



Happy New Year and God bless from the Johnson family in Tappen, BC Canada

January 2021

THE TEXT MESSAGE

My phone beeped. I had a text message: "I really need to talk to you. Please call me when you can!" I said a brief prayer asking the Lord for His help and wisdom and punched the numbers and "call".

"Chris" answered immediately. He told me that his life was all messed up. He was laid off from work due to Covid 19, the marriage was on the rocks, and he was so low that he went back to drinking after 10 years of abstinence.

I slipped back into my old dark humor and said, "Drinking didn't work for you ten years ago as I remember. So, how is it working out for you now?" He answered, "It isn't! But I was so low that I went back to what I knew to numb the pain."

I let him down easy and agreed that we do what we know, but there is a better way. We made an appointment to meet, Covid restrictions or not, this was important, and it wasn't going to be carried on the phone or Zoom.

He arrived on time, 7pm, Sunday night. He talked, I listened, and then I suggested some ground rules. I told him that I based my marriage and life on the words of the Bible. If he wanted my help, then he needed to know right from the start that I was going to share from the Bible. I needed the freedom to speak the truth simply and he needed to know that in some things, he was going to either obey what the Bible said, or our time would end. He agreed to the terms.

I shared from the Scriptures for about 40 minutes, and then I saw something in his eyes. His eyes were smiling a little. When he walked in, he had been crying and there was darkness in his eyes. The difference was subtle, but it was real. I interrupted what I had been talking about and asked him, "What is going on inside you? You came in depressed and sad, and forty minutes later, your eyes are smiling. Tell me what is going on?"

Chris fidgeted briefly and a little smile crept across his mouth as he answered, "Oh, it is the talk about God and Jesus, ... I guess it makes me happy!"

I explained that the Bible says that Jesus is the light of the world. "The light shines in darkness and the darkness cannot comprehend it." (John 1:4-5) I explained that since he was able to "comprehend the light

of the Scripture” it was evidence that God was at work within him. He understood what I meant and smiled even bigger. That was all the encouragement that I needed. I didn’t need to talk long about how we are all sinners; he was well convinced of that. So, I shared 1 John 1:9, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” I unpacked key words until the verse was fully understood.

Chris prayed and confessed his sins and asked for God’s forgiveness. He is back “On the Wagon” of sobriety, but now he has help from the Holy Spirit. Now we begin the loving work of discipleship in his life.

Please pray for Chris, thanking God for his new birth in Christ, and pray for the salvation of his wife and kids. I look forward to the time when I have permission to share his real name and photo. 😊

PRAISE AND PRAYER:

- Praise that ‘Priscilla’ is healing well physically. She will see the surgeon this week. Pray that she will regain the use of her left leg/foot.
- Pray for the upcoming elections at Adams Lake Indian Band at the end of February. Lynn who is a believer and part of our church community is one of three candidates running for Chief. Pray for Gods will and direction.
- Pray for the weekly ZOOM church services and prayer circles and for others to connect with us.
- Praise for the counseling opportunities with ‘Chris’ and pray for him to stay strong in his sobriety with the help of God’s Holy Spirit. Prayers for his wife to be responsive to getting help and healing from past issues and for protection over this family.

Thank you for your continued prayer and support for us and the people we minister to. You are a big part of what God is doing in the Secwepemc communities in our area.

Let us know how we can be praying for you.

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