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Dan & Marta Lewis

I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, and I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, as a *light to the nations*... Isaiah 42:6

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2 Tim 3:12 NKJV

Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

The scripture above is not typically one people stick to their refrigerator or some other conspicuous place for daily inspiration, but it is just as much a part of the Bible as whatever your favorite scripture might be. This letter that Paul wrote to Timothy contains a warning about the perilous times to be expected in the last days. As one reads the list of character traits (or lack of character) of many during the last days, it is astonishing to compare these with what we see in the age we live in. Paul told Timothy to turn away from such people.

Paul's second letter to the church at Corinth contains a similar warning, when Paul tells us not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers, and tells us to separate ourselves from the ungodly. (2 Corinthians chapter 6)

The question some would ask is: "Why can't I be linked together with an unbeliever?" The main reason is that you don't share the most important things in common with them. There is no common ground for fellowship. To fellowship with people who deny God, who do not respect the Word or who have no problem with ungodly things and sin, you will have to fellowship with what they fellowship with. But it's unclean and it will defile.

There are too many Christians who try to blend in with the world. The problem is that the Bible goes *against* much of the world's mentality and what it is preaching. And what the world is preaching is "Every *thing* is OK – and everybody is OK". You just have to accept everybody for who they are and what they are and love them for what they are. What could be wrong with that?

We are to love people, but we don't have to love what they do. And we don't have to accept things that the Bible clearly says are not right and we don't have to participate in things that are wrong. In fact, we are commanded to *come out of it, and be separate from it*. But, if you're too attached to the world and its ungodliness it creates confusion and distorts how you see things. It makes it so you can't tell what's God and what's not God, and it limits any blessing you might receive. The enemy loves to see you in that state of uncertainty and confusion. Because if you're not sure it's God, you won't act on it.

Please understand that this is not about any of us being the "holiness police" and it's not about having to completely stay away from unbelievers. Most of us at one time or another have had to work with unbelievers, but we do not have to participate in things they may do outside of the work place. And it's not about us preaching to them either. The demonstration of a Christian lifestyle can be very powerful.

When you take a stand to live for Jesus, it seem like you are very much alone. Not everyone will rejoice that you have chosen to live a holy life, and some people can't live with that thought, so they try to compromise. Even though our main scripture promises persecution, we need to remember that Jesus said in John 16:33 that *...In the world you will have trouble; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*"

Knowing that we are to be overcomers, it is good to know the scriptures that tell us what we can expect as a follower of Jesus (persecution, tribulation) but that does not have to be our focus. We are not ignorant of Satan's devices, and should be focusing on things like, "I can do all things by Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13)... Greater is He who is in me than he who is in the world (John 4:4)... No weapon formed against me shall prosper (Isaiah 54:17) and ...we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us (Rom 8:37).

Finally, one of the most important things we can do, as much as is possible is to surround ourselves with like-minded people who believe and live by the Word of God.

Speaking of persecution, Pastor Istvan Sule of Ózd, Hungary had his tire slashed while delivering Christmas packages provided by partners of Light to the Nations. Obviously, that can be very discouraging, but we were able to share some of these things with him, and also let him know that we had a similar thing happen many years ago. This was also one of the "coolest miracles we have witnessed. We were also delivering Christmas packages, but some of the people who were not church members became angry and decided to slash one of our tires. What happened next was miraculous: Unaware that our tire had a huge hole in it, we drove away, and the tire stayed inflated! We drove over 80 kilometers and had no problem at all until we got near a gas station. That's when I noticed the car pulling a bit to one side and could pull off under lights to inspect it. One of the workers noticed the hole in the tire and said "Somebody in Romania doesn't like you." I answered, "But somebody up there, really likes us!" I would love to have seen the face of the "slasher" as we drove away on a slashed tire that the air stayed in!

We want to thank everyone who supports this ministry in prayer and financially. We are aware that there are people who have jobs, or are in the military or even retired, who sacrifice part of their income to partner with Light to the Nations. We believe that those who support a ministry are just as important to the success of that ministry, as those who are "delivering the message". Without our partners the message could not be delivered. We want you to know you are extremely important to this ministry. Thank you!

Love and blessings,

Dan & Marta Lewis



Above left: On our way to Romania in December, we stopped for a brief visit with old friends Béla Koltai (far right) and his wife Gyöngyi (red coat). We worked with Béla and Gyöngyi several years ago in the town of Szolnok, Hungary. We were able to bless them with several titles of faith building books. Also pictured is Pastor Thomas Lohnke from Langenthal, Switzerland (far left) and Dan & Marta. **Above right:** Béla and Gyöngyi were able to drive away with a trunk full of faith filled books. A special thank you to our partners who have provided funds for more Bibles and teaching materials in Hungarian.



More books and Bibles were given every place we went. **Above left,** Gina and Zoli Mursa, originally from Tiszabecs, Hungary, hold up the books they received to help them start a new work in the town of Szakcs, Hungary. **Above center:** Pastor Istvan and Szilvia Sule also received books and Bibles for the church in Ózd, Hungary, as did the church in Bácszállás (**Above right**) Which Pastor Istvan and Szilvia have been overseeing.



Above left: Some of the gifts of food that thanks to our partners we were able to bless each church with during our December Visit. The **center** photo shows people from the church in Botpalad, Hungary as they received their Christmas gifts from Light to the Nations. **Above right:** More important than bringing books and food, we brought the Word of God. Here Dan & Marta are teaching a home group in Bácszállás on a **cold** December night.



Looking back at 25 years of ministry. **Above left:** In Mongolia, we encountered many orphan children. We were told that there were as many as 30,000 homeless orphans living under the streets of Ulaanbaatar. Here is Marta with a group of girls who had been rescued from that life. Esther, who lived with us in Budapest, is just to the right of Marta. The **center** photo shows Dan holding one of the sweet orphan boys who did not have to spend his life under the streets just to keep from freezing to death. **Above right:** Our first Christmas delivery of food packages in Romania. We learned a lot in those first few years, and now the church leaders are able to take care of all the food distribution without our physical help. Our partners have been making a huge difference in peoples lives for 25 years! Thank you!!!