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DATE: April 15, 1978

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SUBJECT: GIVE UP AND WIN?

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In the midst of a broken and despairing world it is sometimes easy to give up. The mounting complexities of living, the vast "sea" of humanity in quest for meaning and survival and the evident selfishness which rips apart nations, communities and families all combine to give us a sense of a no-win struggle at times.

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Is there such a thing as giving up and winning? Recently a close friend, Bernie May, of Wycliffe Bible Translators, wrote the following:

"The idea of 'giving up' never appeals to us masculine types. We prefer the pull-yourself-up-by-your-bootstraps method, the blood-sweat-and-tears approach to life.

However, God often brings to mind R. G. LeTourneau's little PIPER TRI-PACER. The incident occurred in the late 1950s on a jungle airstrip in the foothills of the Andes. There were four big men in the little plane. It was a simple case of too much weight and not enough horsepower. The plane staggered off the end of the mountain strip, settled into the middle of a swirling jungle river, and flipped over.

The men quickly scrambled out of the plane and began swimming frantically toward shore, only 50 yards away. However, the current was much too strong. Before they had gone 10 yards toward shore they had been swept a quarter of a mile downstream. Death seemed imminent.

Totally exhausted, the first man finally gave up. But as his body went limp and his feet began to settle, they touched the bottom of the river bed. To his amazement the river, which was sweeping them toward their death, was only 30 inches deep. Standing tall in the water he shouted to his struggling companions to stop swimming and put their feet down.

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Rejoicing, but red-faced, all four men waded safely to shore.

I've done that so often it hurts to think about it. Only God knows how much my arms and legs ache from the futile exercise of trying to stay afloat in shallow water. It's like flying white-knuckled all through life.

Time and again I have been forced to give up. Each time my masculinity takes another blow. Yet in every situation I have found the moment I 'let go and let God' -- that underneath are the ever-lasting arms.

It is possible to struggle doggedly and lose everything. It is also possible to lose your life, and in the process, find it."

Again, our often futile struggle and our finite perspective is in contrast to His design and transcending view illustrated in Scripture and our experience as a divine paradox. He bids us to lose our life and find it and to surrender and find victory in Him. After spending 19 years in formal education it is a bit humiliating to re-enter God's "kindergarten" periodically. This "refresher course" we have come to welcome, however, as an important part of His molding and shaping us into more of what He wants us to be.

The DAS ministry is meeting vital needs of God's people providing an increased ability in the field to both meet the human needs at the village level and apply more of the missionaries' energy and dollar support to their primary task. For example, in the Dominican Republic we have facilitated formation of an indigenous evangelical development council. This group of believers represents ten evangelical churches and agencies. With our assistance an \$80,000 project has been planned and funded providing eight pure water wells for village people. Ninety per cent of these people have been suffering from acute gastrointestinal disorders greatly affecting their ability to function as productive citizens. A more effective witness for Christ is now possible enabling the Living Water of Life to be more understood and available to the multitudes there.

We invite you to receive a blessing through sharing in the ongoing ministry of DAS in providing the opportunity for people in other needy lands to drink of the Water of Life as well.

Also, please note that effective May 1, 1978, gifts designated for our personal support should be made payable to DAS, Inc. Thank you for enabling us through your prayers, support, and encouragement, to represent the King of Kings in this fulfilling way.

Thank you for your continued prayer for our son Tim. There is no change to report to you at this time.

Joyfully in His care & service,

Ralph
Warmest regards
to you brother!

Bud & Linda & family
Bud & Linda and family