



October 2017

Dear Friend and Partner of CWR/PTM,

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.—Matthew 10:39

The purpose of a Christ-centered life is not to gratify or satisfy the self, but *to lose ourselves in the cause of something bigger and more important*. When we lose ourselves in the service of Jesus, we find life—he gives us his life, and he lives his life in us now and forever. The purpose of life that motivates Christ-followers is not to consume, acquire and possess. The purpose of life for those who walk with Jesus is to lose ourselves in the service of those who are hungry, thirsty, strangers, aliens, in need of clothing, sick and in prison (physically and spiritually—see Matthew 25:34-40).

As Christ-followers our mission is driven by our desire to help those who are impoverished, addicted, enslaved and deceived know and experience the grace and love of God. *Our quest* is to point others to Jesus, who invites them to embrace him just as he has invited you and me. *Our quest* means that *our question is not* “What’s in it for me?”—*our question* is “How can I help others?” and in so doing pass on the grace of our Lord and Savior.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others.—Philippians 2:3-4

In *Man of La Mancha*, Don Quixote has an “impossible dream” (the unforgettable theme song of the play and movie by the same name) of setting people free from grinding poverty, slavery and misery. He travels the countryside of 16th century Spain, in the time of brutal inquisitions, imagining himself as a warrior knight, assisted by his loyal sidekick.

No matter how hopeless the cause may seem, Don Quixote is willing to “march into hell for a heavenly cause.” Because of his “impossible dream” and hopeless idealism, Don Quixote is a pitiful character on the one hand, but admirable, virtuous and heroic on the other.

He is up against impossible odds and his dream of righting all wrongs is “impossible” but he, on the other hand, gives himself completely over to the service of others.

During his travels to save the world Don Quixote falls in love with Aldonza, who is a part-time prostitute, but Don Quixote’s love is blind, and instead of accepting the reality of Aldonza and her profession, he chooses instead to see Aldonza as a precious and virtuous woman whom he desires to love and protect. Thus Don Quixote serves as a symbol of God and his love for all humanity, though we are all prostitutes in one way or another.

Don Quixote’s “blind” love exemplifies the relentless love of God for you and me, choosing to love us though we don’t deserve his love, lavishing us with his grace and love, choosing us as the virtuous bride of Christ though we are anything but.

Speaking of his life, and his mission, summarized by “The Impossible Dream” Don Quixote tells Aldonza, “Wins and losses do not matter; all that matters is following the quest.”

Jesus has come to set the world free and the gospel of Jesus Christ is good news to the physically and spiritually impoverished—good news to the physical and spiritual prisoners—good news to those who are blind and diseased, physically and spiritually—good news to all who are oppressed, physically and spiritually (see Luke 4:18-19).

This is our collective quest—our combined mission—this is the proclamation that we as Friends and Partners of CWR/PTM make together, pooling our resources, so that we might do more together than we can alone. **Our quest** is not impossible by any means, though it is difficult. **Our quest** is to *share the good news of the love and grace of God with people who are beaten down, oppressed, sick and infirmed, in debt and depressed*. **Our quest** is to *pass on the incredible news that God's love is offered without reservation because he chooses to see us as lovable though, apart from God, only our mothers would describe us as "lovable."*

Our quest is Jesus—**our quest** is the kingdom of God that Jesus preached and that he embodied—a kingdom that Jesus has been building since his resurrection. **Our quest** is a call of freedom for captives and slaves—to be free in Christ means to be rescued from any and all forms of slavery, physical and spiritual. When all is said and done, **our quest**—God's kingdom and Jesus, the King of the kingdom, is the only mission—the only calling—the only cause worthy of following without reservation.

The kingdom of God and Jesus, its King, deserves all of our heart and soul and energies and contributions. When our mission is God's kingdom then we willingly lose our own self-interests as a priority in favor of supporting a cause that is bigger than ourselves.

Making a Difference

Wherever there is slavery, abuse, addiction, oppression, religious bondage, silly superstitions, un-Christ-like delusions or arrogance and pride that oppose the humility of Jesus—our work at CWR/PTM stands in opposition—WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE. As a worldwide media ministry, we are a voice against oppression of any and every kind, and we proclaim Jesus as the answer. Jesus is what we are all about—*all Jesus all the time*. This is God's mission—and we are on it! This is Mission Possible—this is the **Possible Dream**—this is *all Jesus all the time*!

Our quest is to make a difference! And make no mistake! We are reaching people—we are making a difference. Our ministry is being read and heard and we are serving in the name of Jesus! As Partners and Friends of the worldwide ministries of CWR/PTM our calling, our mission and **our quest** is to make a difference.

We are making a difference for the Kingdom of God. When we make a difference we lose ourselves in the **quest** for that which is greater than ourselves—when we make a difference we are actively involved and totally committed—**making a difference is the polar opposite of indifference**.

