

may 24

i watched the john ankerberg show over the weekend. i almost wish i hadn't because it saddened my heart so. a favorite guest of mine was on the show again, morgan freeman of "faith comes by hearing" ministries. they get the spoken word of God to people who cannot read. he was speaking this time about the phillipine islands, just one of many places where poverty is rampant and evil finds entrance.

he was telling of how many are forced by lack to sell their children. some are misguidedly told it is just for labor while the truth is much sinister. young children are sold into prostitution if they are attractive enough. those of lesser desire are sold to individuals who desire a play thing of their own. then there is a fate worse than that, if one can imagine it. the least desirable are sold for organ harvesting.

there is more darkness and deeply evil acts than most of us allow our minds to contemplate. satan has prepared his bed and many are choosing to lie in it with him. and it is always the most innocent of the innocent he desires to exploit the most.

i know we don't all want to think about these things but we cannot ignore them, seeking to make them go away. "lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices." 2 cor 2:11

i know we cannot reach into the dark places where many are suffering. at least not by deeds but prayer is another matter. every day i pray for those trapped in

bondage. i pray for our merciful Lord to free them in mind and spirit, if not in body.

the darkest place anyone can be is a place where there is no hope. awhile back a good friend sent me a sanskrit that he was familiar with. "hope is a surprising chain, whoever is bound by it keeps running, whoever is free of it, is crippled." what it means is that one who has hope keeps working on making life, and things better. whoever loses hope sits idle, is depressed and feels nothing good can come out of life.

but we know the One who suffered the most and yet hope reined supreme. "who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." heb 12:2 our Lord suffered through the most hopeless of times and has received the greatest of rewards. He looked beyond what is to what will be.

i know we all have our little candle flame we carry in our hearts for the Lord. it may serve to light our way around familiar surroundings, but is it enough for others to find their way in from the dark? is it time to throw gasoline on that flame?

do you feel the ache in your heart for the lost that God has in His? what about that lost child wandering in the darkness? what if it were yours. would you not then spend time in prayer? could you not spare a tear or two? we know God cares. do you? i know we all have heard stories about those praying mothers or grandmothers and how they prayed a child to repentance. God will not violate free will, but He can keep putting

obstacles in their path. do you care enough to pray them there?

i have heard so many say recently that they would not have believed even a few years ago where we are now. the darkness has always been there but now it is spreading. i think of the poem by dylan thomas. "do not go gentle into that good night. rage, rage against the dying of the light."

"I am the light of the world. he who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."
john 8:1 our Lord has left that light in us. hope is the light we must shine and Jesus is that hope.
"whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."
rom 10:11