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*"Christ caring for People  
through People"*

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John 20 (The Message)

*Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you." Then he showed them his hands and side.*

*The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were exuberant. Jesus repeated his greeting: "Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you." Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. "Receive the Holy Spirit," he said. "If you forgive someone's sins, they're gone for good. If you don't forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?"*

Acts 2 (The Message)

*"Fellow Israelites, listen carefully to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man thoroughly accredited by God to you—the miracles and wonders and signs that God did through him are common knowledge—this Jesus, following the deliberate and well-thought-out plan of God, was betrayed by men who took the law into their own hands, and was handed over to you. And you pinned him to a cross and killed him. But God untied the death ropes and raised him up. Death was no match for him. David said it all:*

*I saw God before me for all time. Nothing can shake me; he's right by my side.*

*I'm glad from the inside out, ecstatic; I've pitched my tent in the land of hope.*

*I know you'll never dump me in Hades; I'll never even smell the stench of death.*

*You've got my feet on the life-path, with your face shining sun-joy all around.*

*"Dear friends, let me be completely frank with you. Our ancestor David is dead and buried—his tomb is in plain sight today. This Jesus, God raised up. And every one of us here is a witness to it. Then, raised to the heights at the right hand of God and receiving the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father, he poured out the Spirit he had just received. That is what you see and hear.*

To change slightly a well known biblical quotation: **Without a witness the people perish.** (Without a vision the people perish. Proverbs 29:18)

As Peter declared "every one of us here is a witness." Beginning with the apostles and down through many generations since including those of us alive today there is a shared duty and responsibility to share what we have come to know about the Living Saviour.

How would you and I know about this wonderful truth unless someone had first been a witness to us. Can you think back to when you first came to take this message seriously? Can you remember who that witness was? If you can maybe a thank you, directly or to God in prayer is in order.

The next important question to ask yourself is: "When was the last time I shared the truth about Jesus with someone else?" "Have I upheld my responsibility to be a witness or might there be people who will perish because I haven't?" May I suggest that it's never too late to start being a witness. And awkward as it may feel at first if you just talk in a normal and natural way to friends the awkwardness will soon disappear. (And remember God is always present and will guide you if you ask Him.)

Father help us to share the wonderful news that others have shared with us.  
Amen

(Rev). John McGurrin