When it comes to “making a difference” Elie Wiesel (1928-2016), author, professor, Nobel Laureate author, Holocaust (Auschwitz) survivor and humanitarian described how important it is to be involved and take a stand, rather than simply observing and watching:

*The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference.
The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference.
And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference.*

With the horrific evil and hatred of the Holocaust in mind, I am often reminded of the words of Martin Niemoller. Niemoller was a pastor in Nazi Germany, who spent seven years in Nazi concentration camps.

After World War 2 was over, Niemoller was one of a small group of Germans who publicly spoke of the collective complicity and guilt of Germans at large for the atrocities perpetrated by the German Nazis. In the many lectures he gave he often wondered whether he had done enough, articulating his misgivings with these words:

*First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Socialist.
Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me—
and there was no one left to speak for me.*

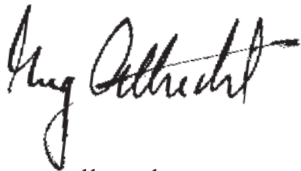
My friends, my brothers and sisters in Christ, my fellow team members and co-workers, fellow partners in our collective media ministry, **we must continue to speak out!** We are a media ministry with many resources and tools—we are heard, we are read and we are making a difference.

NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO GROW WEARY IN WELL DOING! (Galatians 6:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:13). We cannot afford to even think of giving up—our cause is significant, our mission is critically important—*there can be no greater quest in which you and I are privileged to serve!*

Let us continue our commitment to lose ourselves in the service of the most important quest of all. **Let us be willing to march into hell for a heavenly cause**—join with us in prayer—stand with us with your financial support! As we follow Christ, we affirm the words of Don Quixote: “Wins and losses do not matter; all that matters is following the quest.”

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.—1 Corinthians 15:58

In his precious name,



Greg Albrecht
President, Plain Truth Ministries

P.S. Here's a note of thanks from someone in Canada who is being blessed by the work of CWR/PTM, which you support with your faithful donations and prayers. Thank you!

Thanks for your wonderful work for our Lord Jesus Christ. You present the gift of grace with clarity and simplicity like no other ministry. CWR/ PTM has so many good resources that I've been enjoying for years. Thanks to all those involved in putting together the many resources on your website.—Ontario, Canada

CWR/PTM Prayer List—October 2017

These requests for prayer represent just a few of the thousands we receive and pray for. We invite you to join us in praying for these and the others that space does not permit us to include here. Thanks for joining with us as a CWR/PTM Prayer Partner.

My husband fell on a concrete slab and hyper-extended his intercostal muscles. He needs a cane to walk around and he still can't drive our car. Please pray that he'll recover quickly from this.—California

Please pray for my wife. After her heart surgery, she nearly lost her memory.—New Hampshire

Please pray for me as I would like to get back to being a substitute teacher in school which will be a way for me to serve God working with students.—Mississippi

Please continue to pray for my wife who is still undergoing chemotherapy for lung cancer.—New York

Thank you for your prayers for our grandson, now 16, who was released from the hospital. Please join us in praying that he will remain stable and take his anti-depressant meds regularly.—California

I was diagnosed with cancer on my tonsil and want to rely on Jesus' sacrifice for my healing. I had all the radiation treatments they can do. Thank you for your prayers.—Georgia

I would like to request prayers for my biological children because we are estranged from each other.—Michigan

Pray that God will heal my son's migraine headaches, which he has suffered now for 50 years.—Kentucky

Please pray for my daughter who lives in Thailand. She has a severe infection of her bronchial tubes. The doctor wants to put her on antibiotics for two years! I'm really concerned for her because they burn so much rubber and plastic in open fires there in Thailand. Thanks for your prayers.—California

Please pray for my husband—his pancreatic cancer has spread into his liver.—Saskatchewan, Canada

My stepdaughter has melanoma. She is in hospice care in Minnesota and my wife is there helping her. My wife's sister has throat cancer and their elderly mother is in a nursing home. Pray for strength to handle all this.—Colorado

I am requesting prayers for myself as I now have gall bladder stones and also stomach trouble.—Washington

Thank you for putting my great-granddaughter on your prayer list. She is now holding her own. Her mother and father need prayers as well—this is so hard on them.—Arkansas

Please pray for my brother who has prostate cancer and my elderly mother who has been sick.—Massachusetts

Please pray for my mother who was stricken with shingles and has suffered some nerve damage.—Illinois

Please pray for my husband who has had several strokes—it's so stressful on everyone.—Alabama

God has been intervening for my wife and me, and we are learning we have nothing to fear.—Nevada

I am in need of heart surgery—second time in a year and half. Also, my husband is fighting serious infections.—Texas

Please pray for an end to my skin cancer problems and for continuing recovery from a stroke.—Maryland

My elderly parents are suffering from many health problems. Please pray for God's blessing and comfort.—Arkansas

Dear God: We bring you many requests and needs. You know each of these individuals, and we thank you in advance for the answers you will provide for each request. With thanksgiving for your love and grace, we pray in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ—Amen.