## YOKED TO BE FREE

How Christians Change the World

The Gathering Place, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019



Because we don't know what is really important to us, everything seems important.

Because everything seems important, we have to do everything.

Other people, unfortunately, see us doing everything,
so they expect us to do everything.

Doing everything keep us so busy, we don't have time to think about what is really important to us.

MATTHEW 11:28-30
NASB

<sup>28</sup> "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

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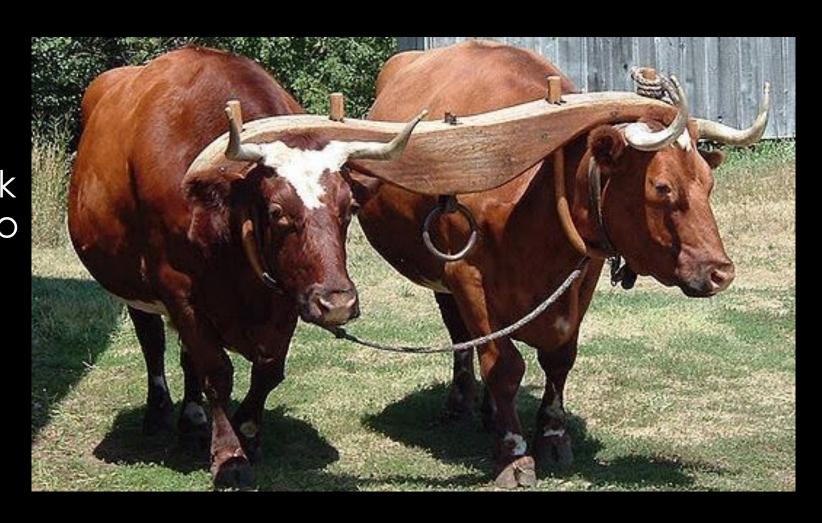
## YOKE "El yugo" o "La yunta" in Spanish





YOKE IN GREEK "ZYΓΟΣ" ZUGOS

ZYGÓS, A YOKE a wooden bar placed over the neck of a pair of animals so they can pull together; (figuratively) what unites (joins) two people to move (work) together as one.





## TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU

Where do you figuratively see yourself and where do you see Jesus in this picture of a farmer plowing with two animals yoked together? I used to think that the farmer represented Jesus in this illustration.



#### **MATTHEW 11:29**

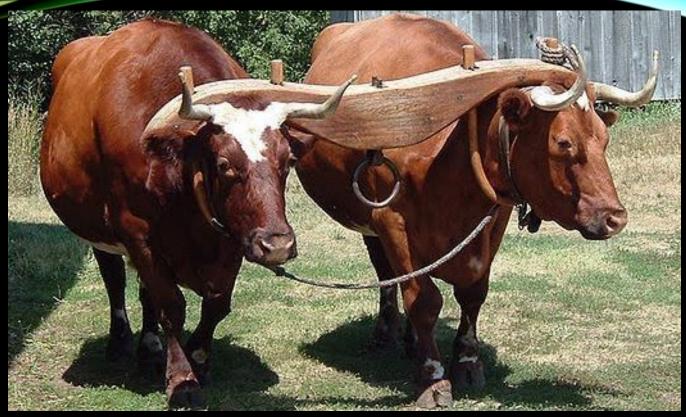
<sup>29</sup> Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.



It was the practice of farmers to yoke a young ox with an older, experienced ox to train the young one. The older ox actually bears a greater part of the load and the young one walks along and learns from him.

#### **MATTHEW 11:30**

<sup>30</sup> For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.



To take Jesus' yoke upon me, I must take off any yoke I am already carrying – I must not carry the "yoke of the Pharisees" (Matthew 23:4) – the heavy burden of legalism that we were never meant to carry.

Acts 15:10 "Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear?"

#### **MATTHEW 11:30**

<sup>30</sup> For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.



When we are yoked with Jesus, we live LIGHT – and FREE.

An abundant life that is full of joy and true freedom.

His yoke is a yoke we freely take up!

Galatians 5:1 "It was for freedom that Christ set us free. Therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery."

