Resurvection Life of Jesus Church THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD RLJ-1237 JOHN S. TORELL MAY 9, 2010

The Bible is full of events when God supernaturally intervened in the life of human beings. We have read of the supernatural accounts in the Book of Acts and long for God to move just like that in our time. God has not changed and is still moving today and has recently moved in our ministry in such a way that we have never seen before.

THE STORY

About two years ago a little baby boy named Caspar was born to a Swedish mother and an American father. The father is a practicing Buddhist and the mother has no religion at all. They live in a small town called Mill Valley, which is located just north of San Francisco.

The Swedish mother has a good friend who is also from Sweden and she lives with her family in another small town called Fairfax just north of Mill Valley. One day little Casper was diagnosed with cancer and treatments were started but no one knew if he was going to live or die.

In the meantime, this family had some repairs made on their home and the man in charge of these repairs was Vassili, who happens to be a member of Resurrection Life of Jesus Church. He had been to the home several times prior to Casper contracting cancer and talked at length with the father when he found out about the cancer. Vassili asked the father a burning question, *"Are you willing to give up Buddha in exchange for your son to be healed?"* The father did not hesitate and said "No." Vassili's heart was broken and the following Sunday he told the story in church and requested prayer for Casper to be healed regardless of the spiritual condition of the parents.

We prayed in church and moved on since there are prayer requests coming in all the time but God was not through with us yet. Some two months prior to us praying for Casper, a friend in Norway by the name of Leif had sent us a copy of a CD that was produced by a Swedish evangelist Lennart Larsson, who had been traveling and ministering in Norway. My wife and I became very excited about this CD and wanted to contact this man.

But Leif did not have any information how to reach Lennart and my wife (Aina) contacted her friend Ann-Britt in Sweden who is a born again Christian and she in turn called her sister to find out if she had ever heard of Lennart. The good news was that the sister knew about the evangelist, had some of his recordings and was able to get an address and a telephone number. We received this information during the first week in May and were also told that Lennart was either in Norway or preparing to leave for Norway.

We decided to call Lennart as soon as possible and to my surprise he answered the phone and we had a great conversation about his music. Then he asked me, *"How far is Sacramento from San Francisco?"* After I told him it is a two hour drive, Lennart told me that he had a daughter living in a small city north of San Francisco but that she was in a backslidden condition and not walking with Christ. But he still held out hope for her as not too long ago she had sent him an email asking for prayer for a little boy with cancer. It turns out that his daughter was a very good friend of Caspar's mother.

I listened intently and wondered why this story sounded so familiar. Lennart told me the boys name was Casper but it was several weeks since we had prayed for a boy with cancer and I could not remember his name. As soon as I finished talking with Lennart, I called Vassili and asked him for the name of the boy. Something clicked in my spirit when Vassili told me Casper and I understood that God is concerned about this boy and was impressing upon us as a ministry to undertake a prayer vigil for him.

All this calling took place on May 4th and that night when we met for intercessory prayer at the church, I told how the Holy Spirit moved upon us, and we realized, that just like in the book of Acts, God was working with us on behalf of a little boy whose parents are not Christians but God has a plan for him.

Vassili is scheduled to go back to the home of Casper on May 10th and work there for several days. This will give him a chance to speak to the mother, pray for the child in-person and bring Jesus to a family that has no hope.

No one in the church knew all these things and the fact that a Swedish evangelist would have a daughter who was the best friend to a mother whose son had cancer *is the work of the Holy Spirit!* When I asked God what he wanted me to preach this coming Sunday, He told me to tell the story of Casper and to preach on the sovereignty of God.

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

Webster's dictionary defines the word "sovereign" as:

- superior to all others,
- supreme to all others,
- independent of all others.

Our Heavenly Father is sovereign and has stated so Himself without any apology. **Isaiah 45:21-25; 46:9-11**

When Job started to question God, he was rebuked by the questions God in turn asked him. **Job 38:1-41**

THE LOVE OF GOD

Jesus told us that despite God's tremendous majesty, splendor and power, He still loves people. **John 3:16**

God is seeking people who want to come to Him and worship and love Him. John 4:23-24

God loved each one of us before we came to Christ in repentance; He loved us while we were yet sinners. **Romans 5:1-11**

GOD CALLED US

God designed each human who were going to live on the earth before He began the creation and before anything was formed.

Isaiah testified to this truth. Isaiah 49:1

So did Jeremiah. Jeremiah 1:4-10

And so did the apostle Paul. Galatians 1:15

GOD CARES FOR THE INDIVIDUAL

There was a Roman officer by the name of Cornelius in the Book of Acts who believed in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and was a praying man. God wanted to save him and his household. The Gospel is given to man to preach and to minister and thus God had to supernaturally move on a number of people in order to get His will done. Here is a breakdown of the steps:

- The prayer. Acts 10:1-2
- The vision. verses 3-6
- The action. verses 7-8

God had set in motion the action to seek help and then he set in motion the action for the person who was going to respond to the need. It followed the same steps:

- The prayer. verse 9
- The vision. verses 10-16
- The action. verses 17-23

The result was salvation, the baptism of the Holy Spirit and water baptism.

God wants little Casper to be healed so that in time he can become saved and has activated a chain of people who are to pray while Vassili is the point man to deliver the message and lay his hands on the child and pray. Only Vassili has access to Casper at this time.

It is very exciting that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. **Hebrews 13:8**

The apostle Peter did not seek to be activated; instead, he sought to be closer to the Lord and then the Lord activated him.

All the people involved in this story of Caspar did not set out to do a specific job; instead, each person was living a normal life of walking with Jesus, and just like in the Book of Acts, it was who God activated each person.

- ✓ Vassili works as a superintendent for a construction company and made initial contact with the boy and his family.
- ✓ Leif passed on a Christian CD by Lennart Larsson.
- ✓ John and Aina liked the music and wanted to contact Lennart.
- ✓ Ann-Britt was an obedient handmaiden of the Lord.
- ✓ Lennart had the key to the puzzle and passed it on to John.
- ✓ The people at Resurrection Life of Jesus Church have responded with prayer.

Now it is up to God to finish this project by healing Casper and in time save him. His parents will have a chance to receive Christ and so will Lennart's daughter.

Are you ready to be part of a miracle?

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Have you made plans how to finish your life or are you drifting?

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?