



# Bill and Jan's Vacation

## Trusting God by Bill Lembricht

In Matthew 17:20b Jesus said to His disciples... "if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."

On our vacation Jan and I began earnestly to ask God to develop faith in us the size of a mustard seed. We asked for the Holy Spirit to open our understanding of His works enough to get a handle on this. At first, we observed that if we were watching JESUS perform miracles, we would have absolute confidence that those miracles would happen; because they WERE happening and why would we expect anything else? But then remember how in The Chosen at Simon's house Jesus told the twelve they would go to all the surrounding towns and perform the same miracles as He. The disciples were understandably disturbed with that and asked how He expected THEM to perform miracles. He told them not to worry, that GOD would make it happen THROUGH them.

So, Jan and I asked God to open our eyes

to recognize enough of HIS involvement that we would begin to expect His Spirit to act through us in ways we could recognize and, thus, our faith in HIM to act through us would grow. That became the theme of our vacation beginning in the morning of day 2.

Today, let me relate our hike to the Pine Creek Tungsten Mine just north of Bishop at the base of the Sierra Mountains. Todd Jones had encouraged us to go and then the day before an enthusiastic 84-year-old at the Laws Museum in Bishop said we'd LOVE it. So, I suggested to Jan that there had been enough prompting to go that maybe GOD had something planned for us there. (When I pull the GOD card in a situation like that, Jan hesitates to disagree.)

That morning, when I went to install my hearing aids, the one for my left, and best, ear did not work. I tried resetting it but to no avail. This would be the only day of our vacation that I would be partially deaf. After a drive up into Pine Creek Canyon west of US-395, we parked the Jeep just to the side of a locked gate that said: Pine Creek Mine. Private Property. No Trespassing. I interpreted that to mean "Welcome In," so we squeezed around the gate post and hiked toward the mine. Immediately a white pickup rounded a bend driving downhill in our direction. I didn't look him in the eye and kept walking. He drove on by, unlocked the gate, and drove away. We found an old abandoned haul road that ran below and out of sight of the main road and made our way to the mine. Just as the old road was about to join the modern paved road at the top of the grade where the modern mine buildings were, we heard and spotted a drone flying above us just ahead. We waved at it and out of the corner of my eye I could see a pickup just above us obscured by some boulders.

At that point I said to Jan that it looked like our little adventure was over as they OBVIOUSLY didn't want us on their property. Just then a big burly worker popped up from behind the boulders and strode down to where we were. We thought he was going to instruct us to leave, but instead he said his company was contracted by SCE to inspect all their powerlines in the area with drones. He said he didn't think anyone would mind if we explored the older mine ruins and gave us directions how to get there. As we hiked on, I asked Jan if she thought that perhaps God had set this up as part of our quest to gain faith in HIM the size of a mustard seed.

The steepness of the terrain and her allergies were wearing Jan down, so she waited at the lower level of the old mine while I explored the three upper levels, taking many photos. The mine was immense and even though I moved fast, an hour and a half passed by. There was at least another hour to go, but I imagined Jan bored and waiting for me below, so I headed back to where I left her, but she wasn't in sight. So, I moaned "Oh, no! She tired of waiting and headed back downhill to the Jeep a half mile below." I asked the guys contracted by SCE if they had seen her, but they had not.

I decided to jog down to the Jeep and then to return if she weren't there. As I approached the Jeep, I asked a lone hiker if he had seen Jan. He hadn't, but I was only five minutes away

from the car, so I kept going. She wasn't there, so I headed back up the mountain asking God to help me find her. A couple of minutes after praying and walking quickly, I looked up and saw Jan heading my way! Thank You, Father!

Jan told me an amazing story of why I didn't see her, and because of my malfunctioning hearing aid, I hadn't heard her yelling at me to stop as I headed quickly downhill. We decided God was preparing us to receive faith in HIM the size of a mustard seed.

The key to this is to ask God for enough faith that we trust Him to work through us so that our lack of faith doesn't prevent the Holy Spirit from performing HIS miracles. We reflected on the persuasion of Todd Jones and the Laws Museum docent who only volunteers time on Wednesdays (the very day WE happened to be there), the fact that the hearing aid only malfunctioned that ONE day, the fact that the mine worker who passed us in the pickup didn't ask



Corrugated snow tunnel from a main mine tunnel and suspended above the mill.

us to leave, the fact that the drone that we were certain was spying on us was hovering above us at the VERY moment we reached the perimeter of the modern mine compound, the fact that the burly worker that came toward us didn't order us to leave, and the trauma of losing track of Jan and the somewhat swift reuniting that followed. Plus, there was the reward of a well-preserved piece of mining history that God so generously allowed us to explore and enjoy.

I'm enough of a scientist and mathematician to know that the probability of ALL these factors occurring by mere chance is MUCH lower than the likelihood that these events were intentional acts by GOD Himself. That is very much like how it's much more likely that GOD really created the earth and everything on it versus the highly improbable godless theory of evolution that requires WAY more complex events to occur by mere chance!

