power as Thou shalt choose,  
every power as Thou shalt choose.*

*Take my will and make it Thine; it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is Thine own; it shall be Thy royal throne,  
it shall be Thy royal throne.*

*Take my love; my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for Thee,  
ever, only, all for Thee.*

*- Frances R. Havergal (1874) Public Domain*

## ***Adding God to the Equation – a Devotional by Tim Howard***

It's been said that a day without orange juice is like a day without sunshine. I'd say the same about God. In fact, I'd say that a day without God is an uphill battle, especially in times like these. We need Him every hour.

Too often, folks see difficult situations as insurmountable. When they can't solve them under their own steam, they throw up their hands in despair. They leave God out of the equation. The army of Israel, faced with the Philistines, did the same thing. Goliath laughed David to scorn, but David had God on his side.

I see a parallel to Christians today, standing up for God in an unbelieving world. The poem “If” comes to mind. While it reads like a father's advice to his son, I believe it applies to all of us. It speaks to us of pressing on in the face of adversity, owning up to our mistakes, learning from them and growing stronger in the process. Its basic message is to be true to ourselves and the things that we believe in. When we add God to the equation, that's a powerful message indeed.

*Yours faithfully,  
Tim*

*If you can keep your head when all about you  
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,  
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,  
But make allowance for their doubting too;  
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,  
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,  
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,  
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:*

*If you can dream – and not make dreams your master;  
If you can think – and not make thoughts your aim;  
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster  
And treat those two impostors just the same;  
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken  
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,  
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:*

*If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
And never breathe a word about your loss;  
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew  
To serve your turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'*

*If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,  
Or walk with Kings – nor lose the common touch,  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,  
If all men count with you, but none too much;  
If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
And – which is more – you'll be a Man, my son!*

- Rudyard Kipling (1865 – 1936) Public Domain

*Jesus said:*

*“These things have I spoken unto you, that in me ye may have peace.  
In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer;  
I have overcome the world.” - John 16:33*

We found this on Carol McDowell's Facebook page: (Thanks, Carol!)

The oldest computer was owned by Adam and Eve.  
It was an Apple with very limited memory – one byte  
and everything crashed. - Anonymous

*I need Thee ev'ry hour, most gracious Lord;  
No tender voice like Thine can peace afford.  
I need Thee, oh, I need Thee; Ev'ry hour I need Thee;  
Oh, bless me now, my Saviour, I come to Thee.*

*I need Thee ev'ry hour; Stay Thou nearby;  
Temptations lose their pow'r when Thou art nigh.  
I need Thee, oh, I need Thee; Ev'ry hour I need Thee;  
Oh, bless me now, my Saviour, I come to Thee.*

*I need Thee ev'ry hour, in joy or pain;  
Come quickly and abide, or life is vain.  
I need Thee, oh, I need Thee; Ev'ry hour I need Thee;  
Oh, bless me now, my Saviour, I come to Thee.*

*I need Thee ev'ry hour, Teach me Thy will;  
And Thy rich promises in me fulfill.  
I need Thee, oh, I need Thee; Ev'ry hour I need Thee;  
Oh, bless me now, my Saviour, I come to Thee.*

- Annie S. Hawks & Robert Lowry (1872) Public Domain

*Another year is dawning! Dear Father, let it be,  
in working or in waiting, another year with Thee;  
another year of leaning upon Thy loving breast,  
another year of trusting, of quiet, happy rest.*

*Another year of mercies, of faithfulness and grace;  
another year of gladness in the shining of Thy face;  
another year of progress, another year of praise,  
another year of proving Thy presence all the days.*

*Another year of service, of witness for Thy love;  
another year of training for holier work above.  
Another year is dawning! Dear Father, let it be  
on earth, or else in heaven, another year for Thee.*

- Frances R. Havergal (1875) Public Domain

God is still writing your story.

Quit trying to steal the pen. Trust the Author.

- Anonymous

We hope you've enjoyed this edition of the *T.E.A.M. Report*. The deadline for our next issue is Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you have anything you'd like to contribute to our pages, please send it to us at [slowpocketim@shaw.ca](mailto:slowpocketim@shaw.ca).

Until next time, take care – and May God Bless!

Don't count the days; make the days count. - Muhammad Ali

