

*In  
search  
of*

# Truth and Right

*Tim Henderson, Editor*

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*"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things." Phil. 4:8 (NASB-U)*

**A publication  
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Christ**

## *"And She Prevailed Upon Us" The Story of a Certain Woman*

*By: Jason Moore*

### **Part 4—**

### *"Who knows but God?"*

On Thursday night, September 28, exactly forty-eight hours after Lydia had prayed for her sister-in-law's salvation, Ruth was baptized. Ironically, Lydia was not conscious to celebrate the answered prayer of Ruth's obedience or to hear the news that she herself had been teaching Ruth while she was in a coma!

The next day, Friday, September 29, was Lydia's birthday. She turned thirty-four. Ruth's husband, Jonah, and her boys whom we'll call "Isaac," age 7, and "Seth," age 4, came home early from their camping trip. Isaac's arm was in a cast—he had broken it on the trip. Jonah, the youth minister for a thousand-member Baptist church, was troubled over Ruth's decision to be baptized. Ruth met with their pastor that afternoon but remained firm in her conclusions.

Meanwhile, Lydia slept through her birthday. Her temperature topped 105 degrees and she began suffering seizures. Her heart stopped for the fourth and fifth times since her hospitalization and early Saturday morning doctors called the family together and removed her from the ventilator.

The family watched and prayed all weekend. Ruth read to Lydia the prayers that the Vestavia saints had written a week earlier. Lydia continued to breathe on her own but the neurologist was uncertain whether she would regain consciousness. Unbeknownst to Ruth, Jonah located Lydia's notebook and smuggled it back to their house on Saturday. Ruth found him perusing Lydia's notes in their study and observed that he was troubled. She called to ask my prayers for Jonah and re-

#### **TIMES OF SERVICES**

##### **SUNDAY**

**Bible Classes\* 10:00 AM  
AM Worship 10:45 AM  
PM Worship 6:30 PM**

##### **WEDNESDAY**

**Bible Classes\* 7:00 PM  
(\* Bible Classes for All Ages)**



**From the editor's desk:** This is the fourth of seven in a series of articles written by Jason Moore. This is the record of the conversion of a young lady and the effect it had on those around her. *TRA*

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ported that he stayed up until 4 AM Sunday morning studying.

By Sunday night, Jonah's interest had vanished. "We're not talking about this anymore," he said to Ruth. Then on Monday, October 2, Jonah received a call that steeled his latest resolve. A Southern Baptist church with which he had interviewed months earlier offered him the position as their youth and family minister. Monday afternoon, Jonah and Ruth brought their oldest son, Isaac, to Children's Hospital in Birmingham. Doctors had recommended surgery to put pins in the arm that had been broken almost a week earlier.

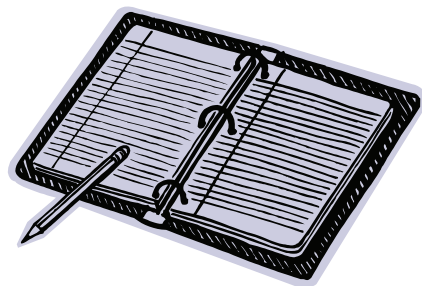
Tuesday morning, Isaac underwent surgery. At the same time, Jonah called and accepted the job offer, then called a realtor to put their home on the market. The church wanted him there in a month. News came from Montgomery that Lydia's fever had broken and that she was stirring some! But the news from Isaac's surgeon was troubling. The surgery had gone well but taken longer than expected. They were having trouble rousing him from the anesthesia.

On Wednesday, Lydia awakened but Isaac remained unconscious. They moved him to pediatric ICU. Wednesday afternoon, Lydia called me as we were leaving the house for the final service of our October gospel meeting. Quickly, I shared with her for the first time the news about Ruth's salvation. "Get out!" she exclaimed in a weak voice. When I told her how Ruth had discovered and read her notebook she said, "How cool is that!" and then added, "Someone needs to talk to her about snooping around in other's belongings!"

Thursday morning the neurologist met with Jonah and Ruth. There is always some risk associated with anesthesia. Isaac was the one in 300,000 cases that prove fatal. He had suffered a stroke and was not going to awake. "He just broke his arm," Ruth said. That's what we all said.

