


# The Mission Paper of Zion

Faith of the Heart |

Articles in English 2021 Autumn | **Siionin Lähetykslehti** 



# CONTENTS

- 3 Faith of the Heart Brings Salvation
- 5 The People Believed in Jesus
- 8 My Heart Was Searching
- 13 How We Believe
- 16 Refreshing Online Services  
for People Living in Estonia
- 18 Why Should We Pray?

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# Faith of the Heart Brings Salvation

**The Bible speaks of the faith of the heart. Is our beating heart also a nest for faith?**

Somewhere in the heart we feel at least the voice of our conscience and the feeling of love. However, faith is not a feeling, so it cannot be placed in the same way.

Sometimes we may doubt if we have faith at all when we don't or can't feel it. Instead, we can feel grace and inner peace. Perhaps faith is most natural to place close to the heart. Indeed, Paul says that "the faith of the heart worketh righteousness" (Rom. 10:10).

## **FAITH AND REASON ARE SEPARATE MATTERS**

The Bible gives the heart a valuable position. The Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ dwell in the heart of the child of God. Love is also given as a gift into the heart, which connects the children of God to one another. In addition, the heart engages in dialogue with God in prayer.

It is our task to keep the sanctuary neat and clean and to take good care of

the gifts given us. Jesus rejoices in our hearts when we want to believe, fight evil, and keep our reasoning separate from matters of faith.

God created an infinite world and gave us a limited understanding. When writing Ephesians, Paul had in mind those who thought that the most important thing in human life is wisdom or knowledge. Paul is talking about different kinds of wisdom. It is not ordinary rational wisdom, but an understanding of the salvation God has prepared in His Son, Jesus Christ. By studying and reasoning one can go deep, far and high, but never get to complete and perfect wisdom that only God can give to man.

## **LOVE IS REFLECTED OUTWARD**

To achieve the fullness and perfection of God, something greater and more noble than knowledge is required. One must focus on the cross of Christ and be obedient to his word. Paul writes,

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,



May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. (Ephesians 3: 17—19)

The most important and greatest is the love of God. Paul says this in many words in a hymn of love (1 Cor. 13). The faith of the heart is based on God's love for us.

Not only does God's love remain within us, but it is reflected outwardly

and forms a bond between God's children. As we feel this love, we also acknowledge the existence of faith. We can leave our lives in God's care.

God, with His immense power, is able to do many times more than we can ask for or even think about. It is often enough to pray: Abba, dear Father. We confess and acknowledge the heart's faith and trust in God. □

Petri Satomaa

The article was published in Päivämies on 21 May 2014. Translation: A.H.

# The People Believed in Jesus

## GOSPEL TEXT: JOHN 13:16–20

Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet. Others said, This is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee?

Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?

So there was a division among the people because of him.

And some of them would have taken him; but no man laid hands on him.

Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him?

The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.

Then answered them the Pharisees, Are ye also deceived?

Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him?

But this people who knoweth not the law are cursed.

Nicodemus saith unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,)

Doth our law judge *any* man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?

They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet.

**The Pharisees opposed Jesus, for they thought of him as a demagogue or agitator. Their example teaches how temporal wisdom does not save man.**

The Jews were celebrating an eight-day feast of tabernacles. It was a time to remember the wilderness journey and praise for the harvest of the year. During the celebration, people lived in leaf huts like they did during the journey in the wilderness.

Jesus did not intend to attend the feast at first. He told his brothers that it was not yet his time to come to Jerusalem. Unbeknownst to his brothers, however, he came to the feast later.

Jesus' reputation had already spread. Many asked: is that man here now? He was a controversial figure: some praised him, and others considered him an agitator.

The Jewish leaders searched for Jesus to imprison him. They considered Jesus dangerous because he healed the sick



even on the Sabbath, which they did not feel was lawful according to the law of Moses.

Midway through the feast, Jesus began to teach. His teaching was marveled at because he knew the scriptures, even though he was part of an uneducated people. The Pharisees and high priests sent men to capture Jesus.

On the last day of the feast, however, Jesus spoke so powerfully that the captors returned empty-handed. Moreover, the people believed in Jesus even though the leaders of the people did not believe. Many considered Jesus the Messiah.