Currently I am convinced that God will give sufficient faith for those who seek it. We just need to TRUST HIM and He will plant and sprout that seed of faith in us. I hope that rather than write this off as wishful thinking or BS, you, too will ask for that faith and watch closely for the small, seemingly insignificant events that befall us followers of Christ. More and more we're suspecting these are mini-miracles that God is giving us to open our eyes to His VERY active involvement in our lives. And once we recognize that HE is the one behind these unusual happenings, the eyes of our faith will open wide and we won't have such a struggle trusting Him to work through us.

## The Lost Doggie by Jan Lembricht

Waiting for the Lord is worth it. As we ask Him to show us what he wants, He wants us to be open to Him and what he has in store for us.

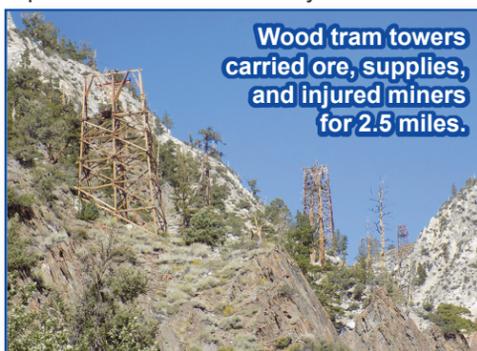
On our vacation we met each morning asking God what he wanted of us, giving Him the day to do with us what he willed; to my surprise he sent someone to share the Spirit with. Sometimes it comes in the most unsuspecting way. Like a gal meeting in the public restroom in Lee Vining. I started out "We're on vacation and celebrating our 50th anniversary together". I told her "God brought us together and we serve Him together through the store we work at in Lucerne Valley. We are still close after all these years. Each morning we share what we feel God has laid on our hearts. We ask for God's guidance in our day." She shared a little bit about herself and I felt she was open to the Spirit. I was reminded we are planting seeds as we go.

God gave me a gift Wednesday when Bill and I hiked to a mine called Pine Creek Mine north of Bishop. I was tired and when we got to the top of the rough road. We saw a drone ahead and suspected it was looking at us. Then a friendly man poked his head around the corner and told us he and his partner were working on the power lines. They used the drone to check the lines for any repairs. There are power lines up to the mine. He told us the current mine was not in operation; there was a caretaker who lived there. He told us when we returned we could walk down the paved road.

We could see the old mill up a draw that

looked difficult to get to. The man gave us directions to get to the path on the other side of the current buildings in front of us. We walked around some buildings over a bridge with a fast running creek under it. We didn't see any men working.

Bill wanted to go on and I was tired so I told him to go on, I would wait for him. I sat down on a big rock and rested there. I was taking some pictures when I felt something on my left. I turned my head and there staring at me



Wood tram towers carried ore, supplies, and injured miners for 2.5 miles.

was the cutest dog. He looked at me with the most expecting eyes. I said, "Where did you come from? You startled me." He came up to me and put his head in my lap. I thought he

came from the caretaker's house. He seemed to have forgotten how he crossed the stream and couldn't get back to his master.

The dog found an old stick and brought it to me; he wanted to play so I played with him. He followed me everywhere I went. I told him to go home. Bill would return and we would be leaving. He kept me company -- he found a ball and I tossed it for him. I wanted him to go home but he kept following me. After about an hour I saw Bill and I yelled at him but he couldn't hear me. I told my friend he had to go home. He kept at my side. I walked around until I was able to go to the door of the caretaker's house, but no one answered me, and so I walked down round a building with dog in tow. There was a warehouse with a pickup truck outside and the dog made a bee line for it, so as he went in, I walked on quickly so he would not come out and continue to follow.

I started on the paved road and the power line workers were there at their pickup. They told me Bill was looking for me and he thought I had returned to the car. I told them about the dog, they told me the dog had been missing for a week; his owner was looking for him. Thinking about it, I think the dog didn't know how to get back to his owner. He was just a puppy. He helped me and I helped him. I laugh about it when I think about him. I thanked God going down the road to the car where Bill was waiting.



Drone inspecting power lines.

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Mine tunnel part of the 38 miles of tunnels feeding the mill.

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Electric substation with four loaded ore cars.

Mitsubishi Cement Corporation  
Educational Foundation

### RUN IN THE ROCKS

Oct. 21, 6pm-10pm  
Lucerne Valley High School  
33233 Rabbit Springs Rd.

Registration 7:00am - 7:46am  
5k START - 8:00am

Register at ACTIVE.COM

### ON THE PORCHES

Roadrunners'  
Halloween Tail Gate  
Trick or Treat  
SIGN-UPS

for sponsorships and  
tailgate spots.

Sat, Oct. 14, 21, & 28  
9:00 a.m. - Noon

### Lucerne Valley Community Resource & Health Fair

Sat Oct 14  
10am to 2pm

FREE EVENT! Health education,  
resources, chances to win prizes  
and a FREE Lunch!

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD  
10216 Crystal Creek Rd., Lucerne Valley, CA  
For more information, please call 760-223-7164  
Or email lucernevalleychamber@gmail.com

### OKTOBERFEST

Traditional German  
Dinner Buffet at  
the Johnson Valley  
Community Center

Saturday, October 14th  
Ticket \$15.00 per person.  
Tickets for Kids \$8.00.  
Beer Garden opens at 3 p.m.  
Dinner at 6 p.m.