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Reference Point

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Because He Lives

“But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 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 Cor 15:57-58 (NIV)

During a chapel service at Master’s College, a student described a missions trip she had taken four years previously. Twelve Canadian teenagers plus a few adults visiting Zimbabwe, Africa, were invited by a young enthusiastic Pastor to attend a bustling local church. Upon arrival, the group noticed twenty wooden pews, ten on each side. Fifty children swarmed at the front, their voices full of excited chatter, eyes sparkling. They were eager to give the theatrical performance they had rehearsed as a gift for their out-of-country guests. They wanted to serve their guests, the Pastor explained.

Just a few minutes into the spirited performance, a sudden realization fell heavy upon the visiting team. All of the children had AIDS or were HIV positive. Now the beautiful harmony of their voices majestically singing, “Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, all fear is gone...” took on a more poignant meaning. Too soon, these children would be losing their own lives, or losing a friend in the group to death. As this thought sank in, eyes began to water. Tears rolled down cheeks. These children KNEW Jesus and KNEW that it was because Jesus was alive that they could die with grace and dignity with the assurance of salvation. Their confidence and trust—even to their last breath—was Jesus Christ!

It was a defining moment in this student’s life, she told us. It was the day God broke her heart for the lost. It

was the day that she heard the call of God to go even unto the ends of the earth to tell the good news of the gospel. These children understood that call. They, too, wanted to share the truth they lived by: that their future was secure because they KNEW JESUS. Their faith counted. They sought life in Him more fervently than they feared dying. What a testimony of faith!

As this student described the day her call to be a disciple was ignited, I felt my own heart touched. I felt humbled, yet aware of the love of God at work wherever His Name is spoken and His heart of belonging is accepted as a gift of grace! Within, I felt my own heart respond, rekindled in thanksgiving and commitment to being a disciple and disciple maker. Each of us has a kingdom building job to do, but we need not do it alone. Instead, we rely on the promise of 1 Thessalonians 5:24—that He who calls us is faithful.

I encourage all who are a part of my ACL family to keep on keeping on, daily praying, daily reading God’s Word, and daily focusing on the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave. Surely it is because He lives that we can face tomorrow! What a joy it is to know and to share with the students entering our library doors that our hope is in Jesus. I count it an honor to work alongside my colleagues in ACL as together we serve the Lord as Christian librarians, building a stronger community and ready to deepen our love for God with each passing day.

—Nancy Warwick

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