



(Main Street Smithers, BC)

# The Streetcorner

*"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no one comes to the Father, but by me." John 14:6*

*On March 28, 2000 in the Smithers Hospital, God had an appointment with Jason Dicks. When we met Jason on that day, he shared with us from his hospital bed a pain-filled story of emptiness, confusion, despair, and hopelessness. Here is his story of how God in his love, picked him up when he was at his lowest point, and performed a miracle to change Jason's future forever. GOD STILL CHANGES LIVES TODAY!*

## ***"THERE IS NO TESTIMONY WITHOUT A TEST"***

by Jason Dicks

"There is no testimony without a test." Someone shared this saying with me some time ago, which at the time helped me deal with a few troubling thoughts. It has much more meaning to me now than it did a couple of years ago.

The purpose for sharing my testimony with you is not to focus on my troubled life, or write things to make you think of how disobedient, dishonest and stoned, I once was. Though I may share some of these things here, my reason for sharing my testimony with you is to bring glory to my heavenly Father and to Jesus Christ my Saviour and Lord.

During my walk on the path of life I have been in almost every back alley there is. I chose to keep myself hidden in the alleys of life because everything I once lived for kept me out of the light. When I think of it, I can't believe I was once that way. I am glad now, because I can begin to understand the power and love of our Father in heaven and the reasons for the things that have had to happen to prepare me to give this testimony.

I was born to Christian parents, yet I thought I could control my own life. I started working in a mine in Faro, Yukon Territories, at a very young age. I learned to run much of the heavy equipment and even received an instructors ticket to teach others how to run this equipment. I worked hard to get my blasting ticket. I thought I would get myself set up for the future. I married a beautiful lady named Angie who I love very much. We thought we had it made, a beautiful family, a good paying job, the world was before us to explore. When the mine closed in Faro, I got work in Kemess mine in northern British Columbia, I operated a Caterpillar D 10 at the open pit mine there. The family and I moved and made our home in Houston B.C..

From day one in my life, I lived for me and my family. I took sole responsibility for the things that went right and wrong; little did I know that I was wrong and I should be living every single minute for our Father in heaven.

Angie and I got into the dope and the party scene; we started to drift apart. We almost got a divorce at one time. Life was not what we had thought it would be.

Then I got sick. I had an operation for cancer. I still was very sick; the doctors thought I might have cancer of the pancreas. I was in and out of hospitals. I became very frustrated with life and wondered if it was even worth living anymore.

Then one day when I was in the Smithers hospital, two men came to my bedside. I asked them if they were doctors but they said they were missionaries. We spoke for a little while before the doctor came. I convinced him to let me go home. I needed a ride and the missionaries offered me a ride home. I was so weak they had to hold me up as we walked towards the truck.

On my way home I shared my desperate story with them and one of them read these verses from the Bible to me: "I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give

you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." Ezekiel 36:25,26 NIV

He asked me if I wanted to give all my problems and my life to the Lord. With tears in my eyes I prayed with them to receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. I asked him to forgive my sins, to come into my life and control me. I gave him all my burdens and troubles. At that moment I was set free! He came in and gave me peace in the place of the turmoil that had been there moments before.

As we drove home one of the missionaries asked me about my family and especially about my wife, "What would she think of my new found faith?" He encouraged me to share my faith with her when I got home.

When we got there they helped me into the house.

*(Continued on page #2)*

***"From day  
one in my life,  
I lived for  
me..."***

*("No testimony without a test"... con't. from page 1.)*

Angie greeted us with a frown and asked the men where they were from. She thought they were some drug friends of mine. They told her they were Christians and were helping me get home. Angie pulled up chairs for them and we all sat down at our table. Angie turned down the music and asked them to tell her about Christianity.

It was not long before Angie recommitted her life to Christ and we were rejoicing at the great miracle God had done in our family. The kids came around and we were all very happy, sharing the goodness of God! God has touched me and my family so openly and obviously, that our total goal in life now, is to glorify God.

It is written "store up your treasures in heaven...for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:19,21 NIV) Everyone dies sooner or later, or gets struck with a disease. I have been struck with Muscular Dystrophy. This disease could take away my walking ability, the strength in my arms, my neck and eventually my breathing and the ability to pump blood through my body, so this is a test. I recently found out about the M.D., but I don't look at it as a downfall, I look at it as, God made me this way to do my part in spreading His Holy Word and as a test to strengthen my faith. I thank God most deeply for making me this way. My eyes have been opened to understand that when we die, our bodies stay here; they don't come with us. This is clearly meant for us to grow as Christians spiritually and put the things of the flesh behind us. So the muscular Dystrophy I have is attacking my physical body. This is God's way of bringing me closer to Him, so why on earth should I be scared of that? Instead of a burden, I look at this in so many ways as a blessing.

