

GOOD NEWS MAGAZINE ²⁰²²

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OUR GOD IS
NOT DEAD

SORRY
ABOUT
YOUR

By Gods grace

One of the exciting moments of the week is when I join the "street mission team" and go to the streets in Stockholm. With us we bring coffee thermos, sandwiches, Bibles and a folding table. These days are special. We step out of everyday life and the comfort zone. Someone has said, "The comfort zone can become your prison - tear down the walls and step out into freedom." We experience this liberating power as we take to the streets. Many different people come to talk to us: students, overworked workers, tourists, the homeless, ordinary people looking for a meaning in life. And we also meet those who are addicted to alcohol and drugs and whose daily struggle is survival, getting substances into the body that makes life tolerable for a short time. So what do we have to offer them? In their situation, a cup of coffee is just a hot drink that will soon have cooled down. And what can we do for them? Why go on the street at all? There is something that tastes stronger than coffee and has a deeper effect than a hot drink. This is the grace of God: His

love and the power that comes with it. We enter the streets in anticipation of God's presence. And that the message of God's grace and the power of the gospel touches these broken but valuable people in God's eyes. The message of Christ proclaims aloud to the "withered" people in the streets the grace of God; forgiveness, faith, a new opportunity in Christ that offers a future and peace. As it is written; "And let your feet be ready to preach the gospel of peace." (Ephesians 6:15) The message of Gods grace is like rain on a dry soul. One story is about a man who reached the Gates of Heaven. It took 100 points to get in. The man counted all the good deeds he had done in his life. "OK," said the angelic gatekeeper. "You get one point for it!" So the man continued his list of good deeds and added good relationships with people and great accomplishments and how little evil he had done. "Excellent," the guard said. "You get one more point for that!" After a long while of silence, the man said modestly; "I can only hope

for God's grace offered in Jesus!" "What did you say," the guard replies loudly. "You get 100 points for that! Welcome!" You can enter heaven without wealth, good deeds, friends, and 1,000 other things — but never without Jesus Christ. When we meet people on the streets they feel like they have no "identity" or selfworth. Then we experience and share the presence and compassion of God's power. Not only do we come with good wishes and hot coffee, but there is something genuine and real that comes from the heart and the Spirit. We read in the Bible, "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus." (1 Corinthians 1: 3-4). Through the grace of God, everyone can receive these riches; freedom, healing, new hope, faith, and life. And every time we go out, we see how God's power, presence, and love affects people – one by one.

// Erki K
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Harvest in **Albania**

Mission Harvest21 began in 1999 when Johannes and Milla Kudrin began working in Estonia to proclaim the gospel to as many people as possible. “We are part of a vision T.L. Osborne received from God: 100 tents, teams, and evangelists from across Eurasia to reap the benefits of kindness, love, faith, grace, forgiveness, and charity,” says Johannes. “There

are currently several teams working, and Harvest21 is one of them. Kevin and Leslie McNulty are very helpful to us in this work. They run Christian Adventures International and we work together!”

Johannes continues: “By preaching the gospel, we organize tent festivals, charity projects, visit nursing homes, orphanages, and organize seminars and trainings. This work focuses on both the gospel and charity. The work is carried out on both the spirit and soul level. We make evangelistic trips both in Estonia and abroad: in Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Georgia, Spain, Bulgaria, Greece, Russia, Istanbul, the Baltic States, Albania and other places in Eurasia.”

The tent is like a ship, sailing on the wind of the Holy Ghost, travelling to the sea of people, to serve and to help.

With the help of tents, people meet God, experience His love and goodness. In this atmosphere, people can celebrate and rejoice with God, which is why our events are also called “Festival of Miracles and Music” continues Johannes and recalls memories.

“We are truly grateful to God for the wonderful privilege of doing something together with His leading. For the first time in their lives, many people turn to God in prayer right in the middle of the streets and parks, at tent festivals, and at homes. It’s wonderful to see! Praise God! Obviously, it is clear to everyone that we will not be able to do it alone, so we would like to thank all the helpers and intercessors who have been faithful in their calling over the years!”

