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Wool Haulage at National Transport Museum, Alice Springs. Photo courtesy of George Hawke

Connection – it's more than knowing how to hook up a trailer

We were all made for connection. Just take a look where it all started. Did God put one person in the Garden of Eden and leave him there on his own? Nope. He made him a mate. A co-labourer. not a flaw of a "fallen man", but a desire of someone who is breathing. I am even more concerned when someone says that they don't need to talk. Yes, some may be more introverted than others, some might say that the isolation the transport industry provides is perfect for these people. However, the idea that our personality type means that we don't need authentic connection with people is amiss

"The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone ... '" (Gen 2:18). Even though Adam had God with him, he said that he was "alone." Now, I'm not saying that Adam was necessarily alone in the sense that we might think of straight away, because obviously God was with him; but it does raise the question of how important we actually are to each other.

Is there such thing as a lone-ranger in the Heavenly Kingdom? I'm sure there are times when God calls us away in solitude in prayer and fellowship with Him, as Jesus did on many occasions, but have we made a lifestyle of isolation, when God created us to live in community from the get-go? Have we been tricked into thinking that it's ok not to seek out connection with our brothers and sisters (natural or spiritual), because a man only needs himself to survive?

I'm convinced that many have starved themselves of the connection we were designed for, only to become even more needy of it later in life. Particularly older men. I think the aching desire in us to be seen and heard is there for a reason. It's



in my opinion. Was Adam an extrovert and somehow needed Eve because of his personality type? I don't think so. I think Adam needed Eve because Adam was human, just like you and I, and it was God's good design and will.

One invaluable gift I have received recently was the gift to pursue authentic connection with others. For years, I thought that I was the broken one, and that no one else around me had the same desire. I thought I was needy. Some of the people in my life said that I was "too serious", and that meant a few different things depending on the occasion. One thing I have come to know that it meant was that I wanted deep authentic connection with people, and they were too afraid to give it. It was easier for them to keep their walls up, and act like I was asking for too much, rather than go on the journey of discovering what authentic fellowship and community actually looks like in the Kingdom. For years, the fellowship that was modelled to me looked a lot like having a cuppa and bickie after church on Sunday and complaining about how bad your job was! We can do better than that and we are called to.

There are too many men and women perishing, because we don't know how to have an honest conversation with each other. An honest conversation where we help carry each other's burdens to the cross where the only source of lasting hope is at. The recognition of the cross isn't only meant for Sundays, but if we want to see the power of God around us throughout the week, we need to remember the cross, and the Man who lived in community, and died to save us from eternal separation from our Heavenly Father.

If you are reading this today and want to know if it's OK to pursue connection with people, here's your permission. In fact here's your charge, do it. There's every chance that the person sitting opposite you, or dare I say driving in the other direction, is after the exact same thing. A simple wave to a passing truckie has always made us feel connected, and seen. Doesn't that show the love of God in the process?

Here's my number one tip right now for connection, listen. Everyone wants to be heard, but not many people want to listen. Think of it as mining for gold when someone is talking. The more we listen, the more we find out about each other; and the more we will feel connected.

Ask some simple questions like, "What do you listen to while you're driving?" Or "What are you going to do when you get home?" Or "What do you enjoy about your job?" Try to ask open questions like these as they entice longer discussion. Try not to asked closed questions like yes or no questions or where the answer is probably obvious. Another tip, it's better to ask "How did you fill your week in?" when you meet someone for the first time than to ask, "What do you do for a living?" Because if they are unemployed or in a long-time incapacitation you could make them feel embarrassed and shut down the conversation before it starts.

If you're comfortable to do it try asking "How has God been good to you this week?"

Connection, give it some thought.

— Nick Twidale



How to be a Dad and a Truck Driver

Is that possible? Aren't the two mutually exclusive? A contradiction?

As a new driver are you beginning to feel disconnected from your family, the kids? Maybe you've been on the road for a number of years and as the kids are growing up you feel you are missing out. What can you do to maintain those relationships with those you love?

It is important to remember that it is not only the quantity of time spent at home but the quality of time. The truck driver can do nothing about the quantity, but he can do everything about the quality of time.

Being a parent is a day-to-day job and you must pray to stay on the right track. Prayer is important, but there is some action that has to go along with it. Truck drivers need to be a little more creative and just have to work a little harder. Will it be worth it in the end? You bet! Investment today will result in returns tomorrow.

"So, what can I do to better communicate to my kids to let them know I love them?" Talk to them, share with them your life and activities. Let them know about your struggles and how you overcome them.

You are teaching your kids by word and example – the good, the bad and the ugly. They are looking to you for guidance.

