

#in every step

ISSUE 21



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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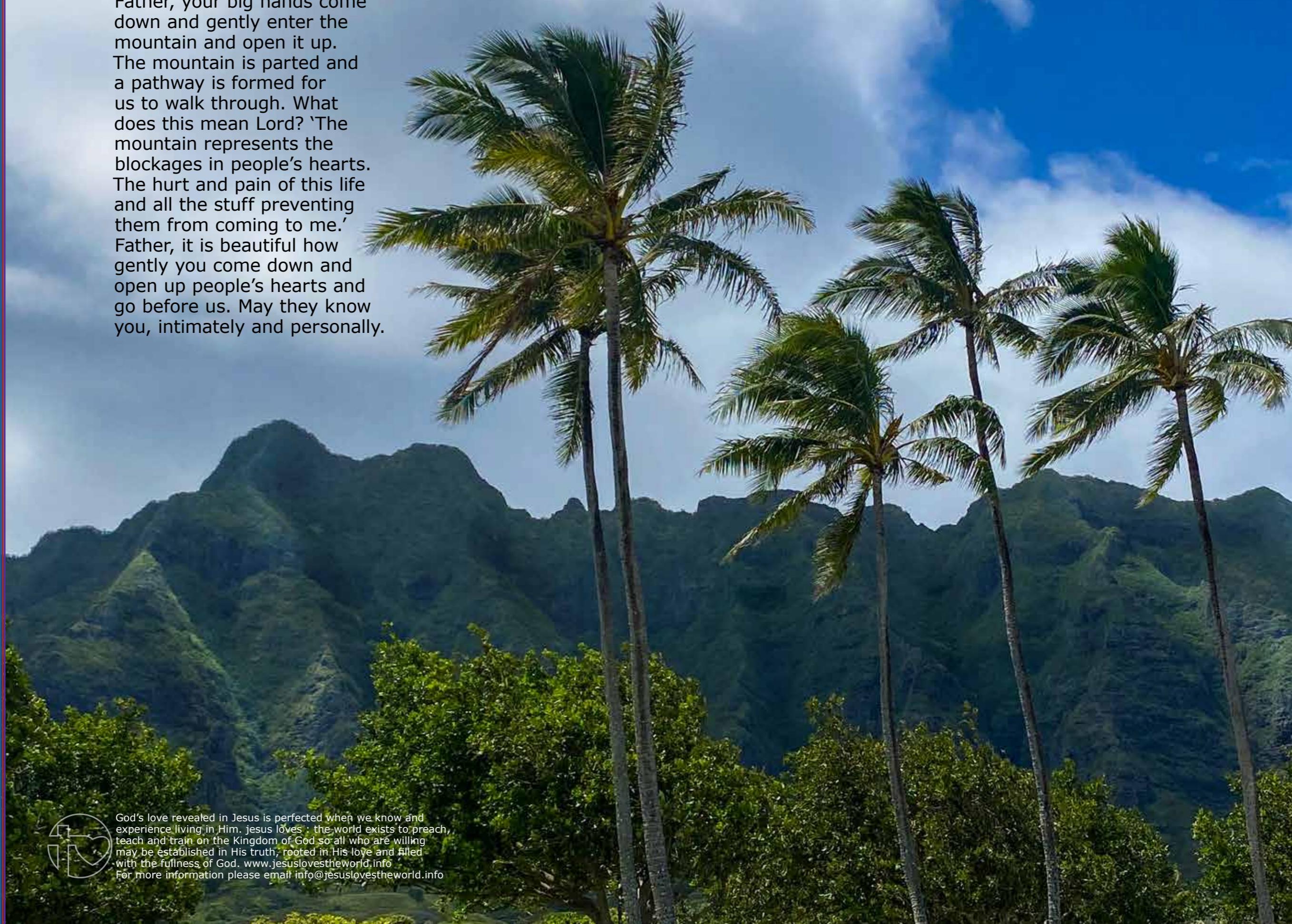
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Names have been changed and locations withheld for security and privacy reasons. Photographs of people are used for illustrative purposes only. They are not associated with any testimonies included in this magazine or jesus loves : the world. All images © jesus loves : the world

EDITORIAL

'What do you see?' There is a large mountain before us. Father, your big hands come down and gently enter the mountain and open it up. The mountain is parted and a pathway is formed for us to walk through. What does this mean Lord? 'The mountain represents the blockages in people's hearts. The hurt and pain of this life and all the stuff preventing them from coming to me.' Father, it is beautiful how gently you come down and open up people's hearts and go before us. May they know you, intimately and personally.



God's love revealed in Jesus is perfected when we know and experience living in Him. jesus loves : the world exists to preach, teach and train on the Kingdom of God so all who are willing may be established in His truth, rooted in His love and filled with the fullness of God. www.jesuslovestheworld.info
For more information please email info@jesuslovestheworld.info



EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO HEAR

After a long journey we arrive. The cusp of a cyclone lingers. The humidity is extreme, the sunshine bright. Soon the heavens open up again as the heavy rains unload. Yet the hustle and bustle of everyday life in this city continues. Undeterred, umbrellas go up. Fuelled by wind the rain changes its angle. Bikes weave through puddles causing cascading splashes to emerge. What serve as open drains soon overflow with the deluge. The familiar sights, sounds and smells permeate the senses. The rains cease. As the humidity soars even higher, it is time to journey up the mountain.

