

## Losch Cause

December 2011

***They lined the streets of Bali, silently watching as we drove past*** – thousands of them – tens of thousands – standing stalk still, frozen in place – row upon endless row – big ones, little ones, fat ones, ugly ones, demonic-looking ones – mile after mile of idols.

Ornately sculpted, speechless, sightless, smell-less, stupid stones and stumps! – Skillfully crafted and devoutly worshipped chunks of wood and stone.

As we drove along in our taxi I couldn't get over how many of them there were. No sooner had we passed one stretch or road lined with acres of rock and wood than we came to another. How could they find so much rock, I wondered? How could they sell so much rock? But the biggest question of all – *How could they be so blind, so naïve, so stupid as to worship these things?*



Our recent trip to Bali, Indonesia to attend a conference of some 50 Crossworld workers was a great reminder of ***why we do what we do*** – why we have committed our lives to taking the glory of God to the nations.

***But why do they do what they do?*** Why on earth do they worship what is so obviously a useless piece of wood or stone? In Psalm 115 the author asks a similar yet even more troubling question. Speaking of how they view us he asks: *"Why do the nations say 'Where is their God?'"* Now that's a good question. Why would stump-worshippers ever doubt the existence of our God? Why is there even a question when you compare their gods to our God?

What do *you* think? Before you read any further, stop for a moment and try to answer the question. *Why would people who worship useless stones and stumps fail to see that we have the true and living God?*

One part of the answer is what the Bible calls *spiritual blindness*. They don't see because they can't see. The apostle Paul says that *"the god of this age (Satan) has blinded the minds of the unbelieving."* Isaiah puts it this way: *"Their eyes are plastered over so they cannot see, and their minds closed so they cannot understand."* (Isaiah 44:18) The psalm-writer, describing the speechless, sightless, stupid stones says of their worshipers *"Those who make them will be like them."* We would do well to remember that lost, blind sinners are just that – *lost and blind.*

The second piece of the answer is a little more troubling. The reason the nations blindly worship false gods is because we don't tell them any differently. By our words, our actions and our choices in life we put our agenda ahead of God's agenda for the nations. This should not be.

That's why the writer begins the psalm saying: "*Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name be the glory!*" His repetition of the phrase "*not to us*" is a bit like saying - *Heaven forbid!* "*Heaven forbid, O Lord that we should put our glory, our agenda ahead of yours.*" For when we do, the nations will inevitably continue in their spiritual blindness.

As we come to the close of another year, I urge you to assess how your agenda lines up with God's. Are you maximizing the use of the time, the talent and the resources He has lent you? What will you do differently so that in 2012 people everywhere will cease to ask "*Where is their God?*" and will proclaim "*There is their God!*"

### **Thank-You For Your Prayers and Support in 2011**

1. Your financial partnership and prayers have allowed Jerusha and I to minister to hundreds of our workers around the world, to local churches in Canada and the U.S. and to lead Crossworld in the pursuit of a fresh new vision. If you haven't seen it yet, visit our website at [www.crossworld.org](http://www.crossworld.org)
2. Jerusha and I are reaching out to our immediate neighbors and to new immigrants to America. Please pray for us to bring God's love to life for Don, Patti, Doug, Robin, Bob, Diane, Haydar, Elham and Qusay.
3. Our children are currently living, working and studying in Toronto and at Cedarville University in Ohio. Pray for God to clearly guide them in their choice of life partners and life work.
4. Crossworld's vision is to engage believers from all professions to make disciples in the world's least-reached marketplaces. To do that effectively we need to develop and launch a new subsidiary of Crossworld. Please pray for Dale and his team as they consult business and legal expertise in how to do this right.
5. Pray for our upcoming ministry in Canada, California, Michigan, Georgia and Europe...
  - o to have the biblical/spiritual insights needed for each situation
  - o for good health while away from home
  - o for lasting spiritual results - transformation, workers for the harvest etc.

Wishing all of you the most blessed Christmas,

*Dale and Jerusha Losch*

Dale and Jerusha Losch



Disciple-makers from all professions bringing God's love to life in the world's least-reached marketplaces.

USA International Office | 10000 N Oak Trafficway | Kansas City MO 64155  
816.479.7300 | [crossworld.org](http://crossworld.org)