

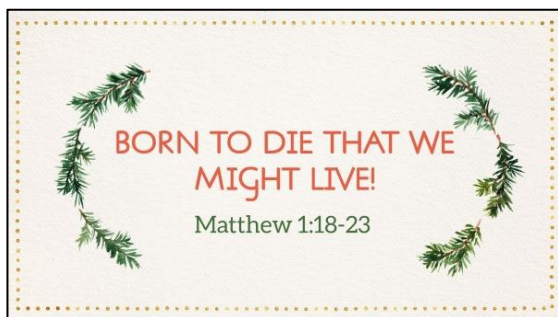
Good News Today

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 2

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ALTURAS, CA

Matthew 1:20 “But after Joseph had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,^[L] because he will save his people from their sins.”



Born to Die

*He came to earth, a promise to fulfill
A rugged cross, He bore up Calvary's hill
And for my sins, He cried father please
forgive
Born to die, So, that I might live*

Chorus:

*Born to die
A cruel cross to bear
Born to die
So that I his love may share
Born to die
His precious life to give
Born to die
So that I might live*

*Accused of sin, yet silent he remained
No one came forth, to witness for his name
Between two thieves, he bowed his head and
he cried
It is finished now, I came to die?*

An old gospel song—unknown writer

*And be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
Romans 12:2*

*If God is for us who can be against us?
Romans 8:31*

BORN TO VICTORY

Today, as I've been working on this newsletter and thinking about the birth of Jesus, all of a sudden, Ray Charles' voice crept into my head. I could hear him singing 'Born to Lose.' *Born to lose...I lived my life in vain...Every dream has only brought me pain...All my life I've always been so blue...Born to lose and now I'm losing you.*

That song was popular when I was in high school. Until today, I never thought much about it, other than it being a cool song with a nice melody. Yet, in some ways, I'm sure those words were trying to shape my early beliefs about myself.

In those early years, I had already experienced a lot of pain in my own dysfunctional family. Often, throughout my life, I acted as though I had been born to lose. During my few years in the Army, and many years later while volunteering in prison and jail ministry, I was amazed at how many "born to lose" tattoos I saw written on the arms of men.

Through the years, depending on my own strength, I fought the voice that often shouted in my ear, trying to convince me I was a born loser. Sometimes the battle was easy, and other times it was tough.

Until she passed away, my grandmother—a faithful believer and prayer warrior—was always reaching out to encourage me. Today, I know for sure that she believed I would one day walk through the narrow gate Jesus speaks of in Matthew 7:13. It took me forty-five years to find the truth and come to understand that, only because of Jesus, I am victorious.

Now, as I look back on my own life experiences, it's easy for me to see why so many people grow up believing they were born to lose. Since 1990, this understanding has given me the compassion to offer anyone a true and firm solution for their beliefs of defeat. A new beginning in Jesus truly is the answer.

The Good News Today is Jesus knew from the beginning He was *born to die* so that all of us could have an opportunity to see and live our lives differently. His free gift of salvation and redemption can turn what the world calls a losing life into a life of VICTORY.

I hope, as you read this, that you will not let unforgiveness or bitterness keep you from experiencing a life of freedom and gratitude for what He has done.

Yes, He was *Born to Die* so we could be *Born Again to a New Life*.

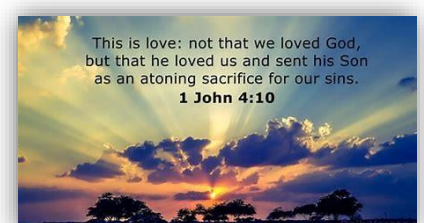
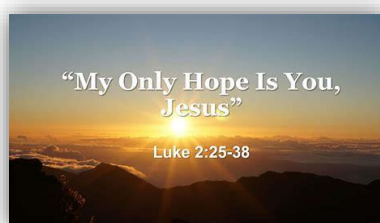
As I finish this newsletter, now in my head, I can hear Ray singing some new lyrics:

Born again...I no longer live my life in vain...Your promised peace has conquered all my pain...In this hope, no longer am I blue...Born again...and I know...I'm never losing you.

