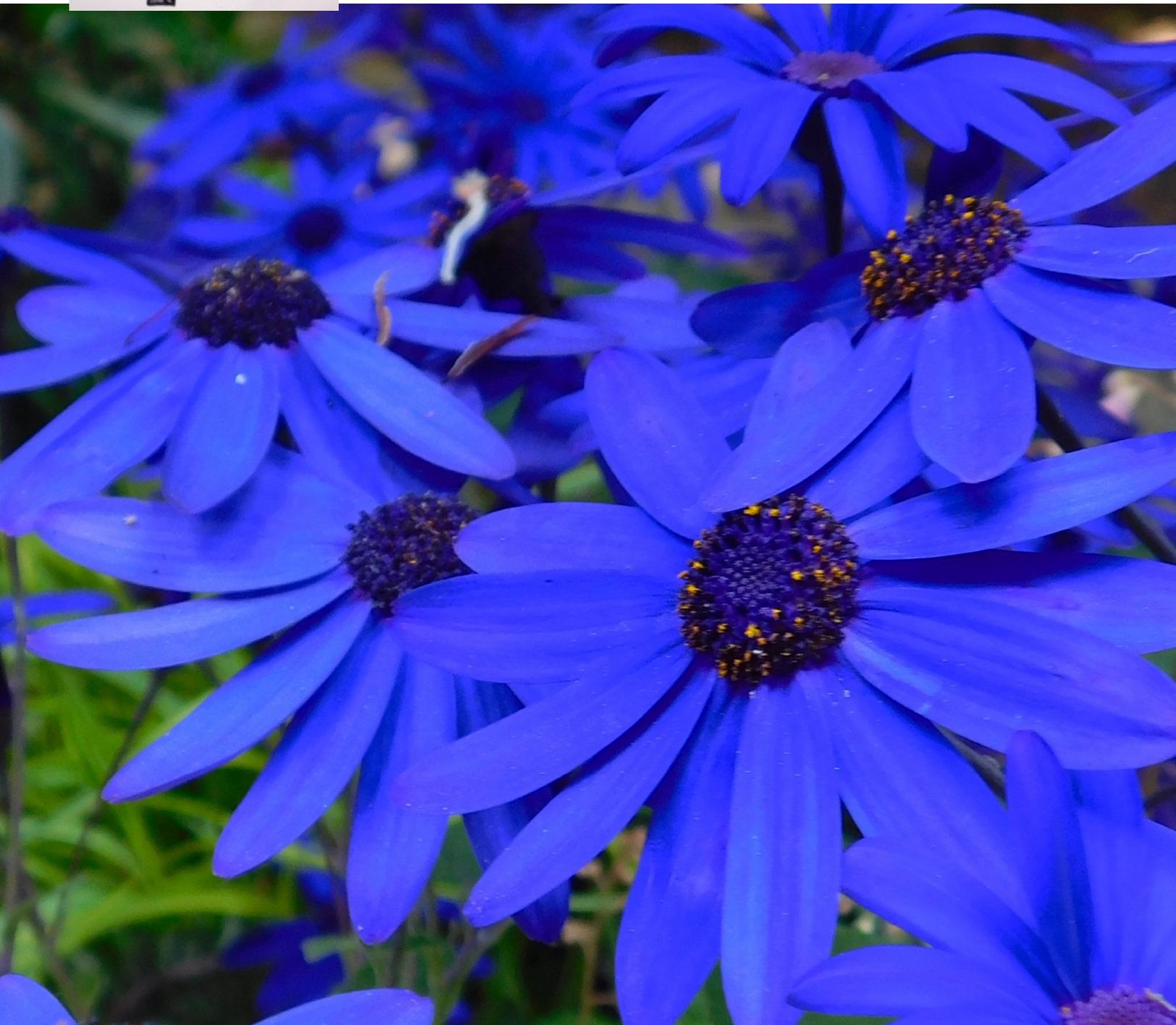




THE SOUNDING MEGAPHONE

Issue 15, March 2019



Hello and welcome to issue 15 of the Sounding Megaphone. In this issue we will discuss the wonderful redemption that is found in Christ. God bless you.



You understand that by reading this magazine, you might be exposed to content that you regard to be offensive or objectionable and that you read this magazine at your own risk. We do not intend to offend anyone, however, what is offensive to one person may not be offensive to another. It is difficult, if not impossible, to speak on controversial topics in a clear way without offending someone. We ask that viewers would receive the contents of this website in the spirit in which they are given, that is, to speak the truth on sensitive issues in a loving way that does not compromise our conscientious convictions. Freedom of speech is a provision of The Canadian Charter of Rights And Freedoms (Section 2). We want to express in the clearest language possible that all statements made in this issue are meant to be taken not in malice towards any identifiable people group but, rather, as discussion on issues of public interest, for public benefit, in good faith. Our views on the issues contained here are also consistent with our faith beliefs which are contained in our statement of faith which can be viewed on our website freedomandsocialorder.com. Whether you agree or disagree with what we have stated here, we bless you and invite your feedback.
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THE REDEMPTION THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS

being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: whom God set forth to be a propitiation, through faith, in his blood, to show his righteousness because of the passing over of the sins done aforetime, in the forbearance of God; for the showing, I say, of his righteousness at this present season: that he might himself be just, and the justifier of him that hath faith in Jesus. (Romans 3:24-26)

Friend, are you a Christian? Some would say, “Yes, isn’t everybody?” No, dear reader. A Christian is someone who has been freely justified by God’s grace through the redemptive work of Christ Jesus. What does this mean? “Justification” is a legal word which, in the Bible, means that God imputes the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ to a person’s account, then declares them fully righteous.

