

#ineverystep

ISSUE 16



Crossing continents  
and cultures  
#ineverystep is a  
biannual magazine  
that tells the stories  
of those whose lives  
are being transformed.

While reading their  
heartfelt testimonies,  
experience how God  
in His great love  
relentlessly pursues  
the lost and found.

This is His story in  
our story, our story  
in His story, a true  
love story. God is  
indeed in every step.

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EDITORIAL

I see the earth, as it gently floats on by.

I reach up and softly touch it with my finger tip.

Looking around there are many people.

A vast number from throughout the ages.

All tribes and people groups, ages and genders.

Each one touches the earth as it floats up and down.

Father, you just want everyone to be a part of your wonders.

LORD, in your hands you make everything easy and light.





# BAR<sub>TO</sub> BAR HEART<sub>TO</sub> HEART

When I think back to how my life used to be, I am extremely grateful. I was a drunkard and had withdrawn from all those around me. All my time and money was spent at the bar with my drinking friends. We all had our own story. With much shame I was totally trapped and living had no purpose.

One day a stranger prayed for me and then I returned to my family and village. They were doing the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Program*. I also started doing the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Program* and was freed from alcohol and became a new man. When I had completed the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Program* I wanted to do it with my former drinking friends in the bar, so they also could be free.

So we did the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Program* together and now they too have been changed. We are doing the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Program* in more bars and we have the owners' permission. Lives are being changed and we thank God for these heart to heart connections.





# BAR HEART TO LIFE HEART

This is one brother's story. 'I am 28 years old. I have completed my studies and tried to get a job. But I did not get a job. With frustration and an upset mind I started to take drugs and alcohol. My friends used to mock me because I did not have a job. They all had a job and money. I would think because of this that I am not worthy and not perfect.

Like a thief I would take money from my father's pocket and my mother's savings for my alcohol and drugs. In this I had forgotten my ambition for a job and any hope of a good future. I became very addicted to the drugs and alcohol and used to abuse others by beating them. At night I would not go home. I became very angry and I even beat my mother once. Now my family's reputation was low in the community because of me. It became very hard for my parents. I was not responding to the good things they would tell me, so I had to leave.

One day after drinking I vomited and blood came from my mouth. I thought I had a sickness in my stomach so I took it easy. The next day when I was brushing my teeth I vomited again. I started to understand there was something damaging my body. So I wanted to come out of the drugs and alcohol addiction. To try and come out of it I contacted many people. I went to meditation classes, yoga classes, spiritual places, temples, but nothing changed. I would continue to go to the bar for my alcohol, but now with this mindset that I wanted to come out of it.

In the bar I saw some people sitting separately in the corner, with no drink, no smoking. I was very shocked. I watched them for two hours. They did not buy any alcohol. When they were leaving I asked them what were you doing just sitting for two hours? One person of the group then told me what he used to do and how he has been changed. So I asked, 'How much was it to join this group?' Nothing they replied. Then I asked, 'How many bottles do I bring to join?' No bottles required. 'What food do I buy?' No food required. I asked, 'No food, no drink, what do you do?' They replied 'Come and see tomorrow.'

I went home and I was so excited I didn't sleep. I was thinking all night will this change me. The first day I came and sat with the group after having my drink. It was all very new to me and powerful. The second day I came but did not buy any alcohol as I wanted to understand this more. I thought after the session, after these two hours, I would then have my drink. But from that day I have not touched drugs or alcohol. I am totally changed, living back with my parents and now even have a good job in a company. I am in the middle of the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Program* and my whole life has changed.'





I am 22 years old. When I was 19 years old I became addicted to alcohol and tobacco. I was thinking if I had a girlfriend in my life I would be really living. I then came to love a girl, but she cheated on me. It did not work out and we broke up. That made me change my mind.

I then became even more addicted to drugs, alcohol and tobacco. Now I am angry and want everyone to fear me, hate me, abuse me. I would take a blade, keep it in my mouth and when people would annoy me I would cut them with the blade. I was attacking others all the time. I am now a criminal with many cases open against me. I would be out all the time, never going home to care for my mother and family.

Around this time I met a boy and girl who were together. I made the boy run away and had relations with that girl. My thinking was, I have money and drugs, I could take from this girl anytime and I have my bad boy friends to protect me. This was my way of life.

One day I walked into a bar. As I'm drinking I see a small group in the corner. There was something different about them. Tears were coming, so I went to them. They were calling a name I did not know. The name was Jesus.

I would hate people who said they were Christian as they would shout at me to go away. But these people were different. They were in a bad environment but they were still able to connect with this God and worship. I wanted to disturb them, abuse them. As I was doing this by shouting at them, they did not open their eyes. But I heard them saying they were surrendering me to God, asking God to take care of me and forgive me. I had a blade in my mouth but they kept saying, God forgive him, look after him. That day I left without any answer in my mind.

