### Beacon Community Church Morning Service – Sunday 18th April 2021 10:45am

###

### “Unconditional Love”

### The work of the Leprosy Mission

### Reading – 1 John 4: 7-21

### Hymn – Reckless Love

### Prayer

This week as we look at the work of the Leprosy Mission, I would like to share with you something my mother taught me as a youngster in the faith!

When we become Christians, we enter into the most wonderful, challenging, difficult, satisfying, interesting, inspiring, life-changing adventure in our lives. This she learned from her work as the Leprosy Mission representative in our Church!

She would say – “It’s fulfilling and worthwhile, but it’s not easy”. That’s why God has given us a wonderful guidebook to explain His creative design, tell the unfolding story of our salvation, and reveal His incredible love, and give careful instructions for the well-being of our souls.

In essence it was the mission statement of the Leprosy Mission then, and still is. Unconditional Love of God for us, that demands of our unconditional love for God and for all He has created, whether they are full or broken lives!

**The Leprosy Mission has a twofold ministry –**

 **One - is the ministry of bringing an end to the disease of Leprosy!**

 **Two – is the Ministry of the Word of God for it brings salvation to peoples lives!**

**So that folk can be healed from the disease of Leprosy and saved from their sins.**

Lets see the clip led by Darcy Bussel titled **“Unconditional”** 1 John 4:19 has been their rock solid foundation - We love each other because He loved us first – it’s a given assurance!

We seek counsel, guidance, wisdom, joy, and love in God's Word because the Bible:

**1. Does not contain mistakes.**

It's “flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times” ([Psalm 12:6](https://biblehub.com/psalms/12-6.htm)).

**2. Is not outdated.**

It's “eternal; it stands firm in the heavens” ([Psalm 119:89](https://biblehub.com/psalms/119-89.htm)).

**3. Guides us perfectly**.

It's “a lamp to guide [our] feet and a light for [our] path” [(Psalm 119:105](https://biblehub.com/psalms/119-105.htm)).

**4. Explains our salvation.**

It's “the power of God that brings salvation” ([Romans 1:16](https://biblehub.com/romans/1-16.htm)).

**5. Is fully inspired by God and necessary for our faith.**

It's “God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” ([2 Timothy 3:16-17](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+3%3A16-17&version=NIV;ESV;KJV;NLT)).

**6. Is living truth that judges all things.**

It's “alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword” judging “thoughts and attitudes of the heart” ([Hebrews 4:12](https://biblehub.com/hebrews/4-12.htm)).

Well, I could just keep going, explaining wonderful things about God’s Word, for it is my watchword for every aspect of life, and Gods word never ceases to my very need!

Haralan Popov was imprisoned 13 years for his faith in Christ.
 ***Five years into his sentence, he discovered another prisoner rolling cigarettes in Bible pages.***

“For five years I had starved physically, but I had starved even more spiritually, and I can tell you the spiritual hunger is more painful than the physical… God’s Word had been my inseparable daily companion. Then, abruptly, I had been cut off from it for five years. I offered [this prisoner] all my money for the New Testament, but I would have given him my arm or leg if he had asked for it! **That’s what God’s Word meant to me then—and now.”**

I read Popov’s story as a new believer, and it touched me as much then as it does now.

I can access God’s Word so easily, but I must never take it for granted because it is “God-breathed Word” and useful for every aspect of life and living **(**[**2 Timothy 3:16-17**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2Timothy+3%3A16-17&version=NIV;KJV;NLT;AMP)**).**

**16All Scripture** is inspired by God and **is useful to teach us what is true** and **to make us realize what is wrong in our lives.** **It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right**. **17God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work**
It is alive and powerful **(**[**Hebrews 4:12**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/4-12.htm)**)**. For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

It endures forever **(**[**Isaiah 40:8**](http://biblehub.com/isaiah/40-8.htm)**)**. **8The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever.”**

It is more important than our daily bread ([Matthew 4:4](http://biblehub.com/matthew/4-4.htm)). **But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say,‘ do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.**

**Are you going to be a Changemaker – for God and for the sake of those who don’t know Christ as their Saviour!**

**We can give to the Leprosy Mission today and be a Change maker!**

**We can share Gods Word with someone today, this week, next month and over and over again and be a real Change maker!**

**Haralan Popov understood these things. Do you?**

**Then you will be blessed Immensely – A win-win situation all round – Amen**

**Hymn – How deep the Fathers love for us!**

**Notices for the coming Week**

**Wednesday 8pm Fellowship with a cuppa on Zoom**

**Sunday 25th April – Morning service 10:45am Pastor Paul**

**If the weather gets warmer in the next week, why not try and catch up with a few folk over a cuppa outside in someone’s garden (no more than 6) enjoy the fellowship together that we so desperately miss at the moment.**

**Blessing**

**God be with you till we meet again - By His Grace, all divine – that is yours and Mine**

**God be with you till we meet again – let His peace be your comfort – His presence your Joy!**

**God be with you till we meet again – Be your all in all, God be with You till we meet again!

Amen**

You can find this record in, *Tortured For His Faith* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondarvan Publishing House, 1970) pp. 97,98. By Haralan Popov