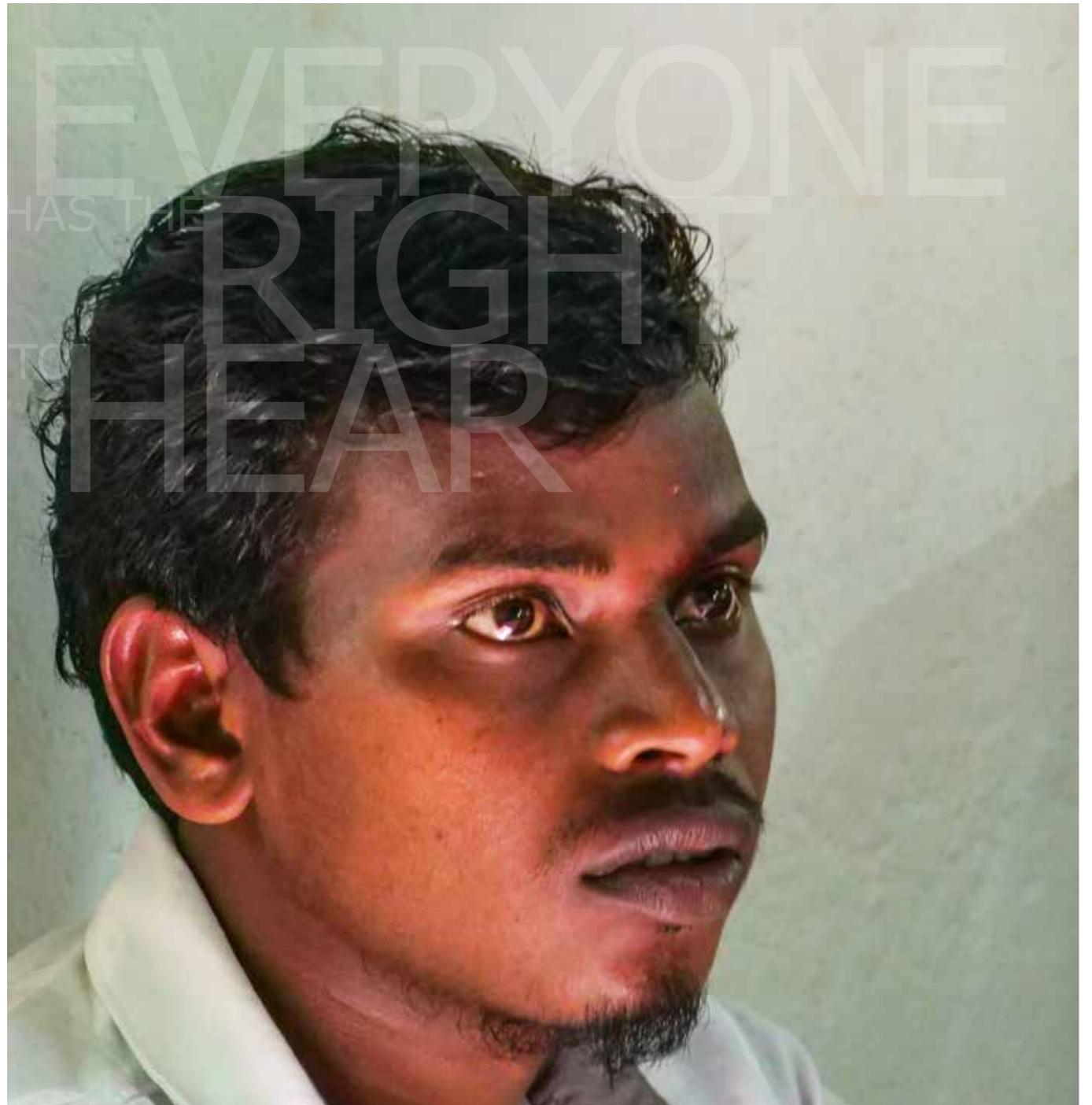


We are informed there is a new highway the government has chiselled into the mountain. It goes to the top and over the other side. As we journey along this new road I experience a heaviness. I sense the people don't want it! The locals' land has been taken. The everyday roads and pathways that were rich in culture and livestock and connected communities are being replaced with big open highways of emptiness. It is supposed to enable speed of travel, yet it hardly saves us any time. Such is modernisation—just passing through, no time, out of my way!

This heaviness and emptiness experienced on this vast empty highway is what is felt when something is thrust upon another. When the needs of those who have power override the needs of the powerless.

I take a moment and pray. Father, I feel the heaviness and emptiness of this. I give it to you. Thank you that you have enabled us to hear the cries of the people and bring your light and life into their world. In Jesus' name, amen.

We arrive at our base. This is where it all began so many years ago. Even though we are from vastly different cultures, backgrounds, experiences—and even generations—our hearts instantly connected. Over the years we have shared so many special moments. Journeying together with his community has been an incredible privilege and honour. Living in continual surrender to our Father's will, we have both learned much from God, each other and others. We are excited to be reunited once again. With great anticipation of what God intends to do we say, let the adventure begin.



It is a new day and a new season. The cyclone has passed, the climate is changing. It is the transition marking the end of the monsoon season. The nights are rapidly becoming cooler. As the humidity lowers the days are pleasant and sunny. Now it is harvest time.

We travel to a house gathering. As we walk in, I sense Father that you have been working to prepare their hearts to receive. They are hungry for the fullness of the truth.

I take a moment. Father, what is your special word for these people? 'Take them through the vision of heaven with the 24 Elders.' Oh Father, that is so beautiful. We worship.

Even though the worship is in their heart language, which I do not speak, I recognise some of the tunes along with a few words. Oh Father, I'm so touched by your presence. Their worship in song and words is in harmony with you and your word for them. With open hearts and minds we receive much.



The evening comes to an end and we travel back to base. As I lay my head down to sleep, I surrender all back to you Father. Thank you Father for the incredible honour and privilege to be part of your wonders.

It is a new day and we travel to a village community. Journeying through the fields we give respect to the day labourers harvesting rice. Around the hills we travel to a village by the river. We walk in.

Father, what is your special word for them? 'I want them to hear the truth and my heartbeat for true justice. How I honour them and raise each one up to be equal. Help them to surrender to me the desire to be honoured by humanity and those in power. Tell them, my honour has the highest value and is far above all else.'

We go through the parable Jesus told of the unjust judge. Jesus reveals that the values and systems of this world are the complete opposite to God and His kingdom.

We all agree that God's honour and respect is of the highest value and far above all else. Yet unlike the world God's honour does not cost us anything—He freely gives it to each one of us. This is the powerful truth and good news for all.

EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO HEAR

We take a moment to surrender and receive. Surrender to God any desire for humanity's honour and receive the truth that He gives us His honour. He freely gives to each one equally. God's justice is true justice of equality and respect. This is very meaningful and for some it goes deep. We thank you Father. Amen.