The next day I saw them again in the bar. I asked, 'What are you doing?' They replied, 'We are doing the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Program* and before we begin we surrender ourselves to God and receive from Him. Anyone can surrender.' I tell them the last few days I cannot sleep, I feared someone would cut my throat in my sleep. I could not risk closing my eyes. So I thought on these words... anyone can surrender to God. I asked if I surrender to God will God forgive me? They said just give God one chance. So as I started to surrender, one by one all the bad things I have ever done came across my eyes. I surrendered each one to God as they came. Tears were coming and I was not knowing why. That night my heart was emptied and I could sleep well. The fear had gone and I now had respect for Jesus.

I came back to the bar but still no change in my addictions. I would bring my bottle of alcohol and cigarettes and sit down with them. Through the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Program* I came to know the love of Jesus for myself, the same love that these people doing the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Program* had shown me. They accepted me just as I was.

So this time as I went to get my drink, I thought, they respected me so I need to respect them. At that moment, I left my bottle, drugs and cigarettes and came to join them.

From that day no more alcohol, no more drugs. I have completed the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Program* and am preaching the Jesus loves : the world sermons in the church I started in my family home. My family too have surrendered to Jesus. I went to the police station and turned myself in. All cases against me are now removed. I went to the people I have hurt and apologised. Not all were willing to forgive me, but I surrendered them to God and prayed for them to be healed.

The *Kingdom of God Discipleship Program* has changed my life and given me strength and hope to live. I now want to lead this program in other bars. We have talked to the owners and they have given us permission.

# ELEVEN DAYS FOR A TIME SUCH AS THIS

There was not a day these last eleven days that I have not cried. Tears would come from deep within me, as God touched my heart. I stand before my people and declare in front of everyone all the things God has done in me and in others.

To think I was one of those who said to VM all those years ago, 'You do not know the hearts of these people. What you talk about is not possible.' I remember her response as if it was just yesterday: 'That may or may not be so, but I know God and with Him all things are possible.'

For here I stand and testify, this is true!

So much has happened since we were last together. The struggles of this life have been great. Sickness, lockdowns, loss, sorrow and pain. I remember when I was in my hospital bed in great fear as I was not given any hope. But in the fear I surrendered my sickness of Corona to God, and with one touch from Jesus I was healed! The message of surrender to God and His will — giving the good and bad to Jesus — has not only changed my life, but that of my family too. It is truly the secret of success.

Once I heard the news that we would be united once again with VM and KS, I told SS that I did not want to miss a single day. Excitedly I waited for them to arrive. Now the moment has come... they're here! We are all so happy. After an evening of rest, our eleven-day adventure begins.

'This truth is so powerful.  
It truly has set us free!'

## DAY 1

We are welcomed to the gathering with pure joy. The people here have also been waiting for a time such as this. I share my story. VM shares the *Secret of Success*. I have heard the *Secret of Success* program many times before, but today it came to me in a fresh way. Now I realise it is the work of the Holy Spirit that enables me to surrender and receive from Jesus each day. So before I do anything for Jesus, each day I will surrender and receive from Him. I need to bring myself to God and give all my burdens to Him. No longer am I to carry the burdens of ministry, relationships or the circumstances of this world.

I observe each one here today has also received this truth. KS received a vision from God confirming what He is about to do from this moment. She explains, 'I see a line of fuel and all it takes is one spark. The fuel is the Holy Spirit and today is the impartation of the truth which is the one spark. I also see one lady dancing in God.' SS confirms he also saw this. VM heard God declare, 'It is done.'





## DAY 2

An early morning call. The people from yesterday were so happy. They said they have received a new revelation and some felt the water from heaven. They not only heard from God, but they experienced Him. With this news we all rejoice.

Today we travel to another village. We journey for a long time. SS declared, 'Too far!' But he comes to realise it is never too far for God to travel to reach the one. VM shares with us some of her many adventures of travelling through mountains and valleys, across oceans and continents, along city streets and rural tracks — for hours and days at a time — to get to the one. Then how God has produced much, much fruit from that one.

After some significant time we arrive and begin the session. God has given KS a word to share with the people: 'As we were praying I saw a field. There was nothing growing but the soil was superb. It was soft and ready for the seed of new life. God has prepared the soil of your hearts to receive from Him.'

That is great news indeed. VM now begins the *Secret of Success*. As we are in a remote rural area VM engages the people in the agricultural analogy of the *Secret of Success*. She seeks their affirmation, 'As farmers, you are the experts.' With great delight they affirm everything is correct. VM continued, 'We will now give God a moment to do what He wants to do. We will do the practical of what is called the *Secret of Success*.'

We do just that. It is a very, very precious time of surrender and receive from God.

## DAY 3

One by one I hear the people testify. 'I understand that apart from Jesus we cannot do anything. Today all blockages are now gone and something is starting to grow.'

Again the *Secret of Success* is coming to me in a new way, as a refreshment. So I too testify. Today I learned my calling. All my ministry life I have been trying to work for God. I now have learnt and experienced that it is God who does the work. As He does it, we can live freely and not feel any burdens. We can testify of Him.

KS also testifies, 'At the end of the session when having our surrender time with Jesus, I saw Jesus coming and ministering and touching each one. I heard Jesus say, "I care for each one here, equal equal."'

