



Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

January 2015

“Drawing Out Death”

Dear Friend of Mary Craig Ministries,

MCM has a mercy ministry called The Barnabas Project. We hold large distributions during the year for distressed families. We’ve been doing this since 2003. From clothing to school supplies to children’s toys to household items to some unusual and interesting things, donations come in. One thing that stands out to me over the past, say four years, has been the increase in items with skulls on them. From key rings to baby clothes to T-shirts and more, there they are: skulls.

FASCINATION WITH DEATH

Fascination with death has been around since the dawn of history; but lately, it’s on the increase in our culture and maybe in the world. The Ancient Egyptians are touted as being the most famous for their fascination with death, having mummies and elaborate pyramids and gods galore. The Greeks had their underworld: Hades ruled by a god and having five rivers flowing from it; sadness, lamentation, forgetfulness, fire, and hate. I understand that in the media there’s a saying, “If it bleeds...it leads.” And wow, look at the increase in murder, violence, accidents, bad weather results, and war reporting. What do they say? Viewer discretion is advised. Graphic content. Stuff like that...

The fascination with death extends as well to a growing fascination with evil, the occult, darkness, and injury, all with its gore and blood. Showing bodies hacked up into body parts and morbid autopsies has become common place now. Only time will tell of the psychological effects of all this.

Death comes to all; that’s the reality. It’s a reality that the Bible deals with. We find the first murder in Genesis 4 with Cain slaying his brother Abel and the consequence of his action as meted out by the Living God. Then we find another, also in Genesis 4, with Lamech. From there it goes downhill until violence covers the earth with the wickedness of man intensifying, his heart thinking evil continually. (Genesis 6:5) But Noah found grace.

So it goes, with wars and atrocities, and so many accounts of evil that people complain about the Old Testament. God seems awful and intolerant and full of wrath, meting out warnings and punishments, but saving a “remnant.”

God’s Law is designed to set the boundaries between good and evil, between what is holy and what is not, between what is clean and what is unclean, between what is loving and what is not. It shows us what love looks like from God’s perspective. The Apostle Paul will describe it as holy, spiritual, and good. But the Law stands as a standard and cannot save; it cannot give life. The Holy Spirit is the Life-Producer (John 6:63).

GOD IS FOR LIFE

God is for life. He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked or in their punishment. He desires that the wicked turn from his way and live. (Ezekiel 18:23, 18:32, 33:11) This death refers to a life of misery, to corrupting oneself, of practicing evil ways as opposed to a life of blessedness. Selfishness turns on itself. The intensity and greatness of the love of God for the cosmos, the world, is shown in the magnitude of His gift of His one and only, His unique Son, such that those that believe in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Unlike the fascination humans have with blood and gore, God does not rejoice in the unrepentance of sinners, yet His holiness requires that He punish sin. (Psalm 139:22)

Death always involves separation, and God prefers face-to-face relationship, nothing “in His face;” “no other gods before Him.”

Jesus did not come to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (John 3:17) In the parable of “the lost son,” Jesus tells of the father’s response when his son returns, confessing that he had sinned against heaven and in his father’s sight and was no more worthy to be called his father’s son: “For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost, and is found...” (Luke 15:24)

The Greek word *thanatos* can mean physical death, i.e., the death of the body by which the soul is separated from the body, whether by natural or violent means, with life on earth coming to an end; mortal perils; and spiritual death, being separated from God. It can refer metaphorically to the misery of the soul arising from sin. It can refer to the “miserable state of the wicked dead in hell...In the widest sense, death comprises all the miseries arising from sin as well as physical death as the loss of a life consecrated to God and blessed in him on earth.”

<http://biblehub.com/greek/2288.htm>

DRAWING OUT DEATH: A GUIDELINE

Every believer in Christ can draw out death and find deliverance from its strongholds by taking into consideration some practical steps:

1, Acknowledge the truth. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23) The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:23) The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:2) The [Holy] Spirit is the truth. (1 John 5:6) The [Holy] Spirit is the Life-Producer. (John 6:63) Love is as strong as death. (Songs 8:6) If the Spirit of Him that

raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwells in you. (Romans 8:11)

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 1 John 4:9

If you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved. Romans 10:9

Only the love of the Father, the love of the Son, and the love of the Holy Spirit can raise someone out from among the dead and give him life. Only the power of God can break the power of death. (Hebrews 2:14, 15; Ephesians 1:17-2:10; Colossians 1:12-14; Colossians 2:13-15)

2. Acknowledge negligence, pride, arrogance, and failure to live by the Spirit... (Galatians 5)

3. Draw nigh to God. Draw out death by dying to sin, by drawing close to God. (Psalm 73:28; Hebrews 4:16; Romans chapters 6-8; James 4:6-10)

4. Say “no” to sinful acts, habits, and practices by the power of the Holy Spirit. The wages of sin is death, and every time we sin, there is a little death. (Romans 6)

5. Live by keeping in step with the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16), by being filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18), and by setting the mind on the things of God (Romans 8:5-8; Ephesians 4:17ff; Colossians 3:1-3).