<https://imove.live/about-us/>





Open Doors

In 1955, young Andrew van der Bijl received a response from the Netherlands and an invitation to attend a communist youth congress in Poland. The invitation came as a surprise because he differed from others in that he had boldly acknowledged in writing that he was a Christian and not a communist. In his suitcase was the Bible, some clothes and hundreds of brochures about the Savior Jesus Christ that he intended to give away.

The Communist guide welcomed him with other delegates and spoke to the glory of Communism as he approached the youth. Andrew was amazed that such a big event was organized in the center of Warsaw. But two days later, he decided to look at the real life in the country. What he saw shocked him. Andrew saw a terrible poverty outside the city center that he had never seen before. He began sharing gospel literature with people, even soldiers on the streets. So he continued, and on Sunday he decided to get away from the delegation again and visit some church. His presence encouraged everyone in the small Baptist congregation. In the evening he stood up and had the opportunity to speak briefly to the church. After Andrew's



short sermon, the pastor said the most interesting thing: "We want to thank you for being here. Even if you hadn't said a word, your presence alone would have meant so much. Sometimes we feel like we're alone in our fight." This trip changed his life. Behind the Iron Curtain, he discovered congregations and believers - in need of support, intercession and Bibles. In particular, he found Christians who felt isolated and alone and who thought they had been forgotten and abandoned by the rest of the world.

At the end of the trip, watching the thousands of delegates marching in the parade, Brother Andrew sincerely

prayed for what God wanted him to do with his life. He opened his Bible and found a scripture that touched his heart and became the mission of his life: "Awake! Strengthen (and hold) that which is left." In Revelation 3.2. His nearly three-week stay in Warsaw came to an end, and Andrew felt that God was calling him to serve Christians behind the Iron Curtain. The young man from the Netherlands was nicknamed Brother Andrew. And his travels changed the world.

In the decades that followed, he traveled many times behind the Iron Curtain, visiting various geographical places, boldly risking his



life by smuggling the Bible during the Cold War. Bibles were very rare (one Bible could cost a full year's salary), and Brother Andrew did his best to reach persecuted Christians in need. In his biography, "Gods smuggler", he describes the early years and dangerous border crossings in his blue VW Beetle - which came to be called a miracle car because it was miraculously always able to move forward. He developed certain prayers that he repeated as he crossed the border: "Lord, in my luggage is the Scripture that I want to take to your children on the other side. When you were on earth, you made blind eyes seeing. Now I pray..., don't let the guards see the things you don't want them to see.

Andrew recounts one case when he approached the Ro-

manian border in a car full of illegal bibles. He saw the guards stopping every car in front of him. He watched anxiously as the vehicle owners were forced to take out the entire contents of the car and spread it on the ground for inspection. Each subsequent

car was treated the same, and the inspection took longer and longer. The guards took hours to search, including removing the hub covers, disassembling the engine, and even removing the seats. "Dear Lord," Brother Andrew recalls, praying, "What can I do?" As he prayed, Brother Andrew came up with a bold idea. "I know that none of my wisdom can guide me through this search. I will boldly take out some Bibles and leave them in a seat where they can be seen." So when Andrews car came to the guards, he did just that. "I gave him my papers and started coming out. But the soldier's knee was against the door, holding it shut. "And then something incredible happened. The guard looked at Andrew's passport and motioned for him to drive through firmly. "Thirty





seconds was definitely not over,” he recalls. The guard waved to the next car, signaling to the driver that he could drive on. And so God kept and guided as the Scriptures reached the nations that were nowhere to be found. The book of Amos in Bible 8: 11-12 records that there will be times when people are hungry to hear the word of God: “Behold, the days come, that they go from sea to sea, and from the north to east, and seek the word of the Lord, and find none.”

Andrew goes on to say, “Our mission is called ‘Open Doors’ because we believe that every door is open, anytime, anywhere. I literally believe that. Every door is open to go in and proclaim.” Christ, as long as we are willing to go and not be filled with worries about returning. We take the mission statement seriously and take risks today to take the gospel even to hostile areas. We do it because the

love of Christ motivates us and leads our work, sharing God’s love with word and deeds to vulnerable people on the fringes of society.