SS joyfully adds, 'I have seen a person say all his blockages are gone, for this I am so happy. Also I saw a few people surrender something they haven't surrendered before. For a long time one has been hating and reasoning... should I say this to God or not? Now all their fear is gone and they have been set free by giving it to Jesus. I also saw some listening and telling freely to Jesus the good and the bad. This is new for them, bringing truth into their lives. For the seed of truth has been sown in their hearts and has now become water to them.'

I now realise if God can give understanding, then I can understand. In surrendering to God and receiving each day from God, He is bringing this understanding deep into my heart.

I cannot journey today so SS shares with me the day's adventures. It was a day when a man who was lost heard a voice from heaven.

## DAY 4

We are travelling today to a small gathering not far from our base. As we walk up the narrow stairs I hear singing. I feel in my spirit that they are not worshipping in their heart. There is no heart-to-heart connection.



They said with their voices that they were willing to surrender their belief. Yet I sense there is many years of being told what to believe and think. This has caused blockages. I know this because I too was once living in that place.

As they surrendered with the words that VM declared from God, 'Surrender the pride, the shame, the struggle,' I felt the start of heart-to-heart connection.

We all felt it. I sensed a unity.

One stands and testifies. 'We were thinking that because of a pastor we are saved. So in that thinking when we have personal problems we go to this one and that one. But we now know and have experienced today that we can take it all to God, for it is God who has saved us.'



Today began just like any other day. I am an auto driver.  
Each day I come to this place and wait for customers.

A brother comes and we negotiate a price. On the way to his destination we pick up a woman who is not from this area. She thanks me for the expert driving. I do not respond and walk away.

The brother had invited me to join them inside while I wait to drive them back. As I wander outside I hear a voice from heaven that tells me, 'Come.' So I come inside. I sit at the very back with the brother. He is invited to the front but he stays with me.

The woman from a distant land is speaking. She says, 'I feel there is someone here today who has fear of God, fear of being close.'

I know that I am the one whom she speaks of. For years and years I have been running away. I feel my life has been taken from me. Trapped in addictions. Full of fear, hurt and pain. Yet I do not respond.

But now I listen with full attention.

The message is about how Jesus makes us worthy and how God wants us to open our eyes to who He is and all He has done for us. I hear very clearly, 'Come to God the Father, as nothing is too big or too small in His hands. No matter where we are in this life journey, God wants to make His home with us.'

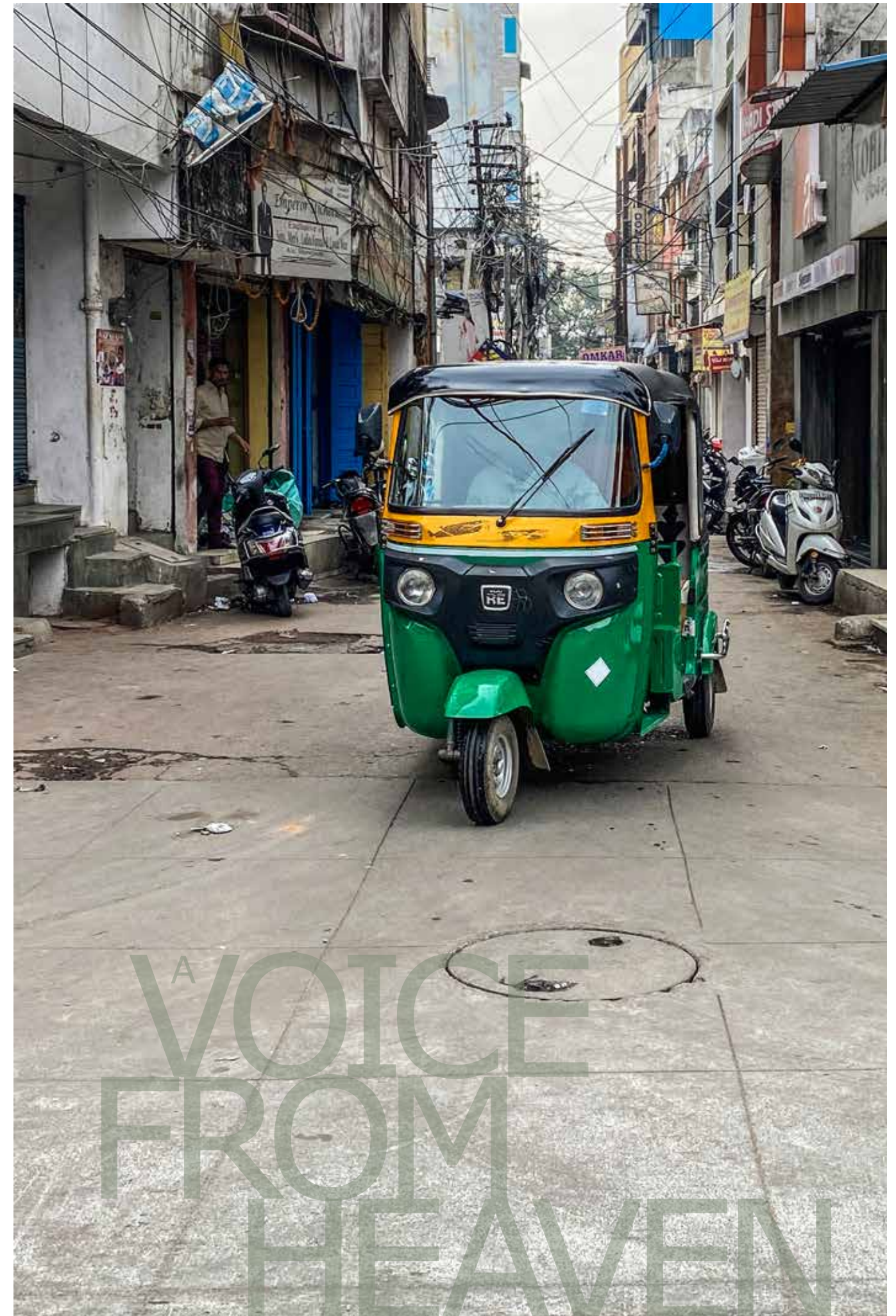
I am shocked. The feeling inside to receive from God grows stronger.

