



## Free at Last!

August 2017

A few weeks ago, I was teaching Mark 10:13-16 in the *New Horizons* class at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church. It is a story about the **love** Jesus had for the little children who delighted to be with Him: *People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.*

Jesus was tested over and over again by the *Pharisees* concerning His claims of being the *Son of God*, their long-awaited *Messiah* and the *Lamb of God*, who would take away the sin of the world, and very soon he would be hung on a cross. And here, the disciples were trying to hold back mothers and their children who only wanted our Lord to bless them! But Jesus was willing to take time to be with them. He told the disciples: *"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."* Children's hearts, as most of us know, are normally filled with innocence, trust, joy, laughter, curiosity and love. They are to be appreciated and highly valued. (Psalm 127:3-5) *"Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."*

A few days later I was a guest speaker at a family camp in South Lake Tahoe and the place was filled with children. As I was finishing an evening meal with a small family group, a beautiful, almost 4-year-old little girl named *Eliza*, whom I had never met before, walked up to our table and asked me if I would like her gift of a little piece of cake. As I looked down at her beautiful face, I said "yes" and thanked her. As I accepted her gift, I kissed the back of her little left hand. She walked away, but then in a few minutes returned with another piece of cake and handed it to me, but this time she held up her right hand to be kissed. The following day at lunch she saw me and brought me a cookie and held up her little hand again to be kissed. I was overwhelmed with **love** for that little girl. A wonderful and most delightful Jesus experience!

Our lives are filled this summer with preaching, teaching, discipling, encouraging and counseling opportunities. We, again, want to thank you for all your prayers and support on our behalf.

*RonAnneMarie*