## TWO TYPES OF FREEDOM: WE ARE FREE TO CHOOSE

LIBERTY

FREEDOM TO PURSUE A
LIFE OF VIRTUE

FREEDOM TO PURSUE A
LIFE OF VICE

## IN CHRIST, WE ARE TRULY FREE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN:

**REST** 

**WEARINESS** 

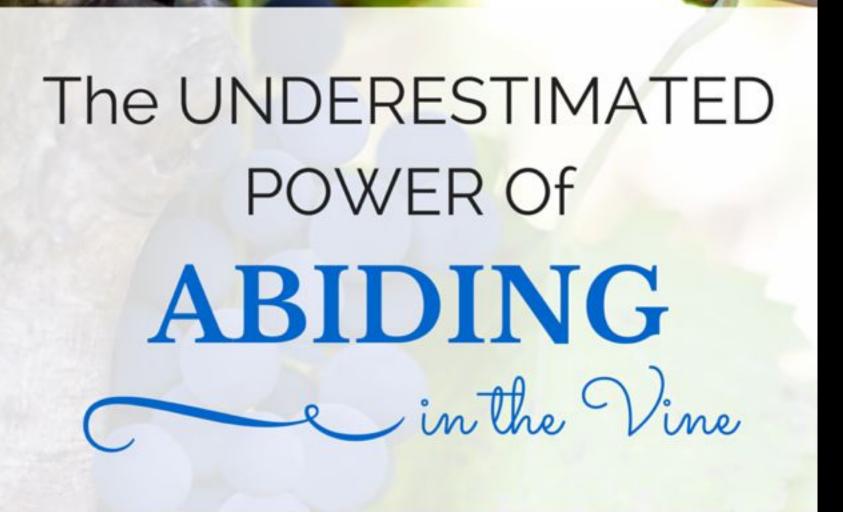
IN THE MIDST OF MEANINGFUL WORK AND INSPITE OF TRIALS HEAVY BURDENS; NO REST; NO FULFILLMENT

#### LET'S TALK

## AS WE ARE YOKED WITH JESUS AND LEARN FROM HIM, WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS WE NEED TO LEARN TO DO BETTER?

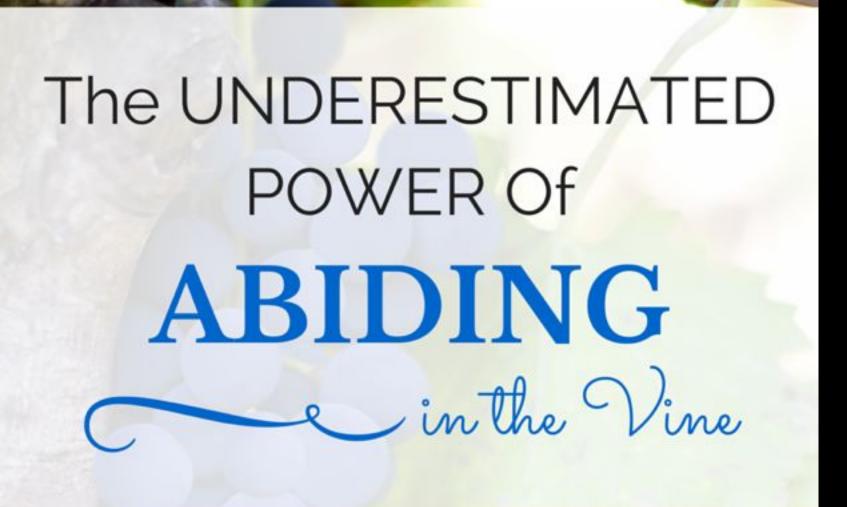
# OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, OUR GOOD FATHER WHO LOVES US UNCONDITIONALLY MAKES RESTING IN HIM POSSIBLE

YOU ARE GOD'S SON/DAUGHTER!
NOT A SLAVE
YOU ARE GOD'S FRIEND!
NOT HIS ENEMY



IMAGINE WHAT
WILL HAPPEN
WHEN WE ARE
YOKED WITH
JESUS, AND
ABIDE IN HIM
FROM A PLACE
OF REST







I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES; HE WHO ABIDES IN ME AND LIN HIM, HE BEARS MUCH FRUIT, FOR APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.

