Each New Day

365 Reflections to Strengthen Your Faith

CORRIE TEN BOOM



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Corrie ten Boom with Pamela Rosewell Moore in San Francisco, 1977.

Foreword

It is only right that I write a foreword for Corrie ten Boom. After all, she did the same for me in 1974. It was for my second book, *The Ethics of Smuggling*, which I wrote in reply to all the questions from people who read my first book, *God's Smuggler*. Corrie began her remarks by saying, "There is always a special place in my heart for my so much younger brother, Andrew. And I think the reason is that he is doing so much that I would have liked to do."

So it's appropriate that I start with these words: There will always be a special place in my heart for my much older sister Corrie. She did much I would have liked to do. And she is now in a place where I would like to be—though not too soon. I'm eighty-four as I write this, and by God's grace I intend to have a few more years of ministry.

I miss Corrie, who went home to be with Jesus in 1983. We had many adventures together. I recall particularly our ministry in Da Nang, Vietnam, soon after the American army landed. Corrie stayed at the WEC Bible School, right next to the largest airfield in that part of Asia. Many a morning she was literally shaking from the awful noise of the planes taking off and landing all night because of a bombing raid. It reminded her too much of World War II. So I would pray with her, and she would calm down and go to work. But the memories of her family hiding Jews

and their arrest and confinement in Ravensbrück concentration camp would emerge at unexpected moments. Corrie survived. Her sister, Betsie, died in Ravensbrück. Corrie later told the full story in *The Hiding Place*.

Now come with me to a happier place. After Corrie had travelled the world telling her story and challenging people to follow Jesus, she came home to "retire." She bought a house in Haarlem, just a few kilometers from where her family used to live and hide Jews. It was the first home she had owned. I visited her one day and admired the comfortable furnishings, the magnificent family clocks her father had repaired, and the beautiful garden. Pointing to her garden I casually remarked, "Corrie, God is good to you."

Corrie quickly and forcefully replied, "God was also good when Betsie died. God is *always* good!"

As you will discover in this book, Corrie's deeply devotional spirit enabled her to be very bold in her witness. The story she told me about a preaching engagement at a cathedral in East Germany demonstrates her spirit. The church was crowded long before the official service began and thousands were standing outside. Corrie could not bear that thought. Of course, this was a communist country. Preaching was confined to the church building. Not for Corrie! She marched into the mayor's office and said, "I need loudspeakers so the crowd outside the cathedral can hear." You can imagine the mayor's reaction.

Corrie didn't back down. "You know that Jesus is the Victor, don't you?" Corrie said, no doubt referring to the man's Christian roots as a boy.

"Uh, yes. I guess."

"Then you know what to do!"

Within an hour there were loudspeakers outside the cathedral and half the city heard her preach that day. That's boldness that emerged from faith, knowing her cause was right. She was determined to proclaim the truth and fought for that privilege.

Today there is too much talk without action. Well, let's change that. Let's follow Corrie's example and step up to demonstrate our faith to a world that needs to see how powerful our God really is. This devotional will help you understand who Corrie was. You will discover the power behind her preaching.

One day Corrie was speaking at a church in East Berlin. This meeting was mainly attended by pastors. At the end of her inspiring talk, she opened the meeting for questions. One pastor stood up and said in a very serious voice, "Miss ten Boom, do you not think that women should be silent in the church?" Immediately you could feel the tension in the meeting.

Corrie straightened her back and with a radiant face she answered, "Hallelujah, *nein*!" After that she was affectionately known throughout East Germany as "Hallelujah Nein."

So in honor of Corrie's spirit, I declare: here is your new devotional book. Hallelujah, yes!

Brother Andrew October 2012

Preface

On an April morning in 1976, I boarded a plane with Corrie ten Boom for the first of many flights as her traveling companion. I was a young woman, and she was eighty-four years old. I still see her in memory, wearing a woolen overcoat—the same blue color as her eyes, with a silver furry collar that matched her silvery gray hair.

My apprehension climbed as the plane ascended on its journey to the United States. What will assisting this legend, more than fifty years older than I, entail?

Already, I had been given an inkling. The recent publication of Tante [Aunt] Corrie's book *The Hiding Place*, and the release of the movie by the same name, had brought many speaking engagements. I accompanied her to these meetings, large and small, in prisons, schools, living rooms, stadiums, and convention centers. But I was an introvert and overwhelmed by the press of people. Tante Corrie, however, a strong extrovert, loved every minute of it; she was masterful at communicating, and tireless—she took much joy in her work and understood such a variety of audiences and the times in which we lived.

As our flight progressed, Tante Corrie began to make me feel more and more welcome in her world, and needed and loved. She asked me to help her with her talks and books, to make sure that Corrie ten Boom was "behind the cross."

She told me, "People must see the Lord Jesus, not me."

PREFACE

When I confessed to her that I found the constant travel and crowds a bit much, she encouraged me, quoting a verse, the truth of which I was increasingly coming to see, and which underlined her whole life: My times are in his hand (Ps. 31:15a).