My final thought: I can only hope that Ray Charles was singing a new song before his last breath—and that one day, every one of you will be singing, “*Born Again and Never Losing You.*”

Blessings,

Mike Lewis



Born in a Manger to Die on a Cross Luke 2:12 & Phil 2:8

FELLOWSHIP OF THE UNASHAMED



Bruce Olson's story of how in 1960, at age 19, he bought a one-way ticket to Colombia and ultimately became a missionary to an unreached people group, the Motilone, is legendary. Not only did it become a bestselling book, *Bruchko* (the way the Motilone pronounce "Bruce"), but also a 2017 movie.

Olson himself, who will turn 84 later next year, remains active in ministry with the Motilone and many other tribes in the jungles of Colombia. He has spoken before the United Nations, and his book, with its examples of mission work that embraces rather than destroys indigenous culture, is required reading in many mission organizations and Christian schools.

His work, like many missionary endeavors, has received its share of criticism along the way—silenced only by the life-changing impact of the gospel.

Bruce tells the story of how he introduced a written language to the Motilone and then started simple school. Later, tribal leaders decided to send some of their young people to high school in Bucaramanga, Colombia, and Olson was able to get them registered.

He received international attention when he was kidnapped by the National Liberation Army (ELN) on 24 October 1988. The ELN judged him in the revolutionary justice system, and found him guilty of exploiting the Motilones. He was condemned to die, and his execution was planned. On July 6, 1989, the ELN told the media:

"Mr. Bruce Olson has deliberately and irresponsibly committed very serious crimes by developing an exploitative activity and colonizing, while decimating a third of their population between the years from 1963 to 1970. For the veracity of the charges made, we consider him guilty of a crime against humanity against the Colombian Motilone groups, and consequently, we condemn him to the penalty of death.

Journalist Maria Cristina Caballero published a series of articles in which she personally investigated Olson's thirty-year stay with the Motilone and interviewed many indigenous leaders.

Olson was released after nine months in captivity largely due to the attention generated by Caballero's articles.

The president of Colombia later said of Olson, *"This is the first white man to be defended by the indigenous communities in our country and in Latin America."*

Imagine a Christmas in Captivity

IS THE GOOD NEWS MORE THAN GOOD NEWS?

Saying the Gospel is just 'Good News,' could be the biggest understatement in the history of understatements

When we accurately identify what the gospel truly is, we honestly couldn't come up with enough words to express what it means.

Here are just a few of the 1339 synonyms for *Greatest* I found at Thesaurus.com: Complete, entire, perfect, outright, foremost, highest, preeminent & finished.

According to the Bible, *the good news about Jesus means the forgiveness of our sins to all who believe.*

In Acts 10:43 Peter tells a crowd some 'good news' about Jesus when he said, **"All the prophets testify about Him, that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."**

1 John 4:10 says, "This is real love—not that we loved God, *but that He loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.*"

Titus 3:4-6 says, "When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior."

In Romans 10:9-11 Paul says, "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, *"Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame."*

It's my prayer that if you have yet to say "Yes" to Jesus and have not accepted Him as your Lord and Savior, that you would consider the truths found in God's Word and do what Paul said at the end of 2 Corinthians 6:2, **"Indeed, the "right time" is now. Today is the day of salvation."**

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A BEAUTIFUL SONG

MARY DID YOU KNOW?

Lyrics and Music

by

Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene

©1991

Mary, did you know that your baby boy

Would one day walk on water?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy

Would save our sons and daughters?

Did you know that your baby boy

Has come to make you new?

This child that you delivered, will soon deliver you

Mary, did you know that your baby boy

Will give sight to a blind man?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy

Will calm the storm with his hand?

Did you know that your baby boy

Has walked where angels trod?

When you kiss your little baby

You kiss the face of God

The blind will see, the deaf will hear

The dead will live again

The lame will leap, the dumb will speak

The praises of the Lamb

Mary, did you know that your baby boy

Is Lord of all creation?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy

Would one day rule the nations?

Did you know that your baby boy

Is heaven's perfect Lamb?

That sleeping child you're holding is the great, I Am