JOHN 15:5

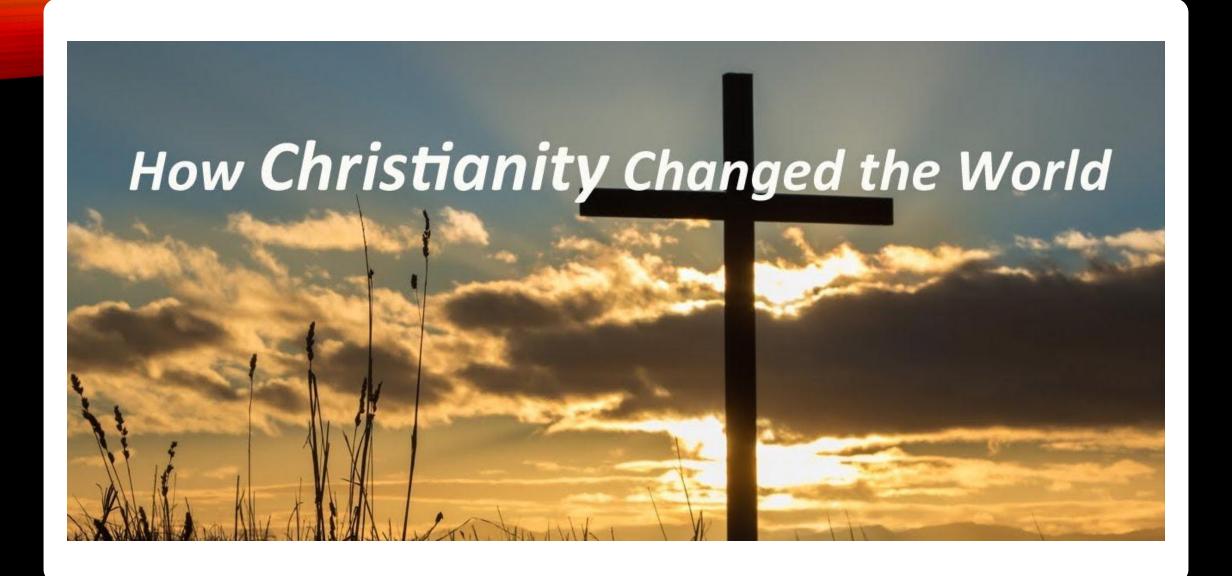
MATTHEW 11:28-30

The Message

28-30 "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

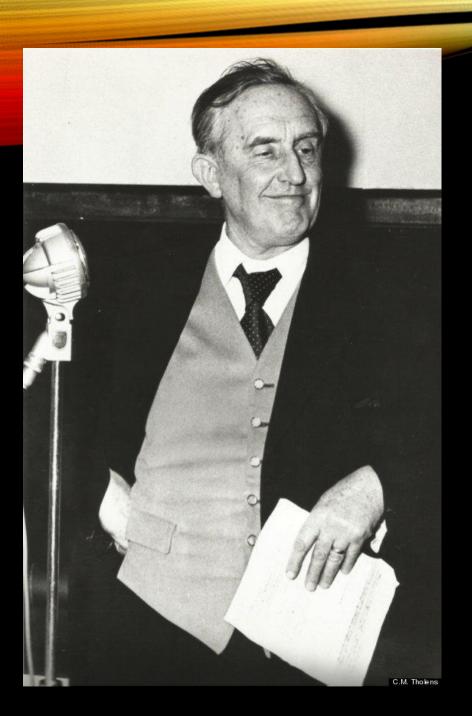
TAKE YOUR PLACE IN THIS WORLD AS YOU ARE YOKED WITH CHRIST, AND WALK IN THE STORY YOU WERE CREATED TO LIVE OUT.





