



Dependence sets you *FREE!*

"Nowadays we tend to view dependence as a weakness and something to be avoided. On the other hand, independence is considered a virtue", said Hans Peter Royer.

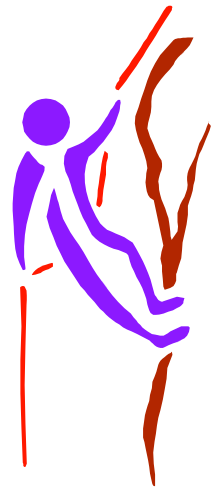
Over the past few years Hans Peter has been leading 'Experiential Education Weeks' with groups of 'dry' alcoholics at the Christian retreat centre 'Tauernhof' in the Austrian alps. On one occasion he aroused quite a response from the group when he stated during a lecture that a living faith in God is equivalent to a complete dependence on Him! Listen to what Hans Peter went on to say about that event:

"One participant was practically infuriated by this statement, and explained to me in no uncertain terms that for a long period he had made his life dependent on alcohol, and that **this total dependence had nearly destroyed his life**. And now, just when with huge effort he had managed to overcome his old dependence on alcohol, I preach to him about a new dependence. Dependence represented exclusively a threat to him, something that he wanted to avoid at all cost. Most of the other participants agreed with him, since they all had the same experience themselves.

"The following day I announced our activities, and distributed climbing harnesses, carabiners, helmets, and climbing ropes. We proceeded to a bolted climbing area. Once there, I explained the necessary knots, proper handling of the ropes, etc, and soon this participant, who never again wanted to be dependent on anyone or anything, was suspended from a rope.

As he was dangling from the rope, and really learning to enjoy rappelling, I asked him if he realized that at that moment he was totally dependent on the rope and on me (I was belaying him). He agreed to my question. I questioned him further: 'And is it threatening to be so completely dependent on this rope and on me?'

He answered: 'No, not at all. Because I know that the rope will hold and that I can trust you.' Then I got out my knife, placed the blade against the rope, and offered him a completely independent life. I reminded him of the prior evening, when he had insisted that any dependence was destructive, and that independence alone enabled true life. And so I asked him if he'd like to end



the day as a 'dependent' or an 'independent'. On the one hand he naturally understood my joke with the knife and was able to laugh heartily about it. On the other hand he had understood a deep spiritual truth.

"Whether a dependency is positive or negative, destructive or life-saving, depends upon WHOM one is dependent on. That's why the apostle Paul [in the Bible] said: 'I know WHOM I have believed!' (2 Timothy 1:12).

"Dependency on a loving, caring God is not threatening but rather lifesaving. To entrust yourself completely to the rope and your climbing partner is not weakness but rather wisdom. Suspended from a rope you can only develop yourself to the degree that you make yourself dependent on the rope and on your climbing partner. The more you trust him, the more you will enjoy your time climbing.

"Pop singer Cliff Richard once said: 'The more we live in dependence on God, the more trustworthy He becomes for us.'

"Man really only becomes a man when he begins to live in complete dependence on his Creator, trusting in Him. To cut oneself off of the rope does not represent freedom but death. To explain away God does not produce independency but a lack of orientation. Therefore dependence on God does not restrict us but actually enables us the complete freedom that God desired for us to have ever since He created us."

I think that we can all learn from what Hans Peter has said. Personally, I am encouraged all the more to trust God with my whole life. Sometimes it is hard, but deep down I know it is the best and only right choice that I can

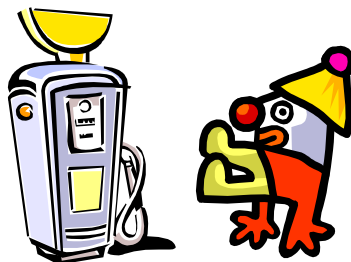
make. And when I do, I have found that life becomes so exciting and full of adventure! Life takes on a whole new splendour and joy! I hope this will be your experience, too!

Let us pray:

*Heavenly Father,
I thank you that you are so trustworthy,
And that we can depend on you to
meet all of our needs.
Forgive me for trying to do so much on
my own and in my own strength.
I humbly ask now for your help.
I need YOU!
I believe that you will help me out.
Help my unbelief.
I look forward to how you will guide me
TODAY!
Thanks, God!
Amen.*

Laughs on us

**Doctors will tell you that if you
eat slowly you will eat less.
Anyone raised in a large family
will tell you the same thing.
- Sam Levenson**



**What did the space visitor say to
the petrol pump? Take your
finger out of your ear and listen
to me!**

A child explains God

Written as a third grade homework assignment by an 8-year old. The topic was "Explain God."



"One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die so there will be enough people to take care of things here on earth. He doesn't make grown-ups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way, He doesn't have to take up His valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times besides bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV on account of this. Since He hears everything, not only prayers, there must be a terrible lot of noise in His ears, unless He has thought of a way to turn it off. God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere, which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting His time by going over your parent's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in our town. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of Him preaching to them and they crucified Him. But He was good and

kind like His Father and He told His Father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said OK. His Dad (God) appreciated everything that He had done and all His hard work on earth so He told Him He didn't have to go out on the road anymore, He could stay in heaven. So He did. And now He helps His Dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones He can take care of Himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important, of course. You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to hear you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the times.

You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God. Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong! And, besides, the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared in the dark or when you can't swim very good and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids. But you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you.

I figure God put me here and He can take me back anytime He pleases. And that's why I believe in God."

A word about RISK

To laugh is to risk appearing a fool.

To weep is to risk appearing sentimental.

To reach out for another is to risk involvement.

To expose feelings is to risk exposing your true self.

To place your ideas, your dreams, before a crowd, is to risk their loss.

To love is to risk not being loved in return.

To live is to risk dying.

To hope is to risk despair.

To try is to risk failure.

But risks must be taken, for the greater hazard is in doing nothing.

The person who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing, is nothing.

They may avoid suffering and sorrow, but they cannot learn, change, grow, love, live.

Chained by their attitude they are a slave, they have forfeited freedom.

Only a person who risks is free.

- Anonymous.

Jesus said: "Whoever wants to save his own life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

Matthew 16:25

News & Events

You're invited to our next

CELEBRATION SUNDAY

*a Christian Worship
Service
for the whole community!*

- **Sunday November 16th**
** THIS WEEK !! **
(the 3rd Sunday of the month)

- **5pm - 6.15pm**
(followed by supper!) 

- **Preston Nth East
Primary School Hall**

Bring your whole family!



Peter Kutschker
Community Chaplain, East Preston /
Reservoir (03) 8430 8574
5/3 McLennan Place, Preston, 3072

and LinC Northern Region

Advance Notice for Christmas ...

Christmas Service with Carol singing

Sunday 21st December, 5pm – 6.15pm

Preston Nth East Primary School Hall



PLUS , specialsurprisesforthekids!! **ALL WELCOME !!**

Mark it in your calendars today!