"Yes, but how can I accomplish that task when I am on the road days or weeks at a time?"

There was a driver who pre-arranged with his family that 6.00 pm was the time he would call every evening. No matter where



he was, he called home at six their time. The family would be sitting down ready to eat. Everybody had their place including dad (the phone). He would call, say Grace and then, while everyone ate, he would talk and share just as if he was physically in the room, he spoke to each of them asking them about their day and activities.

"Call home every night? Do you know what that would cost?" Yes, there is a price, but do you know how much it costs for a lawyer to bail one of your kids out of jail?

Maybe you can take the kids with you for a week during the school holidays. Joe has three boys, and each takes his turn going with dad for the week. "A whole week, 24 hours a day, just me and dad."

Bottom line, just do it. Get to the kids' sport and activities if at all possible. Call home every night. Call at bedtime and pray with each one of your family members, letting them know how much you love them. Send them a text to let them know you are thinking of them.

You may think that all of this sounds silly and that your old man never did those things for you. So, I ask, deep down, don't you wish he had?

A Truckie's Kid

It was a cold spring morning. Once again, I had gone on a much-anticipated run with my dad. It had always been a favourite time for me, and some of my fondest memories were on truck runs. After all, my dad let me drink coffee; what was there to dislike? Not only did I get coffee, but I also got to eat roadhouse food, which was quite desirable to a home-schooled kid who rarely ate out.

It was chilly that night, I remember, but it was hardly noticeable once we caught sight of the comet. I was only twelve at the time and had always been fascinated with astronomy, so this was a special event for me. We stood in awe of God's marvellous creation.

My dad has been driving trucks for nearly thirty years, and I am blessed to have tasted a little of his world. Even as an adult I found great joy in the long drives, great conversation and loads of

coffee. I always did my best to stay awake and chatter, knowing it would help my dad stay awake.

I also recall making dad's work lunches. Mum would usually be cooking dinner, and dad worked at night, so I volunteered to pack his lunches many times. I like to think I made my dad smile when he opened his lunch and found a note with stickers and a marker saying, "I love you and miss you, Dad." I felt like I could never express my love and appreciation enough. In fact, I still feel that way.

Dad used these times to teach me all the idiosyncrasies of his job and stimulate great

conversation. Our conversations usually involved something biblically related. Dad had worked in various church positions and had done a lot of studying, so at a young age I was introduced to doctrine and theology.

Now that I'm 'all grown up' I still enjoy hearing about my dad's work, what he's seen and where he's gone. I still enjoy having lengthy theological dialogues, even if it's with the phone pressed to my ear while my four-year-old throws toys to me.

> Dad hasn't had an easy life or made perfect choices, but he has been one of my biggest heroes. He didn't have to be a great evangelist to touch my life. He used his work as a means to expand my young mind both in the work world and the spiritual world, and I was able to experience many things other kids did not. I am truly grateful for those gifts.

Being a T.K. (truckie's kid) is a privilege for me. I am proud of my dad and learned through his diligence what it

means to be honest as well as maintaining a good work ethic, despite at times being on the receiving end of poor treatment from ungodly employers.

"Whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31b). Wherever God has placed us is an opportunity to be used for His glory. My dad taught me what integrity, honesty, hard work and diligence look like in a real-world scenario. And now, as a mum, I have the same responsibility to my daughter who is awestruck by the truck driver Grandpa. My dad left a legacy of character that I hope to pass on to future generations.





Bridge Out

How would you like to have solid information about an imminent train or plane crash? That could save many lives if you could get someone to listen.

One such incident happened at Hobart when some pylons on the Tasman Bridge over the Derwent River were hit by a 10,000 ton bulk carrier going upstream.

The ship, the Lake Illawarra, was sunk by the falling roadway at 9.27pm on January 5th, 1975. It was 45 metres to the water. Seven men on the ship died and although no cars or trucks were on that part of the bridge one car stopped by the wife of a very grateful driver who stopped in time

for the front wheels to fall over the lip. Another driver stopped when he noticed the cars in front disappearing, but he was hit from behind by the next car. The front wheels of that car also dangled over the edge.

Then as all these people ran back down the roadway waving in the darkness to stop the traffic they witnessed more cars disappearing over the edge. accident.

Unfortunately, most don't want to know "the bridge is out". Meaning most do not have peace with God or knowledge of their sins forgiven.

Wouldn't it haunt you to watch people dying while you are trying to

Many Christians over the centuries have been in a similar situation. We know the time of grace

loved ones are dying of old age, disease and

Also

alert them?

is nearly over.

