

C. Elkins CARLTON & DOROTHY ELKINS

1097 Tatemachi, 3-7-106 Tategaoka Danchi, Hachioji, Japan 193-0994 Phone 090-6179-2334

BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Beloved brothers and sisters, we acknowledge offerings as follows: 4/30, \$2,485.00, 5/31, \$335.00, 6/22 \$335.00, 7/31, \$335. We are deeply grateful for all you do for us and for the Gospel in general. May God ever expand His cover of grace upon each of you.

We greet you in the grace of God and our Savior, Jesus Christ,

Because of Dot's poor health she and I have not been able to attend church for some time. We miss it much, but Nathan is more than an able preacher/ pastor. People that we reached earlier continue to attend, though not yet believers. Pray for them, and for us.

Dot's physical health is a constant concern to us, especially to me. Her mental health is even more so. Sometimes when she talks on the phone to her sisters she is really in control of her senses. Nights are especially bad for her, and for me, because she doesn't sleep well at night, and she talks a lot in her semi-sleep. Last night I got about 1 hour's sleep. 2 or 3 hours is not unusual. This can't go on indefinitely. Nathan is looking into a day care center. I doubt that she will be willing to go along with that. But do pray for us; we are hurting.

If day care works out, I will have several hours a day to do church work and church related work, including getting ready to demolish the old parsonage. See next paragraph. I may also catch up on some sleep. We are hoping activities at the center will tire her so she can sleep at night. Day care is not cheap. Pray about this, also.

Now I imagine some of you are saying, Get her some sleeping pills. Actually years ago I had some that were very good, and did not have severe side effects. Recent times have been different. I tried one, and the next day I couldn't move. I tried a half, and the next day I could half move. We got some for Dot. It is called Halcyon. I saw a program on TV about various sleeping aids. This was one of them. Some people said it's the best thing since flat beds, but others have severe reactions. Dot goes out of her mind, and can't stand on her feet. High price to pay for sleep. Yes, we do need prayer.

The church parsonage is falling apart. Not that we have any particular use for it, except to store some things. We will have to clean it out. Lots of good books will have to go. Good clothes. We don't have space for such things here. Also the water pipes are crumbling, running up a great water bill. I think I t is time to get out. God will open something.

Although I have not been able to attend church services, Nathan keeps me up on what's going on, the lessons, the response, etc. I like what he is teaching. He is strong on the Old Testament, not teaching legalism, but N.T. principles as found in the Old Testament. I would like to hear all those lessons. I am especially blessed to hear good response from the hearers.

God bless you all wonderfully.

In Jesus,

Carlton & Dorothy

TO SAVE A LIFE MARK 8:34-38.

MARK 8:35."Whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's will save it."

1. Not many things really matter in life; your relationship with Jesus is the one thing that absolutely matters. When Nathan was in fourth grade (Japanese school), his homeroom teacher came to our home and asked what I wanted Nathan. I said, "I want him to be a good Christian." The teacher did not understand and Japanese people in general do not understand. This is very near to what Jesus was saying to His disciples. Jesus was not soliciting professional Christians; He wanted disciples, regardless of the kind of work they did. He wanted dedicated, faithful disciples. Only one life; it will soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last. Your relationship to Jesus is the only thing that matters ultimately.

If you choose to be a farmer, a businessman, a teacher or other labor, a successful life is not possible outside the will of Jesus. In the early church there were people of many walks of life, but their common point was they were committed disciples. Jesus does not redeem men to sign them up to a life of religion; Jesus came to save us from our sins and give us eternal life. And He called for men to be disciples.

2. Jesus said, "If any man will come after me. . ." Why would anyone want to follow Jesus? Because Jesus has the words of eternal life, and He is the Christ, the Son of the Living God."(John 6:68-69). It is not about religion; it is about life. Right after this lesson, Jesus took Peter, James and John upon a mountain and showed them the glory of the kingdom of God. They saw the resurrected Moses and Elijah. This glorious kingdom is what following Jesus is all about, not simply becoming a believer.

3. Jesus is the One we can believe in. There is an absolute in the world. He made all things; He made us. Apart from Him there is nothing! It is Jesus, the Absolute. If we lose everything, Jesus can give us far more. The separation is not between religious life and the real life. Real life is in Jesus. There is no other.

4. There is a REDEEMER who brings Redemption. It is Jesus.

Jesus did not come into the world, as a politician or a philosopher just to change some things. Our work is to preach redemption in Jesus. He came to redeem the world. On the cross it looked like Satan had defeated Jesus, but it was the other way around. Satan never caused Jesus to sin; that was the major test. He had Jesus killed, but could never make Jesus sin. Jesus never sinned, nor begged mercy of Satan. Further he could not keep Jesus dead, for Jesus "yielded up His spirit" in death. No one took it from Him. Therefore the world is now His. He has redeemed it (bought it back).

5. There is a SAVIOR in the world, who brings salvation. It is Jesus. Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost (everyone!). "He shall save His people from their sins." In redemption, He paid the price for our sins with His own life, and in salvation He forgives all the sins of everyone who believes.

6. There is a KING in the world who brings order and righteousness. It is Jesus. Jesus is our righteousness. Jesus will rule the world in complete righteousness and justice. Being successful as a person does not mean being religious, it means being under the authority of Jesus, walking in His will.

C. Elkins