There is now a time of surrender and to receive from God. Again the woman says, 'God is saying come to Me, have no fear, just peace, peace, peace.' Again I do not respond.

I decide to wait until everyone is gone. I turn to the brother and ask, 'Please take me to the woman.' We walk up together. Few words are spoken, then I explain to the woman that I want to surrender to God and ask for prayer.

She starts telling me about all my past hurts and pains. I hear her words, they are so clear. 'Give it all to Jesus. God is going to give you back the joy of being a little child that has been taken from you.' Again I am shocked. She continues, 'I see all this light before you, it is your destiny. I see your time of surrendering to God, in silent prayer in your bedroom each day.'

I feel overwhelming joy. I know I cannot change myself, so each day I will surrender and give to God that time. I now know I can come to Him and He will change me. Already I feel so different. I'm so happy for I have heard a voice from heaven and all fear is gone.









SS said, 'Personally I experienced God in a new way. God's work you see when you simply surrender.'

When we gave time to God, I felt that we were taking them to God and a place of His heart. It is a work of God and it is beautiful.

As the day turned into evening, we travelled to another place. I observed that there are only a few people who have gathered. I share that Jesus came to save the lost and we were all once lost. Now it is time for the Word of God.

VM preaches from a familiar story of the widow and Elijah. How Elijah was sent to the one. Many have preached from this story. Yet as I listen, I am again shocked as this is so different.

I realised that when we are in a situation of desperate need like the widow, we ask for help. Yet the man of God said to her, give to me. Without a thought she has given from her last morsel. She had a willingness to surrender to God.

Also God sent His servant to her. As a pastor I came to understand it is God who has to send us. If He doesn't send us, we should not go. It was not Elijah who came to the widow, but God who sent Elijah to her. God sent His servant to the one. Both had equal need and both received from God. The tears come.

## DAY 5

SS returns from the day's adventures with VM and KS. I sent my son in my place today as I was to take rest. My son informed me that only three had come to the teaching. My heart sinks. Both SS and my son had said, 'Let us go.' But VM interjected. 'No, we need to honour these three who have come. Give respect to them. Their hearts are open and they are hungry for the truth.' Remembering last night's message, God sent His servant to the one. I see Jesus in both VM and KS, in their actions and how they give respect and attention to the one.



## DAY 6



I am so excited. As we were driving to pick up VM and KS, SS saw the driver who heard the voice of heaven. He asked us, 'Where are you going?' SS replied, 'We are going with VM and KS.' He replied, 'Can I come?' Yes! This man who has very little sacrificed his day's wages to join us. Like me he is hungry and wants to learn.

As we listen to the teaching of the *Kingdom of God Interpreting Scripture* short course, we learn many things. The driver who heard the voice of heaven excitedly shared, 'I learnt the promise to Abraham took a long time to fulfil and that God is able to do this at any time. Instead He waited until they were ready. He did the same with me. He waited for me to be ready.'

SS also received much from God. 'Although the Old Testament is very focused on God's journey with the ancient Israelites, what stood out to me today is God's heart for all people.'

## DAY 7

I feel the change in my own heart. In front of all my colleagues I humbly share. Reading from Micah 7:1-7, I explain that this was how I was before I did the *Secret of Success* and the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Program*. Now each day I am surrendering and receiving from God. I am receiving wisdom and knowledge of the truth. New things are coming as God speaks to me directly. From today's session I got the understanding of transformation and how it is Jesus who wants to have relationship with us. That is the Father's will.

One simple thing. The words came so clear. VM said, 'Surrender 1% desire to have relationship with Him. It is He who wants to have connection with us.' I was crying on the inside and the outside. My response was to surrender to God and all this teaching.

To think I used to judge people if they were not surrendering. But now I realise we are to journey with them and help them surrender those 'bad' things and 'good' things to God.



We would tell people wrongly that if they were not hearing from God that they were not right with God. As I recall this, more tears come. Now I know it is not that God is not listening, but that there is a blockage from them receiving transformation. We are to help them surrender that to God. Help them receive the truth that Jesus makes us worthy to receive from God. Then they too can be truly free.

