


TREASURE IN EARTHEN VESSELS

That the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

A photograph showing a person's hands resting on an open Bible. The person is wearing a blue plaid shirt and a watch. A vibrant red bouquet of flowers is visible in the foreground. The scene is set inside a car, with the window and interior visible in the background.

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels,
that the excellency of the power may be of God,
and not of us.”

- Paul, 2 Corinthians 4:7



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Dear friends,

The past few months have been *very* difficult for us as a family and I have fallen behind in our updates. I am still working on numerous issues with our websites and really feeling the crunch of what we have been through since January. We are really struggling financially and my wife's new occupation has not provided any commissions yet. I have worked more in the past five months than I can ever remember, yet our donor support has waned drastically. I am seriously having to consider another occupation altogether. I do not want to change occupations after having invested nearly 25 years, more than half my life, into the work of the ministry. The past two months have been extremely rough to say the least. I am very reluctant to state this publicly, but we really need help at this time.

TOTAL RELIANCE ON GOD

Many know that we have been through some very trying times, both on the home-front and while serving the Lord overseas. We fully understand that God allows trying times in order to help us grow and mature. It just so happens that this is one of those times. We do rejoice in the Lord each day and we are trusting Him as we adjust our lives to the new normal — living below the bare minimum. It is not easy to say this, and I cringe even mentioning that we need financial help. This is the ministry/missionary life we have chosen to live, and sometimes it is very difficult. I continue to look for work outside of our ministry work as a recent did not work out.

For those who do not know yet, our SRN website technical issues derailed me completely, the first few months of the year. Our recent website issues have cost me hundreds of hours of precious time — fixing things, migrating content, learning two new web-building programs, building *two* new websites, and trying to maintain everything else that I do from week to week. On top of all of this I am engaged in an occupation that is *one of the least popular* ministries in the church today, a biblical discernment-apologetics ministry that refuses to succumb to Ecumenism and working with aberrant and false teachers.

A FAIR SHARE OF TRIALS

As a family we have most certainly had more than our fair share of trials the past few years. I believe it is because of the line of work I have been *called* to do! Because of our financial struggles, some people tell me I should change occupations. Others think I am crazy for doing what I do. Nonetheless, we press on, helping as many people as we can for the Lord.

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed...”
- 2 Corinthians 4:7-9

There are many deceived people out there who are at the opposite end of the spectrum, both spiritually, and financially. In fact, a wealthy couple that I kindly informed last year about the dangers of the prosperity gospel boldly let us know that we were “in error” because we are not “claiming” our prosperity. I tried to *persuade* these people away from the heretical prosperity gospel, yet they *continue* to give away about 40% of their extremely high income — *to false prophets*. That's right, instead of listening to people like us who go the extra mile to warn about false teachers in the church today, they chose to reject a mountain of documentation we gave them, showing that the false teachers they are being influenced by are *lying* to them and *tickling* their ears. Further into the occult-based Word-of-Faith *Cult* these people slide. We pray for them, that they will stop trusting in lies and pouring their hard-earned money into ministries that undo the biblical Gospel and pervert the glorious name of name of Lord Jesus Christ.

MINISTRY SUPPORT

Over the years I have been more and more reluctant to share details about our struggles in ministry, especially in our newsletters. Generally, when I do, people unsubscribe. This is discouraging to say the least. I do get encouraging e-mails from many people *who are glad* that I share from the heart and ask for prayer, but more often than not, percentage-wise, when we ask for help, we get “unsubscribes.” It is not easy for me to ask for financial help. It seems that a lot of people don't want to hear about it, and many are already giving to larger organizations. We do suffer financially. This week we sold our skateboard ramps in order to buy food and shoes. It is a strange paradox indeed - we live on next to nothing as we help people escape the dangers of cults, money preachers and dangerous spirituality, and *heretical* ministries. Yet these false teachers and ministries we warn the church about rake in *countless millions* (even billions) of dollars as they rip people off in the name of Jesus Christ - *for financial gain*. Spiritually deceiving people with *lying* signs and wonders may bring in the money, but it will one day incur the wrath of God.

The past four months I have saved SRN many thousands of dollars by not hiring a website technician. We wait for the Lord's help, we are raising a family, and we are doing all that we can each day, *to help others*.

“God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord” (1 Cor. 1:9)



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Your financial support allows my family and I to continue our missions work and our apologetics outreach. As a missionary with World In Need International I am required to raise my financial support. My support is dependent on monthly recurring and one-time gifts from churches, family and friends. We are thankful that God is increasing our support for personal living expenses and we thank you for your continued prayers and financial support.

CURRENT & FUTURE

The following are some of the projects we have accomplished since February: Investigate, assess and fix numerous website problems, find and fix (*now*) over 700 broken links, reformat nearly 300 website pages, build *two* new websites and populate the pages, answer hundreds of e-mails, ship DVD and book orders, maintain administrative work, *re-learn two* editing programs for audio and video, begin an Adobe Dreamweaver computer class (and unfortunately have to stop), digitize, convert, edit and post numerous audio messages, continue cataloging and organizing the SRN research library, upgrade the SRN Facebook page, learn the new Podcast posting program, create a new Podcast App, and more. I also built a greenhouse to grow food in so we can save money. My back issues are still with me from time-to-time, and my *plantar fasciitis* (foot problems) has been affecting me again, daily. I also carpool our kids around when my wife is working. She has been very busy with her new business.

We are moving *forward* and looking *up* to the Lord for His provision. We do hope to one day be beyond our financial struggles, and of course our website traffic problems too. We are excited about what the Lord has in store for us in the future, as a family, with fellow believers in Christ, and with local friends that we reach out to.

If you have benefited from our ministry in any way, please prayerfully consider becoming a monthly sponsor. God's gospel is free, but using various means to get His message out does have costs.

- **A fourth donor option has been placed on our SRN website for your convenience.**
- **You may also quickly and easily donate through our missions facilitator. See details at left, or visit our *donate* page at the link below.**

Thank you for your prayers and support!

PLEASE REMEMBER US IN YOUR PRAYERS AND GIVING!

<h3>NEW SRN SITE</h3>  <p>Audio, video, blog & articles Expanded donor options</p>	<h3>NEW PODCAST APP FOR ANDROID</h3> <p>"Chris Lawson" App @ Amazon.Com (iOS App to release in May/June!!!)</p>  <p>Chris Lawson Email Show Twitter Facebook Visit Website Troubleshoot</p> <p><i>Chris Lawson</i> Updating Episodes...</p>	<h3>NEW SUPPORT SITE</h3>  <p>Ministry & Missions LawsonChristopher.org</p>
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