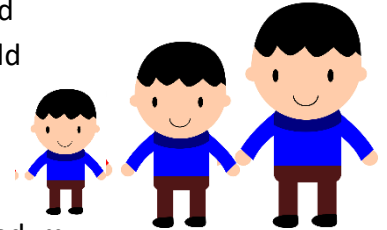




Have you ever been lost? It is a nasty experience that causes all sorts of fears to well up inside us.

We had three boys very close together. When they were tiny it was an absolute nightmare to take them shopping and something that I avoided unless it was really necessary – such as if they needed new shoes. I had always told the boys that if we were out shopping at any time and they became separated from me and lost, to stay where they were and I would go back and find them because if they began walking around and searching for me then I would have no idea as to their whereabouts.



On one occasion I had to take them into town with me. I had my shopping bag and handbag in one hand, held the reins round the two year old with the other hand and the three and four year old had to follow on behind me. After every few steps I had to keep turning round to make sure that they were okay. We went into a large shop that was quite crowded. Several adults had come between us and I had also rounded the corner of a long counter so for a few seconds I was out of view. All at once the three year old shouted at the top of his voice – ‘MAM’. I immediately took two or three steps back to him and he was obviously very upset and frightened by the experience. He was in a strange place, isolated, lost and no longer had the security of being looked after and safe.

I am reminded of the parable that Jesus told about the lost sheep. (Luke 15: 3-7) Jesus said that if only one of the sheep out of a hundred was lost, the owner would go and look for that one until it was found. He would be so pleased to have found the sheep that he would tell all of his friends and neighbours about it. He went on to say that in the same way, God is overjoyed when one person (sinner) is no longer ‘lost’.



What does it mean for a person to be ‘lost’? The destiny of every one of us is to be ‘lost’ and away from God for eternity unless we do something about it. I do not like writing about Hell, but the reality of life is that Hell is where we will spend eternity if we have not committed our lives to Jesus. We will be eternally ‘lost’.

**What choice have you made? Are you putting off making a choice until another day? Will you still be here tomorrow to be able to make that choice? Where will you be spending eternity?**

What is Hell like? It is being away from the presence of a holy God. It is described in the Bible as a place of continual fire and torment. I cannot begin to imagine what it is like and find it very upsetting to even



think about anyone going there. I have given my life to Jesus and have the assurance that I will be with Him for eternity – for ever and ever – for years and years and years. My desire is that everyone else also has that assurance of an eternity in Heaven. Every person on this earth has to make a choice between



these two options, no-one can make that choice for them, but those of us who have become Christians have been given the job by Jesus of making sure that everyone is told about the consequences of their decision.

### God's love

God has such an immense love for us that He continually looks for those who have not yet chosen to be with Him. He made a way for us to be in His presence by sending Jesus to the earth to die on the cross for us so that we can be reconciled to a holy God. God never gives up on us. No-one is too bad or too far away to be found. God is constantly giving nudges and reminders to those who are still 'lost'.



### God's pleasure

When a person chooses to give his/her life to Jesus, God is not just pleased, He is overjoyed! Someone whom he has created to have a relationship with Himself is no longer 'lost' for eternity but has been 'found' and is safe in the Saviour's arms. God's child is secure and in the place where he/she was intended to be. There is no greater pleasure in life than being in the position of knowing that we are in a place that is pleasing to God., knowing that Jesus has saved us from an eternity in Hell, knowing that God's love for us is stronger than anything else that we might experience.

*Are you 'lost' and away from God?*

*Are you aware of God's nudges and reminders?*

*Do you want to spend eternity in Hell or have you the assurance of an eternity in Heaven?*

**'I have loved you with an everlasting love.' (Jeremiah 31: 3)**

**'The Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.' (Luke 19:10)**