Jesus Christ, and the justification that He provides, is a gift from God, God’s greatest gift ever given. God’s law exposes man’s unrighteousness and reveals God’s righteousness. It shows us our need for God’s gift.

God displayed His gift publicly as Jesus Christ died on the cross. All could see Christ’s death and, through the preaching of the apostles and others, they would be shown that it was on their behalf. Jesus’ death was not just for those who saw Him die; it is for us, today, as well, if we choose God’s gift.

So, friend, I ask you again, “Are you a Christian?” Have you been redeemed? God saves and justifies the one who puts faith in Jesus. In Canadian culture, faith has become a highly personal, non-confrontational, almost indefinable thing. However, in the Bible God speaks of faith in a different way. God demonstrates His righteousness and justifies those who have faith in Jesus. While

God is openly demonstrating His righteousness, many want to make their faith concealable and unnoticeable. Here is where God's view of faith and man's view of faith collide.

God wants to so change our lives that we become new creatures; this is life-changing faith. Faith is radical and all-consuming. It lays our whole life down at God's feet for Him to have, change and direct. You see, the Bible is relevant to your life because the Bible shows you what faith is and how you can put faith in Jesus Christ and accept God's gift. Reader, if you have not accepted God's gift already, then this is your greatest need. Do not take it lightly. Do not run from God. Don't give the devil another minute of your life.

Turning your life over to God begins with admitting that you are a sinner. You and I have broken God's laws and violated our consciences. It is through Jesus' sacrifice that this can be made right. Admitting that we are sinners is followed by admitting that we need Jesus.

At this point, many say that they are good people. Friend, I ask you, do you deserve to go to heaven? There are other things in life that you may, or may not, deserve. You may be a student who has studied hard and who deserves good grades. You may be a hard-working employee who deserves a promotion on your job. You may even be a soldier who deserves a medal for risking your life, but friend, do you deserve heaven? Heaven is in another class altogether. It cannot be compared to things of Earth. The truth is that none of us deserves to go to heaven on the basis of anything that we have done. We are unworthy sinners, but Jesus is worthy and He offers His righteousness to us, if we will repent and put our faith in Him.

What does it mean to repent and put faith in God? Repentance is turning away from sin and self-rule, and faith is turning to God. Friend, you may have taken many steps away from God but it is only two steps back to Him. These two steps are the steps of

repentance and faith.

Friend, coming to Jesus is making a full commitment to Him, giving Him your whole life. Do not try to give Jesus half of your life. He wants all of your heart, no matter what stage of life you are in.

Still, many will hold on and hang on to control of their lives even when Jesus is calling. Friend, if this is you, how long will you hold on to your life? How far will you let yourself sink before taking His hand? How much of the pain of sin will you suffer? Be honest with yourself and with God, Who has seen every moment of your life. It is time to give it over to the Lord. The Bible says; “For the wages of sin is death; but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23). It also says; “for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God;” (Romans 3:23) and; “But God commendeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8).

The good news of the Gospel will change your life if you will accept

it. Jesus comes and lives within those who are His. You can be set free from fear. Jesus comes and brings His peace to the lives of His own. If you are terrified of God’s judgment, give up depending on your own righteousness and trust in Jesus Christ and His righteousness. Commit yourself to Him and let Him clean you through and through.

Friend, this is man’s greatest need, to be made clean and to belong to Jesus. It does not matter how intelligent, how attractive, how influential or how rich you are. What matters is, do you know the Lord Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior.

God is trying to soften our hearts; don’t reject Him. Don’t pour concrete over your heart when God is trying to soften our hearts with His call of love. Friend, life’s problems are far too large, and the destiny of your soul far too important, for you to go it alone. Turn things over to the Lord. God is holy. Cry out to Him and answer His

call and offer of redemption.

Shawn Stevens

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Scripture taken from the American Standard Version. 1901.



God's Hand

This piece was created with acrylic paint. It is depicting a vision that I had years ago. It is of the hand of God holding the world. Notice how small we are in comparison, yet He gently holds us. In behind is some of the beauty of space and the stars spell out "Glory to God". In Romans 1:20 ([King James Version](#)) it says: "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."

Ramona Stevens

Back page:

This is the last painting that I created in 2011. It is an acrylic painting showing how we can weather a storm in our lives, with the Lord's protection. This came about after listening to a teaching by Beth Moore called, "Wrecked But Not Ruined" based on Acts 27-28:1-6, which talks about the Apostle Paul's shipwreck experience and how the Lord used Paul to direct all aboard the ship to safety. Although the ship crashed, all the lives were spared. Also in Isaiah 40:12 ([King James Bible](#)) it says "Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, ...". It is encouraging to think how the Lord holds onto us in the midst of any storm, if our lives belong to Him. When we know that He is in control we can trust Him to bring us to safety and place us where we need to be. I pray that you are encouraged by this. God Bless you.

Ramona Stevens



Isaiah 40:12

R. Storonski '11