## **WHO IS JESUS?**

In Jesus' teaching and miracles, many saw the works of the Messiah. Some considered Jesus to be the prophet Elijah, who was to come before the Messiah. Jesus once said that John the Baptist was the prophet preparing the way for the Messiah.

Jesus' teaching made people wonder who he really is. He was an uneducated Galilean, but his teachings and sermons were scriptural and very powerful.

Galilee was a poor region, and its people were uneducated compared to Judea and the scholars of the capital Jerusalem. The Messiah was not expected to come from poor Galilee, but from Bethlehem in Judea.

## **THE WORD AWAKENS FAITH**

The words of Jesus awakened faith in the hearers, which revealed to them that he was the Messiah: The Savior promised by God, the fulfillment of the scriptures. Jesus once praised the Father for hiding his deeds from the wise and revealing them to those who are childlike. (Matt. 11:25). Unlike the learned, many uneducated people believed in Jesus with childlike minds.

## **THE WORD SEEKS AN INDIVIDUAL**

The Pharisees did not acknowledge the faith of the people. They believed that because the people did not know the law, they could not know the Messiah. When the uneducated people considered Jesus the Messiah, the Pharisees accused the people of being wrong.

The pharisees thought that the people should have followed the scholars. They cursed the peasantry who did not know the law. According to the pharisees, faith requires some higher, greater authority that shows the right path.

However, everyone had to decide personally how to react to Jesus' speech. What does an invitation to believe mean to me? Should I wait for an example, should I believe by following someone else? The words of Jesus go



into our hearts. Faith of the heart is not borne of our own wisdom nor of someone else's.

## **SCHOLARS AND TRANSGRESSORS OF THE LAW**

The Pharisees considered the unlearned to be transgressors of the law and therefore cursed. They consider themselves pure and blameless only

through strict knowledge and observance of the law.

One of the Pharisees, Nicodemus, tried to defend Jesus. He had secretly visited Jesus (John 3). Nicodemus appealed to the law: before the verdict, the actions of the accused must be investigated, and the accused must be heard.

Nicodemus was rejected and accused of being a Galilean like Jesus. Those who should have known the law acted against it.

The Pharisees and high priests condemned Jesus without examining his teaching. Thus, they proved the teaching of Jesus that no one can live without breaking the law. (John 7: 21–24.)

The outward observance of the law does not lead to a union with God nor to seeing the Messiah. Only the Messiah himself, Jesus, unites us with God. His perfection saves us. □

Ilkka Lehto

The text was originally published in Päivämies on  
3 October 2018, Translation: Jaakko Kontkanen

# My Heart Was Searching

When I was six years old, my mom decided to leave the Catholic church. She packed us kids in the car and took us to a church, Assembly of God, where the worship style was opposite of what we were used to. The worship there was quite chaotic, loud lively music with electric guitars, drums and several singers leading the people as they sang, danced and shouted and spoke in tongues. My mom put me in every program they had: Prims and Missionettes (girls ministry programs), Kids Praise and various plays. In all of these we had to memorize long passages of Scripture, including entire books of Scripture we were studying. When I wasn't at school, I was at church.

When I was in high school, a church leader spent the entire year teaching us how to pick apart other churches' false doctrines. This is something I might have been good at, if only the reasoning made sense. The teachings were often contradictory, which was confusing to me.

At the end of every Sunday service, the pastor would offer a salvation mes-

sage, inviting those to come forward and receive Christ who perhaps had never confessed their sins and asked God for forgiveness and into their lives. In his message, the pastor would also open this offer to those who may have fallen away from Christ due to sin in their lives. This was me, every Sunday! I couldn't get through a day without sinning. I didn't know how others managed to avoid sin, but I was a mess. So, every Sunday I trudged to the altar alone or with others who wanted to be "saved."

In that church, Sunday's salvation message was the only time I ever heard anyone talk about God's forgiveness and love. It was something I wanted with my whole being. I wanted it enough that every Sunday I swallowed my pride and my fear of what others thought of me and walked up to the altar. Sometimes I was the only one standing there in front of hundreds of people.

