

Cyber Truths By E-mail

17. *The Pianist & Marriages* (November 25, 2005)



Restoration Ministries International

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Dear Friends,

Sue brought home a DVD from the library that we watched with great emotion — *The Pianist*. The movie is an extraordinary true story of one Jewish man's survival in German-occupied Warsaw from 1939-1945. What he endured to stay alive caused us to question our own depth of perseverance. Roman Polanski, who produced and directed the movie, said of the book from which the screenplay was drawn, "I have never read a piece so moving that I felt I had to bring it to the screen." We agree...

We encourage you to get the movie, not only for what it conveys on the screen, but to prepare yourself for the chastisement coming upon this nation. As other prophetic voices have warned, "It will be a time when the true followers of Jesus as well as the Jewish people will face a holocaust that makes Europe look small in scope."

An interesting note: At the end of the movie, just as Warsaw was being overtaken from the Germans by the Russians, Wladyslaw Szpilman, the Jewish survivor, meets a German officer who saves his life. After watching the movie, we got the book, *The Pianist*, from the library. The epilogue went into great depth about the German officer, Wilm Hosenfeld, who was himself opposed to the atrocities done to the Jewish people. The epilogue revealed how many other Jews Hosenfeld had saved at risk to his own life during the war.

Excerpts from Hosenfeld's diary that he kept throughout the war are included. As you read his comments about Germany, you may think, as we did, that the Founding Fathers of this nation had been sounding the same warning:

"...people [are] moving away from Christianity. Humanity seems doomed to do more evil than good... The denial of God's commandments leads to all the other immoral manifestations of greed — unjust self-enrichment, hatred, deceit, sexual license... God allows all this to happen, lets these forces have power and allows so many innocent people to perish to show mankind that without Him we are only animals in conflict... We will not listen to the divine commandment: 'Love one another'. Very well, then, says God, try the devil's commandment, the opposite: 'Hate one another'... God allows evil to come about because mankind has espoused it, and now we are beginning to feel the burden of our own evil."

Our Founding Fathers voiced similar insight. The same thing that happened in Germany at the hands of the Nazis is happening to the United States, because this nation is doing away with trusting God and the foundations of the Bible. These Dark Days of Chastisement will far surpass what the victims of Katrina are going through.

Please, we write this so that you may learn to walk totally repentant before our Lord.

- Scrutinize your life for any pet sins that are violations of God's commands. Heed the conviction of His Spirit so you'll be a clean vessel available for our Lord's purposes!

- Read His Word for application, making sure that you understand what is required of you to live righteously.

- He is the God Who does not change. We have been pondering the warnings of Jeremiah lately as we've grieved with God over the stubborn

hearts of His people. Consider reading his prophetic warning as a family before you celebrate His first coming next month. It's a sober heart preparation!

Marriage

We are finishing up the Lifebyte that we mentioned in our last e-mail: Obedient Trust Versus Reasoning – The Hebraic Foundations Confront Evangelicalism.

It should be on our website within the next few days. In it we address the demonic inroads that Hellenism has insidiously made in Evangelicalism, especially among the men.

We know the struggle that many marriages are going through as you seek to see the love and character of Jesus manifested in your midst. As we've shared before, in our experience only about 1 in every 200 marriages walk victoriously together in all that our Lord desires for them. And as we've shared before, He wants every wife to experience His love through her husband.

We think we can help some of you get started on the process via this e-mail. We want to share with you our own very personal testimony of the healing power of Jesus in our lives. Sue and I arrived in Israel in 1993 on the verge of divorce. We had expended ourselves so much in ministry over the years that we neglected our marriage. (All praise to our Lord: It isn't that way anymore! Our ministry now flows out of what Jesus has done in our marriage to draw our hearts together in Him.)

In our Father's mercy and Divine timing, He had us stay in Israel with two trusted friends, Bert and Exie Schlossberg. They made clear they wouldn't help us save our marriage. But

they would help each of us get right with Jesus in love-grounded obedient trust. Only our Lord could transform each of our hearts so that HE could transform our marriage. (On the flight to Israel, I [Mike] put my wedding ring back on, pleading with Jesus to save our marriage.)

We didn't understand it at the time, but it became clearer through several events as we were writing this next Lifebyte:

In order for us to move ahead, Jesus needed to heal our past.

The revelation of that which Jesus wanted to heal in Sue began shortly before we left the retreat center. We were estranged in the months before our departure from the retreat center, and one day in prayer the Holy Spirit whispered to me, "Sue suffers from feeling 'expendable.' Ask her how her parents got divorced."

She shared with me: "My mother had decided she didn't want to be married, so when I was eight she left my sister and me and moved to another town. I vaguely recall my grandmother coming down from New Hampshire to take care of us but I don't recall for how long she was there.

