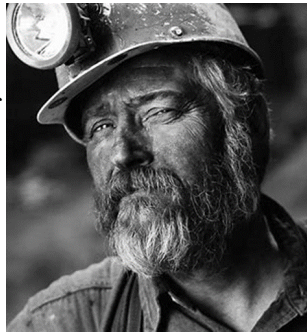


The Bulwark

APRIL 30, 2022

RESCUED

The word rescue has several synonyms, a couple of which are saved and redeemed. Vital when one thinks of the life of a coal miner and the daily danger the miner faces. There is the knowledge that at any moment the earth could give way and come crushing down on them. Such was the case in early August of 2010 for thirty-three Chilean miners. The urgent plea went out from the Chilean government, "Get them out, dead or alive". Thirty plus bore holes were drilled, trying to find where the miners were trapped, not an easy task. Finally, on August 19th the miners were located. The drilling had located them in what was described by one who was instrumental in the rescue effort, as "like trying to shoot a fly from 700 meters away." It would take until October to complete the rescue of the miners, but they would be saved.



Persistence comes to mind when one stops and thinks of the discouragement that must have crept in as drilled hole after drilled hole found nada. Pushing past being downhearted to the point of giving up, the search continued; a sense of urgency as lives hung in the balance. So it must be with the child of God, there are precious souls hanging in balance.

"Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we

do not lose heart." (2Corinthians 4:1) Paul seemed to be undaunted in his desire to share the message of Jesus Christ, in spite of tremendous opposition. A little further on in 2Corinthians four, Paul writes, "*in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel or the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*"(v4) Sadly, that same sentiment can be echoed with respect to society today.

"Throw out the lifeline! Throw out the lifeline! Someone is drifting away; throw out the line! Throw out the life line! Someone is sinking today." Such is the chorus from the old hymn "Throw Out The Life Line" and expresses the need for a renewed awareness of the magnitude of the responsibility placed upon each member of the body of Christ. Souls to be rescued, souls to be saved.

"For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Light shall shine out of darkness', is the One who has shone in our hearts to give light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ." (2Corinthians 4:5-6) What seems to be evident in what Paul wrote is that the impact of the gospel of Jesus Christ and what God had done for him, could

be enjoyed by others if they would obey.

"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends, if you do what I command you." (John 15:13-14)

"And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who disbelieved shall be condemned.'" (Mark 16:15-16)

Throw out the life line. There are precious souls that need to be saved, and it falls on each and every child of God to awaken to that responsibility. Rescue the perishing. ^(wbe)

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