## A HEAVY BACKPACK

One day when I was about 14 years old, the youth pastor came to me and asked



why I went up to the altar every Sunday. I told him what a sinner I was. He told me that we all are sinners, but once you've asked Christ to forgive you and come into your heart, you try to live every day for Christ and you're saved, you are a new creation. "You don't need to come up to the altar anymore," he said. I didn't really understand exactly why, but that day my heart sank. It was as if he had placed a backpack on my back and placed the first rock of many, as every day after that I added to the weight I carried. I did return to that altar time to time. Sometimes that backpack was so heavy I'd weep there for strength to continue on.

My religious life was very confusing. My parents were Catholic till I was six years old and even after we joined the Assembly of God church, we'd still occasionally attend a mass just for a change of pace or when my grandparents visited us. I was sent to Methodist churches of for week-long Bible day camps. I attended various Lutheran classes and Sunday services. I was even part of other programs within the Baptist church. I was just sent wherever they talked about God. When I think of all those messages I heard, I am reminded of these words: "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy

name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matt. 7:22,23).

I sat in on citywide church board meetings where everyone agrees to disagree about their doctrine for the sake of coming together as one church in the community. They reasoned that God is in all the churches, so they have that in common. But I disagreed! If God was truly in every church, why was I searching for Him? All I knew is that God is real, and He is somewhere and I wanted the forgiveness and love I always heard about but never saw or experienced. I didn't know what to do with the burdensome backpack of sin that continuously weighed me down. So I tried to ignore it by burying myself in other things at church.

## THE SEARCH CONTINUED

A few years later we left the Assembly of God and went to a small church in a neighboring city. There I sang and played in the band. I was on the mission board, and I filled in when the youth pastor was gone. After several months of mission work and nearly losing my life, I'd seen and experienced too much to sit back and accept the emptiness that was being taught. I tried to continue my involvement in the mission board, the bands and teaching youth,

but my heart wasn't in it anymore. It was searching for something real!

The youth pastor asked me to cover for her at an evening service when she would be away. That Wednesday night I gave the most heartfelt message I'd ever delivered. I stood before the young people and asked them, "How many of you want to know God? I mean truly know Him in a way you've never known Him before?" Hands flew up all over the room. They youth looked as hungry as I was, and I had nothing to give them. I looked them in the eye one by one and said, "He's not here. I don't know where He is, but in Jeremiah His word says, 'And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart' (29:13). So, go out there and search and don't stop searching till you find Him, and I am going to do the same because He is out there. I just don't know where." Needless to say, I was asked to step away from every aspect of involvement in that church after that.

My search continued. It took me to non-denominational rural churches—in one of them I found my husband. Then I went to an Evangelical Free church, a Baptist church and many different groups outside of traditional churches that met in homes. I even went to a Pentecostal church with a Baptist pastor and a Full Gospel church

with a Catholic lady pastor. Every place I went there was an element of truth but so often it was taken out of context. They would select a verse here and a verse there and create their own message out of God's Word. It was often a message very pleasing to the ears. They discussed the end times with fear and excitement, always watching and preparing for it. It was a constant adrenaline rush. Even my children recall the fears they had when a plane flew overhead or when they saw a satellite in the night sky or military vehicles on the highway.

Why should we fear when the Word says, "God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Tim. 1:7). Nonetheless I feared greatly. I was a rogue homeschooling Pentecostal/evangelical/Lutheran/Methodist/Baptist/I-don't-want-to-go-to-church-anymore non-Jewish Jew! I'd picked out pieces of what I thought was the truth in all those places and tried to live by them. I couldn't live up to the person I thought I had to be in order to be loved by God. I couldn't stand myself anymore. I was miserable.

## TRUE FREEDOM AND JOY

Then I had an accident that forced me to a place of weakness. I sustained a traumatic brain injury (TBI). So many



things seemed wrong. My mind was so jumbled, but still I tried to keep going. Nearly three years after the injury I was struggling more and more. Doctors weren't helping me, so a friend suggested an alternative. I made an appointment, and there I met a believing care provider. Through his conversation, kindness to a stranger and his care, I knew he was different. I knew he had something, not just something I had wanted and sought for, but something I needed. In him I saw peace, love and joy that my life lacked.

I went away for treatments to another state. When I came home, my body was racked with fever and trembled as my nervous system fought to

heal. While away, I realized how hard my heart was. I couldn't stand myself. I was away for forty days, and for those forty days I prayed for one thing what it spoke of in Ezekiel 11:19: "And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh." I wanted only a soft heart, one that God could touch and move.

