

# BRINGING THE WORD OF LIFE

## E-MAIL NEWSLETTER

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'...that you may know that you have eternal life.' 1 John 5:13

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### Bridge collapsed!



"What's going on here? Why is my car behaving this way?" Instantly the traffic ahead veered out of control as the concrete broke up and disappeared. Those few fleeting seconds of disbelief must have been horrifying.

Every day approximately 140,000 vehicles drove over the Interstate 35W Bridge between Minneapolis and St. Paul. Construction crews were on the bridge re-decking two of the eight lanes. Buses, trucks, cars, vans and motorcycles were passing over. It was the evening rush hour.

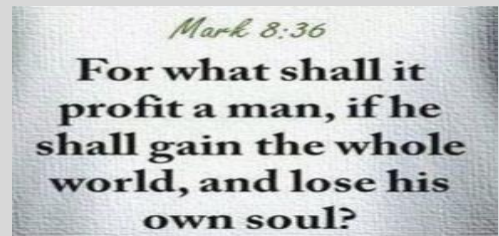
And then, the bridge collapsed. Vehicles plunged into the Mississippi River along with tons of crumbling concrete. Loved ones perished and many people were injured. Did the construction crew, while working on the surface, know that it was unsound below? In 2005 the structural integrity of the bridge was given a rating of 4 on a scale of 0 to 9.

The Lord Jesus told a story about a foolish man who built his house upon sand (**Matthew 7:24-29**). The other person, who was wise, built his home upon a solid rock foundation. The home on the sand was swept away in the storm. The house upon the rock survived.

People live their lives concerned about the 'aesthetics' of life – a good career, a life partner, or a good retirement plan. But what is your 'house of life' built upon? Things on the surface may be maintained, but is the spiritual structure of your life unsound? Would it be given a rating of 4 on a scale of 0 to 9?

The bridge was structurally unsafe below. Seconds after the tragedy, did it really matter that the lanes were re-paved?

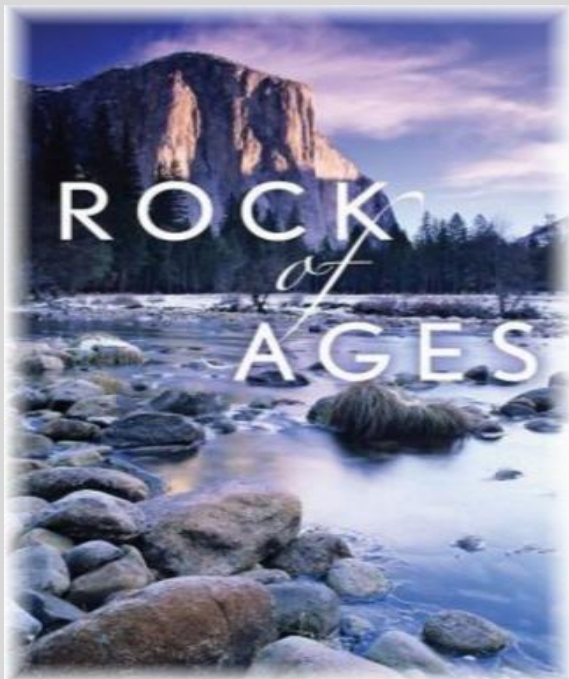
*When death, the greatest of all storms, crosses your path, will it matter then if you have wealth, fame or education?*



Your first priority must be to care for the very foundation of your life. Sin has structurally damaged every one of us. If a person dies having never found the Rock, which is Christ Jesus as security, they will perish in their sins in Hell.

The foundation that will survive the storm is not a religious building, a set of religious rituals or a collection of good works. The only house that will stand is the one resting on the Lord Jesus Christ. If you are building your life upon Christ, the storms of life will not sweep you away into eternal darkness, for "He only is my rock and my salvation" (**Psalms 62:6**).

Make sure you are building wisely with the footings of your life resting on the Rock (**1 Corinthians 10:4**). Via Magazine



## Rock of Ages, cleft for me,

Let me hide myself in Thee;  
Let the water and the blood,  
From Thy wounded side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure;  
Save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labor of my hands  
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know,  
Could my tears forever flow,  
All for sin could not atone;  
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,  
Simply to the cross I cling;  
Naked, come to Thee for dress;  
Helpless look to Thee for grace;  
Foul, I to the fountain fly;  
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,  
When mine eyes shall close in death,  
When I soar to worlds unknown,  
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee.

