## Hearts of Love

Tom & Debbie Tillman "to touch the world for Jesus Christ"

A free monthly publication of Hearts of Love Ministries.

Volume 32 Issue 03 @ March. 2024

### Christin and Devlin part 2, continued from February...

little time has passed... I, Devlin, must take up this narrative since Christin is no longer around... Christin told me that Sarah's father, their pastor, explained that Christin had been 'born again!' He showed Christin several verses in the Bible, one of which read: 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new.' 2Cor 5:17 He said, 'God has changed you, Christin, from the inside out; now you are new; God has given you Eternal Life... you will never die!'

The following year, Christin and Sarah were married in her father's small church; Christin worked at the Church as custodian while he and Sarah took on the responsibilities as youth directors; they were very happy with twin girls on the way. Our parents came to the wedding but remained ashamed of him; imagine: their son, a janitor! 'Thank God for Devlin,' they said, 'and his beautiful young wife, such a better class of people!'

I did graduate from a fine old seminary; I married our pastor's daughter, Clara, and I was firmly ensconced as associate pastor in our life-long church; I was being primed to take over as senior pastor, upon my father-in-law's retirement and was invited to preach occasionally while wearing my own, cool black robe with a green silk stole, (a nod to climate issues which were so dear to my wife and her parents); life was good, or so I imagined but soon, things began to change. Christin told me he had been 'born-again' ... and, I do have to admit, he was different in some ways... but our pastor assured us that the 'born-again' thing was just the crazy belief of far-right fanatics... as long as Christin wasn't still getting himself into trouble... it was nothing for which to concern ourselves... after all, our church was more in tune with the greater issues of life: women's rights, especially the right to choose, and even more so, trans rights, welcoming the oppressed: undocumented visitors, all the LGBTQYZ people who claimed to find no welcome from the haters in some churches, the Palestinians being destroyed by the colonizing Jews, re-electing democrats who truly love the people; these were the things most dear to the majority of churches which really mattered.

Anyway... one day, recently, we were no longer getting calls from Christin which, in truth, was a relief since he was always haranguing us with 'turn to Jesus; be bornagain.' We couldn't find any of his new family and, it seemed, that around the same time, one or two people in our church had also left, all at once.

Within days, it appeared the whole world was beginning to fall apart: our government went through a rough patch with several important politicians disappearing; it was claimed they had all been assassinated by Christian



He has committed to us the word of Reconciliation. Therefore, we are Ambassadors for Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:19,20

Nationalists; so many so, that the President declared Martial Law, suspending all elections while the same kind of thing was happening all around the World!

Having long ago divided the World into ten ruling districts, the United Nations appointed leaders, kings over each of the ten districts, under the auspices of the Security Council.

The Russians, Putin having made peace in The Ukraine, along with the armies of several Muslim nations, including Iran, Turkey, Libya, Ethiopia and Syria launched a surprise attack against Israel; all the World cheered them on but, inexplicably, their missiles, some nuclear, all abruptly changed course, either flying past Israel or reversing direction, and exploding onto their own armies, killing nearly 85% of each one.

Such a sudden destruction brought about the collapse of the World's power grids, communication structures and financial systems; we were plunged, overnight, into an overwhelming age of darkness; within days, violent gangs began taking control of cities, states and nations; people were being killed by these lawless, heavily armed thugs while others sought only to protect their homes and families; death and destruction were everywhere; with food production and transportation disrupted, famine and starvation took hold; just a bag of grain, on the black market, could cost as much a day's wage! People were being killed for a can of soup.

As despair spread over humanity, a leader stepped forth; a strong, handsome, charismatic leader, who seemed to come from nowhere; he confidently strode before the United Nations Security Council's emergency meeting and offered to lead, and to bring peace to the entire World; astonishingly, every member of the Security Council, along with 7 of the 10 ruling kings immediately submitted to his taking full leadership, as King of the World as if he were the one for whom they had always waited. As if overnight, for the first time in all of History, one man ruled the entire

World, bringing peace, at last! As his first act, he declared peace in the Middle East, forcing all of Israel's Muslim neighbors, near and far, to sign a 7-year Peace covenant with Israel, which he personally confirmed. The Muslims' acquiescence to this treaty was certainly made easier with the armies of Iran, Turkey, Syria, Libya and Russia all decimated. As to the three District kings who refused to submit to his authority, they unexplainably died that same day, being quickly replaced by men, exuberantly proclaiming their absolute fealty, bowing to their king,

Our pastor told us to rejoice! The Christ had returned; he would set the World right; he would bring order and balance to our World gone mad. Electricity was restored, communications and the internet came back up; every news source declared 'The Christ of the New Age

has Come!'

the king and lord of all the Earth.