A few days after returning I said something offensive to this believing care provider for which I needed to apologize. I called and apologized, and he said, "It's okay, don't worry about it." I continued, not knowing exactly what I was asking, "So will you forgive me

then?” He was quiet for a minute. The next thing I knew I was hearing God’s Word in a way I’d never heard it before. When he finished talking, I said, “I want to believe, can I be forgiven?” He preached my sins forgiven.

How can it be that I heard my whole life how Christ died for my sins, but I was never free until I heard the words, “Believe your sins forgiven in Jesus’ name and blood!” Only then was I freed from that backpack of sin. I couldn’t understand it, yet I felt like I was ten feet above the ground. I was overjoyed!

Shortly after that our family was invited to fall services. I sat and listened to the minister read a passage from Scripture: “Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake and the gospel’s, But he shall receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life” (Mark 10:29,30). Little did I know that what he was reading had begun to take place in my own life.

In the year following receiving the grace to believe, I sold my families’ farm that had been in our family for five generations, to be near other believers, our new family in Christ. I left behind my

parents, brothers and friends, yet I was ever so blessed as one by one my children have also desired to believe.

We were and continue to be ridiculed by family and friends for the simplicity of our faith and how we believe. But I hold fast to that which has been granted, because as Paul said, “I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” (2 Cor. 11:3). I have found that Christ is not complex like people or worldly churches make Him. I don’t need to prove my salvation through what I know or my own deeds of righteousness. God knows my heart. I want to remain in this simplicity that is Christ, simply believing my sins and doubts forgiven in Jesus name and blood. In this, I endeavor to believe and pray that God would preserve me in living faith.

The journey here has been long and wearisome, but I rejoice now as over the past three years I have healed so much both inside and out. This is all because of God’s grace and love that He has shown me through those in His kingdom. I rejoice that I can put my sins away, daily emptying my backpack as I journey. In this place of His grace and mercy I’ve found much peace and joy! □

# How We Believe

Our faith and instruction are based on the Bible and the Lutheran Confession. We conform to the key principle of the Reformation, which maintains that the Bible is the ultimate authority in matters of faith and life, and all other instruction should be subject to it. Like Martin Luther, we believe that man can be justified, or made acceptable to God, only by faith, by grace and by the merit of Christ.

Salvation of man by Jesus is a central topic in Conservative Laestadian sermons and other instruction. Through his suffering, death and resurrection, Jesus saved man from the bondage of sin. Man can partake of this salvation through faith. Without faith it is impossible to be acceptable to God. Faith comes through hearing and personally accepting the message of God's word. Faith is completely due to God's work in man, not even partly to any personal merit or

accomplishment. We believe, however, that faith becomes manifest in a person's life as fruits of the Spirit and acts of love, as shown in the Bible.

We believe, in accordance with the Lutheran Confession, that the work of Christ in the world continues as the work of the Holy Spirit in his congregation. Jesus assigned and authorized his disciples to preach the forgiveness of sins to people. We believe that this assignment and authority has pertained to all followers of Jesus, all believing people throughout history. In compliance with the mission commandment we still proclaim the gospel, the good message of Jesus. The essence of the gospel is the promise of forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name and blood. Whoever believes this message will have all their sins forgiven by the grace of God. In this way God justifies a person through his Holy Spirit in his congregation.





## SOME KEY CONCEPTS OF OUR FAITH

**FAITH** is a gift of God based on redemption by Jesus Christ. God graciously gives the gift of faith to all babies born into the world. Each child is therefore acceptable to God even before being able to understand faith. But as the child grows, this faith dies out if it is not nurtured within God's congregation. A person who has lost the gift of faith must repent to renew that connection with God.

**BAPTISM** is a covenant of good conscience with God. In baptism a believing child or adult is taken into the fellowship and care of God's congregation. Baptism guides and obliges the baptized person to live as a believing member of the congregation and the parents and godparents to teach the child all that Jesus instructed his disciples to teach.

**REPENTANCE** is a change of heart. In repentance a penitent person wants to have all sins forgiven, and a believing person proclaims those sins forgiven by God-given authority. The crucial part of repentance is that the penitent person accepts through faith the proclaimed absolution. His or her sins are ultimately forgiven by God, who works through a human intermediary and thereby justifies the penitent sinner. Repentance also involves a desire to renounce sin.

