

TLC News

Tsunami Relief

Thanks to your generosity, last weekend TLC raised \$54,000 for tsunami relief through the *Good Samaritan South Asia Fund*. This fund is facilitated through local Asian church leadership by the highly respected mission agency CBI. If you'd like to contribute, write your check to "Twin Lakes Church" and designate it for the *Good Samaritan South Asia Fund*. We also have a link for direct contributions --and more info about the fund-- on our web site, www.tlc.org

Adopt-a-Soldier

We are so proud of the students at Twin Lakes Christian School, who have personally adopted soldiers serving in Iraq. The students wrote them letters and made special hand-made Christmas ornaments, plus this past Monday they gave a quarter-ton of care packages to Staff Sergeant Ray Ward for delivery to the field.

In 2 Weeks

TLC's Winter *World Outreach Festival* with fun activities, sign-ups for short term trips, plus special speaker Ron Cline. A favorite at Mt. Hermon conferences, Ron is president of missions radio network HCJB, the largest Christian broadcasting outlet on the planet.

40 Days of Prayer

February's the kick-off for the *40 Days of Prayer* series, and in three weeks we begin sign-ups for prayer groups. What does the Bible say about praying effectively? How can you best pray for your family? Is it really biblical to pray in groups? How can I spot an answer to prayer? Join us for the answers to these questions and many more!



René Schlaepfer, January 8 & 9, 2004



Part 2: Restoring Your Passion for Life!

A Checklist of Seven Passion-Killers

- 1. Unclear** _____
"I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun was grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind." Eccl. 2:17 (NIV)
- 2. Unbalanced** _____
"It is senseless for you to work so hard from early morning until late at night, fearing you will starve to death; for God wants His loved ones to get their proper rest." Ps. 127:2 (LB)
- 3. Unconfessed** _____
"My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear... I am bowed down and brought low." Ps. 38:4,6 (NIV)
- 4. Unresolved** _____
"Resentment destroys the fool, and jealousy kills the simple." Job 5:2 (NIV)
- 5. Unhealed** _____
"My eyes have grown dim with grief; my whole frame is but a shadow." Job 17:7
- 6. Undeveloped** _____
"Two are better than one, because... if one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!" Eccl. 4:9-10
- 7. Undernourished** _____
"Just as you trusted Christ to save you, trust Him, too, for each day's problems; live in vital union with Him. Let your roots grow down into Him and draw up nourishment from Him... go on growing in the Lord, and become strong and vigorous..." Col. 2:6-7 (LB)
"God's principles will fill you with living energy." Pr. 3:22 (LB)
"You must worship only the Lord, for He is a God who is passionate about His relationship with you." Ex. 34:14 (NLT)

Which items do you need to work on?

"You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you've fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first." Rev. 2:4-5 (NIV)

Daily Meditations

Spend some time each day this week meditating on today's topic...

This week's memory verse:

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." Col. 2:6-7 (NIV)

Monday

Which area(s) did you check on your "checklist" on page one? Pray that God will give you direction specifically for the areas you checked this week as you work through these devotions.

Read Psalm 138:8, Proverbs 19:21 & Isaiah 49:4. What do these verses tell you about purpose?

In what area(s) of your life are struggling to find purpose? How has that sense of purposelessness impacted your passion for life?

How can you apply these verses to your life and situation? What one thing will you do this week to move towards purpose and passion?

Thank God today that your future is in His hands. Thank Him for His concern for you and your emotions. Talk to Him about the areas of your life where you feel as though you lack purpose. Ask Him for patience, direction and hope.

Tuesday

Read Psalm 127:2 & Ecclesiastes 3:1. These days even children suffer from unbalanced schedules! What are some of the side effects of an unbalanced schedule in your life?

Think about how you spent your time yesterday. How does your schedule reflect balance-- or a lack of it?

The first response I often have to making change in my life is that I must take charge. In reality, lasting change comes less from *trying* and more from *surrendering* to God's plan. In that spirit, take a moment to write down your typical daily schedule on another sheet of paper. Include everything-- driving, watching tv, school -- whatever a day entails.

When you're done lay that schedule before the Lord. Ask Him to show you how He'd like you to spend your time. Ask Him for wisdom and courage to follow through. Commit your schedule to Him and pray that you'll honor Him with your use of time.

Wednesday

Read Psalm 32:4-5, Psalm 38:4-6 & Psalm 51. How has unconfessed sin robbed you of passion in the past?

What do these verses tell you about the effects of unconfessed sin? What do they teach you about confession?

Spend some time in prayer today first thanking God for the forgiveness of your sins. Talk to Him about the sins you're struggling with. If there's anything sin you've been holding back from Him confess it now. Ask Him for the the faith and confidence to believe His promise of forgiveness and to live a life of the grateful forgiven.

Thursday

Read Job 5:2, 17:7; Psalm 10:14, Psalm 31, Proverbs 15:1 & Ephesians 4:26. Anger and grief are two emotions that can fester in our hearts and slowly rob of us passion. Recall a time recently when anger got the best of you. How did that impact you and your relationships?

How are you battling grief in your life right now? It may not be the loss of a loved one, it may be the loss of a dream, unmet expectations or feeling overwhelmed by life.

What comforts you most in these verses?

What do you learn from these verses about handling anger and grief?

Thank God today that He is not afraid of your emotions. Be honest with Him about your anger and grief. Pray that you will see life from His perspective and live under the shadow of His care and comfort.

Friday

Read Proverbs 18:24 & Ecclesiastes 4:9-10. How would you describe your friendships? What are your strengths when it comes to friendships? What are your weaknesses?

How do you think not having close friends impacts a person's passion for life?

How will you make friendships a priority this year? What is one thing you will do to ensure that you are a good friend?

Thank God today that He is your friend. Thank Him for the friends He has given you. Pray that you will be a supportive and solid friend to those in your life. Ask God to grow your relationships this year.

Saturday

Read Colossians 2:6-7. Nourishing your spirit with the truth of God and His word is really the key to all the things we've studied this week. Take time today to sit at God's feet and pray. Ask Him to grow your roots down deep into Him. Pray that you will be faithful to make His nourishment your spiritual life blood in the year ahead.