Augustus M. Toplady

*Starbucks can serve a cup of coffee 19,000 different ways. Many people view salvation like a Starbucks coffee, but there is only one way to be saved.*

## SALVATION IS FOUND ONLY IN THE PERSON OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST The Bible Says:

### **Only One Way!**

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. **Acts 4:12**

### **Only One Way!**

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. **John 14:6**

### **Only One Way!**

Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Romans 5:1**

### **Only One Way!**

Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man (Jesus Christ) is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses. **Acts 13:38-39**

### **Only One Way!**

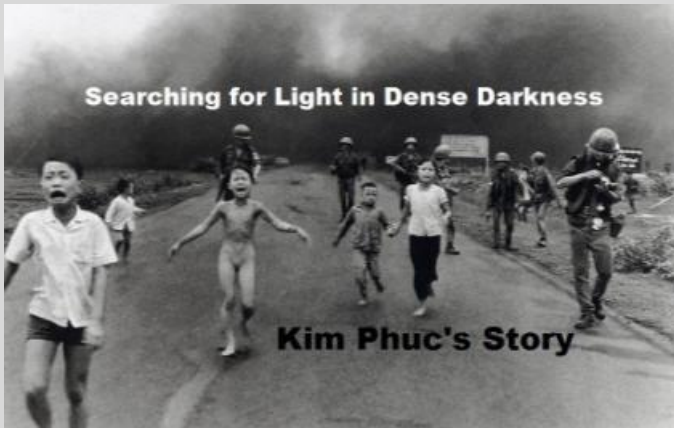
Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. **John 5:24**

### **Only One Way!**

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. **John 3:36**

### **Only One Way!**

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. **Romans 10:9**



Kim Phuc had no peace in her life and endured so much misery she wished she could just disappear or be dead, so her suffering – mentally, physically or emotionally, would be over. Given what she had been through, she was quite sure life would never be normal and she'd never be loved. Perhaps you know someone who is plagued by similar thoughts; maybe even your own mind has gone down such dark alleys.

## Young Life Falls Apart

She was only nine years old when her life was shattered. With the war raging between North and South Vietnam, her family had fled to the Cao Dai temple for shelter. A soldier warned the villagers that planes would bomb the temple and that they should all run. Nine-year-old Kim ran outside as the bomber plane was quickly descending toward the town.

Four napalm bombs had been dropped – a flammable liquid that clings to human skin and burns with intense heat. She was on fire. Her left arm was burning as she tore off all her burning clothes.

## The Photograph and Photographer

Nick Ut, a 21-year-old Associated Press photographer was covering the war. Out of the dark billowing smoke, Kim and other children ran and instinctively he took pictures. The young journalist said parts of Kim's skin were falling off. Crying over the horrific sight of the burning young girl, he put his camera down. He rushed her to a little hospital.

## Slow Recovery and an Uncertain Future

Fourteen months and seventeen surgeries later, Kim was able to leave the hospital. But her life wouldn't be easy. Pain and extreme headaches would afflict her every day and under the new government regime, drugs and treatment were very expensive. She committed herself to studying and school work, and focused on her goal of becoming a doctor. She was accepted into medical school but life was about to change again.

The photograph that Nick Ut had taken had become famous (Pulitzer Prize) and the Vietnamese government decided to capitalize on the famous picture by turning Kim Phuc into a National War Symbol. She was forced to leave school to become a representative for her government.

## Hating Life and Wanting to Die

The moment she received Christ as her Saviour, Kim, as a new Christian, asked God to help her to forgive others and to move on in her life. Not surprisingly, Kim was bitter, angry, and unhappy and felt totally empty and lost.

Before we go any further with this story, how is your life? Have you found the answers to the big questions or are you still searching?

Kim was searching for answers to her emotional pain. Living with her sister in Saigon, she started visiting the library on a spiritual search. On one of those visits, Kim came across the Bible and she started to read it.

## Finding the Truth

In the New Testament, she read about Jesus and His story resonated in her heart. She quickly concluded that He was unlike any other person she had ever heard about. Her search became more focused and her thirst to know Christ became more intense.



## Finding Forgiveness and Peace

She personally received Jesus as her Saviour at age 19. Having experienced God's forgiveness of her own sins the moment she received Christ as her Saviour, Kim, as a new Christian, asked God to help her to forgive others and to move on in her life.

In an interview with CNN she said: "And from that point, I learned to forgive." The CNN journalist said: "Now Phuc radiates an unmistakable poise and peace when she tells her story. She says she sees that famous picture as just one of many blessings."

## Today and Forever



Today Kim and her husband live near Toronto, Ontario in Canada where they raised their two boys. Yes, she has met many people since she was that badly burned, naked and screaming nine-year-old girl running down

Route 1, the supply road between Saigon and Phnom Penh.

She has mingled with royalty, prime ministers and presidents but the meeting that changed her life and brought her lasting peace and inner joy was her encounter by faith with the Lord Jesus Christ in Saigon, Vietnam as a young adult.

## What about you?

Have you found peace and joy? Have you appreciated that God loves you and that Christ died for your sins? Are you a possessor of eternal life? Do you have the wonderful relationship with God through Christ of which Kim spoke?

**"You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."**

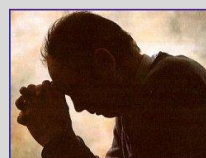
(Jeremiah 29:13)

**"I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness." (John 12:46)**

**"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)**

Via Magazine

## POINT TO PONDER



*When we were powerless to help ourselves, Christ died for the ungodly.*

**Romans 5:6**

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