Brother Andrew’s story is extraordinary. But he himself always tries to emphasize that it was simply because he was obedient to follow God’s guidance. He remembers especially vividly when he received some of the KGB reports after the fall of the Iron Curtain. More than 150 pages were written about him, describing in detail his work in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. It was compulsory literature in KGB training. They knew a lot about “Brother Andrew and had respect for him,” but they still couldn’t stop him.

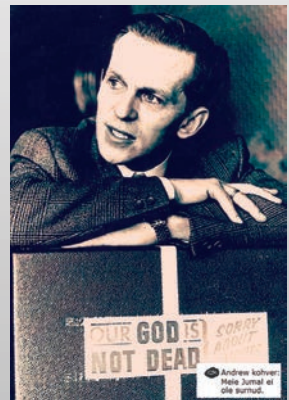
“The true calling,” says Brother Andrew, “is not a well-known geographical location or a great career, but a daily obedience to the guidance of God’s Holy Spirit. And this call is to every Christian, not

just the selected ones. The Bible is filled with stories of ordinary people who went to impossible places and did wonderful things just because they chose to follow Jesus.”

Today, Open Doors has bases and employees around the world. The next generation will continue to smuggle the Bible into areas that are oppressed and also contribute to humanitarian survival. They still go wherever they need to show marginalized, isolated people and persecuted Christians that they have not been forgotten and will never be alone.

Brother Andrew’s biography is recorded in the book *Gods Smuggler*, which has been translated into 35 languages and sold over 10 million copies.

<https://www.opendoorsusa.org/about-us/history/brother-andrews-story/> (video 3 min)





A glimpse of **eternity**

I grew up in New Zealand. After studying agronomy at the University of Lincoln, I decided to travel abroad with my best friend. The goal was to go and conquer the world for a few years and discover all kinds of adventures. We left New Zealand and surfed through Asia and Africa until I was left on the island of Mauritius off the coast of Africa in the Indian Ocean. I made good friendship with the local Creole fishermen. I went diving with them in

the coral and fishing, and the night dives were especially exciting. One night they invited me with them again. I didn't have peace about leaving because I saw a big storm on the horizon. However, I let myself be persuaded and we rowed out to sea. When I dived that night, I suddenly saw a wonderful jellyfish in front of me with a flashlight. I was surprised because it was not the usual round shape, but was "box-shaped" and almost transparent. I did not

realize, then, that this jellyfish is the most dangerous and deadly variety called "Sea Wasp" (Chironex Fleckeri). It has enough poison to kill 60 people. Suddenly I experienced a huge electric shock in my arm, like thousands of volts of electricity. It was such a big shock that it made me almost faint. I tried to see what happened with my underwater flashlight. I didn't see anything, so I looked down at my arm to see if anything had bitten me.



There was no wound there. Then I saw them floating around me in large numbers and realized that I had been burned. Before I got back to the boat, I had been burned by three more box-shaped jellyfish. My hand was swollen like a balloon. Where the tentacles had stung, I had burning blisters on my hand. I felt the poison begin to move through my body and my breathing quickly became difficult.

One of the local fisherman's friend took me ashore and hurried back to sea to help his cousin that was left on the coral. I lay on my back and felt the poison begin to work, and I began to feel very tired. Suddenly I heard a quiet but clear voice say, "Son, if you close your eyes, you will never wake up again." I looked around but didn't see anybody who said that. I had worked as a lifeguard in South Africa and I knew I would die if I didn't get the antidote quickly.

While beeing in the ambulance on the way to the hospital, the vehicle was driving

uphill and I felt the poison head on. What happened next was incredible. I started to see a movie about a little boy with a light hair in front of my eyes. It was a big screen and so clear. Then I saw when the boy was older, with snow-white hair. I looked up and thought, "He has blonde hair, but now he is older!" I watched and suddenly realized that I was the boy on the screen. I've heard and even read about it. I watched my life run before my eyes. It was a scary experience. My eyes were wide open and I was fully aware of what was happening.

