

Being Found

A Message from Travis Dean

August 2013

It was near the end of the Lancaster Festival. My children, Elijah and Abigail, were both excited. Why? It was Rising Park Day. To them this meant a morning full of fun at the park with lots of other children and to top it off, a picnic lunch. Elijah's excitement largely hinged on the hope that his neighbor friend, Chris*, would be there.

We arrived at the park at 10:00 in the morning. There were live animals to pet and crafts to create, but Elijah's interest was minimal. He was looking for Chris. The place was crawling with children and Elijah's keen eye was scanning them all for the face of his best friend.

We listened to a woman play strange and unique sounds with musical instruments. We played on the playground and watched a man on tall stilts make animals out of balloons. We saw several boys and girls that Elijah and Abigail had made friends with in the past. But there was no sign of Chris.

Finally, it was lunch time and we headed to the car to get the food and blanket we had packed for a picnic. Elijah had packed some special items that he thought Chris would like. On our way, I suddenly heard a shriek of delight. Elijah had spotted Chris eating lunch with his grandma on a blanket in the grass. As he ran, his cries echoed throughout the park, "Chris! Hi, Chris! Chris is here!"

Elijah's search for Chris and his joy at finding him reminds me of God's search for us. Ellen White in the book, *Desire of Ages*, page 417, makes the following statement:

"Jesus did not count heaven a place to be desired while we were lost."

And so, instead of remaining in heaven, He came to our world. Why? To look for us.

Isaiah 53 describes Jesus' experience while He was on this earth. He suffered much in His search for us. But in verses 10 and 11 of this chapter we discover Jesus' sense of satisfaction at having reconciled us to Himself:

"He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, and the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand. As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied."

Seeing us at last face to face, Jesus will say, "It was all worth it!" Elijah experienced an overflowing joy in finding his special friend, as did Jesus in finding us. But, as Chris can attest to, there is also a joy in being found. If you have not been found by your Savior Jesus Christ, today

is the day. Turn around. He is right behind you. When you do this, desiring with all your heart to be reconciled to Him, Jeremiah 29:14 gives you the following promise:

"I will be found by you,' declares the LORD."

* pseudonym

Scriptures taken from the New American Standard Version