So many things came to me today as God spoke. I have surrendered my family relationships. My family has also been transformed by this teaching.

I now understand it is not about me, family, ministry or what people are doing or not doing. It is about God. I need to give Him a moment each day, with a heart of surrender. Give to God and receive from Him.

Many people come for the miracles but we forget to explain, Jesus is the one who heals and we need to teach people the truth and journey with them. I commit to journeying with this group and taking them through the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Program*. Yes God is going deeper and deeper and deeper in me.

KS shares the picture God gave her of me. 'I see you with God's light beaming from your chest. The joy of the LORD coming from within you as there are no more burdens. You have an ease of walking in the fruit of the Spirit, as that is His joy.' I receive this with His joy and that is His work. Amen!

## DAY 8

We come to the church, yet no one is there. We are told to come to a house in the village. I was feeling bad about the situation here. Many pastors were supposed to have come and we were to meet in the church. So I was thinking, why have we come to this house in the village, and where are the pastors?

But when VM started to preach, God told me this is why. I have sent VM to this family and people. When VM was talking about the single thread of a cloth, I realised this family is important to God.

This is my experience. A lot of preachers see the situation there and preach what they observe or know. But today what was preached was the truth. SS heard the demons say, 'We must leave here.'



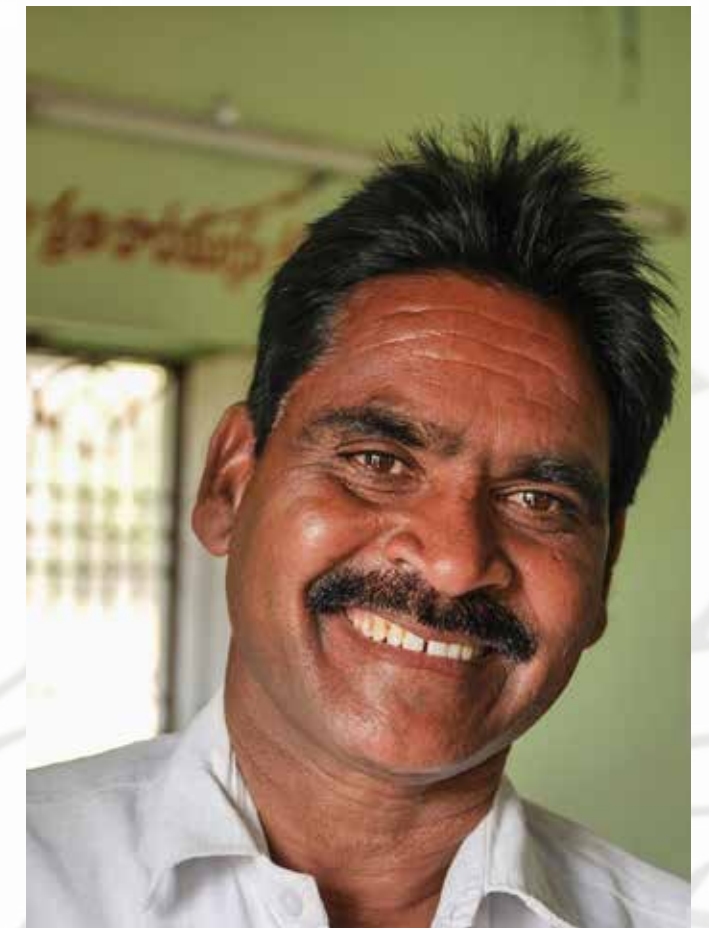
The words God was speaking to me today were very precious and touched my heart. It was as a loving parent speaks to a child. Listening to the sermon was like looking into a mirror. I now know and understand what I must do. God has done His work. In praying and surrendering I am a witness to what He has done.

Before today, there was no equality, no unity in this family and people. Just a lot of hurt and pain. But after the illustration of the cloth everyone understood that they are one thread in God's eternal plan, and they began to cry. God was doing something special. They were surrendering their hurt, pain and selfish desires.

Then something extraordinary happened. The family and people were united as one. Together they washed our feet. VM, KS, SS, myself and their pastor. More tears flowed.

After this KS shared another picture God had given. 'I saw the cloth with holes and as each heart was handed over to Jesus, He got out a needle and thread and in time gently sowed each of the holes. The sowing would not have any scars but will add beauty to the cloth.'

I testify that God is sending His Apostles to speak for Him. I am a thread that He makes beautiful and God will completely do this.



## DAY 9

Another day, another heart. KS shares a picture of what God has shown her about this group: 'I see a man with a pick-axe, labouring hard, trying to break dry ground. God will use us to bring freedom, lightness and ease for the Spirit to freely flow.'

VM commences the introduction of the *Kingdom of God Interpreting Scripture* short course. But first... we surrender! As we lay at the feet of Jesus our thoughts, beliefs and what we think the scripture means... my heart is opened wide!

As VM was teaching the Holy Spirit was helping me understand the truth. I realised that we would take scripture and put our own things in it to preach to the people in a different way to Jesus' original word and what He was talking about.

Now I have learnt what to keep in mind to understand God's intended meaning, especially the relationships that are within the scriptures.