Having traveled through Southeast Asia before and seen a million gods, I thought to myself, "Whom should I pray to?" I remembered my mother teaching me "Our Father's Prayer" as a young boy. I tried to recall the words, but to no avail. Suddenly my mother's words came to me clearly: "Ian, no matter how far you are from God, no

matter what you have done wrong, if you cry out to God from your heart, he will hear you and forgive you!" When I got back to New Zealand, I talked to my mother about it. She was awakened in the early hours of that morning and dreamed of me in an ambulance, almost dead. She had started praying for me right away.

"If you really exist God," I whispered, "and this prayer is real, please help me remember our Father's prayer." The words "Our Father who art in heaven,"... to the verse, "forgive our sins as we forgive others." Knowing that all things were true, I determined with my heart and with God that if He forgives my sins, I will also forgive others who have transgressed against me. After the prayer, I felt great peace, as if a great burden had been taken from the heart!

When I got to the hospital, the doctors and nurses tried to help me, and I understood





what was happening, but there was nothing I could do. I just knew I was sinking into a coma. I was completely paralyzed and my heart was literally moving in slow motion until it stopped working. Lying in the hospital room, I felt sweat dripping down my eyes and blurring my vision. In my heart I thought: I have to keep my eyes open. Suddenly I just sighed and knew something had just happened. The battle was over, the struggle for survival was over.

And it was then that I knew I, Ian McCormack, was standing somewhere and everything around me was pitch dark. I tried to find a switch to turn on the light, but I couldn't find anything. My physical body was dead, but I was very much alive and well aware of it. It was a scary experience when I realized that I was actually a spiritual person - a spiritual being. God is a spirit, an invisible spiritual being, and we are created in His image, the Bible says. In my heart I thought, "How did I get here?" As I stood

there in the darkness and looked around, I felt the greatest trembling and fear that filled my spirit and being. This is the most frightening, and terrible place I have ever been. It was as gloomy evil surrounded me, and it got worse and worse. I wouldn't want the worst enemy or anybody to come to this place. In that horror, I remembered that I had been asking for forgiveness in my heart, crying out to the Lord. At the same moment suddenly a bright light shone upon me and literally pulled me out of the darkness. I felt like a dust grain being lifted to the sun. I realized that the only reason I could leave the darkness was my regret of sins and prayer in the ambulance. We can only repent before we die.

I found myself standing in front of a bright light and power that surpassed everything I had ever experienced in my life. I knew I was before the glory of God. I felt that pure love flowed over me. I remembered that I had cursed God and lived a very rebellious life, but I still experienced God's incredible love for me. I saw a someone standing in front of me, but he did not look like anyone I had ever seen in my life. His garments shone white, and I realized that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was standing before me. I recognized the same voice that had warned me on the beach before, say-

ing, "Son, if you close your eyes, you will never wake up again!". The same voice told me now that I have to see life through his eyes, from a heavenly perspective of love, peace and forgiveness. Once again I saw a film about my life and thousands of people right in front of my eyes. Many of these people had never heard anything about God.

Suddenly I discovered that, I was back in the hospital bed. When God gave me the strength to open my eyes, I saw nurses and doctors at the door of the room. They just stood in the doorway and stared, mouth open. The doctors had declared me dead for 15-20 minutes, but now I felt very alive!

That evening, God completely healed me. The next day I left the hospital without help. I searched a Bible for myself and read the entire book, from the first book of Moses to the book of Revelation. As I read the scriptures, I discovered that Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins, rose from the dead, and is the resurrection and the life. We can come to God the Father through Jesus. It is amazing to know that his grace has forgiven my sins. God heard my prayer in this ambulance and saved my life from eternal separation. "And it shall come to pass that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Acts 2:21