A powerful earthquake rocked the World; so many died! Wild animals began to feed on the corpses and then to kill the living; there must have been a billion people killed during those first months. Christin had warned me that terrible times were coming for the entire World but I hadn't believed him... As so many were dying, it was impossible to dispose of so many bodies which began to rot; diseases killed so many more; both Clara and her mother

died from typhus; my father-in-law and I comforted each other as he told our congregation that all these terrors, around us, were the result of climate change, but hope had returned; he encouraged us to put all our trust in the returned Christ, that only he could set the World right again, that he would bring order out of chaos.

Meteor storms blasted the Earth; fires raged, so much destruction, so many forests and prairies destroyed; smoke covered everything, blocking out the sun; rivers, and streams became bitter and poisonous, so many fish died, so much of the water became like blood! But all the while, the Ruler, from Jerusalem, spoke to soothe and calm our fears; his voice was hypnotic in its effect; no matter what evil came, he promised to deliver us all!

As bad as life had become, even worse came; clouds of horrid locust-like things swarmed everywhere; they were hideous! Their tails were like scorpions; they had human-like faces but with teeth like a wild cat and hair under little crowns on their heads; their sting was so painful that many attempted suicide and vet, could not succeed in that; their attacks lasted for five long months but suddenly they were gone! The ruler's deputy, The Prophet, declared our Ruler had overcome the ghastly things but something had changed; the Prophet began referring to the Ruler as 'god!' That's when I began to have doubts. Everyone in our church, following the lead of our pastor, began to worship the ruler, agreeing that he was a god!

'The Ruler, Assassinated!' The headline was blasted around the World; the video was being streamed everywhere which showed a Jewish Christian attacking him with a long knife, striking him on the head. It then showed the Prophet putting his hands on the Ruler and bringing him back to life; he stood up, shook his head, lifted his arms toward Heaven, then looked straight into the camera and cried out, 'I am God Almighty! Join me, my children, as, together, we lift humanity up to its deserved magnificence!' I believe the video was faked, made

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with A.I. and holographic display. The World rejoiced! The Prophet announced, in addition to our digital I.D.s everyone was now able to join them, along with the 10 District Under-Rulers, to receive the Ruler's Special Mark of loyalty, commemorating his rebirth to Godhood; it was a stylized rendition of the number 666 with the three 6's forming a circle, suspiciously similar to the logo of Google Chrome. Another video filled the internet which showed the Ruler and the Prophet entering the temple in Jerusalem; his throne was brought into the central space; he sat down as the Prophet declared him, now, 'King of kings, Lord of lords, the Prince of Peace, God Almighty!'

The Prophet set up a huge statue of the Ruler which could actually move and speak. He warned that no one can buy, sell or even move about without the Ruler's Mark; later, he declared that anyone refusing that Mark would be hunted down and beheaded; it seemed as though everyone was rushing to take that Mark, our pastor and most of the congregation lined up the very next day. That was when I began to wake up! It was as if I'd been blind but now I was beginning to see; everything Christin had told me during the time between his 'born again' experience and his disappearance. With tears in his eyes, he had begged me to turn to Jesus

Christ, to confess, to God, that I was a sinner, and to believe that Jesus died on the Cross to pay for my sins, and that God had raised Him from the dead, just like the Bible said; he'd warned me, 'Do not take the Mark of the Beast; it will be a form of 666; the coming World leader will not be God but will, rather, be indwelt by Satan, himself! Submit to death, rather than take that Mark! All who take the Mark will spend forever in the Lake of Fire! I'm begging you, Devlin; I love you and want you to be with me in the Kingdom of God, forever!'

I had taken Christin's Bible from their empty apartment but now I began to read it, as if, for the first time in my life! It told me of God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, that He willingly died on the Cross to pay for all my sin. As I read the last part, The Revelation, I was amazed to read about everything that had been happening since the disappearance of Christin, Sarah's family and most of their church. It said that the Ruler was, in fact, the Antichrist; that name for him I found in 1st John. At the end of seven years, he would gather all the armies of the World in the attempt to defeat Jesus Christ Who will return, riding a great while stallion, to the Battle of Armageddon; He will be accompanied by angels and His Saints

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To touch the world for Jesus

(all believers from all time).

I fell to my knees and called out to God; I prayed: 'Lord God, I am a sinner; I believe Jesus died for me; forgive me, Heavenly Father... take me to Heaven when I die which might be soon. I pray this in the Name of Jesus, amen.'
Suddenly, I was alive! I felt like I was filled with light! My burden of sin and fear was gone! I was born again!
They are pounding on my door, coming for me! I am wholly without fear; as I look up, I see Jesus, standing in Heaven, with His arms reaching down to me...

Next time, we'll learn about the place they went from here, and what will happen when the Lord Jesus Christ returns, bringing them with Him!

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