## DAY 10

'All questions and doubts have been answered today.' SS said 'KS's vision was conformation for them. People here want to know and experience the truth and live in the fullness. Today God has done much.'

I used to think God had called me for what I would do, but now I know He has called me to a personal relationship with Him. For many years I have wondered why God chose me, but now I know it was for a time such as this. To be close to Him and from that place, He will bring the truth and these Kingdom of God teachings to my people. I am seeing people coming to the truth. This is why and what it is all about.

It is not only me who has been impacted by these teachings. God has spoken personally to others. Together we testify.

'I was hurt by God that He might one day say to me, "Depart from me, I never knew you". Then I passed on this hurt to my people when I preached that God might say that to them too! But God showed me today that Jesus was speaking to His disciples, warning them about false prophets. That it is the false prophets who deceive the people with supernatural acts in an attempt to draw the people away from God. It is the false prophets who have not received Jesus in their heart to whom Jesus will say, "Depart from me, I never knew you". I now know Jesus will never say this to anyone who has received Him. I learnt how to find God's intended meaning by understanding the relationships in the text.'

A very special time of worship together. VM said she sensed a gentle and powerful presence of God. The message through VM was simple, yet powerful. To hear the deep meaning of blessing is '...because God so loves, He honours us. That is what He blessed them actually means, because He so loves He blessed them. God's presence is the ultimate blessing.' I sense these words are true and they come directly from God's heart, personally to each one of us. I realise people need to hear this topic.

For I have come to know over these few days that this is the Father's heart's desire 'to be with us.' I am in awe and wonder of Him. Again the tears come.



## DAY 11

Today I have invited people from each group we visited over the last 10 days to come and celebrate! For it is our last day together. We have all gathered for a time such as this.

KS has a vision of a person beating a rock for water to come. VM preaches on that very same thing! She explains how the people would think that Moses was the god instead of Moses revealing God to the people. She explains how this is the same for us, and from Philippians urges us, 'Let nothing be done out of selfish ambition or selfish desires.' God's word, His fire and truth goes deep into our hearts.

I stand up and testify how God has been challenging me. Again He has spoken clearly to us. As is our custom I invite my friend from the city to speak. We are all shocked in what he says: 'I have heard great things of what God has done these past 10 days, so I have come to see what God has been doing for myself. I too was very challenged by the message today. God spoke to me and asked if I would surrender afresh. I said yes! I too am not the same. Publicly I declare in front of you all that I will raise the money for my 580 churches to do the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Program*. We too will be transformed and so many people will come to be truly free.

What God has done here will go out to all districts, states and the entire nation.' This is a huge miracle. Never do different denominations mix and surrender together like we have witnessed today. Thank you Father for a time such as this. As for the tears... they freely flow both inside and out.

'We get busy and our expectations of being a disciple are more than just being with Jesus. I realise today it is so very important to be with God and listen to Him. Just as Jesus needed to be with the Father and have fellowship with Him, so do we.'



A woman is visible in the background, looking down. The scene is dimly lit, with some light reflecting off a plastic container in the foreground. Large, translucent, olive-green text is overlaid on the image.

# FROM SCHOOLS TO HOUSES TO COMMUNITY

Since I was 15 years I was asked to do this sin. To sell my body for the pleasure of men. I live in an area they call the red light district. With 29 other women we would work in this way. We would stand outside each house and call to the men as they walked past.

'The same bed I used to do sin is the same bed I now have tears for Jesus.'

Our children attend a school which was doing the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Program*. All our children would take home their workbooks and read out the lessons as part of their learning. Each one of us was very touched by the content. Together we asked the school headmaster if we could join in on the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Program* classes at the school with our kids. The headmaster surprised us and said yes!

Together with our children we have completed the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Program*. Now something from within has changed. All 30 of us have left the sex trade and are now seeking income as day labourers. When there is no work as a day labourer, the people in the houses were trying to force us to do adultery. But we are refusing them. We are not calling out men for pleasure or money. Now as the men walk by we find ourselves saying, 'Lord take care of them, bring them out too.' This change has happened and we don't know how. Only God has done this. This is the change in me.

We want others to come out of it too. So we have started the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Program* in three different places in the red light district. We have done two sessions, but without the workbooks we felt we were not teaching in a good way. So we approached the headmaster for some workbooks for the ones we were teaching. The headmaster said he could not provide to us because we are not students of the school and the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Program* is not the school's program.

So he connected us with one of the Jesus loves : the world leaders in the area. The headmaster said to them, 'Never is this cycle broken, but here it is broken and they have come out of it.'

Five of the women leaders from Jesus loves : the world came to us. We prayed together and worshipped. They testify:

**'This is like a new heaven. We have learnt from you not to rush time with God in His presence. You are so deeply connected to God, spending time with Him, waiting to listen to Him. Even after the worship, you are still in God's presence. In the middle of the storms you are doing the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Program* in a very good way. We observe God is bringing all people equal, coming out of addictions and bondages.'**

Together we thank God.