"All our times are in his hand," she told me then. "Even the difficult ones."

Early in 1977, when Tante Corrie was nearly eighty-five years of age, her heart began to slow down. On February 28, exactly thirty-three years to the day of her arrest by the Nazis for saving Jewish lives in her home in the Netherlands, she moved into a rented house in Placentia, California. However, she firmly pronounced she was "not retiring." Tante Corrie intended to finish several book manuscripts which were then in various stages of completion. And she did. But she gave priority to a new project.

She was happy when her publisher, Fleming H. Revell, invited her to undertake the writing of a daily devotional. In spite of her slowing heart, she worked avidly and with much fulfillment in the preparation of 365 short messages for *Each New Day*. Writing in longhand, she gave me sheaves of notes of the individual messages, which I typed out and sent on to her publisher after Tante Corrie's careful review.

One day I saw an example of her teachable spirit.

"Are the subjects I am covering sufficient?" she asked me. "Is there anything important that I have left out?"

It occurred to me that there was a strong emphasis on work (how she loved it) and that this needed balancing.

"What about writing a few messages especially about grace, Tante Corrie?" I suggested at the next writing session.

"You are right," she said. "I will write about grace immediately."

And off she went to her desk overlooking the patio. Her willingness to humble herself was a compelling example to me and one of the reasons I loved her more and more.

In the summer of 1977, the manuscript for *Each New Day* was sent to the publisher. Shortly afterward, Tante Corrie was diagnosed with heart block, and a pacemaker was inserted. One of my duties as her assistant became the checking of the pacemaker to make sure it produced the correct heartbeat. It always did, 72.4 beats per minute, and Tante Corrie's health and energy increased.

To Pam, my teammate (Corrie's Christmas Memories)

To Pam, my fellow prayer warrior (In My Father's House)

To Pam, my chauffeur (Prison Letters)

To Pam, my English teacher (The Hiding Place)

To Pam, my treasurer (A Prisoner and Yet)

To Pam, my fellow tramp (Tramp for the Lord)

When *Each New Day* arrived at the house, Tante Corrie exclaimed as she always did on receiving the first copy of one of her new books, "A baby has been born!" We celebrated with a cup of coffee and shortbread biscuits, Tante Corrie inscribing this book too: *To Pam, my pacemaker checker*.

Late in the summer of 1978, when she had been living in her rented house for eighteen months, I entered her bedroom one morning and found a different Tante Corrie from the one I had bid goodnight the previous evening. She looked ill, and she could not respond to my questions. At the hospital, I learned that some time during the night a stroke had silenced this gifted woman, partially paralyzing her right side as well.

She came home a couple of weeks later but never regained her powers of communication. For the next five years, she could not speak in any functional way. Nor could she read or write. Her comprehension was much affected too, but I learned to recognize the times when, for some reason, her understanding was elevated. During those times I sometimes read to her from this book you hold, *Each New Day*. Her blue eyes watched my mouth intently, and she listened with all the concentration she could muster.

The simple and short daily devotional messages were used by the Lord to encourage even Tante Corrie. How can I explain what they did for me too?

Through those very slow five years of her illness, I often contrasted the silence of Tante Corrie's bedroom with the noise and press and bustle of our early years together. The extroverted

communicator had been placed in a silent world, and the introverted assistant, although glad for the quiet, often had to admit to discouragement.

Again and again I recalled the verse from Psalm 31, which Tante Corrie had used to encourage me during the busy days of our early travels. *My times are in his hand*. I repeated this to her fairly frequently, always adding, as she had done for me, "even the difficult times." I could tell from Tante Corrie's response that she often understood; I knew that these words were never received by her with self-pity or regret. In fact, her peaceful and accepting spirit left me peaceful and hopeful.

Since Corrie ten Boom passed away on her ninety-first birthday in April 1983, this book has been reprinted more than fifteen times. I am delighted with this beautiful new edition commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of its first printing. Each new day, our times are in God's hands—in good days and bad. As Corrie ten Boom showed us, and this book will help you discover too, his hands are very safe and his nature only goodness and love.

Pam Rosewell Moore Waxahachie, Texas 2003

A Note from Corrie

Here's a short daily message from me, Corrie ten Boom, for *Each New Day*. There is something from God's Word for every day. Some words may be of greater impact for you than others, but you should listen every day to what the Holy Spirit wants to say to you through the message. A person is either a missionary or a mission field. Sometimes I wrote for Christians who know that they are called to be the light of the world. On other days God gave me a message about what it means to come to him.

What about asking yourself some questions after you have read the short remark, text, and prayer:

Did this message speak to me today?

Why?

How can I apply what the Lord was saying to me in my circumstances?

Will it cost me something in my home, my work, my church, or society?

Does it mean reconciliation, restitution, even tribulation?

I know that the Lord gave me these words. They are from him who loves you and who spoke through me to you.