It's possible some know there is a God, but just don't want Him in their life. The biggest selling book in the world, the Bible, is God's message to mankind. It won't hurt to check it out.

The effect of the life and death of one man, Jesus Christ the Lord, on the world is all positive and inestimable.

In every one of the 66 books in the Bible



Cars hanging over Hobart's Tasman Bridge in 1975 after a section was knocked down by a ship (photo from ABC)

the Lord Jesus is either pictured of or spoken about. The sinless man with no grave who was crucified on a cruel Roman cross only 2000 years ago.

God made the world and us. He makes the rules. The rules are clear. "Without the shedding of blood (i.e. the death of Jesus on the cross) there is no remission (forgiveness) of sins." (Hebrews 9:22)

And "But this man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever sat down at the right hand of God." (Hebrews 10:12)

Consider the Christians you know. They have information, the equivalent of a 'bridge out'. But they can't stop the traffic, the mates and loved ones from eternity in hell.



Salamander Nelson Bay Fire station with Damien and friend. TFC volunteer, Pablo, left 50 Highway Evangelist papers there and 25 at the Ambulance station next door.

A woman was flying from Melbourne to Brisbane. Unexpectedly, the plane was diverted to Sydney along the way. The flight attendant explained that there would be a delay, and if passengers wanted to get off, the aircraft would re-board in 50 minutes.

Everyone got off the plane except one lady who was blind. A man had noticed her as he walked by and could tell she was blind because her guide dog lay quietly underneath the seats in front of her throughout the entire flight. He could also tell she had flown this very flight before because the pilot approached her, and calling her by name said, "Kathy, we are in Sydney for almost an hour. Would you like to get off and stretch your legs?"

The blind lady replied, "No thanks, but maybe Buddy would like to stretch his legs."

Picture this ... All the passengers in the gate area came to a complete standstill when they looked up and saw the pilot walk off the plane with a guide dog! The pilot was also wearing sunglasses. People scattered! They not only tried to change planes, but they were trying to change airlines.

True story. Have a great day and remember things are not always as they appear.

- Submitted by Cherry Dell Riupass

Driver cured instantly of booze, pills and cigarettes

My story does not reflect the lives of all truck drivers, but I'm sorry to say many drivers will relate to my experience.

Out of more than eight years of trucking, only two months of it were without pills; I became drug dependent and a total alcoholic. My home slowly became a place of endurance for my wife and my two precious children. working and had just got out of hospital because of my habit. After that first meeting, Norm would visit and talk about the Lord and bring Highway Evangelist papers for me to read. He could see that some of the testimonies and articles were starting to get my attention.

Norm spoke the same trucking language

I'm not proud of my past life because of the hell I caused my wife and other fine people who tried to help me. I overdosed three times. two of which were intended, because life held no joy, no hope, only hell on earth. After years of driving, I had nothing to show for all the money I had earned.

My understanding of the Bible was nil, and my concept of God was vague. Religion wasn't my thing. Jesus Christ was only part of my vocabulary, not my life.



and answered my questions from the word of God. On one visit he quoted words from Romans 6:23 "The wages of sin is death ..." and then left.

don't suppose I I anything ever cut into my heart as deeply as did that partial verse of Scripture. However, it was Saturday and a little later some friends came with rum, and I had some pills. I need not tell you the shape I was in at midnight. While I was in this condition those words came crashing through my mind, and a fear of God overcame

My first encounter with a preacher was when we were visiting neighbours and Norm was also there. Needless to say, I was drunk and pilled up although I wasn't me, with desperation.

I had nothing to look back to and certainly nothing to look forward to. Conviction was taking hold of my heart. I was in need of Christ's love and forgiveness in my life. My wife couldn't stand my misery any longer so at twenty past two in the morning she called Norm. He came and tried to reason with me about the Lord and the Scriptures.

I don't remember all the details because of my condition but this I do recall. After about an hour of talking, having himself almost given up hope, Norm felt led by God to lay hands on me according to James chapter 5. He asked Jesus to heal me from this addiction and save me.

You can believe this or not - I have all the proof I need. After Norm prayed for me I became cold sober. No drug symptoms, no drunkenness, even the three packs of cigarettes I had smoked a day were gone. I had - I have - a miracle!

Jesus Christ changed this messed-up man of no direction into one who knows where he is going. Yes, I have been tempted and even slipped, but thanks to Jesus I didn't go back into the sin and hell I was once in.

My Mum and Dad are now Christians too as a result of this miracle in my life. My wife and two children have also been saved. We share a love in our family that we didn't think was possible, and believe me, it is only because of Christ and His great love.

It is my desire to share Christ's love with all who want to listen - especially my truckin' mates.