My mother finally told my father she'd come back to raise us but she didn't want to be married any longer. I guess I hid all that from my memory because I pretty much thought how self-sacrificing my mother was to work such long hours to support us and to do without so we could have what we needed.

In fact, not until I was an adult did I discover from my father that he'd wanted desperately for the marriage to succeed but my mother refused to stay home to take care of us. She was deter-

mined to exert her independence and work, not realizing that her choice would cost my sister and me the relationship we needed with our father. That legacy of independence created a void in me of being able to later bond with my husband in the way our Lord called for. I wasn't able to sense the permanent nature of our marriage covenant because that hadn't been the experience with my parents. I operated on the lie that I was expendable and non-essential to anyone's life."

Our first night in Israel at Bert and Exie's, Sue was in the dining room after dinner talking with Exie while I was on the recliner napping. Exie was sharing with Sue about a teaching she'd heard from Derek Prince. Exie told Sue that many women are imprisoned by "Soulsh Dominion." Soulsh Dominion causes a person to never experience genuine love and acceptance. She is driven by the demonic prod: I have to earn acceptance by what I do.

[Mike] As soon as I heard the words leave Exie's mouth I awoke, exclaiming, "That's it!" I knew in my spirit that a loving Father was showing us wounds that only Jesus could heal.

Before moving to Israel, Bert had been a pastor who met with clergy of other churches in our area at the retreat center each month. I [Mike] considered him the most caring of them all, and also a close friend. We were joined in the Spirit. I still remember the day when I was working far from the lodge in one of the pastures repairing a fence. The Holy Spirit told me, "Bert is on his way out to see you. Go up to the lodge and put some coffee on." Just as the pot finished perking, Bert drove in the driveway.

On another occasion Sue and I were in tears praying about what to do with

our son, who was having difficulty at the Christian school he attended. As we prayed and cried, there was a knock on the door. It was Bert! He sensed the Holy Spirit directing him to come see us — and we lived well out of his way. His visit resulted in us home-schooling our son, which we did for the next five years.

I realize that it was our Lord who had brought me to Bert in Israel. Bert was older, and a tool in God's hands to make me confront the barriers I had to loving Sue. Often as he and I walked the neighborhood after dinner he'd ask the same painful question "Why can't you love Sue the way Jesus calls for you to?" Every time I bought up a rationale to justify my resistance, Bert would quickly stop me with, "But Mike...." This went on for almost three weeks until I came to realize that Jesus is the only One who could enable me to love Sue.

On December 31, 1993, Sue and I were walking through Jerusalem talking. She told me something. "Before we left the retreat center one of the staff members took me aside and said, 'Inside of Mike is a little boy that has never been healed.'"

In my spirit I knew God had her speak those words to me, and that I really needed Jesus to heal me. Vivid, painful thoughts of my childhood raced through my mind. That night we and the Schlossbergs sat around talking about different things. Exie asked me some pointed questions, and I remember that my response was such anger toward God that I literally saw red. She then said, "Only you and God can deal with this."

I went up to our room. As I closed the door I could feel His presence in the room. It wasn't with audible words, but I KNEW He'd been waiting for years for me to bring before Him issues that went

all the way back to my youth. He wasn't upset that I was angry with Him, but grieved that I hadn't addressed Him about it years earlier. I guess I'd always thought it was "unspiritual" to be angry with God!

When I humbled my heart to listen to Him, my bitter anger was gone, but I knew there was still something more that needed healing. Sue came up to the room. I discovered I was madly in love with her! My heart was so attached to her it was actually hurting. She was startled and distrusting, to say the least. That was okay. In the months that followed my love enveloped her.

The next morning as we went downstairs, Bert and Exie were in the kitchen preparing breakfast. Exie looked at me and said emphatically, "Mike, inside you is a little boy who has never been healed!" [Sue had never mentioned anything to her about that topic.]

I began to cry. Bert brought out some oil and anointed both of us.

From that day on our marriage moved forward into the love we now experience today. It was a week later that our Father began to show us the Hebraic Foundations of the earliest Church. As our marriage deepened in love and forgiveness, our understanding of these truths did likewise.

Friends, whether you are married or not, some of you need a healing ONLY JESUS CAN DO! If He could reveal the roots of bondage to us as we sought Him with earnest hearts, He can do it with anyone who turns to Him in trust. It's your heart's pursuit for Jesus and your trusting reliance on Him that makes it happen. If all you want is out of your problem without complete trust in Him, it won't. This we know.

Consider the emotional undergirding of these two passages:

"God allowed this to happen so that you would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us" (Acts 17:27).

"And without trust it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

No counseling technique can ever replace what only the power of Jesus can. He wants to be the Lord of your heart as well as your life, even the Lord of your past hurts. His stripes have given Him the power to heal if you really want Him to.

He healed us to the utmost.....

Mike & Sue Dowgiewicz