Corrie ten Boom

January



Hide in Him

January 1

May a dying Saviour's love
And a risen Saviour's power
And an ascended Saviour's prayer
And a returning Saviour's glory
Be the comfort and joy of your heart.

In our home in Haarlem, Holland, Father used to read Psalm 91 from the Bible and pray the very moment the first of January began. We consciously went into the new year together with the Lord. Do you fear the possibilities of this new year? Do as he did. Trust the Lord that in these coming days he will be your hiding place.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, who abides in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

Psalm 91:1-2 RSV

Thank you, Lord Jesus, that you will be our hiding place, whatever happens.



Fresh Starts

January 2

May I give you something to do for the new year? Go alone before the Lord, and together with him, examine yourself. Do you know that you are forgiven? Have you forgiven others? When you do that, God will give you a victorious new year.

[You] have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Colossians 3:10 RSV

Lord Jesus, at the start of this new year, we ask for a fresh beginning. Wipe our sins away with your precious blood. Cleanse our hearts of bitterness toward others. Help us to live each new day in close communion with you, our true and faithful guide.



Stand as Victors

January 3

Jesus is Victor. Calvary is the place of victory. Obedience is the pathway of victory, Bible study and prayer the preparation. Courage, faith, the spirit of victory—every temptation is a chance for victory, a signal to fly the flag of our Victor, a chance to make the tempter know anew that he is defeated. Roy Hession writes in Calvary Road: "Jesus is always victorious. We have only to keep the right relationship with him and his victorious life will flow through us and touch other people."

Put on the whole armour of God.

Ephesians 6:11 KJV

Thank you, Lord Jesus, that you have won the victory for us.



The Vital Fellowship

January 4

"How can I nourish the life abundant?"

The Lord will show you. Be patient and wait for direction. In the meantime, read the Bible, meet with other children of God to pray together. Prayer fellowship is vital for your health as a Christian, and to accomplish God's work. Talk much with your Savior. He knows, he loves, he cares.

Pray constantly.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 RSV

Lord, teach us to pray.

Do You Look Like the Lord?

January 5

It is dark in the world. The mist is getting thicker and thicker. Where there is no vision, the people perish. The Lord is not willing to keep us in the dark, but wants to guide us with his victorious light.

We are asking God that you may see things, as it were, from His point of view by being given spiritual insight and understanding. We also pray that your outward lives, which men see, may bring credit to your Master's Name, and that you may bring joy to His heart by bearing genuine Christian fruit, and that your knowledge of God may grow yet deeper.

Colossians 1:9–10 Phillips

Lord, what a comfort that your insight and vision are perfect. Please help me to see things from your point of view.



What in the World God's Doing

January 6

God chose this world to be the arena of His plan, the center of what He has set Himself to do.

Watchman Nee

For God has allowed us to know the secret of His Plan, and it is this: He purposes in His sovereign will that all human history shall be consummated in Christ, that everything that exists in Heaven or earth shall find its perfection and fulfillment in Him. And here is the staggering thing—that in all which will one day belong to Him we have been promised a share.

Ephesians 1:9-11 Phillips

Lord, what a comfort it is to see your perfect blueprint of this world. Thank you for making your plan clear to us while we live in the midst of the chaos of today.



Stepping Stones of Faith

January 7

It has been said that the removal of small stones which frequently encumber the fields does not always increase the crop. In many soils they are an advantage, attracting the moisture and radiating the heat. In an experiment the results of removing the stones were so unfavorable to the crop that they were brought back again. We often cry to God as Paul did, for the removal of some thorn in the flesh. Later experience teaches us that it was better for it to remain.

For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:10 RSV

Your strength, my weakness—here they always meet, When I lay down my burden at your feet: The things that seem to crush will in the end Be seen as rungs on which I did ascend! Thank you, Lord.



Electing Him

January 8

God is voting for us all the time. The devil is voting against us all the time. The way we vote carries the election.

Choose you this day whom ye will serve . . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Joshua 24:15 KJV

Yes, Lord, I again, or for the first time, choose to be yours. What joy to know that you chose me. I lay my weak hand in your strong hand. Together with you, I am more than conqueror.



Spiritual Buoyancy

January 9

William Nagenda, the African evangelist, said: "My life is like this ball bouncing on the floor. Sometimes the devil gives me a blow downwards, but at the deepest spot Jesus is there, and He gives me a blow upwards so that I come up higher than I was before."

My soul clings to thee; thy right hand upholds me.

Psalm 63:8 RSV

Lord, the devil is stronger than I am. But I know from the Bible that you are much stronger than the devil, and together with you I am much stronger than the devil. Thank you, Lord, for that encouragement.



He Will Find You in the Dark

January 10

William Nagenda continued: "One day the devil will give William a blow downwards so strong that he will go all the way to the valley of the shadow of death. There Jesus will give William a blow upwards so strong that he will come into heaven. The devil will say, 'Where is William? I don't see him anymore!"

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil;
for thou art with me.

Psalm 23:4 RSV

Lord Jesus, thank you that you have overcome the forces of evil. We know that you will never let us down.