

The Cross: The Arthur Blessit Story

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, 7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. 8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, 9 who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of His own purpose and grace, which He gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began. 2 Timothy 1:6-9 ESV

8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. 1 John 1:6-10 ESV

Arthur Blessit started a Christian coffee house called His Place on Sunset Strip. The Strip was a haven for Hippies and drug use in the 1960s. Arthur felt that God called him to build a 12' cross and mount it on the wall. Later he believed God was telling him to take the cross off of the wall and carry it when he walked through the Strip sharing his faith. Later he believed that God told him to carry it across the United States.

Do you think that God talks to people? Do you think He has ever said anything to you?

Arthur believed that God told him to walk around the world sharing the Gospel. When he reached war torn countries he would walk through difficult places praying for the people who were fighting. He was arrested several times. He spent 40 years of his life walking through 315 countries. He is in the Guinness book of Records for the longest walk. His total steps equal about one and one half times around the earth at the equator. In every country he shared the love of Jesus with people. Do you think he really heard from God?

When traveling through Africa Arthur was very hot and tired and looked forward to stopping at a mission that had special housing for guest missionaries. When he got to the mission they wouldn't let him stay because they didn't consider him a real missionary. Later an atheist couple heard about him, found him traveling on the road and gave up their own bedroom so that he could rest.

Sometimes those who should help don't. Are you willing to help others when they need you?

"At the cross we see that all people are the same," Arthur said. The first time he was arrested was for shaking a black man's hand in Jackson, Mississippi in the 60s. The authorities thought he was an integration agitator. Arthur believed that it didn't matter where we are from or what color our skin is. All of us are equally loved and precious to God. Arthur said, "I love God, I love people, I try to keep it simple".

Do you know that you are precious and dearly loved by God?

Arthur Blessit said, "I'm just a sinner saved by the grace of God." He traveled to every major country in the world. He met many ordinary people as well as famous people. To all of them his message was the same. He knew that he was a sinner saved by grace. He was the first to admit that he made many mistakes. He knew that the message of the Gospel was for sinners.

When we confess our sins God will forgive us and wash us clean. Have you asked God to forgive you?

"Let your vision be no bigger than the next person you meet. The most important thing that God will ever tell you to do is the next thing. Take the next step." Arthur encourages people to not dream of big things we can do for God, but rather to do what is in front of us. Take the next step. Help out however we can wherever we are. When we serve faithfully in small things they add up to making a big difference.

What next step can you take to serve God? Is there someone who needs your help?

Dear Lord, thank You for the faithful ministry of Your people. Show us what Your will is for our lives. Open our eyes to the needs all around us. Teach us how to do what is right and help others in Your name. Forgive our sins and mistakes of the past. Give us the courage to do what You ask us to do. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.