# AN EXPERIENCE OF EMPOWERMENT

I thank God for leading me to do the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Experience*. If I reflect on some of the main themes that I've been praying on and off about over the years, this study has shown me that God is answering. I'm in awe of how mindful He is of me and that He would be hearing my ineloquent, half-hearted, not persistent (essentially what I once thought were not good enough that God would take notice) of prayers.

If I have learnt one thing from this study – it is that it is all about God and what He has done and is doing. It is not about me and what I can or can't do. I'm truly encouraged that the work He began in me to transform me to be like Christ will only continue because God is the one that is at work. He loves me and it is His pleasure and will!



# AN EXPEDITION OF EXPERIENCE OF FERMENT

Something that I have struggled with — and this study has helped me understand better — is the idol of having a good reputation. Being enslaved by worrying about making sure others think well of me has been deeply ingrained in me and was controlling everything I did and said — tainting many things I do, even if it looked good or would do something good for others. In the beginning of this study, it was clear to me that although I know what Jesus has done for me, it was not enough to stop me from picking up the trash of fearing the loss of my good reputation. This made me sad because it is essentially trampling on what Jesus has done and saying I don't care; that it really doesn't mean much to me.

But now, after finishing the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Experience* journey, I can see that I didn't truly understand the gospel. Now I can say that God has worked on my heart and my mind to understand Him better and what He's done for me, and in turn is empowering me to say no to picking up the trash that comes at me and instead I can let it go past. I could not have done this in the past. God helped me see Him as the loving Father of the prodigal son and older brother. Like the story, He welcomes me with arms wide open. He is running toward me with joy. At no point does He see my all my yuck, because Jesus has washed me clean.

God has shown me that He chose me before I was even born, before time. He chose me, even though He knew who I was going to be — all the bad things I would do, all the hurt I would cause, all the things that I'm meant to do but don't because of the trash I keep holding on to.

He is the only one who truly knows me inside and out, and yet I do not have to fear that I would lose His love and acceptance like others in this world who, if they truly knew me, would reject me.

At work, I need to be useful, likeable, a good worker to keep my reputation; I need to be a good daughter, keep the peace to avoid my mum from getting mad at me; I need to be pleasant, watch what I say and do for my friends to keep liking me and want to hang around me. Yet with God, there is nothing I can do to have Him love me or to keep His love because He chose to love me and He accepts me — it has nothing to do with me (who I am) or what I need to do. Thank you Father!

God's love is pure, not manipulative. It does not have any ulterior selfish motive, tainted by human selfishness and thus, even when things hurt (especially the times when my reputation is at risk), I can stand on the fact that God loves and accepts me and He knows what is best for me.

There was a recent incident at work (where my reputation idol is a big issue) that this study helped me work through that I want to share as a testimony to God's goodness.

It was during a meeting where I did something in public that would likely lead others to think I was dumb. It was in front of people that are considered to have a high standing in the workplace and thus I would very much care about what they thought about me.

Yet at home that night before going to sleep, I presented myself with two decisions. One: am I going to dwell on this and get all worried and upset that those people think I'm dumb (whether that's true or not)? Or two: speak God's truth to this matter?

I can probably say for the first time, God empowered me to truly mean it when I said in my heart and mind: I am loved and accepted by God. I can stand here and say that I truly have done the best that I can at work, I can give no more.

It is okay even if people think badly of me because God knows and God loves and accepts me. Even if I have done wrong, God still loves and accepts me. He knows my heart. He knows I've done the best I can. I will be okay.

There is so much more that I could write about from what I have learnt from the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Experience* journey, but this testimony would be way too long otherwise.

I will finish with this prayer: Thank you, Father, for choosing me. For loving and accepting me. Thank you that I cannot lose your love. I pray that you keep me close to you and that I grow in treasuring you. Help me to continue to surrender my will, the good and the trash and to keep abiding in you. Empower me to say no to picking up the trash that comes at me and for my ongoing transformation to be the person that you want me to be. In Jesus' name, Amen!



# MESSAGES OF HOPE AND HEALING



'I received a touch from Jesus while translating the jesus loves : the world sermons. I was having a heavy pain in my right ear for many years that no medicine or doctor could cure, but one touch from heaven and I am healed completely. Thank you for the sermons. These are life-changing sermons. Like Jesus preached when he was on the earth. — Binu

'Every week now I would read the jesus loves : the world sermons and every week the negative thoughts are going away.'

'I am of my family's faith and got married into a family of the same faith. Before I was married I was studying. My groom's family said that after our marriage, I can resume my studies.

But after marriage I had no peace. My husband started to give me a hard time. When I would cook, he would throw it out. I was not able to even wash my own clothes without his permission. This was a very hard time in my life.

I reminded my husband that his family said I could continue my studies after marriage, but after saying this to him, he started to beat me. Every day after work he would come and beat me. With tears I called to my mother. She said this happens between husband and wife and that I cannot complain. My father said that I must have done something wrong for him to beat me.

Everyone I called would not support me. Father and mother said I could not come to their home, as I am now married. I wanted to cry and tell my sorrows, but my family would not let me. I was in a deep depression, as every day my husband would beat me.