Words of promise



- *“The Bible gave me freedom and light. The content of the Bible is the purest water that quenches my thirst and purifies my soul!” - Royal Swedish Prince Oscar Bernadotte*
- **The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding.. Psalms 119.130**
- *“I entrust my soul into the hands of God my Creator. - William Shakespeare*
- **The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.” Isaiah 40.8**
- *“I have complete faith in the Bible as the word of God. There is more authenticity than in any other history. All my discoveries have been the answers to my prayers. I study the Bible every day!” Sir Isaac Newton*
- **..for they are life to those who find them and health to one’s whole body. Proverbs 4.22**
- *“I look at all four gospels as evidence that reflects the light that shines from Jesus Christ.” - J. Wolfgang Goethe*
- **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1.1**
- *“The Bible is one of God’s greatest blessings. Its author is God and its purpose is salvation. It’s all pure truth.” - John Locke*
- **Not one of all the LORD’s good promises ... failed; every one was fulfilled. Joshua 21.45**
- *“Reading the Bible will help you get to know God’s word, but if you surrender your life, you will get to know the Author.”*
- **All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful... 2 Timoth 3.16**
- *“To read the Bible is like taking a trip to a distant land where the spirit is strengthened and faith renewed.” - Dwight D. Eisenhower*
- **For the word of God is alive and active. Hebrews 4.12**
- *“Let the Bible go to the bottom of the ocean, and man’s duties to God would not have changed. He would have to follow the same path, but his lamp and guide would be lost.” - Henry Ward Beecher*
- **Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. Psalms 119.105**
- *“I have made the final decision in my life. My life report is ready. This (the Bible) is the only right thing.” - August Strindberg, Sweden’s best-known writer*
- **But the Word of the Lord (divine instruction, the Gospel) endures forever. And this Word is the good news which was preached to you. 1Peter 1.25**
- <https://www.biblegateway.com>

Prism of light

A teacher at the University asked a bold question to the new class: "Is God the creator of everything?" One student answered "Yes" silently. "So God created everything!" The professor replied with mockery and continued. "If God has created everything, then God has also created all evil because evil exists, and that means God is evil because people are evil!" The student was silent on this saying. The professor was pleased with himself and boldly told the audience that the faith of Christians had once again been proved to be void.

Another student raised now his hand and asked permission to ask a question. "Please go ahead" the professor replied. The student stood up and asked in front of the class, "Does the professor believe that darkness exists?" "Of course!". The student then replied with a calm voice: "You are wrong! Because darkness does not exist in itself. Darkness is only the absence of light. Light can be studied but not darkness. We can use Newton's prism to study different colors and wavelengths of light. We cannot measure darkness. A small ray of light can penetrate a pitch dark place. "How do you know

how dark a place is? Through how much light there is. Isn't that the case? Darkness is the word we use to describe a situation where there is no light."

While the auditorium is filled with whisper the student asks the following question, "Professor, does evil exist?" A little hesitantly, the professor replies, "Of course, as I have explained. We see it everywhere every day. It is part of our humanity where violence and killings only reflect evil."

The student replied back: "You are wrong again! Evil

does not exist alone. Evil is just a lack of goodness and God. Like darkness is a lack of light, then evil is a human expression that describes lack of goodness of God. God did not create evil. Evil is just a lack of God's love and presence. As darkness is nothing but a lack of light, evil is a lack of God!

The professor remained silent and sat down. The class ended earlier this day. The student allegedly a young Einstein.

<https://www.livingwaters.com/movies/>





Thumbs up

Did you know that we sneeze at a speed of 193 km/h? And that your lungs breathe oxygen all the time, regardless of your will? Your liver, kidneys, heart, pancreas and other organs are currently working to keep your body functioning and alive. You don't even have to turn them off or on. At night, when you sleep, your heart pumps 283 liters of blood through your body - every hour. The lungs contain 300 billion small blood vessels called capillaries. The red blood cells in your capillaries release oxygen and pass through the bloodstream to the blood vessels every minute.

Perhaps the greatest proof of God's existence becomes visible when you stand in

front of a mirror. Your eyes focus and move almost 100,000 times a day. Each eye has its own reticulum, which is only a few square centimeters long, but is made up of 137 billion sensitive cells. Your brain contains 10 billion neurons, or microscopic nerve cells. The stomach produces almost 2 liters of gastric juice every day and consists of 35 billion glands. Next time you eat, don't forget to be grateful for the 8,000 flavors you have in your mouth. Imagine how boring it would be to eat without them.