Scientists Who Changed the World – Who were Christians!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-tlLXS9eck



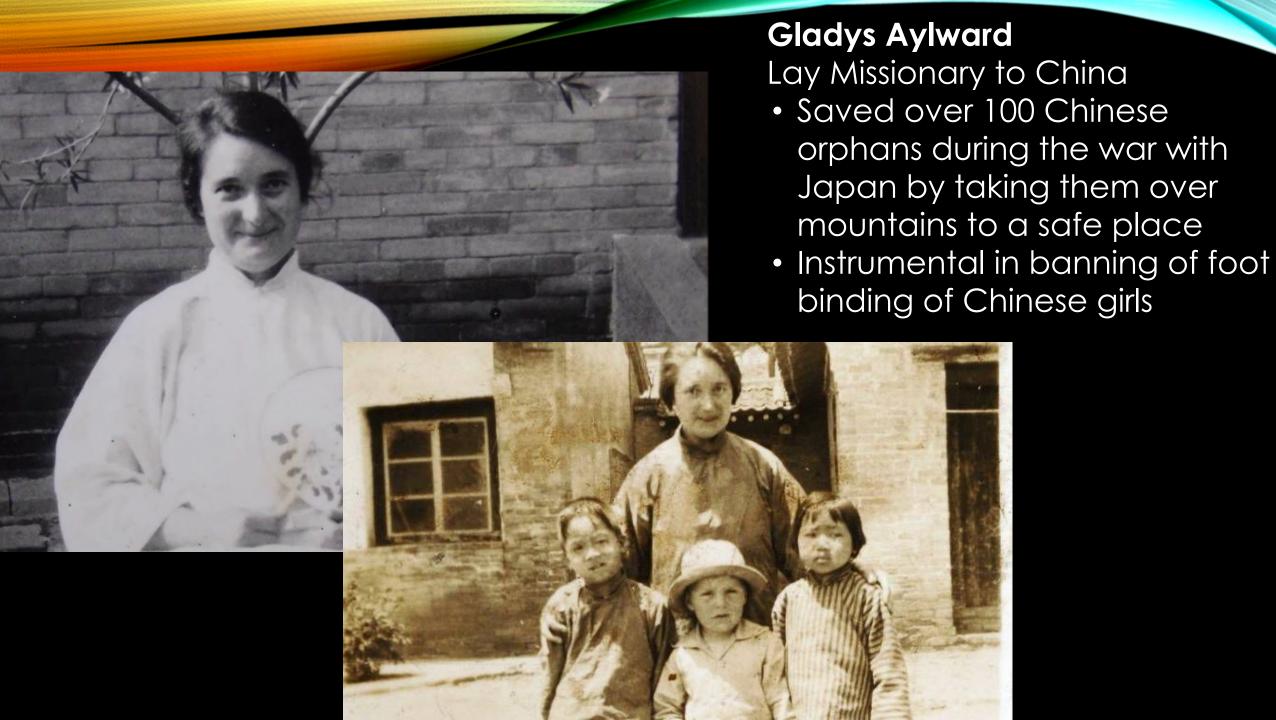
J.R.R. Tolkien – Oxford Professor and author of the "Lord of the Rings" Trilogy

C.S. Lewis – Oxford professor and author of "The Chronicles of Narnia" Series



Top 20 CS Lewis Quotes:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1NqivhxW78



## Chiune Sugihara

Japanese Diplomat who signed visas for over 10,000 Jewish refugees escaping the Holocaust in Germany





The Hong Kong Holocaust and Tolerance Centre Invites you to join events honouring The Asian "Righteous Among the Nations"



Featuring special guest speaker Nobuki Sugihara son of Chiune Sugihara "Righteous Among the Nations"

The Asian "Righteous Among the Nations" Exhibition

September 16-25 Courtyard Level Exhibition Space Chi Wah Learning Commons **Centennial Campus** The University of Hong Kong



The Asia Society Luncheon and Dialogue

September 21 Asia Society: 12:15-2:00 pm Featuring Nobuki Sugihara and moderated by Mr. Ronnie C. Chan, Co-Chair, Asia Society For more details and to sign up go to



http://asiasociety.org/hong-kong/events/asian-righteous-among-nations

JCC Film, Interactive Audience Discussion and Q&A

September 21, JCC: 8:00-9:30 pm 70 Robinson Road, Mid-levels Q&A following film with Mr. Sugihara RSVP: info@jcc.org \*Please bring ID card for entrance

For more information on these events go to www.hkhtc.org

What Good is Christianity?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndFYFQ63LQc

### THE GREAT MYSTERY OF GOD

Colossians 1:26-29

26 that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, 27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

TAKE YOUR PLACE IN THIS WORLD AS YOU ARE YOKED WITH CHRIST, AND WALK IN THE STORY YOU WERE CREATED TO LIVE OUT.

