A REASONABLE REQUEST

"Please let us pass through your land. We will not pass through the fields or the vineyards, or drink of the water of the wells. We will travel the king’s highway. We will not turn to the right hand nor the left until we have passed through your territory" - Numbers 20:16, 17

Moses sent messengers to the king of Edom with this message. It was a very reasonable request. They were in Kadesh, a city on the edge of Edom. All they wanted to do was to get where they were going and they had to pass through Edom but they needed the king’s permission to do so.

Unfortunately, the king refused. In fact, he came out against them with many people, ready for battle. He refused to let them pass through his territory so Israel had to turn away.

The king of Edom was not a man of peace. Moses had reached out to him in friendship but the king had responded as an enemy. So, instead of going through Edom which would have been easier, the Israelites had to go around. This detour greatly discouraged the people and they began to grumble and complain against Moses (Numbers 21:4, 5).

Despite Edom’s refusal to help Israel, God told the Israelites to treat the Edomites as brothers. The people were not to hold a grudge (Deuteronomy 23:7). God was encouraging them to love even those who had treated them like enemies.

If someone treated you the way the Edomites treated the Israelites, would you be able to forgive instead of becoming resentful?

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy, healthy and blessed New Year.

As with any new year, there are changes. In this case, it’s the In His Image newsletter.

I thought that it might be a good idea to revamp it by changing its look and adding more features. I hope you like the changes.

What is your resolution for this year? Mine is to spend more quality time with my family and live a Spirit-filled life. It is my hope that this year would be the year of soul-winning for many of us.

A. Butler
FGM IN AMERICA

When you hear about female genital mutilation, you automatically think of Africa where more than 125 million girls and women alive today have been cut in the 29 countries in Africa but, are you aware that this procedure takes place in the United States of America?

“In the U.S., up to 507,000 women and girls have undergone or are at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM). Typically, women and girls are subjected to FGM before moving to the U.S., or if born in the U.S., they could be in serious danger of being subjected to it during vacations to their families’ countries of origin -- a practice known as “vacation cutting.” Summer is known as the most dangerous “cutting season”.

Federal laws in the U.S. recognize FGM as an extreme act of violence against women and girls and the government has recommitted itself to ending it in the U.S. and abroad. Several agencies are working to live up to these commitments and raise awareness. Eliminating FGM will take time and resources, but in the meantime, more states should put laws in place to protect at-risk women and girls. The federal agencies should support states in their efforts to stop FGM locally.

To read more about FGM in the U.S. or to take action, visit:

http://www.equalitynow.org/take_action/fgm_action611

Sources: Equality Now
In the Spotlight

A Forgiving Heart

Elisabeth Elliot was born in Brussels to missionary parents. She studied Classical Greek at Wheaton College. It was there that she met her husband, Jim Elliot.

She and Jim went individually to work with the Quichua Indians in Ecuador. They got married in Quito in 1953. It was Jim’s dream to reach the unreached and the Aucas fell into that category. However, they were a fierce tribe. When Jim found out where they were, he and four other missionaries went into their territory.

After making friendly contact with three members of the tribe, Jim and the other missionaries were speared to death. Valerie was only ten months old when her father died.

Elisabeth continued to work with the Quichua Indians until she met two Auca women who lived with her for a year. They taught her the tribe’s language. They were instrumental in her going to live and serve as a missionary among the tribe that had killed her husband. The tribe gave Elisabeth the name, “Gikari” which means “woodpecker” in Huao.

She remained with them for two years. Then she returned to her Quichua work until 1963 when she and Valerie returned to the U.S.

Elisabeth died on June 15, 2015, at the age of 88. What a remarkable story of forgiveness. How many of us would live with those responsible for the death of a loved one? Through a heart of forgiveness, she was able to reach the unreached.

Sources: Wikipedia; Elisabeth Elliot’s website; The Gospel Coalition

RELATIONSHIPS

BEST FRIENDS

Are you one of those couples who can finish each other’s sentences? Do you share everything with each other? Are you best friends?

I have heard women say of their husbands, “He’s my best friend.” And these are couples who have been married for 40, 50, or 60 years.

What makes it possible for couples to be best friends? Here are 7 tips:

1. Have fun together
2. Get excited about the things they get excited about
3. Know their story, their weaknesses, their fears…and love them anyway
4. Make them feel good about themselves
5. Call out the best in them.
6. Extend grace & forgiveness.
7. Put them first

You have the best of both worlds when you are married to your best and lifelong friend.

Source: Fancy Little Things
Turning Points
“Healing Hearts for Ministry”
A Conference for Women

January 22, 2016
Friday • 3-9 p.m.

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