On Friday, an only two-days-conscious Lydia, learned that she had a brain tumor as well as cervical cancer. A dejected Jonah asked Lydia over the weekend, "Have you considered that all this bad stuff has happened since your baptism?" Lydia answered, "I have ... and I don't know what I'd do without my salvation."

Isaac was laid to rest Monday morning, October 9, following a private family memorial service. Back at their home, Jonah showed the minister who had preached Isaac's service a notebook full of notes on the topic of salvation. The minister commented that it must have been the work of a very serious seminary student. Jonah told him that it was Lydia's notebook; he was stunned. That afternoon, two oncologists who had reviewed Lydia's case said that they could do nothing more for her. They gave her six months to live. Ruth and Jonah received word and rushed back to the hospital to comfort Lydia. "I'm not afraid to die," Lydia told them. "I'm sure about my salvation ... Jonah, I hope you're sure about *yours*." Jonah teared up.



Later Jonah said to Ruth, "I can't believe that with all that's happened, the thing Lydia's most worried about is *my* soul." Tuesday night, Ruth found Jonah studying again. Just after midnight, he told Ruth, "I've gotta go to the hospital and talk to Lydia." At 1 AM Wednesday morning, he telephoned Ruth from the hospital. He asked her to meet him. He was going to be baptized. I was away preaching in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. It was 2 AM there when Ruth called. She wept so with joy I could barely understand her.

I don't know how this story ends. I've never talked with Jonah. Oddly, I've never met Ruth. I've only talked to her on the cell phone. I've only seen Lydia face-to-face on three occasions. I do know that there are at least a thousand souls with whom Jonah wields some measure of influence. I'm reminded of Mordecai's words to Queen Esther, "*Who knows whether you have attained royalty for such a time as this?*" (Esther 4:14). Who knows but God? I beg God to make a way for Jonah and to give him the Esther-like resolve of Lydia and Ruth, whose unwavering faith and love of souls humbles me

mightily to tears and prayers of thanksgiving.



**From the editor's desk:** Isn't it amazing to read a story like this. To think of the power of the word of God to work through one individual in such a way as to affect so many more. I'm afraid sometimes we lose faith in the power of the Gospel. We think the world has become just too hardened by the deceitfulness of denominationalism. They are just unreachable. But here we can see that there are good, honest hearts out there, waiting for the seed to be planted. Waiting for their beliefs to be challenged. Waiting to go to the word of God and find the truth. Let us be seeking them, who knows how many could be saved through the salvation of one soul.

I'm reminded of Ananias in Damascus. We don't read of any other teaching he did. We read of only the one conversion that he was involved in, that of Saul of Tarsus. Note that through the teaching of Saul of Tarsus, otherwise known as Paul, thousands obeyed the Gospel.

It makes me think of the story of a young girl who was walking along the beach, a beach covered with thousands of starfish that had washed up on the shore. She was picking them up and tossing them back into the water. An older man questioned her as to what good she was doing, seeing that it was impossible to help all of them. The young girl held up a lone starfish and replied "It matters to this one". Everyone deserves the Gospel, let's be trying to find our Lydia, who knows what good might come from it. *TRH*

## *News N Notes*

**Please remember these in your prayers:**

### **Sick/Surgery:**

- Terry Smith, Jr., Terry and Lora Smith's son as he deals with cancer
- Susan and Scott Swanson, Dorothy Lancaster's daughter, and their baby.
- Hazel Carroll suffering from pneumonia
- **Continue to remember—**
  - Blake Headen, Alberta's husband
  - Amanda Dowdy
  - Dorothy Sams, Linda Marshall's mother
  - Vicki Renshaw
  - Terry Smith's brother George
  - Faith Kress, Linda Marshall's niece
  - Ed Roberts father
  - Ila Marshall, Harold Marshall's mother
  - Marie Roberts
  - Cindy North
  - Grace Lancaster

### **Nursing Home:**

- Hazel Carroll
- Pauline Sellers

### **Shut-ins:**

- Rhea Henthorn
- Ethel Mahan
- Josephine Clow
- Mabel Fleming
- Pauline Midcap