

To the Gateway family

Greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ.

I would like you to take a moment and think, what is the best gift you have ever received. Please, I'm not looking for the 'standard' Christian answer - 'Jesus' – I agree wholeheartedly that Jesus is the best gift imaginable but I want you to think of a physical gift that you've received which you remember.

I recall Rebeca asking a similar question at a Life Group meeting in the Amazon. As we went round the group over 95% of the people had never received a Christmas present or a birthday present or any gift ever!

Have you thought of the gift? Have a few gifts come to mind?

I have been really blessed and received wonderful gifts from so many people over the years. My bosses in dentistry presented me with forceps (that's pliers for 'pulling' teeth to many of you) with a beautiful inscription on them when I left the practice to go to the Amazon.

Friends bought me a beautiful ornately painted boomerang from Australia when they returned from holidays.

A friend gave me a stone and a story from N. Ireland when I lived in the Amazon. This small smoothed little black stone, reminding me that God is a God of promise and He is faithful to bring them to fruition.

It is hard to pick a gift which is the best because my memory holds things dear for all different reasons. But the gift that 'in the family' I have always declared 'the best' was the Makita (which is a make, like De Walt, Black & Decker) Disc Cutter. I was over the moon, I loved it, an absolutely fantastic pressie, incredible, nearly impossible to beat!

In my head, I can hear people agreeing with me (yes, a great gift), others horrified, others still trying to work out what a Disc Cutter is.

The fact is, the present meant so much to me, the gift was specific to me. I enjoy practical work, the disc cutter was brilliant for cutting ceramic tiles, you could change the blade and type of cut, it could cut wet or dry! Every time I used the disc cutter I had a real sense of joy.

People are so different aren't they, it is nearly impossible, unless you know them very intimately to get them 'that gift' which will be meaningful and a blessing to them and even then, we often don't hit the mark.

I love to say 'we are blessed to be a blessing'; 'God has poured in, so that we can be poured out'. If you think of all the good gifts that God has bestowed on us, the list is extensive, yes! His Son Jesus, yes, every treasure in heavenly places, eternal life, the Holy Spirit, forgiveness.....

The love which God has poured into us, is manifest in the relationships all around us.

It is good to ring and say hello to people, it is good to pray for them, care for them, be a friend, be an 'ear'. Jesus is our example and He set the ultimate standard of laying down our lives for one another.

Jesus says this in *John 15:13-17* "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you

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Send us your comments & Prayer Request  
the gateway  
07942671129



To the Gateway family (cont)

*should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another."*

But quite simply I'd like to remind you that the Spirit of God within you knows all things, including those people around you. Walk in the Spirit, ask the Holy Spirit how you can impact the lives of those around you, be specific, be intentional and see the difference that including HIM will make.

2020, has been a difficult year for many..... but one gift from God through you could change all that in a moment.

Much love

God's continued blessing

Pastors Marty & Rebeca



**Special Guest**  
**Simon Foster**  
with us on  
**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November**



the gateway  
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