— Peter Chatfield

Make peace with God today!

Come to Jesus Christ today and trust in Him alone for your salvation.



You can pray this prayer: "Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross and shed Your blood to pay the penalty for my sins. Please forgive me and come into my life as my Saviour and Lord."

	I now put my trust in Jesus Christ as my Saviour, or
	I now re-dedicate my life to Christ, or
	I have previously trusted Christ and would like a Bible study
Name:	
Name: Address:	

Truck Driver To The Rescue — A Perfect Stranger

My sister, Kay, had been gone for several hours, but the police would not report her missing until she had been gone for 24 hours. We prayed and prayed for her safety. Tall, well built, lovely brown hair, soft brown eyes – she was very attractive. Anything could happen to her.

Kay was not well. She had taken mum's car and disappeared. We could not report a stolen car because a family member had taken it. She knew how to drive but did not have a driver's licence at the time because

of her illness. We had no idea where she might have gone.

Kay had been home on a visit from the mental hospital where she was a patient. How I loved my sister, but I could not reach her mentally. We had been the best of friends when we had been together as children. Her mental illness had not set in until she had left high school. Anything could happen to her in her present state. I was the one who had let her out of my sight when she disappeared.

I prayed for her safety, and I asked Jesus to forgive me for neglecting my post in caring for my sister.

I know God cares. Jesus taught us about forgiveness.

Suddenly the phone rang. The caller identified himself as a truck driver who was just passing through the area. "I noticed

a car in the ditch with someone in it, so I stopped to see if I could help," he said to my father who had answered the phone.

"The young lady is alone and is in the driver's seat. She seems confused. She couldn't tell me anything that made sense. I found your name and number in the glove box."

"Is she all right?" my father asked. "Is the car damaged? Where are you?" He fired questions one after another. At least we knew she was alive.

"She seems all right. The car is fine. What shall I do?" the man responded.

"Thank you so much. Tell us how to find you," my father continued. And then he



was given directions to a remote location 80 kms north of our home. Kay was on the way to our holiday house where we had enjoyed being together for many years. She still knew the way. "Is it possible for you to stay with her until we can get there?" dad asked.

"Thank you, God," I prayed silently. Mum and I prepared to drive there and rescue Kay and the car but it would take us over an hour. The truck driver said he was on a routine trip but was in no hurry and would stay there until we could arrive.

Again, I thanked God for His protection and the timeliness of the phone call. We had been getting more and more worried as the hours went by, not knowing what else to do.

When we neared the place we could see the truck parked near our car. Both of them, Kay and the driver, were sitting listening to the car radio.

How grateful we were for the thoughtfulness, honesty, respectfulness and loving care a perfect stranger had shown to my beloved sister. God bless him always. God's angels are ever present, caring, watching over each and every one of us, whether we are conscious of it or not.

Mum thanked the gentleman profusely and gave him some money which he accepted reluctantly. Next, he carefully helped us get the car out of the ditch. With more expressions of thanks, we said goodbye to our new friend and parted company. Kay rode home with Mum and I drove the other car, singing hymns all the way.

What a blessing to know there are honest, caring, good people on our highways, especially that truck driver who was not in too much of a hurry to stop and help when we needed it so much.

— Mary Brower



If you tell a man there are 300 billion stars in the universe, he'll believe you.

But if you tell him a bench had just been painted, he has to touch it to be sure.

Two caterpillars were crawling across the grass when a butterfly flew over them. They looked up, and one nudged to other and said, "You couldn't get me up in one of those things for a million dollars."

- Cop: "Lady, can't you read? You're in a no parking zone."
- Lady: "Don't be ridiculous the sign says 'Fine for parking!'"

Don't tell God how big your problems are.

Tell your problems how big your God is.

'How long have you been working for you present employer?'

'Even since he threatened to fire me.'

Transport for Christ ...

Winning truck drivers to Jesus Christ

And teaching them to grow in their faith.

How did we end up with a tree in the lounge room?

The purpose of this revelation is to give the glory and honour, as we know God the Father, the Son Jesus, also to full knowledge the work and purpose from the Holy Spirit. All Bible references will be NKJV.

This is a true event that has taken place in my local church building.

Even before we were Christians, we knew about Christmas and the things that comes with it, like the Christmas tree, decorations, giving away presents that are nicely wrapped placed around the

tree, with the only purpose of making someone happy in the festivity.

This is a true encounter that happened in our church building in early December 2016, while the lady youth pastor was passing by with parts of a Christmas tree to be assembled, I was just about to ask her if she knew the origin of the Christmas tree? But I chose not to do it, because she was in a hurry.