**HOLY COMMUNION** is commemorative of the last supper of Jesus and his disciples. Jesus himself instituted the celebration of communion by his followers. According to Luther, the communicant must have faith of the heart, and the purpose of communion is to strengthen this faith. Most importantly, the communicant should believe that he or she is thereby partaking of the body and blood of Christ. Receiving communion is an important way to nurture personal faith.

**ENDEAVOUR** is an essential part of our life in faith. Endeavour means that believers try to avoid anything that might lead them away from God and thus endanger their faith. Endeavour also involves a desire



to strengthen one's personal faith by hearing God's word, receiving communion, participating in the fellowship of believers, asking for and proclaiming forgiveness, and availing oneself of confession. Endeavour is not a manifestation of the believer's own effort, but a God-given desire to journey in faith and to strongly persevere in it.

**ASKING FORGIVENESS AND FORGIVING** are important for remaining in faith. Faith guides a person to admit and apologize whenever he has trespassed against God's will or another person and to forgive others their trespasses. Forgiveness is not merely a personal reconciliation between people. We believe that God also forgives us our trespasses.

**CONFESSION** means that a believer confesses his or her sins to a confessor, a trustworthy believing person, who preaches those sins forgiven in Jesus' name by God-given authority. Confession is voluntary and confidential. It always involves a desire to refrain from sin. The confessor is not permitted to share the contents of a person's confession with others. If, however, the confession involves a criminal act, the confessor must make sure that the public authorities are appropriately informed.

**CONGREGATION OF CHRIST** is the community of believers on earth assembled together by the Holy Spirit. The members of this congregation are partakers of living fellowship with Christ and with each other. The congregation is not primarily an external community, but its members are joined together by the personal faith they have in their hearts. External fellowship arises from their shared faith.

**GOD'S KINGDOM** consists of two parts: the endeavouring congregation down on earth and the rejoicing congregation in heaven. All those who remain members of the endeavouring congregation until the end will one day enter the rejoicing congregation. □

The article was published on SRK's website [www.srk.fi](http://www.srk.fi)



# Refreshing Online Services for People Living in Estonia

**A**s I read the Päivämies, I often draw my attention to how the writers of articles long for the gatherings of the believers and the songs, now that there has been such a long break in gathering for services. Personally, I have participated in services almost exclusively online for five years already – even before corona. Services were held in Estonia only about six times a year. In this way corona, in itself, has not greatly influenced my service attendance.

The corona year, on the other hand, brought three new believers to Tallinn. This year I have been able to enjoy the gatherings of believers. Although the sermon is online, the evening visiting and discussions take place in person. The connection of believers can be felt.

During the spring, services with translation into Estonian have been organized twice for us through Google Meet. In mid-May, we gathered in Tartu at Aive Sasi's home to listen to a sermon from Finland with translation in an adjacent room.

Six people were present, as well as a dozen listeners from Finland and Estonia on a video link.

- I haven't participated in such big services since last September, Olli Romppanen, who lives in Tallinn, grinned happily.

Pasi Peltokorpi spoke of Nathanael, who did not believe that anything good could come from Nazareth. Peltokorpi also told of Jacob, who slept in the wilderness with a stone as a pillow and dreamed of angels walking up and down a ladder.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus says to Nathanael, "... You will see the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man" (John 1:51). Jesus is where two or three meet in His name. In the services of believers, He is among us.

After the sermon, we stayed to discuss and exchange pleasantries via video. In the beginning we were a little shy, but after a little while we opened up. In the end, we sang an Estonian song of Zion. Laps olen taeva Jumalale - I am a child of heaven, my God. □

Minna Kukko, The article was published in the Siionin Lähetyslehti on June 16, 2021



## CLOSE-UP

### **My name is Aive Sasi**

**I am from** Estonia. Estonia is a beautiful country with four seasons.

**I live** in Tartu.

**Tartu is** a university city. About 100,000 people live in Tartu. The river Ema flows through the city.

**I work in** a factory that makes windows and doors, which is owned by two Finnish brothers. I work as a sales secretary.

**Estonia is** the most atheistic country in Europe.

**We Estonian believers** have gatherings, but the Covid-19 crisis has resulted in there being little opportunity for us to gather for services recently.

