



# The Report

ISAIAH 53:1

WHO HATH BELIEVED OUR REPORT? And to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?

**April, 2010**

## *Alone In A Crowd...*

Have you ever been in a crowd of people, perhaps even with friends, and still felt as if you were all alone? What made you feel this way? Were your friends aware of how you felt? Did you tell them about your loneliness, or did you keep it to yourself? Was Jesus ever lonely when He was with others? If He was, does He understand me when I feel alone in a crowd?

Easter is approaching, and it is a joyous day to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. However, before Easter comes, the night of the Last Supper was one instance where Jesus was surrounded by His friends, but was left alone without support when He needed it most. During the course of the evening of the Last Supper, Jesus washed the disciples' feet and shared a meal with them. Jesus looked Judas in the eyes, knowing this man He had spent three years with, would betray Him that very night. He knew Peter would deny Him three times "before the cock crows twice," despite what Peter states in Mark 14:29, "...even though all may fall away, yet I will not." Jesus broke bread and shared the cup with His disciples, representing His death and resurrection, knowing they did not yet understand this. What a feeling of despair this could cause!

After dinner, Jesus left the "crowd" of disciples, and took three close friends—Peter, James, and John—to the Garden of Gethsemane. Mark 14:32-42 describes how Jesus asked His disciples to wait for Him, while He goes to pray. He was "very distressed and troubled," telling them "My soul is deeply grieved to the point of death; remain here and keep watch!" He went and prayed, then came back and found them sleeping, after telling them how sad He was! He woke them, saying "...are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour?" He left then, came back a second time and found them asleep again, and they "...did not know what to

answer Him.” The third time Jesus went to pray and returned, finding them asleep, He states “are you still sleeping and taking your rest; it is enough...” The rest of Mark 14 describes Jesus’ betrayal by Judas and how all of the disciples deserted Him that night. He truly was alone among His friends that night, when He needed them the most!

How could the disciples do this, we ask, a couple of thousand years later? Don’t we sometimes let our own friends down, when we know we could do more to help them? We may not leave them waiting for death like Jesus felt, but sometimes we don’t take time to really know how a friend feels. “How are you?” and “I’m fine...” are standard greetings, but many times facial expressions and body language tell us our friend really is not okay. “I’ll check on them later,” we tell ourselves, but many times that “later” never comes. We “fall asleep at the wheel” of life, and don’t come through for our friend, the way Christ wants us to be a true friend—the way Jesus is a friend to us, as well as our Lord and Savior.

The resurrection of Jesus on Easter shows God’s power and love for us even though we do not deserve His love and forgiveness. Jesus restored His relationship with His disciples, and loved them, despite what they had done. These men, who were cowering in fear the night of Jesus’ betrayal, became bold with the power of the Holy Spirit and then began spreading the Gospel to the rest of the world. If we come out of our sleep fogged mindset, and ask the Lord to help us be sensitive to the needs of others and to be the type of friend that Jesus is, we will notice the loner in the crowd. What we do with that knowledge is our choice. I pray that I will respond the way Jesus would, for truly, “what a friend we have in Jesus!”



# *Prayer Requests*

## *Pray For:*

- President Obama and our national, state, county, and city government leaders to receive and follow God's divine salvation, guidance, wisdom, provision, protection, and blessings as they lead us throughout this year.
- God to continue to lift up and bless all of the ministries that are a part of Spiritual Life Concepts.
- The leaders of Spiritual Life Concepts and that they continue to receive God's guidance, wisdom, provision, protection, blessings, etc. throughout this year.
- A move of God to bring people back to the basics of simple hope and faith in Jesus Christ this year.
- People who are out of work/looking for jobs and the stability of the world economy. Pray that they find satisfying work that they can accomplish during this year.
- God's blessings, protection, healing hand, grace, and mercy upon the people of Chile as they strive to rebuild their lives and that aid is brought swiftly to all those in need. May God also bring comfort and hope to those who lost loved ones and their families.
- God's blessings, protection, healing hand, grace, and mercy upon the Haitian people affected by the tragic earthquake as they rebuild their lives and that aid is brought swiftly to those in need. May God also bring comfort and hope to those who lost loved ones and their families.
- SLC's Missions department and its continued growth, for leaders who will devote their time/assistance to the department, and for people to be generous in their giving this year to support our mission ministries and Spiritual Life Concept operating costs.
- The woman dealing with depression and health problems and for the success of her treatments.
- Rev. M. George, his coworkers, and his ministry, Shalom Ministry and Welfare Society. This ministry needs continuous prayers to help their ministry meet budgetary needs for this year. The leaders and congregation also need our prayers for God's continued guidance, wisdom, provision, protection, blessings, etc. throughout this year.
- God to meet the needs of these who are a part of Pastor Lance Idol's ministry in Austin, TX. Pray also for the growth and outreach of Pastor Idol's ministry.
- Ann's husband, he just discovered he has cancer of the larynx. He will have to have his larynx removed. Please pray for his healing and recovery while he is in the hospital. Pray also for his family as they deal with this difficult and stressful ordeal.
- Sam will need a procedure that is quite invasive, but it helps considerably with his infection. Please pray for his body to ward off this infection, for his fever to go back to normal, and that we get back good reports and good results from all exams and labs he is having.
- That everything goes well for Bob, that his lung comes open again, the procedure is as simple as possible, and for a speedy recovery.
- Dian to have safe travelling mercies.
- Mrs. Adamson is having a skin cancer removed.
- Mrs. Brockman is asking for prayer for her grandchildren. They are in need of God's tender mercy.
- Mr. & Mrs. Sandburg, as Sister Sandburg is very ill.
- God is bringing forth a mighty vision for Spiritual Life Concepts ASK GOD WHAT HE WOULD HAVE YOU DO TO BE A PART.

# *Praise Reports*

## *Thank God For:*

- His salvation, protection, guidance, wisdom, provision, blessings, etc...to all His children and the Church!
- The rapid response and massive outreach of compassion and aid shown towards the people of Haiti and Chile from countries all over the world.
- Successfully helping a young family when they had car trouble and for getting their cars fixed.
- The successful installation of Bishop Robert Hines into the SLC family. We praise God for expanding our vision and leadership. He was installed on Saturday, February 27, 2010 at the Outpouring 2010 Mini Conference in Suwannee, FL at Suwannee Fellowship.



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