

THE STREETCORNER

VOLUME 4
ISSUE 2

JOHN 14:6 NIV "I AM THE WAY THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE, NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER BUT BY ME"

T O T A L SURRENDER

THE TESTIMONY OF CALVIN CAPOSTINSKY

I was born August 31st, 1955 at 'Grace Hospital,' in Vancouver British Columbia. My Mother named me Calvin after John Calvin, after looking at the Salvation Army name book in the hospital. I was conceived as the result of an extra-marital affair that my mother was in. An alcoholic home (my mother being the alcoholic), loneliness, rejection, chaos, frustration, "fear," and self-pity about sums up my childhood. I found my refuge and my comfort in the bottle at approximately 11 years old, stealing from my mother and hiding in my room to drink. During my teen years there were numerous horrendous car accidents that I should never have walked away from. And I experimented heavily with every street drug there was available.

At approximately twenty-five years of age I accepted Christ into my life. I had an overwhelming desire to serve God and leave the old life behind. So with all the will-power, determination, and zeal of an on-fire new convert to Christ, I embarked on what I thought and "hoped," would be a new life. Much to my despair

and dismay this was not to be so for a long time. A painful, lonely, long and winding road lay before me. Repeated attempts



CALVIN CAPOSTINSKY

at sobriety without success, left me dejected, dishevelled, and discouraged. The guilt, fear, frustration, and self-loath-

ing drove me to drink more.. This cycle repeated itself again and again until I kinda gave up. It was during this time that my mother died. The things I did when under the influence heaped more guilt, remorse, and self-loathing on me. So that oblivion was the only solution, but as quoted in 'The Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous' - there was always "the awful awakening to face the hideous Four Horsemen - Terror, Bewilderment, Frustration, and Despair." (pg.151). Then the

vicious cycle would start over again - I had to escape! Treatment centres, detoxes, hospital psych wards, and jails were places I came to frequent often. I was addicted to Pharmaceuticals, especially Valium for close to twenty years, and narcotics when ever I could attain it. Also a daily pot smoker all of those years from the age of about thirteen. There were times 'coming to' in intensive care, not remembering how I got there, or where I had been. Having been comatose for nearly a week, upon awakening the nurses asking me my name, and the date, and where were you born etc.. Then informing me they weren't sure if I was going to come back - I had been gone for nearly a week. My wanderings took me across a fair stretch of Canada and back again numerous times. At one point living on an Ojibwa reserve north of

Thunderbay on Lake Superior. It was while there that my dad passed away (that is the man my mother was married to).

My biological father was half Cherokee, and he died just a couple years ago. I have one brother fourteen years older than me (he is adopted). So with the age difference it was much like being an only child.

During these tempestuous years I found some solace at various times sketching, and constructing miniatures of log houses, teepees, forests, and odds and ends. My material would generally be whatever I could find: dry weeds, sticks, bark, moss, pebbles, etc..

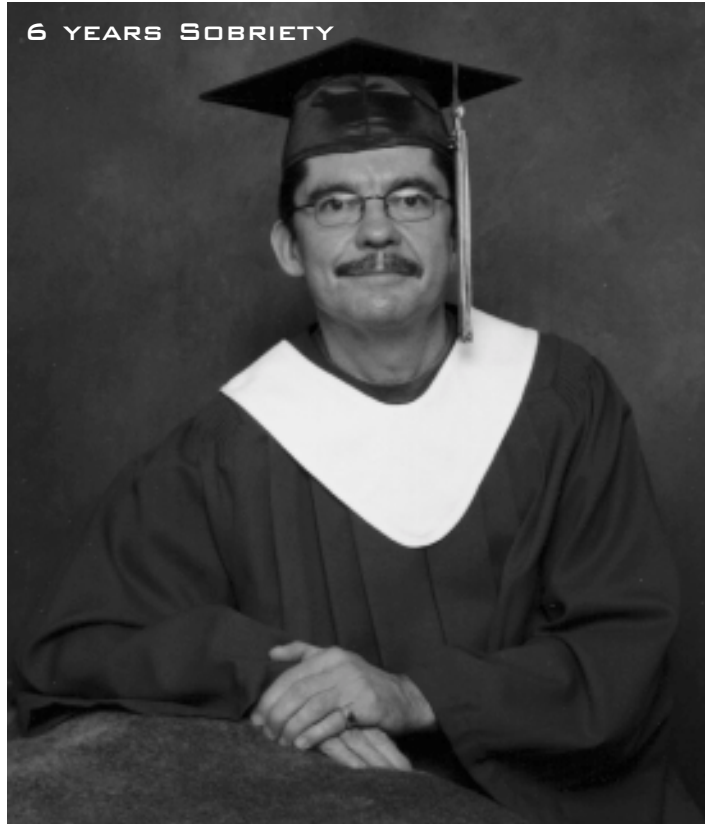
During my wanderings in the wilderness I married once - a Cree girl from Northern Saskatchewan. The wedding invitations I sent out from prison. Suddenly I had a wife and three children (with three different dads), one being my own daughter who was two years old at the time. There was a curse put on our marriage, and I don't believe it had a chance even without the curse. Less than a week after our wedding she went for a walk with the kids and I never saw her again. This devastated me and I started drinking really heavy again. I had bought a beautiful trailer and furniture etc. with what was left of my meagre inheritance from my mother. When the family walked away I sold washer and dryer and furniture to drink, and then I walked away, and never looked back. My pack-sack, accordion, and a bottle of vodka was all I had as I started hitch-hiking. The ensuing months would find me sleeping in abandoned cars and crawl spaces of attics, drinking lysol with the natives in Calgary skid row.