We celebrate together all God has done and is doing. To our surprise they have prepared a simple meal for us. They also have chai!

We say our farewells and head back to base. As the sun sets behind the mountain, we take a moment to reflect and give thanks.

Another day, another village, another community. We have been this way many times before. The familiar fields, people and villages. I am informed that as a group they have just gone through the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Program*. They testify. 'Through this teaching, many who were backsliders have come back to God and have been made strong.' I am aware of the change, both in the people and the weather. The weather is unusually humid and hot. Yet the people have come. They are hungry for more.



Over the next two days we journey through chapters 4 and 5 of the Revelation of Jesus. The first observation is that heaven has an open door. Our Father in heaven has opened His home to us. We understand God is forever welcoming.

This touches our hearts deeply. They testify. 'I now know that anytime in any situation we can come to God.' Another shares, 'We can hear the voice of God and come to Him.' Yet another, 'By receiving Jesus, we are given His crown, just like the 24 Elders, just like the Apostles. This is amazing to know.'

As we travel back to base our hearts are full. We celebrate all God has done, is doing and will do.

We are excited to discover we are going to the 'village of flowers.' We called it that as we remembered the lovely sunflowers there. Later we discovered this is the translation of its name!

We have been here only once before and remember it as hard spiritual ground. They remember us too and have invited us back.

It is time for the message to be preached. I observe their faces. This time is different. They seem more open. As they catch the word, they light up. With great joy they testify. 'It is a new revelation for me that God is living within our hearts.'

Our team also testify. 'It resonated with me that we all carry the invitation of God within us to all people. His invitation is in our spirit because His spirit lives within us. Even in the spirit anyone I meet can receive the invitation and have the right to choose.'

We are excited they are coming into a new season. It's the dawn of a new day for the people of the village of flowers.

Another new day. It is Sunday. We return to the house gathering community. As we walk in there is a beautiful and gentle presence of God.

As we take a moment I ask our Father, what is your special word for today? 'The wounds that tell the greatest story.'

It is time. Let us go deep into the wounds that tell the greatest story—the story of how the darkest hour of humanity became the greatest light that revealed the love of God. There is a beautiful silence. Each one listens intently.

We take a moment. A quiet reverence permeates the room. We share the Lord's supper. This is indeed special.

'These are life-changing messages.'



One by one they testify. 'This message went straight into our hearts. It has given hope to the hopeless and strength to the strengthless.'

'Thank you for this heart-touching and life-changing message.'

As our time together comes to an end, we take a moment to reflect. I ask, what has been the main point that God has impressed upon your heart? 'That everyone has the right to hear the truth.'

We give thanks and journey back down the mountain. Waiting for our flights I receive a call. 'I had the opportunity to share with the youth about the open door. I wish you had been there to see it!' Together we thank you Father. Your truth marches on in the hearts and minds of all who are willing. Our Father is always working, as everyone has the right to hear.

A JOURNEY OF HEALING FREEDOM AND REDEMPTION

HEALING FROM THE PAIN
FREEDOM FROM THE ABUSE
REDEMPTION THROUGH ANYONE
WHO IS SET FREE FROM READING MY STORY

I can still remember thinking that it was finally happening. While I was older than was expected in my community to be on the pathway to marriage, it was now my turn. The dream that I had hidden away in my heart was finally becoming a reality. It had been worth the wait.

But that feeling passed. For a time it was replaced with uncertainty and confusion. However, it eventually became fear and extreme anxiety. At first, I wasn't aware how bad it really was. That so much inequality had seeped into the relationship. I couldn't fathom how abusive he'd become in such a short time. But it became clear to me that my no was no longer respected. And that frightened me. As time went on, I didn't know who I was going to be met with—the gentleman or the aggressor. I felt trapped. I would lie awake at night with the same thoughts running through my mind. Will he turn on me if I leave? Will the community tell me that I am throwing away my only chance at marriage? Will his family blame me? At the same time, I couldn't bear the thought of breaking his heart. For all the confusion and abuse, I cared about him deeply. And I too believed that if I didn't marry him, I wouldn't marry anyone. But this was not a reason to stay.

I fervently sought God for His wisdom and guidance. For Him to make it clear to me. I had thought he was God's choice for me. I had committed myself to this man. Father God, should I stay and work on things, or should I walk away? Show me the truth of what is going on. Faithfully over the coming weeks, God showed me the heart of the matter. Which was the matter of his heart.

His outward form and words were God-fearing and honourable. But on the inside, he sat on the throne of his own heart. More than this, he delighted in not only being there, but in the power and control it gave him. God showed me that this was his choice. He was given many opportunities to surrender his selfish desires to God and be transformed by Him. Instead, he had chosen the pathway of prioritising himself above God and me. Moreover, he chose to delight in the control and manipulation of others.

So I left. In the leaving process, what God had revealed to me about his character rang true. From this man's perspective, there were no issues or faults. If I couldn't cope, it was my fault. My weakness.

In the emotional turmoil that followed, I experienced a feeling of relief. The sense of being trapped was broken. But this was short lived. Then came the overwhelming feeling of shame. In reality, it had been there all along. Only now it was the dominant force. It was like a dark cloak that covered my shoulders and overshadowed my mind. Weighing me down with continual negative thoughts. 'I should have known. How could I let this happen? How could I have been in a relationship with someone like that? What's wrong with me? It's my fault for desiring the love of a man. I can't trust myself.' And the ever-present thought, 'I hate myself.'

Step by step, God spoke His truth into these lies and destructive thoughts. The rest of my story, and the reason I'm writing it, is to share what I have learnt.

A JOURNEY OF HEALING FREEDOM AND REDEMPTION

In the midst of grief and often insatiable tears, I found myself continuing to play over in my head, 'I should have known. I should have seen the signs. I should have been a better judge of character.'

Gently but clearly, God spoke these words into my heart: 'It wasn't clear.' When I responded that deep down I must have known He said, 'you didn't know.'

That is the truth. I didn't know what he was truly like. I am not God. I chose to give him a chance. I wanted to go on the journey with him, and I had to find out...

Whilst I knew this was the truth, it was still hard to break free from my introspection. My internal struggles continued. But so did God's words of love and care. His gentle whispers of truth. 'You are more than enough.'