ONE MORE THING: RESCUING OTHERS

Now there is something else to consider about drawing out death. It has to do with rescuing those being drawn unto death.

If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small. If you forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain [tottering to slaughter]; if you say, Behold we knew it not; does not He that ponders the heart consider it? And He that keeps your soul, does not He know it? And shall not He render to every man according to his works? Proverbs 24:10-12

In the case of unjust judgment, we can deliver a soul by giving true witness (Proverbs 14:25). In the case of violence by lawless men and its effect on human life and living, we can render help and not pass by; we can be “the good Samaritan.” There is a moral obligation placed on us to save a human life in peril. When people are in present danger of death/destruction, we are not to sit idly by. Consider:

The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation. Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken. Psalm 37:14, 15

We fail, not acknowledging our negligence, not owning up to the fact that this, too, is a crime. In Jesus’ parable both the Priest and the Levite walked by. They had their reasons; we have our reasons. God, however, is thinking about us and keeping our souls. God is considering our ways. Omission, failing to act in love and doing nothing, is also sin.

Defend the poor and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy; rid them out of the land of the wicked. Psalm 82:3, 4

Some things are unacceptable. We need to seek the LORD for righteous judgment. We need wisdom; I suggest reading Proverbs daily.

Fools because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted. Their soul abhors all manner of meat; and they draw near unto the gates of death. Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and He saves them out of their distresses. Psalm 107:17-19

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR LIFE

We need the mind of Christ and the heart of the Holy Spirit in order to do the will of the Father. Let's take responsibility for our lives, for life, and seek to do those works which are wrought in God, the Holy Spirit leading, remembering the LORD our God. Consider 1 John 5:11-24.

Violence around the world is increasing. We need to concentrate on our own personal spiritual maturity in order that we might lead others to follow the Lamb wherever He goes and to always be ready to give an answer to everyone for the hope within us. Be informed. Live responsibly.

Remember, general evil is overcome by specific acts of good. We can do this. I'm not here to tell you what to do; I'm here to remind all of us to find out what the Holy Spirit wants us to do. Death and destruction, the king spirit of Abaddon, has been unleashed in the earth. Believers in Jesus Christ have the light of His life and love of the truth to overcome the gravity, the grief, things of the grave. Jesus Christ came to destroy the works of darkness. We must learn how death is overcome. We must draw out death, and live in Him.

The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death...For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

BACK TO AFRICA

In a few weeks, I travel with an MCM mission team back to Africa. This mission involves breaking strongholds of slavery and death. We at MCM thank you for giving graciously, gladly, generously, and as guided by the Holy Spirit. We appreciate your donations and gifts to MCM. They enable us to take the gospel of Jesus Christ around the world and across backyard fences, to help forgotten peoples, to teach and train and make disciples, and to minister both spiritually and tangibly. Thank you for your God-given gifts, prayers, and financial support as MCM reaches out globally, locally, online, and as the Holy Spirit leads.

Just the messenger,

Mary Craig

Mary Craig, D. Min.

*Hereby perceive we the love of God,
Because He laid down His life for us;
And we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 1 John 3:16*

© 2015 Mary Craig Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved.

P.S. Thank you for giving to MCM! Donate: Mary Craig Ministries, Inc., P. O. Box 4610, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33338-4610 or through PayPal® online at www.marycraig.org. Go to marycraig.org for the latest articles and words received. Take a look and see all that God is doing through this ministry, in world missions, in evangelism, the Barnabas Project, Craighthouse® Christian Fellowship, home visitation, Kinetic Koinonia, media, Bible study books available through the [online Catalog](#), and more. Worship with us 4:30 p.m. Sundays. Grow and flourish in small group ministry at Craighthouse® Christian Fellowship, located in the Pompano Plaza at 114 E. Mc Nab Road, Pompano Beach, FL 33060. Log on to www.craighthouse.org for a map, current events, and Bible studies. Reach MCM at 954-491-7270. Send in your prayer requests. Follow MCM Bible teachings and Rev. Jim Craig's sermons; go to www.marycraig.org and click on "Audio Bible Studies" or "Divine Appointment" radio ministry; or go to www.mcmtffr.org for audio sermons and teachings and Friday night handout sheets. Free. Go to www.marycraigverses.org for "Enjoying God for Life," daily encouragement and growing in your faith. Go to www.mcm.phanfare.com for some pictures of MCM world missions. Mary Craig Ministries, Inc. is a 501© (3) nonprofit corporation founded in 1993. Federal ID 65-0429517.

**Thanks to notesoflife.org for the graphic*