I ended up the last few years using needles, and as a result acquired Hepatitis C. The last couple years out there found me existing on a river bank, in a little tent under a tarp. This living arrangement was primarily so I could spend all my welfare money on my drugs and alcohol. I was skin and bone, and a pretty scruffy looking character. I would walk up town usually daily with my pack sack and a staff (walking stick). The walking stick and limp I portrayed was part of my doctor scam.

One of my car accidents a fellow died on my lap, and I claimed injuries. So I had the doctors giving me morphine - which I in turn was trying to shoot in my arms. As a result my arms had

huge ugly abscesses with puss oozing from them, and though I was taking antibiotics, the wounds wouldn't heal because of my drinking. I was missing my upper partial plate (so had a becoming smile!) I am attempting to paint a picture here, because no one looking at me today would believe - or could imagine the shape I was in!

Fall of 1997 I made my way into Kamloops and got a room at the Plaza Hotel. My condition kept getting worse. Usually every day I would make it to the 'New Life Mission' for a bowl of soup, and pack a few buns or bread home to nibble on. And make my round up to the hospital to clean out the ashtrays so I could smoke. I gave up my hotel room end of January, so found myself again broke and living on the street, sicker than ever, nearly out of pills, and no where to sleep. Early February is cold in Kamloops! At least when I was living back on the riverbank I kept a fire going all the time.



**CALVIN'S GRADUATION
FROM COLUMBIA BIBLE COLLEGE**

I began calling detox again, and after a very tough week they finally had a bed for me. I found my self in a church service the day I got my bed. The only thing I recall of the service is the title of the sermon - "Blessed are they which do hunger

**"CALVIN, YOU
HAVE TO
TOTALLY
SURRENDER!"**

and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." When I got to the detox with only the clothes on my back (I didn't even have a change of socks or underwear), God was speaking to me loud and clear! The

message was plain - "Calvin, you have to totally surrender!" And this was repeated again and again. The words of the Psalmist describe what I felt perfectly: "When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer" (Ps. 32:3,4). Finally I cried out to God

- "God help me to surrender!" And God heard my cry. . . "This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles." (Ps. 34:6).

The first years were difficult, I couldn't run from the pain anymore. There has been tremendous healing, and renewing of the mind, "To God be the glory!" And what you see today is a miraculous work of God's grace. "I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore. For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast

delivered my soul from the lowest hell." (Ps. 86:12, 13).

After undergoing intense treatment two years ago for a full year, I am free of the Hep.C - it no longer shows in my blood stream. I have been given a full pardon of my criminal record from Parole Board Canada. And this spring (April 17th, 2004) - I graduated from Columbia Bible College with a BA in Biblical Studies. And all I can say is "Amazing Grace!"