During a particularly difficult time, still clouded by the thoughts that I must have deserved this or somehow was responsible for what had happened, God revealed to me this powerful truth in a way that I could understand.

'How a person treats you is a reflection of them and their heart.
It is not a reflection of you.'

God showed me that this truth is best expressed by looking at the character of Father God. He treats everyone with love and respect because that is who He is. It is a reflection of His heart. How I was treated by this man is a reflection of him and his heart, not of me.

Whatever this man may have told me, however cleverly he justified his actions or made me feel that his behaviour was my fault, God showed me that abuse is never the fault of the one being abused.

With these truths, the grip of the swirling lies in my mind was loosening. However, the ever-present 'I hate myself' thought still continued on replay.

One night, while my mind scrolled through memories again and again instead of sleeping, I sat up with an epiphany. I got my journal out and wrote the following:

I don't hate myself.

I hate the way this man treated me.

I hate the way he put himself, his needs and selfish desires above God and me. That my emotions were an inconvenience to him, that one of my deepest needs was debatable, that I was held responsible for his aggressive and deceitful behaviour.

I hate that I couldn't protect myself from him.

I continued to write, this time in big letters.

It is his shame, not mine. I have done nothing wrong. It was not my fault. Jesus' nail-pierced hands are the answer to the pain and injustices of this world.

What happened was unjust. I didn't deserve it. No one deserves to be treated this way, especially not from someone you should be able to trust.

I hate that I couldn't protect myself from him. This line went deep. This was the core of my shame, my self-hatred. As I processed it, I realised that I believed if I was perfect, I would have been able to protect myself from the hurt and pain inflicted by others.

I shared this belief with a friend. Her response were as words from God. 'Jesus was the perfect man. Yet He was abused, tortured and ultimately killed.'

These words spoke powerfully into both my logical brain and my heart. Perfection does not equal protection. Not only is it an unattainable state but it is not the answer to the hurt and pain of this life.

Father God, help me to let go of this belief that being perfect will protect me. I give this belief to you, Lord.

It was time to replace the lines in my head of 'I was stupid' with 'I gave him a chance.' To accept that I can still trust my heart because once I knew the truth, I left.



A JOURNEY OF HEALING AND FREE DOM AND RED E M PTION

Time passed. A day that was going to have been significant in my life came. In an act of love and support, a friend took me out to be in nature. The outdoor area we went to had a stagnant pond. Moss floated on the surface. Its lack of movement created a breeding ground for insects. A local told us that a snake lived there. God spoke to me through the stagnant water. He showed me that now was the time to let everything go. To let go all of the hurt, pain and disappointment so that it doesn't fester like a swamp. Instead, let it float down the river so that I can be free of it all. Open the gate of my heart so that the river flows freely.

'For Jesus is the only one who brings healing to the brokenhearted and frees us from the captivity of shame.'

When listening to the jesus loves : the world podcast, *Liberty for the Captives*, this truth was confirmed to me. It explained that letting go of our hurt and pain, that is giving it to Jesus, is to guard one's heart from becoming a festering cesspool of destruction. I finally understood that guarding one's heart is not guarding it from the hurt and pain of this life. Rather, it is to keep it free from being a breeding ground for unforgiveness and bitterness. For these will lead to the destruction of self and others.

While we were still in the outdoors, God continued to communicate to me in ways that I could understand. We were sitting on the sandy shore. The sun was beaming down and the sand was so hot it burnt our feet as we walked on it. Suddenly out of nowhere the wind changed direction. Sand blew hard in our faces, the waves died down and the air became freezing. Once we had made it back to safer ground, God remind me that healing and freedom can come in an instant. For things can change dramatically just like that.

Towards the end of our time, the friend I was with watched as a leaf fell gracefully from a tree down to the ground. She shared that she was reminded by God how the dead leaf on the ground is turned into nourishment and new life to the soil. How in Jesus' nail-pierced hands death is turned into life. For me to be reminded that God will bring good out of a horrible situation and to be encouraged to let it all go, that it will float away with ease and totally die so that new life can come.

Back at home, during the night after we retuned I had these words in my head, 'Christ is enough for me.'

I initially thought they were about not needing anyone else in my life, not needing a husband, as Christ is enough for me.

But as I meditated on them, this truth became clear to me: Christ is enough for my healing. Christ is enough for continual forgiveness. Christ is enough for freedom from my negative thoughts and mental illness.

For the sacrifice of God who became human flesh is enough for me.

So now I live in the daily journey of keeping the gate of my heart open. Continuing to place any hurt, pain and unforgiveness into Jesus' nail-pierced hands. For Jesus is the only one who brings healing to the brokenhearted and frees us from the captivity of shame.

FROM FEAR TO REJECTION TO FORGOTTEN TO BEING ACCEPTED DEEPMER REVIEW MEMBER WILL RE

There have been some very dark days filled with fear, being rejected and forgotten by most. The pain goes deep and our tears we have hidden. Each one of us is from a very different background, yet we have one thing in common—the good news has come to us in the form of the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Program*. These are some of our stories.



'I was facing many health problems from my birth. My parents spent all their savings and even sold their property for my treatment. For the past 25 years I have been taking medicines, but they never brought me peace or hope. I was never fully healed. Whenever I stopped the tablets, the health problems came back even worse. Because of this long sickness, none of my close family, relatives or friends helped me to get married. They even spoiled every proposal that came. I felt totally lost, tired, irritated and angry. Many times I shouted at my parents and blamed them, thinking their negligence caused my sickness.

But when I started the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Program*, everything began to change. The first change was in my thinking. God touched my heart, and I went to my parents and asked them to forgive me.

As I went deeper in the program, all my fear slowly left me. I fully surrendered my life to God. Day by day, I started feeling peace in my heart. I no longer felt like the person I used to be. God was healing me from the inside.

Today, after doing this program faithfully, my medical reports came back and my health has become stable with very few medicines. I truly praise God for this program because without it, I feel I would have lost my life. Seeing my healing, my parents also started believing in God, and now as a family we are doing the program together. This program brought healing not only to my body, but also to my home, my heart and my family.