Now instead of spending most of my time at work I can be with my family helping to bring me and my loved ones closer to God. He can mold me to be the Godly father and example he wants me to be, reflecting His glory through me. I can spend more time writing things like this and worshipping God. It is the least thing I can do because he helped us in ways that I didn't think that we could be helped. He changed my whole outlook from temporary to eternal.

God came into our lives at the perfect time, to help us through this. Even before Angie and I gave our hearts to the Lord,

I can look back and see how and why things happened this way. I have been given a gift. As I keep my focus on God, then hopefully my testimony will touch the hearts of many others and maybe bring someone the help that was brought to us. If I have to be crippled to help someone have faith in God, then I am glad to be crippled. If it takes me to be this way to get the message to people, then thank God for all the ways he has changed my life. My sole purpose in this life is to glorify God. I thank Him for providing me with this absolute content feeling inside my heart and the strength to press forward through the hidden traps that are in our path. I can say that this has brought me closer to my wife, my kids, my parents and most of all closer to God, and has given me the ability to have spiritual strength in the middle of all these physical weaknesses.

He has taken these weaknesses and molded them into a tool to tighten our fellowship with Him and with others and become a fisher of men.

If I didn't have the peace of God about this, it would be very easy for me to fall apart. Only through my faith in the Lord above am I able to accomplish a perfect inner balance. The peace he speaks about in his Word is now in me. "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7 NIV)

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share these words in this way. I hope our experience and our circumstances might touch your hearts and give you hope and faith, even in the trials of hardship and doubt that you may be going through. God has his hands on us all.

Most of all, considering the truly amazing transformation in my life, in my body, mind, and spirit, I want to thank Jesus for making me and my family the people we are today and for being surrounded by Christians in Houston and the surrounding communities, who always have a helping hand for someone in need.

I know that my test is not over, and I am not perfect! I won't be until I see Jesus face to face. I ask you for your prayers. Pray that no matter what lies ahead, that my family and I will be found faithful to Christ.

If I keep my eyes on Jesus I will make it through. Jesus will be with us through the difficult times. This I can assure you for he promised "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5b NIV) □



Jason and Angie with kids Danielle, Gregory, and Bobbi.

**PRAYER UPDATE:** *Please remember Jason in prayer as he has had recent complications from the Muscular Dystrophy requiring the amputation of his left foot. Pray that God's peace would surround them through these difficulties. Thank you.*

**I will give you a new heart and put a new Spirit in you;  
I will remove from you your heart of stone  
and give you a heart of flesh." Ezekial 36:26**

'This I believe.'

By Ken Penner

# STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS

When Mike and I first met Jason Dicks he was very pale and extremely weak physically. He was in the hospital and the doctors were trying to diagnose his illness. He was eager to hear the Good News of Christ and readily received Christ as Saviour. Later that day, his wife Angie rededicated her life to Christ. God only knows all what happened to bring this wonderful couple to Himself, but Jason himself testifies that his illness was key to his conversion and is key to his continuing to mature as a Christian. Through his physical weakness he is made spiritually strong when, due to his weakness, he seeks the Lord instead of handling life in his own way. Without this weakness, Jason may have never become a Christian and received forgiveness for his sins.

The apostle Paul went through a similar experience when he was afflicted with "a thorn in the flesh", something that made him weak, to keep him from "being conceited". He asked God to take it away, but Jesus replied "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Paul goes on to say "That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong." NIV (see 2 Corinthians 12:7-10). When we are strong in ourselves, pride and conceit rule in our lives, dragging us into a self-centered downward spiral, but God allows us to become weak in ourselves so we will look to him for strength. Only then can the Lord work in us and through us in His power.

Do you find yourself overcome with weakness today? Does there seem to be no hope? God wants us to willingly surrender our weaknesses, problems, sinfulness, and most of all, ourselves, totally to Him. God did a wonderful work in Paul and is doing a wonderful work in Jason and He will do a wonderful work in anyone who looks to Him for their strength. The Bible, in Hebrews 11, tells us about many others "whose weakness was turned into strength." by putting their faith in God.

The starting point of receiving strength from God is in surrendering to Jesus Christ and receiving him as personal Lord and Saviour, just as Paul did (read about it in Acts 9:1-19) and as Jason did. The following article "**How Can I Become a Christian**" explains how you too can become a believer in Jesus Christ.

This I believe!

## HOW CAN I BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

*Has God been speaking to you through Jason's story? Perhaps you are wondering where you stand before God?  
God is willing to change your life, and your eternal destiny right now!*

### GOD'S DESIRE

1

God created man to live with him for all eternity! Scripture tells us that he is our Creator, that he knows each of us by name, and that he cares intimately about us. It says in 2 Peter 3:9, that God is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (KJV) This is God's heart! He wants you to be with him. He wants you to live with him forever. He wants you to enjoy a perfect relationship with Himself. The Bible clearly teaches that GOD LOVES YOU! (1 John 4:10)

### MAN'S PROBLEM

2

There is one thing, however, that keeps us from this relationship with God—OUR SIN! Scripture teaches that "without holiness, no one will see the Lord." (Hebrews 12:14 NIV) In other words God's standard is perfection. There must not be one sin on our record if we are to be acceptable to God. However, Scripture tells us that "...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23 NIV). It also says that "the wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23 NIV) or separation from God for all eternity! If we physically die in this condition, there are no second chances. It is too late to turn to God then.