Suddenly the Holy Spirit, the one that Jesus said in John 16:13 "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His



own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come". He, the Holy Spirit, spoke to my mind and heart, 'You find out. It is all written in the Bible".

Instantly like a Domino effect, all that I have learned through the years that I have been a Christian had fallen in to place.

1. This is what comes to me; Genesis 2:9 "And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the

sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."

2. From the gopherwood tree Noah builds the ark Genesis 6:14 "Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch."

3. Moses and the burning bush Exodus 3:2 "And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed." 4. Moses lifted up the rod that was in his hand Exodus 14:16 "But lift up your rod and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea."

5. Baby Jesus in a manger. Luke 2:12 "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

6. Jesus on the cross of calvary. John 19:17 "And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha."

7. The written Word, our Bibles Joshua 1:8 "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

8. To have the right to the tree of life. Rev 22:14 "Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may enter through the gates into the city."

So, dear readers, together we have enjoyed a beautiful journey. This is what we can see: that from the beginning in the book of Genesis to the last book of the Bible the Book of Revelation, God has used trees as a form of guiding us to the tree of Life that is Salvation through Jesus Christ to all the people.

So, this coming Christmas you can have a wonderful Christmas tree in your lounge room and share with everyone the meaning of the Christmas tree.

— Pablo Lopez

God Wanted Them There

Joseph was a stranger in the land of Egypt, but God wanted him there to save His people.

Esther was a queen in a land that hated the Jews, but God wanted her there to save her people.

Daniel was jailed in a den of vicious lions, but God wanted him there for a testimony.

Jonah groaned in a watery grave inside a great fish, but God wanted him there to learn a lesson.

Paul and Silas lay in prison, but God wanted them there to lead a soul to Christ.

Why does God have YOU where you are at the moment?

— The Bible Friend

If you are a truck driver, your occupation contributes to the welfare of others.

You have a God-honouring job.

In God's sight, it is an opportunity to serve Him in the place He has provided just for you.

Keep on Trucking — no one else can do the work God has for you.

— Submitted by Harry Bogard

Dubbo Golden Oldies Truck, Tractor and Quilt Show



no way of knowing if they are together or not. So dividing one's time needs wisdom. Maybe if we had a question about suicide, peace with God or something to discuss conversations could have been directed to God's expectations of man.

What do we want them to go away with? Personally, I would like all to go away with the idea that if the

This year Transport for Christ was well represented at the Dubbo Golden Oldies Truck, Tractor and Quilt Show. Neil Hawke set up and manned the stand and was right at home talking to people of all ages. It was amazing how many people we knew from days gone by.

A continual crowd came past all day and many back issues of the Highway Evangelist were given away. It seemed to be a very cheerful crowd with many people of all ages telling us what an encouragement the publication has been for decades. Quite a number signed up for a subscription and also some donated to help us with printing costs.

Children were everywhere. They soon woke up to the free pens and we are now on the search for toy trucks to encourage kids next time.

The problem seems to be that the folks come up to talk in groups and you have

individual was to be a searcher for truth in the future, they would know who to ask.

Looking back – considering we had less than a week to prepare, it was excellent. But one wonders what many think about us wasting time on unseen, eternal things.

— Rod Leigo





TAILGATE

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Lord has given me a unique life, in that I know how it feels to be the wife of a truck driver, and also what it is like to be a driver.

My husband and I both work for a company that delivers its own product within a 500 km radius of home. We drive separate trucks, sometimes in different directions, but most of the time we go out the same day and are home the same days. We see each other a couple of days a week, sometimes more.

I told you that as a background of what I felt led to share with the wives of drivers.

I saw a dear friend at church whose husband had gone back on the road about a year ago. She answered my "How are you doing?" with "The Lord is helping me to not be afraid even when I am alone."

I remember when I was so afraid of being alone. The only way I could go to sleep was to take my Bible to bed and read it till I fell asleep. I was so afraid at night that I would pray and plead for Jesus to protect me.

Finally, after years of this, my Irish temper got stronger than my fear. I became angry and said to God in a very angry, disrespectful tone, "God, if you are not big enough to keep the devil from getting me, then you aren't big enough to worship". Then I realised how disrespectful I had been to my Lord, who had died for me, and I added "but you are big enough." A peace came over me and I knew

that God could and would take care of me.

HE WAS BIG ENOUGH.

I'm not saying that I don't ever get scared when a situation arises, but I am not gripped with fear.

I hope this story will help someone at home to also know and say, "But God you are big enough."

— Jackelyn Coleman





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National Transport Museum, Alice Springs. Photo courtesy of George Hawke



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