'When I started Session 1, I understood that God is always near me even when I cannot see Him. This truth touched me deeply. Before this, I used to feel alone and afraid of the future. But as I read the lesson, my heart understood that God shows Himself in many ways. Slowly my fear started leaving. I felt like God was opening my eyes to His presence. One day during prayer, I felt a warm peace in my heart. It was like God was telling me, "Do not fear, I am with you." This gave me so much courage. Every day I remember this truth, and it is changing the way I live.'

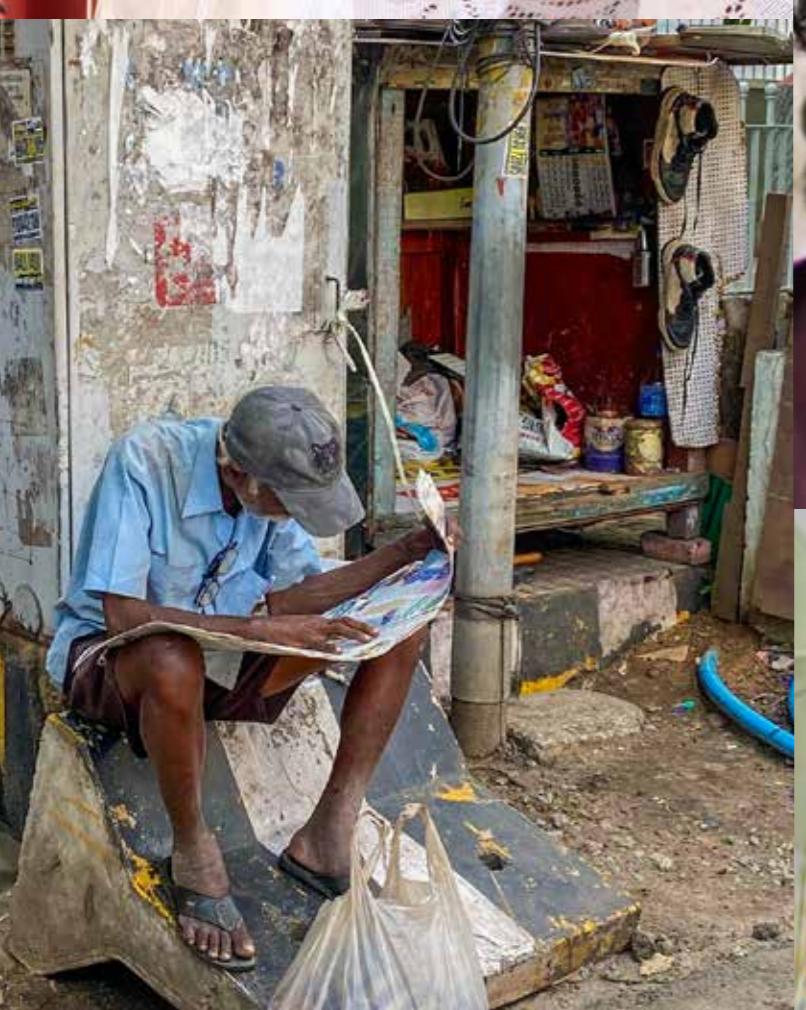
'Session 5 made me understand God's love in a new way. I came to know that His love is patient, kind and never-ending. Before this, I always felt like I was not good enough. But when I read how God loves without limits, something changed in me. I felt loved and accepted. His love removed my fear and doubt. Every day when I read this session, my heart becomes strong again. God has helped me see myself through His eyes. Now I feel like I am important to Him.'

'When I read Session 6 about the Father's love, I cried because it touched the deepest part of my heart. I always longed for love and care, and in this session I learned that God the Father loves me more than anyone else. He knows my pain, my fears and my hidden tears. As I kept reading, I felt healing inside. God showed me that I am never alone. He watches over me and holds me close. This gives me new peace. Now I pray with trust, knowing that my Father in heaven truly cares for me.'

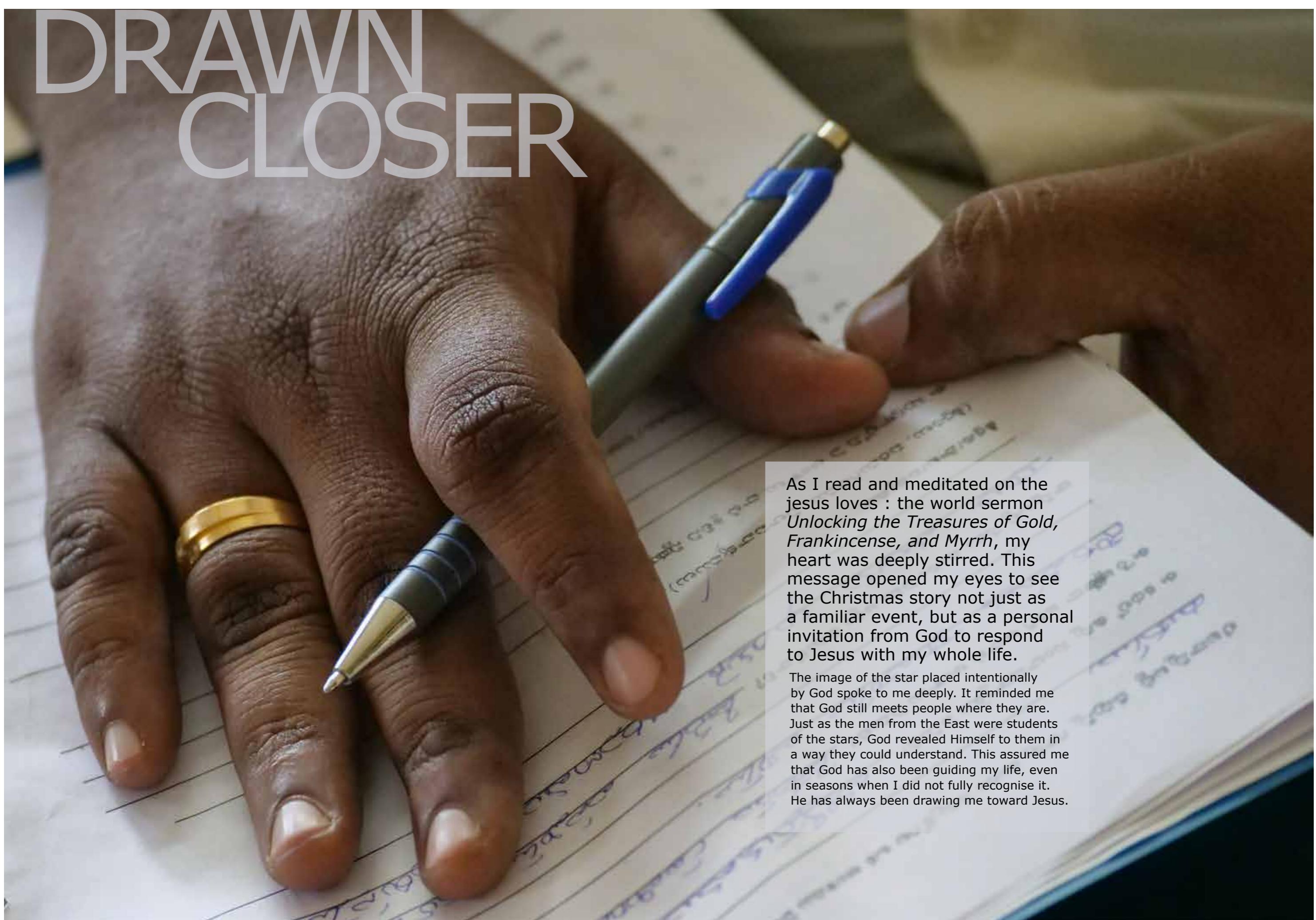
'Session 7 helped me know Jesus in a personal way. When I learned that He is my Good Shepherd, I felt safe for the first time in many years. I understood that He leads me, protects me, and gives me rest. Before this, my mind was full of fear and confusion. But this session showed me that Jesus walks with me every day. One morning as I prayed, I felt His gentle peace filling my heart. It was like He was holding my hand and saying, "I am guiding you." This session made me strong and hopeful again.'