### GOD'S GIFT

3

Fortunately, this is not the end of the story. For God saw our helplessness, and in great compassion sent us what we needed most, a Savior, His one and only Son - Jesus Christ. Scripture tells us that, "(Christ) Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree..." (1 Peter 2:24 NIV)

"He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our sins; the punishment that brought us peace [with God] was upon him." (Isaiah 53:4,5 NIV)

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8 NIV)

### MAN'S RESPONSE

4

God has made a way for us to be acceptable and right before Him. "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out." (Acts 3:19 NIV) "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." (Acts 16:31 NIV) Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." (John 11:25-27 NIV)

You can be saved right now, whoever you are, whatever your situation. Confess to God that you are a sinner. Thank Jesus for taking the punishment for your sins by dying on the cross. Place your life in Christ's hands. Trust Him to forgive your sin. He alone has the power to save!

IF THIS IS SOMETHING YOU HAVE JUST DONE, PLEASE CONTACT A PERSON WHO YOU KNOW IS A SINCERE CHRISTIAN AND TELL THEM THE GOOD NEWS! FEEL FREE TO CALL US AT STREETCORNERS IF YOU NEED TO. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU HAVE SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE AS YOU BEGIN YOUR NEW LIFE AS A CHRISTIAN!

# WHAT WE BELIEVE

## The Bible and Its Authority

a) We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired by God and inerrant in the original writings, and that they are supreme and final authority in faith and conduct.

## The Eternal Godhead

b) We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

## Man and His Need

c) We believe that man was created in the image of God: that through sin man incurred both spiritual and physical death. Consequently, man is totally depraved, alienated from God, under his righteous anger, and in need of the new birth.

## Jesus Christ and His Work

d) We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary and is true God and true man.

e) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that all who believe in him are justified on the ground of his shed blood.

f) We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord Jesus Christ, in his ascension into heaven, his present life there for us as High Priest and Advocate and in his personal return.

## Salvation for Sinners

g) We believe that by the grace of God, all who in repentance and faith receive the Lord Jesus Christ are born again by the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God. Such are sealed unto the day of redemption. Nevertheless, the believer is commanded to be filled with the Spirit, moment by moment.

## The Future

h) We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, in the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and in the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost.

# ABOUT "THE STREETCORNER"

Dear Reader,

*It is a pleasure to introduce to you this first issue of "The Streetcorner".*

*Our goal in producing this paper is to encourage Christian faith in people everywhere, with a focus on distributing it mostly in the local area. We are gathering together testimonies of local Christians, such as Jason Dick's, featured in this issue, printing one in each quarterly issue. We also plan to put copies of each issue on a web site in the near future.*

*The opinions stated in news reports and personal experiences do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Streetcorners Ministries or The Streetcorner.*

*This paper is not to be sold but is distributed, in its entirety, free of charge to all who desire a copy. Funding is received through voluntary, free-will donations of interested individuals, organisations and churches.*

*Your comments and questions about the paper or Streetcorners Ministries are welcome.*

*Should you want to know more about the Christian faith please do not hesitate to contact us for more information.*

*Enjoy reading! May God bless you with all your needs and with faith in him!*

*The Editors*

*The Streetcorner*

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## ABOUT STREETCORNERS MINISTRIES:

Streetcorners Ministries exist to proclaim the person and message of Jesus Christ to all people, to disciple those new to the faith, to encourage consistent fellowship of believers and to meet practical needs as a way of demonstrating the love of Christ.

## ABOUT OUR LOGO:

### THE CROSS:

The heart of Streetcorners Ministries is the cross of Jesus Christ. As John 14:6 states, Jesus Christ offers the only way to peace with God, his Word is absolute *Truth*, and through his death and resurrection is eternal *life*. Our right response to God is to take up a cross ourselves as we die to self in order to live for him.

### THE STREETCORNER:

The cross also symbolizes a streetcorner, or intersection. In Matthew 22:9 Jesus commands his followers to go out to the Streetcorners (NIV), and invite to his great banquet all who will come. This is our commission: To go out and tell all who will listen, the good news of Jesus Christ.

### THE CANOPY:

The arch over the top symbolizes the grace, protection, and provision of God. Truly those who know God, find in him complete trustworthiness in all situations. He has saved us, changed us, and walks with us every moment of our lives. In the logo we also see that the cross provides the only entrance into such a relationship with God.

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