So I decided I would go to the terrace of the building to jump off and suicide. All of a sudden, as I was in a relatives' place, I was hearing how God turns shame into honour and brings equality. With these thoughts and feelings, I found myself listening to this. So I connected to this relative who read this message and spoke those words. They were saying, 'give it to Jesus. What you are going through now, all the sorrows of the family.' I was crying and crying, but no words came.

When I understood the reality of Jesus and how He takes away the shame and gives us honour, I started to believe every word of the jesus loves : the world sermon and live in the reality of the truth. Every day I am continuing to give to Jesus what was in my heart and receiving from Jesus. After doing this, now each week my husband, his family and myself come together and read these sermons.

**Once I wanted to kill myself, but when I understood that when we receive Jesus' love, we have equality and in His respect we have victory.**

Once I wanted to run away from family, now I have peace and my husband is the perfect man to me. Now we can have family time, which we never did before. I have conceived and we are expecting our first baby.' — Amal





'I have been going to church since birth, so for a very long time, I have heard many sermons. Different people would come and preach, but in all these sermons I used to only get the greatness of the man preaching. They would preach with self estimation.

This preaching was not accurate to the Bible nor was it telling me who Jesus is. But when they started preaching the new sermons from Jesus loves : the world, it was like the words being preached were coming directly from Jesus. Just like when He would preach on earth. Not only do I now understand all this and who Jesus is but I also understand who I am in Jesus. I have now received Jesus and His comfort and joy.' — Lakir

'I have some personal issues in my life, mentally and physically all areas of my life have been affected. These issues are so personal I cannot tell anyone. I'm told I am unholy and that I can't even tell any of my goddesses. But when I heard these Jesus loves : the world messages I opened my life and heart to Jesus. I can tell Jesus my thoughts and He is the first and only person I told.

I have now surrendered my life to Jesus. The guilt and shame in my life has gone. Life is now easy as Jesus is making me holy and healing every part of me. Unlike the goddesses who put shame on people, Jesus takes away the shame.' — Samiti

My name is Lohit. I do not know Jesus. I would worship lots of other gods. I used to offer the best I could to the other gods. The priest of the temple would read the lines in my hand and tell me I had no future. I used to take this very seriously and thought the gods had written my destiny this way.

Four months back I saw a group of people meeting. I observed that they would come, sing a few songs, read some book they were studying and go home. When I would see them I wanted to know why they were sitting in a disciplined way and not shouting. They were studying with great interest and I wanted to know what they were studying.

# DESTINY REDEFINED

So with that enthusiasm I asked one of the group members to give me the book they were studying. It was the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Program* workbook. I started reading and I sensed it was something new. But I was not able to understand. I asked the person who gave me the book to help me understand. They told me, 'Don't just simply read to understand. Before reading give time to God and discover the truth behind it.' But I did not know what time to give to God nor who this God is that I'm giving time to. So I simply thought this next 10 minutes is for you God. Still I did not understand.

I went back to the group and for the first 10 minutes they were worshipping and surrendering to God. I then understood what giving time to God meant. So I surrendered to God and after that I started to understand the truth when I would read the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Program* workbook. I read from session 1–3 and I realised that my thoughts had changed. With sessions 4, 5 and 6 I knew my emotions were now changed.

Now after the 7th session I am totally changed. I understand that when we surrender to God, the curses of other gods and the negative thoughts cannot control us. That is the truth I have found. My whole life and my entire future has now changed.



Before receiving the *Good News Storybooks* I heard my call from God: 'Go to this place.' So I went, but found it very hard in this place. It was very clear the word from God, but I had no connection with the people. So I was thinking that when the big miracles happen, people will come to me. I was doing it for that purpose only. But nothing would happen. No one was coming and there was no opportunity to share.

# A TOUCH OF GOD FROM HEAVEN

After some days I felt God was not with me. Maybe I am not called and this is not God's plan I reasoned. So I left the ministry. I was so upset and started to question God. Then I received some boxes of books.

As soon as I was carrying some of these books, some children came up to me. I opened the *Good News Storybook Program Manual* that came with these books and began to teach the children.

It was then that I came to understand that we are to teach them about God. It is not about a big church or big miracles.

The *Good News Storybooks* start with the creation story. It was simple and so powerful to them. Now the kids brought some of their friends. Then all of a sudden I was having a big children's congregation. When doing the stories and songs in the *Good News Storybook Program Manual* with the children, the community observed.

The Spirit of God told me that the *Good News Storybooks* are His word, the rain which He is pouring into their hearts. It is His unchanging word that will produce fruit in them for His kingdom. This went deep into my heart.

After the *Good News Storybook* session, the parents of the children started to come to me. I was shocked! It was the kids who started to minister to their parents, telling them who created. They learnt the stories and shared them with their family. As a result I now have five churches in this state and seven in the neighbouring state.

Fear was very strong over the people. The gods of their world had a hold over them, but through the *Good News Storybooks* they received the truth. They have been set free and standing in the truth in amongst persecution. In these times, they have also protected me.

Through these small books, the Spirit of God has gone in a good way and changed all of us. The *Good News Storybooks* are a touch of God from heaven.