'Session 8 changed my life in a powerful way. I learned that the Holy Spirit lives in me and shows me God's love. I understood that He is my helper and comforter. Before this, I carried many heavy thoughts and worries. But as I studied the session, I felt those burdens slowly leaving. The Holy Spirit gave me peace in my heart. He also helped me overcome negative thoughts. Now when I pray I feel His presence inside me. This session gave me freedom and joy.'

'Session 9 touched me very deeply because it said that God accepts me exactly as I am. My whole life I felt rejected and not valued. But while reading this session, my eyes filled with tears. I understood that God sees me, loves me, and has a plan for me. He does not compare me with anyone. When I realised this truth, a huge weight lifted from my heart. I felt free from shame and fear. Now I live with confidence because I know God has accepted me forever. This session gave me a new identity in Christ.'



DRAWN CLOSER



As I read and meditated on the jesus loves : the world sermon *Unlocking the Treasures of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh*, my heart was deeply stirred. This message opened my eyes to see the Christmas story not just as a familiar event, but as a personal invitation from God to respond to Jesus with my whole life.

The image of the star placed intentionally by God spoke to me deeply. It reminded me that God still meets people where they are. Just as the men from the East were students of the stars, God revealed Himself to them in a way they could understand. This assured me that God has also been guiding my life, even in seasons when I did not fully recognise it. He has always been drawing me toward Jesus.

DRAWN CLOSER

The revelation of gold challenged my heart. Gold represents Jesus as King, His right to rule and reign.

As I reflected on this, I realised that while I confess Jesus as Saviour, there are areas of my life where I still try to hold control. This sermon led me to a place of surrender, acknowledging that Jesus is not just King in title, but King over my decisions, my plans, my family, and my future.

The meaning of frankincense touched me deeply. Jesus as our Eternal Priest reminded me that I do not stand before God on my own merit. He represents me before the Father and brings God close to me. This renewed my gratitude for the covenant relationship I have with God which is built on love, intimacy and grace. It is my desire to have a deeper life of worship and continual fellowship with Him.

The most powerful moment for me was understanding the gift of myrrh. Knowing that myrrh pointed to suffering, sacrifice and death brought a holy weight to my heart.

Jesus did not only come as a baby in a manger, He came knowing the cross awaited Him. He entered fully into human pain so that I could be free.

Like the men from the East, I realised that God is not just asking for my words, but for the treasures of my heart. This sermon led me to bow in worship, to surrender in obedience, and to offer my life as a living sacrifice to Jesus, my Eternal King, Priest and Saviour.

This message has strengthened my faith, renewed my worship, and reminded me that Jesus is worthy of everything I am and everything I have.

I testify that this sermon has drawn me closer to Christ and helped me see Him more clearly not only as the One who came into the world, but as the One who reigns forever.

All glory, honour and praise be to Jesus.

