

*Bibles For The World Report: Celebration of 100 Years
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THE BLESSINGS OF THE GOSPEL:

by: Mawii Pudaite

I tremble to think what my life would be like if the Gospel had not come to my people!

Only a generation earlier, my ancestors were worshipping rocks and trees, and making endless animal sacrifices to appease evil spirits. Not long before I was born, they were **headhunters**.

They took the heads of their enemies to enslave their souls, so that their enemies might serve them in the afterlife.

Without The Inexpressible Blessings of The Gospel, that life of fear and bloodshed would have been mine.

I would have been without hope in the world. But because the Gospel came to my people, their way of life, including my own, has been changed forever.

Warkin R. Roberts, courageous young Welshman, brought the Gospel to the Hmar people in 1910. Our people affectionately called him "Mr. Youngman," and Ro and I called him "Daddy Roberts," for he was indeed our spiritual father [1 Corinthians 4:15]. As we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the coming of the Gospel to my people, let me count just a few of the significant blessings I have received from it.

SALVATION: The blessing of Eternal Life is mine. John 3:16 tells me the Good News that God loves everyone born into this world, that He gave His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.

The sin nature, with which I was born, was inherited from Adam and Eve. The Bible declares God's condemnation of sin

in Romans 6:23 “the wages of sin is death.” The only thing that could wash away that sin is a blood sacrifice. “Without the shedding of **blood**, there can be no remission of sin (Hebrews 9:22). Moreover, that sacrificial **blood** must be from ONE who is unblemished by sin. No human being is qualified for that except the sinless SON OF GOD.

The Son of God became man in the Person of Jesus Christ so He could die. He shed His blood for the forgiveness of all sinful men and women. He did that for me -- for even me!

I learned these truths from my parents who were among the early converts to Christ. And, when I was ten years old, I heard the Lord Jesus knock at the door of my heart and **I** personally invited Him in. He came in... and now abides with me forever.

The Bible tells us that when He was on trial before Pilate, Jesus refused to open His mouth to answer even one of the false accusations against Him. But **on** the great Judgment Day, Christ my Advocate, will plead my case. Because Christ already paid for all my sin, I shall be found “NOT GUILTY!” HALLELUIAH! WHAT A SAVIOR!

Salvation means that Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for all my sin - past, present and future - and through Him I have eternal life. “Everlasting life” is not something I am going to enjoy after this earthly life; I have everlasting life here and now. God’s Salvation includes deliverance from evil and healing of mind, soul and spirit ...

ABUNDANT LIFE: ... Christ Jesus came into the world. Not only to die for my sins, but to give me life in all its fullness. He said, “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

In the midst of earthly trials, temptations, heartaches, sadness and sorrows, the Holy Spirit gives me peace “that passes all human understanding.” I have the assurance that nothing happens in my life without God’s knowledge; He is in control, and nothing catches Him by surprise. There are times that I may be distressed, but He is not. I may be perplexed, but He has perfect understanding. He sustains me and will sustain me ...

GOD’S LOVE AND ADOPTION: I am a child of the King!

Imagine being named the heir of the richest man on earth. Yet that would be nothing, as God is richer still, for everything belongs to Him. And because of my new birth in the Holy Spirit and the sacrifice of Jesus my Savior, I have become a child of God! Romans 8:16-17 says, “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, And if children, then heirs - heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ ...” Nothing on earth can match the realization that I have an eternal relationship with the living God, Creator of Earth and the Universe - who has become my FATHER!

My Heavenly Father loves me with an eternal love ... that has no shadow or turning. “I have loved you with an everlasting love” (Jeremiah 31:3 NIV). There is nothing I can do to make God love me more or love me less. Yes, He loves me unconditionally.

And the Bible tells me in Romans 8:38-39 that nothing will ever separate me from God or from His love. This love of God is not a one-way street. *The wonderful and amazing truth* is that, as Christ dwells in my heart through His Holy Spirit He puts His heart of love in me - to love Him back, and to love others whom He loves ... Romans 5:5 “The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us.” Through this amazing relationship with the Triune God (Father, Son and Holy

Spirit), His heart of love becomes my portion, to experience and express by His power.

THE BIBLE: God's Word is mine! In His wisdom and love, God provides His "whole counsel" for His children. He did not leave us without help, guidance or comfort. The Bible tells me who I am and why I am here on this earth. It reveals to me that God has a wonderful plan and purpose for my life, and tells me how to live and be fruitful for God's glory.

The Bible is food and drink for the soul and spirit. It is a road map for life's journey and a light on the path. The Bible gives comfort and strength for the weary and makes wise the simple. It's a Holy Book given for all humanity. The Bible reveals the love of God, the heart of God, and the character and nature of God.

Many years ago, while a young student at a college in India the Lord gave me a promise from His Word: "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9 NIV).

It was a promise filled with comfort, empowering faith and encouragement - a promise that seared itself into my soul then, has remained there over the decades and is even more meaningful now.

Through the years of serving Christ alongside Rochunga, my beloved husband, there have been times when responsibilities that were far beyond my abilities were laid upon me. Then and now I rely and count on God's unchanging promise He gave to me as a young girl. Without God in my life I can do nothing, but, by His grace, like the apostle Paul. I too can testify that, "I can do all things" - what God wants me to do - "through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13 NIV).

I count on the promises of God revealed in the Bible, for God cannot lie; faithfulness is His very character. I am assured that God loves me, He knows and desires what's best for me,

and He is the only One who can bring about that which is best for me. And I can trust Him fully.

Daily, moment by moment, I experience these joys and blessings of the Gospel in my life. Where would I be and how would I live if the Gospel had never come to me? Yes, I tremble even as I think about it. Instead of salvation, abundant life, a heavenly Father and the riches of God's Word, I would know only the depravity and hopelessness of a life without Christ, a life worshipping false gods.

The Bible warns us of the danger of worshipping the wrong gods. Man-made gods and goddesses have eyes, but they cannot see; have ears, but they cannot hear; have mouths, but they cannot speak; and noses, but they cannot smell. And here is the most dangerous part - the people who worship such gods become like the objects they worship. The object of our love and worship determines who we are and what we become.

By worshipping the true and living God, we are being transformed into His likeness, and the Bible tells us that when we shall see Christ face to face, we shall be like Him. What A Glorious Prospect. What A Glorious Life! Yes, I Am Eternally Blessed By The Gospel and I am ever so grateful to our beloved "Mr. Youngman" for bringing the Good News of salvation to my people in the hills of Manipur in northeast India. TO GOD BE THE GLORY. GREAT THINGS HE HAS DONE.

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