

Be Of Good Courage...*from Colin*



Whilst recently staying in one of those wonderful! 'low-cost' hotels in Latvia, I was taken by the delightful picture calendar on the wall of my room; it was a Russian scene depicting a tranquil river flowing under a bridge. It reminded me of the Christian TV programme *'The Bridge'* that our friends, the Bennetts host. In fact, I can hear Fred 'waxing lyrical' with examples of how the Lord had spoken to him through this wonderful metaphor. The more I looked at the picture, the more I was reminded of how many years ago, the Lord became my bridge to Him. He has been and remains the Bridge in my journey of Faith.

We need such a connecting force in our lives in order that our travels through life's journey may be one of safety, even though obstacles and distractions may dog our path from time to time.

The 'Over' Bridge – as the Simon & Garfunkel song goes – *Over Troubled Water*, how life sometimes throws a curved ball or two our way, I have experienced a few but the Lord leads us safely *over* that troubled water acting as THE Bridge for us to travel safely to the other side. I am constantly challenged by the words of Azariah – 2 Chronicles 15 – 'if you seek Him, He will be found by you' (v2) and want to encourage us all especially in times of trouble, to let Him be our bridge.. over - 'they sought the Lord and He was found by them' (v4)

The Joy Bridge – He is also the Bridge that has brought so much joy into our lives. Recently, my family took me out for a day of reminiscing – a 'memory lane' trip and took me to the place and building where I was born and the area where I grew up as a child. During the morning my son, Matthew and I walked for a couple of hours along a canal path talking about the Lord and some challenges he and other church leaders are working through in reaching this present generation. It was a time of immense joy. The words of Psalms 127:3 '...sons are a heritage from the Lord...' kept coming to me as we talked. Let the Lord be your Bridge to greater joy and remind yourselves regularly of Jesus' words 'that my joy may remain in you and that your joy may be complete' (John 15:11)

The Peace Bridge bringing peace in a troubled world. As I am writing this, news is filtering through our nation of one man killing 12 people in Cumbria, a northern county near our picturesque Lake District. What pain for those who are left bereft of their loved ones so suddenly, so cruelly and trying to figure out whatever happened. Sometimes we have to work through the pain of broken relationships, financial crises and serious illness; in times like these Jesus' words '...these things have I spoken to you, that in ME you may have peace' (John 16:33) How incredible that no matter what, He only has one plan for our lives to speak and spread His peace as He commissioned in John 20:21; take and release His peace to those around around you.

The Generational Bridge Yes, there is a Bridge that carries us over the sometimes turbulent rivers of change and transformation. It personally enables me to continue reaching accross another generation of dynamic, nation changing soldiers of the cross as they make their way from darkness to light. In many ways we can be that bridge that spans the generations and passes the baton of life experience to those eagerly waiting to grasp it for the Kingdom.

I am on the brink of a new decade; that wonderful 60th special birthday beckons me to 'cross **that** bridge'. Reminds me, although I have now given my age away, of a classic Status Quo song of another generation which proclaims '*I will cross that bridge when I come to it!*' Well, we have come to THE Bridge who laid His life down spanning Himself *over* every adversity and challenge, even death and we can safely travel across daily to receive His peace, joy and help in times of need. Will you join me today and let Him be your Bridge on life's journey because He is the ultimate BRIDGE OVER all things!!

Colin

It takes courage to attempt the impossible. What would we think of Moses today if when it was time to part the Red Sea he had said 'Why don't you guys go build a bridge?'