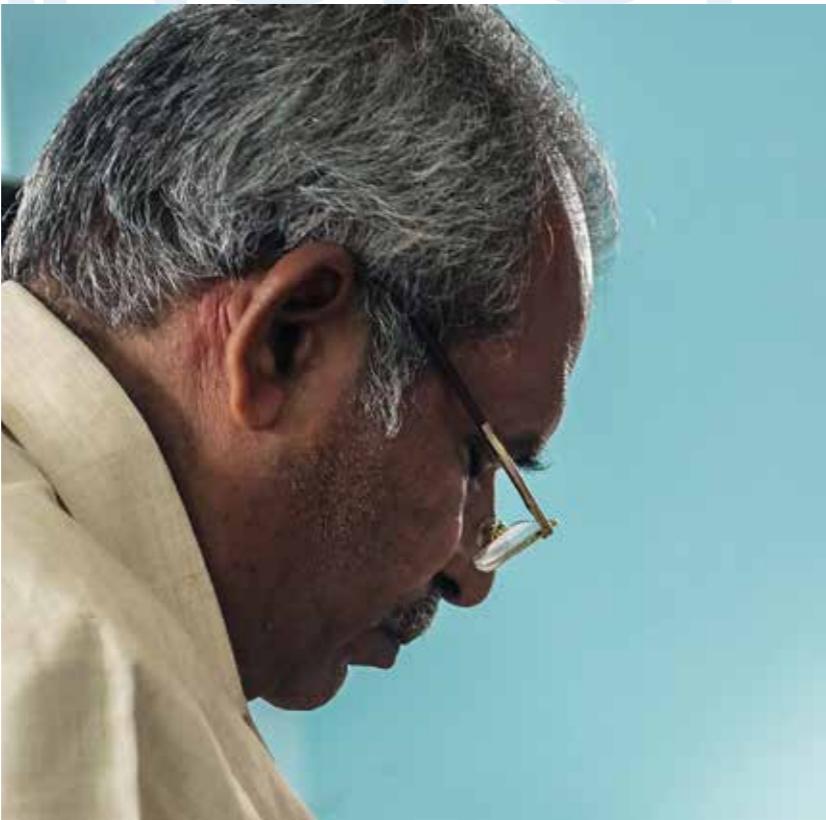


A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a person's hands and arms. The person is wearing a red dress with a white and blue floral pattern. They are holding an open book with both hands, looking down at the pages. The book has a thick red cover. The background is out of focus, showing more of the person's dress and some greenery.

LIVES
TRANSFORMED

NOW
AND ALL
ETERNITY

LIVES TRANSFORMED



We as a people thought we knew the truth, yet we remained trapped. There was no transformation, no freedom and no respect for each other. Then one day I heard the personal stories of people whose lives have been transformed by God. Not just for eternity but in their everyday lives. These testimonies touched my heart. Each one had received personally from God through the jesus loves : the world messages. So I requested to receive these messages in my heart language. Each week we would go through the messages and share them with others. Now our lives tell a very different story. A story of transformation, freedom and respect for each other. This is God's story in our story.

'For many years I lived in fear because my husband was drinking heavily. Every night I waited outside the door, wondering what mood he would come home in. I felt like I was drowning in worry. When I heard one of the jesus loves : the world messages, I heard the words that God never forgets a single tear His children cry. Those words broke something inside me. I felt like someone lifted a big stone from my chest. I went back home that day with a peace I hadn't felt in many years.

Slowly, I started praying regularly with new strength. I also decided to change my way of talking, even during difficult moments. To my surprise, within a few weeks my husband started coming home earlier and the fights reduced. He even told me one day, "You are more peaceful now." This message didn't just touch me—it changed my home. I feel God is walking with me every day.'

'Last year I lost my paddy crop completely because of heavy rains. I had taken a loan and didn't know how to repay it. Every morning I woke up with fear and shame, feeling like a failure in front of my family. When I listened to the jesus loves : the world message, the pastor said, "God sees your struggle even when no one else sees." Hearing that, I felt like God was speaking directly to me. I cried quietly, because for the first time in months, hope entered my heart.

After that message, I stopped blaming myself and started praying with trust. I worked again with renewed strength. I still remember that day—it was the turning point. It reminded me that God is bigger than my failures.'



NOW
AND ALL
ETERNITY

LIVES TRANSFORMED



'I always felt I was not good enough because I didn't study much. I compared myself with other women who spoke English or had good jobs. I used to feel very small inside. When I heard the jesus loves : the world message about being chosen and valued by God, the words, "Your value is not in education or money—your value is in God's eyes", something changed inside me. I sat there with tears rolling down my face because I never heard such words in my life.

From that day, I started loving myself. I speak with confidence now, even if my language is simple. I help other women in my village and even started teaching a few children. This message gave me an identity I never had before. I realised I am not less than anyone—God made me with purpose.'

'For months I suffered from severe back pain. I couldn't lift heavy items and my daily wage work was getting affected. I worried about how to take care of my family. During the jesus loves : the world message, I felt a sudden warmth in my back. Tears came automatically. I didn't expect healing that day—I just wanted strength to face another week. When I reached home, I realised the pain had reduced so much. For the first time in months I slept comfortably without turning again and again in pain. The next morning I woke up fresh and strong. I went to work and finished the full day without difficulty. I tell everyone now that God touched me that day. This message became a medicine that changed my life.'

'I used to get angry very quickly. Customers, family, children—even small issues irritated me. Because of my anger, relationships in my home became weak. When I heard the jesus loves : the world message about forgiveness and patience, I felt like someone was showing me a mirror. I realised how much damage my short temper caused. I went home that day feeling sorry for my behaviour.

From the next day I made a decision to control my words. I apologised to my wife for hurting her so many times. Slowly, my home atmosphere began to change. My children now talk freely with me and even wait for me to come home. That message taught me that peace begins with my own heart.'

'After my husband passed away, my world collapsed. I stopped going out, stopped laughing, stopped living. I felt completely alone even though people were around me. When I attended the jesus loves : the world message after many months, I didn't expect anything. But when I heard, "God is close to the brokenhearted," I broke down. I felt like God Himself reached into my heart and comforted me. From that day I started believing that I am not alone. I joined the women's group, and slowly joy returned to my life. I started talking to neighbours and helping others. My heart became lighter. That message brought me back from the dark place I was trapped in. I now live with hope again.'

'I used to waste a lot of time on my mobile phone—videos, games, everything. I stayed awake late at night and my studies were going down. My parents scolded me but I didn't change. When I listened to the jesus loves : the world message, I felt it was talking exactly about me. For the first time ever I felt guilty not because of my parents' scolding, but because I realised I was wasting God's gift of time.

That night I deleted many unnecessary apps and decided to help my father in the fields in the mornings. Slowly I felt more energetic, my mind became clearer, and I started scoring better in exams. The message changed my thinking completely. Now I use my phone wisely, and I feel proud of myself for the first time in a long while.'



NOW AND ALL ETERNITY



DRAWINGS THAT SPEAK TO THE DEPTH OF ONE'S HEART

An official came to inspect that the jesus loves : the world filing was according to regulations. After inspecting and approving our filing system, he was given a copy of the jesus loves : the world resources. One of them attracted his attention—the *Good News Storybooks* (6-book set). He started reading and looking at the drawings by tribal children. Tears came.

Time passed.

He said he could not get the children's drawings out of his mind. It touched him deeply how the story is told through the children's hearts. He said, if this God can reveal Himself to these children, then I now know He can reveal Himself to me. He surrendered to God.

