

MARCH 2008

Dear ones,

Years ago Ray Stedman, ministry partner and mentor, preached a message entitled “How to Kill a Lion in a Pit on a Snowy Day”. You might like to brush up on an account of one busy day in the life of Benaiah and you won’t grumble so much about all that you have to accomplish before you go to bed tonight. II Samuel 23:20,21.

Six weeks ago we started a Corinthian class with seven young couples. Three of these Fridays have been “snowy days” so... class was cancelled. Today, Friday, the sun is shining, **but** Ted awoke sick with a cold and ‘flu symptoms. Not willing to postpone the class again, one couple volunteered to host tonight. At 10 am, “S” led two elderly clients to Christ. At 11 am, she received a shocking phone call announcing that “D” had just lost his life-on-earth in a road accident. Two of our other couples have lost loved ones unexpectedly in the last two weeks. The lion is snarling.

Two weeks ago, on a sunny, not a “snowy” day, the wife of a musician friend of mine and I were having lunch on our deck. This couple’s forty-two year old son died unexpectedly a few months ago and his dear mother had been so depressed...and bitter. On that sunny day on our deck, Jesus loved His way into her heart, and the lion was slain.

Christopher Parkening, acclaimed to be one of the four top guitarists in the world (Yes, in the **world**) came to town last weekend to be featured with our Orchestra. It is not humanly possible to play the notes he plays...but then he is not **merely** human. You would be encouraged by reading his autobiography “River of Grace”. Ted and I host many of the “ringers”, the title given professional musicians who come in from other cities to fill in the weak sections in our Orchestra. As they toast their toes in front of our living room stove and eat, and eat... and eat, we have some **great** conversations.

I leave us with this powerful assurance from our Jesus: “In the world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33.

— Jo