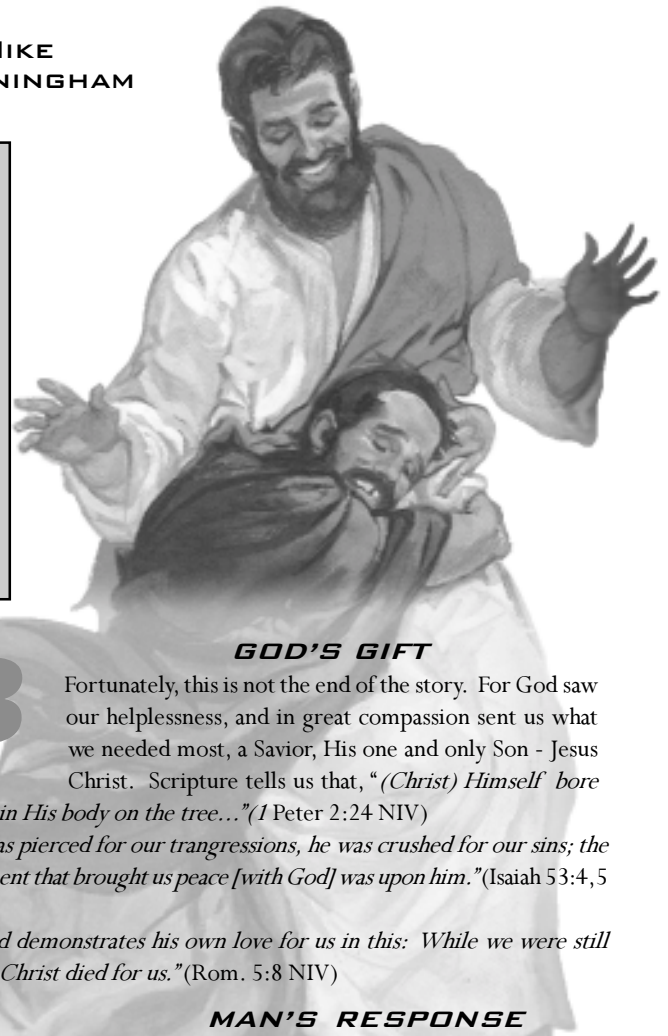
With God - "All things are possible!"

SET FREE!

BY MIKE CUNNINGHAM

The Bible tells the story of a man who was possessed by spirits which absolutely controlled him. They forced him to hurt himself and others, which led him to be shunned by those around him, even to the point that he lived alone in a cemetery! How similar this is today for many who, like Calvin, are trapped in some addiction: driven to self-destruction, and alienated from society.

The day came, however, when this man met Jesus. With a word Jesus set him free from his torment, brought peace and order to his life, and restored him to his family and friends. Praise God that he did the same for Calvin. And he stands able and willing to do the same for you. Will you surrender to Jesus Christ today? Please consider below what God has done for you, that you too, may be set free to a new life!



1

GOD'S DESIRE

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)

2

MAN'S PROBLEM

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.

3

GOD'S GIFT

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)

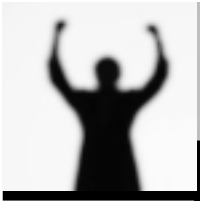
4

MAN'S RESPONSE

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!



SURRENDER TODAY

This I Believe

By Ken Penner

During World War II Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of England made a speech in which he encouraged the citizens of Britain to "Never give up." Historians tell us that Churchill's determination had a lot to do with Britain being able to hold out against the German assaults against them. It was ultimately the Germans who were forced to surrender and not the British.

As individuals there are things we personally should not surrender to, such as temptation, lust, greed or evil thoughts and deeds. But there is a surrender each of us is called to and that is surrendering to the Almighty God. The Bible tells us that "at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord..." Philippians 2:11 (see also Romans 14:11) Every knee means every person who ever lived, will bow and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

The question is not if, but when will we surrender to Him? Will it be now when God is extending his mercy and grace toward us or later at the judgement? If we repent and believe now we will be saved from the penalty of our sins. He will come into our lives and empower us to live for him and help us to live an abundant life for him even while we are still here. A living example of this is Calvin Capostinsky whose testimony appears in this issue of The Streetcorner.

God also promises that those who come to Him will have an eternal home with Him, which he has prepared for all those who believe in Him. But if we continue our life not surrendering to him, we will be judged for our sins and will be cast out of his presence for ever and ever in hell. Every person including Churchill, Hitler, Roosevelt and Stalin will surrender one day to the Almighty.

Have you ever surrendered to God and given Him the proper place in your life? Have you asked Him to forgive you of all your rebellion and sin against Him? Have you told Him, "Not my will but yours be done Lord.?" Have you repented of your sins and confessed that He is Lord over all?

Surrender today, your eternal destiny depends on it.



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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 the 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.

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www.thestreetcorner.org

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