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FANNING THE FLAMES

RICKY LEONARD MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

LISTEN! THE TIME IS SHORT! DON'T WAIT ANY LONGER!

God wants to know you and talk with you. He wants you to have his peace. *But* ***all have sinned*** *and come short of God. This is how* ***God demonstrated that he loved us:*** *he sent Jesus to pay the price for us. Why did Jesus have to die for our sin? Because* ***the wages of sin is death.*** *Jesus died the death penalty instead of us. What do you have to do? Make Jesus Lord of your life and believe that he died on the cross and* ***was raised from the dead .*** *Then say with your mouth you believe! Pray: "I*

Giving the word of God in an evangelistic tract, opens doors!

Open Your Mouth by Sarah Rackley

On May 9, 2021, the Lord showed me a dream that had a profound impact on me. In the dream, I was on a train with my mom & dad, and we were going somewhere important. Suddenly, I heard the Holy Spirit behind me saying "preach the gospel to these people." I responded, "But they are busy. They won't want to hear. I don't know what to say." The Spirit said "I will help you." So trembling, I shouted, "Hey everybody can I have your attention," and I began to preach the message of Jesus Christ. Most of them didn't want to hear. They scoffed. They heckled. They argued. They left. But there were a few who stayed, listened, and repented. They stood in front of me with tears in their eyes waiting for me to tell them what to do next. When I woke up, my mind was full of questions. But the one that that has stayed with me from then until now is this: "Wasn't it worth it for

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Open Your Mouth by Sarah Rackley

these who repented?" Lives were changed forever because I was willing to overcome my fear and insecurity, and open my mouth to preach. I may have been insulted and rejected, but not by all. For the few people who received it, my message was everything.

Recently, I realized that taking up this evangelist's mantle is truly taking up my cross to follow Christ... possibly at the cost of my life. In Luke 14:27, Jesus says, "Whoever doesn't bear his own cross and come after me, can't be my disciple." Jesus took up his cross and carried it as far as he could towards his place of death before he collapsed. His command to us is a metaphorical one: we must take up His gospel message, being ready to fulfill God's calling for us at the cost of our self-interests, our dignity, and even carrying it to our death. You all do not have the same calling as My mom and I do, but we are all called to share the good news of Jesus Christ no matter the personal cost.

In Romans 10 (vs 8 & 14), Paul says "The message is very close at hand; it is on your *LIPS* and in your heart." And that message is the very message about faith that we *PREACH*:

But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have *NEVER HEARD about him?* And how can they hear about him unless *SOMEONE TELLS THEM?"*

The message of Christ is useless to another person unless it is communicated to them with words. Living a godly life is important, but being a good person in their eyes will not put the gospel into their ears. Praying for salvations is important because it breaks down the stronghold of spiritual darkness, but what is the point of doing that if the message is not then preached. The ONLY way lives will be changed is when we open our mouths and boldly declare Christ Jesus.

Testimonies from Street Witnessing

Once a week, I have been going into public places to pass out tracts. One such time, I gave a tract to a young man in a park who was there playing with his son. He told me he had been thinking about God and spiritual things lately. I asked him if he went to church, and then basically shared the plan of salvation with him. He was very interested and appreciative. The simple act of handing the tract gave me the opportunity to have a deeply impactful conversation. Oh and by the way, I was saved through a tract.—Mary Leonard