He received the revelation directly from God that everyone has the right to hear this truth. So he said, if jesus loves : the world can provide 35 samples of these *Good News Storybooks* with a copy of the curriculum in the language of the people group that have the greatest need, he would submit them to each of the relevant 35 officials for their approval and support.

We sought God as to whether this was a door He had miraculously opened and if so, what was His will for us to do. The answer from God was clear, 'this is from Me.' So we surrendered it all to Him.

Sadly, we did not have the funds available to pay for the printing of the samples by the designated deadline. We thanked the official for the opportunity but said unfortunately we cannot provide the printed samples due to financial constraints.

The official followed us up long after the deadline had passed and said the door was still miraculously open. We were shocked. Now we miraculously had the funds to print the samples. So we sent 35 printed sets of *Good News Storybooks* gospel literacy readers in the language of the greatest need. Amazingly, the 35 officials approved the *Good News Storybooks*. As a result we have received 300 beautifully printed *Good News Storybooks* sets along with 30 *Good News Storybook* program manuals in the language we submitted.

Our trained leaders are now taking the *Good News Storybook* program in the local language to children experiencing economic hardship and barriers to education. They have been praying and waiting for over five years for this provision.

AN INTIMACY THAT DEFINES IDENTITY



RELATIONSHIPS – KINGDOM OF GOD

I wanted proper discipleship for my people. I had been searching for something that brought an intimacy with God, something that they had never experienced. Something that would bring healing to their deep hurt and pain.

As I listened to some of the testimonies from the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Program*, I felt in my spirit this could be it. Little did I know I would be drawn closer to God and experience Him in a new way myself.

Even before we had finished the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Experience*, I could see the beauty and the journey that God takes each one who is willing on. His strategy and progression through each session, all with the heart to set people free and to know Him, is so beautiful.

Let me share with you some of my personal moments with God as we journeyed through the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Experience*.

These are some extracts from my workbook.

God's love is so great. His heart's desire is to bring me back to relationship with Him. Even though I was long lost He still found me. Reaching out toward me, He gave me a choice to receive or to refuse. He is not controlling. He gives me respect and He honours me.

It's my heart to receive, so my personal practice is, 'I just thank you God that you have a love for me and that your love is for benefit to me. I am so grateful, so I receive your love. I am loved by you and nothing can separate me from your love.'

The Father loves me so much that He sent Jesus to show me God's love and to save me. I was so touched that God sent Jesus to me. He lived on the earth so that I can see the Father clearly. This is so amazing!

I have unlimited access to the Father through Jesus Christ who loves me and died for me. So I can live in His love. I am in His love and I will be in His love forever. His love never ceases. Even though my circumstances might change, He will not change.

It means a lot to me that I am so special in God's eyes. I feel so honoured that the LORD God Almighty chose to accept me with His incredible love. What an honour! My heart is so free to be who I am.

He is patient to everyone. He is so kind and humble. His love is equal to everyone. His love is pure and unconditional for me and everyone. So I can believe and trust in Him.

His plan is perfect and is such a mystery for our benefit. His humility is higher than I can understand. There is no equal. His power is exceedingly great and He loves to work with us and share everything with us, including His power and glory.

AN INTIMACY THAT DEFINES INTIMACY

To be one with God is a huge thing for me. God who is perfect has His desire to be one with me. Through Jesus Christ I am one with Him. It is a deep and intimate relationship where He sees me and understands me. It is a transformation of His love toward me. As I am one with Him, His love is perfect in me. So I can be whole and see Him clearly and be intimate with Him. I think being one with Him is a very big thing. To see His glory is another beautiful thing. That is to receive His glory and splendour in my life. So people will know Him through us.

In the story we read, the son betrayed the Father and dishonoured him. But the father did not look at the wrong of what he did. Instead the Father accepted him as if nothing had happened. God is amazing. He is so kind and generous. His love is given freely and equally to everyone, even to the lost and to the one in their own mistake. His love is giving, not taking. As a child of God He loves and accepts who we are and He gave everything to us.

Jesus loves His disciples to the end, the end of Him and the end of us. Wherever we are at He came. He humbled Himself to where we are at and serves. Jesus prepared breakfast for them. He also directed them when they were unable to get anything. This reminded me that He will direct me in everything. He lit the fire and invited them to come and eat breakfast together. His heart is to serve, not to be served. This session showed me He can do everything and His love is unlimited.

Oh Lord, you are so beautiful; your heart is so generous to me. I can't attain your personality. You are higher than any gods in this world. I want to glorify your precious name. You are so worthy to be praised among the earth; only you, Lord, are worthy in the highest place. I'm humbled to be a king and priest and to reign with you forever. Your glory, your crown of glory over me. Thank you for loving me. Your love is beyond my comprehension. Only you, Lord, love me this much, and you have given me everything. I'm so grateful.

I was also so touched when some of my group also shared. These are a few of their moments with God.

'I had been struggling with receiving the Father's love. As I was doing the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Experience*, God has turned things around for me. The Holy Spirit has revealed His truth to me and I felt so blessed to have a personal revelation from the Holy Spirit through the session.'

'It is so beautiful how much God loves and that He wants us to be a part of His love. It is an incredible unselfish love that has given all to Jesus and then given all to us. This session has helped me understand God's love.'

'I felt I was rebellious to God yet He still pursued me. Doing the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Experience* I realised that in my heart I need to receive God and His love in a different way. So I have asked God for that.'

This was my personal prayer as I was journeying through the *Kingdom of God Discipleship Experience*. It is now my prayer for you and all people:

'His will is pure and beautiful for us to be whole. My heart feels so loved... what else can I say? Only praise you and I want to worship you. You are the lover of my soul. Have my heart Lord. More of me to be like you. I want more of you and your loving heart. Heavenly Father, help me to love others like you love me. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Take me deeper in this journey with you. Lord the Father of glory, will you give me the Spirit of revelation, to know and love you deeply in Jesus' name. Amen.'

'When I prayed at the end of the session titled *God So Loves*, I started to cry. I prayed that I wanted to have a closer relationship with Him.'