**As we gather around** the word of God, we talk about world events and matters of faith, and how they affect our lives.

**My duties** in our local zion include organizing services in Estonia and taking care of the paperwork of the Estonian congregation.

**In the Bible**, I am touched by Jesus' suffering and atonement for us.

**Faith can be seen** in my life in that I know how to make choices. The word of God teaches us.

**Many are surprised** to hear that there are believers in my country, conservative Laestadians.

**I rejoice** that I have received the gift of faith.

**What is challenging** in my life is that many do not understand what it is like to be a believer.

**In the future**, I would like people not to judge believers because of their faith. ☐

Interview: Sini Katves, Photo: Interviewee, The text was published in the Ziionin Lähetyslehti on June 16, 2021. Translation: Maury Johnson

# Why Should We Pray?

“For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” (Ps. 91:11–12).

“Remember to pray and go to services.” My grandmother Valma often spoke these words when one of us was leaving. The words have remained permanently in my memory and still come into my mind now and then.

People have been praying at all times, and for many of them prayer is an essential part of life. In the course of history, under various threats, such as wars, pandemics, and emergencies, people in our country have been praying for God’s help and protection. They have known God’s protection as a solid source of security and trust.

The first prayer for many people is the evening prayer they learnt to say at bedtime as children. God encourages people to pray in the midst of their worries and difficulties and to rely on His word.

I recently had a discussion with a friend that powerfully reminded me of praying. That friend’s family had experienced illness, worries, and fatigue.

But under such anxieties she had also experienced the wonderful care of the Heavenly Father, for which she was grateful.

In prayer we can approach God with our own needs using the words of a familiar prayer or by freely talking to God. We can pray alone, together with someone, or jointly with the congregation at church or at services.

A prayer on behalf of someone else is called an intercessory prayer. We often hear such prayers at Summer Services. When, at times of worries and hardships, someone says, “I will remember you in prayer”, those words seem really comforting, especially if we ourselves find it overwhelmingly hard to pray.

“Dear Heavenly Father, keep me and my dear ones believing and guide those who have strayed back on to the road of life.” Many people say this heartfelt prayer when a friend or a dear one has encountered difficulties in life. We want to pray that God would help those in difficulties and would protect them in personal faith when they experience the pull of the world and become weary in faith.

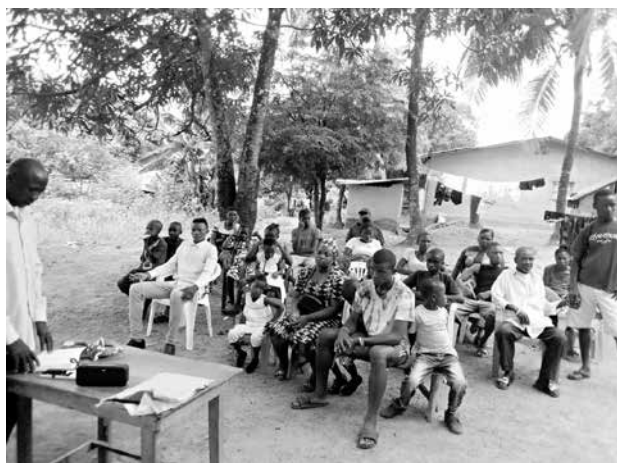
It is human to feel at difficult times that there is no way to get help. We may also feel that God does not even hear our prayers. Under a burden of worries we may grow weary both physically and spiritually and lose sight of the prospects ahead of us. At such times, however, we may suddenly find ourselves carried by intercessory

prayers and surrounded by God's blessings. I was recently told this by a family who had lost a family member.

In the uncertain times that we are living, many people want to rely on God and to pray for His protection. Even people who do not usually pray may have joined their hands in prayer, asking for God's help. The difficulties

caused by the pandemic have been allowed by God to happen, just as He allows things to happen in each person's life.

Like children, we can trust in God's care and protection and believe that even the weakest travelers are being carried by many intercessory prayers. The Heavenly Father has promised to hear our prayers and to help in good time. We would do well to share the burdens of our neighbors with problems: "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Gal. 6:2). □



Text: Vaula Eskeli

Translation: Sirkka-Liisa Leinonen

The text is an abbreviation of a blog post published in *Päivämies* on March. 8, 2021



**That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."**

Rom. 9:10–11