The famous statistician George Gallup once said: "I could prove statistically that God exists. Just take the example of the human body. That all would

have happened by chance is statistically impossible. "Fred Choyle, a professor of astronomy at the University of Cambridge, made a similar discovery: The probability that materially dead things could shape life is one chance after 10^{40000} (40 thousand zeros). The possibility that our life forms would have evolved in this way can be compared to the probability that a tornado will hit a metal recycling station and from all the materials in the room, it would make a Boeing 747 by itself. The famous Sir Isaac Newton said, "If we did not have all the other evidence, only the thumb would have convinced me of the existence of God."

Kickstart



“Kickstart” simply means “launching” believers in the life we read in the book of Acts in the Bible. The life that was practiced and lived in the early churches. In other words, it is disciples who disciple (others). And are obedient to the call that Jesus gave before the ascension. Jesus said, “Go ye into all the world, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:19) Through “Kickstarts”, ordinary people can enter the streets and the crowd to heal, deliver, disciple as we read in the Gospels. This is the best message in the world when you know there is hope in every situation and it brings light into the darkness. As soon as someone gets “started” through the kickstarter, they want to continue doing it

themselves, because the joy and peace is great when you experience that it works!

Peter Ahlman says this with excitement in his eyes, and he remembers how for years he saw churches in Sweden empty and people only going there out of habit or tradition. “The life and power was somehow missing there and also in my own life.” He says. “Some years ago, I went from Sweden to Denmark, after reading a newspaper article of “kicksarts” there with Torben, says Peter. “There we went to the streets and when I was praying for the people, they were healed and experienced freedom. That had a big impact on me and changed my life. Kickstart comes from a word used to “kickstart” a motorcycle for starting the engine. When I came back to Sweden, I continued with it. A year and a

half later I kickedstarted various people and friends who have now done the same. We have seen thousands of people who are made free, healed, and have new hope and life through faith in Jesus Christ!”

Peter shares how his religious life was “resurrected” and says: “If anyone sees with his own eyes that by their prayer someone will be healed, it will awaken a thirst and spark within them. “In recent years, many people in Sweden have gained a new glow and life in their religious life through “kick starting”. Now the good work is to be continued”!

www.tobecontinued.nu
<https://youtu.be/wO-Q9jg1xXPM> (video 1.20 min)
<https://youtu.be/7s9Dmdm6jpY> (movie *The Life*)



Quench **your** thirst

“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink!” (John 7:37)

The Bible urges people to be thirsty. That is why we constantly try to satisfy us with countless things, such as knowledge, career, money, sports, luxury, entertainment, parties, relationships and more. Although we drink this “water”, our satisfaction is not lasting, but rather we are left empty, dehydrated and thirsty. Thus, we have to search for even more “water”, which proves that we were left unsatisfied and that we still are thirsty. One of Jesus words explains this experience: “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again” (John 4:13).

How then can our thirst be quenched? Jesus continued: “But he who drinks of the water I give him will nev-

er thirst. The water I give will be in him a well that flows and gives eternal life” (John 4:14). This water is Jesus Christ himself and is Gods best news for you.

Through Christ death God redeemed us and in the resurrection he became a life-giving spirit so that we would receive “living water” from him. Now he can quench our thirst. To receive Christ, simply turn to God and pray:

I admit that I am a sinner and need your grace. Thank you that Jesus died on the cross for me. I believe that God raised you up, Jesus, on the third day. Today I hand over my life to you, I now choose to turn away from all sin, I choose to put away every part of my life that does not please you. I choose to give my life to

you through Jesus. I receive you so take your rightful place in my life as my Lord and Savior. Come into my heart and wash my innermost being. Guide me and fill me with your Holy Spirit. Restore me and teach me to love as you have loved me. In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen (= so be it, surely).

“For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people.” (1Timothy 2:5-6)

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” (Act 4:12)

“This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” (1Timothy 2:3-4)



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