

faith gives substance

by Jason Nightingale

can you look

at a pile

of dirt

a matching pile

of gravel

and sand

and rebar steel

and see

a dining hall

a kitchen

a dormitory

arise

i can

for God has given

faith

and faith is

substance

an assurance

of things

hoped for

can you look

upon

a hillside

without structures

only trees

and cattle

and chickens

and grass

can you
see the buildings
and retaining walls
and pavilions
dormitories
kitchens
and food cooking
and schools
and hundreds
of children
running about

i can see it
can you not see it
God will do this

can you see
the children
of the
streets and slums
hungry shoeless
sick and diseased
sold and used
seeking love
finding abuse
seeking comfort
finding hardness
seeking hope
finding bitterness
and loss
uneducated
millions around
the world

can you believe
they'll be fed
with shoes
now a safe place
to sleep
in school
a hope
for the future
a laughing running
jumping and singing
place
no fear for
tomorrow
hearing
of the love of Jesus
seeing this love
no more fear
can you see them

we have seen
empty fields
and now
we see
buildings
and children
and schools
and great pans
of steaming rice
can you smell it
and washed clothes
hung to dry
and shoes on feet
and we hear
laughter
and see smiles

faith has made real

for hundreds

believe with us

for thousands

God will do it

“And what is faith? Faith gives substance
to our hopes and makes us certain of
realities we do not see” (Hebrews 11:1).

no more hamburgers

by Jason Nightingale

there I was
just going along
all invincible
never going to die
eat whatever
my wife let me
and when she
wasn't looking
whatever i wanted
just keep going
driving and flying
all over the world
too much to do
to slow down

then surprise
an illness
that doesn't
get better
can't walk out
of this one
examinations
consultations
electronic
hands on
probing poking
no more travel
no more speaking
no more hamburgers
they said
eat vegetables

hold it in
be quiet
wait
rest
maybe
the hardest
that the Lord has
asked me to do
wait

He says
they that wait
upon the Lord
shall renew
their strength
they shall
mount up
with wings
like eagles

now there's
a frightful
thought
for those below
me flying
high above
but i
will wait
upon the Lord
and He will
restore me

danger!!

by Jason Nightingale

getting in a car
is very dangerous
percentages are high
that you will have
an accident
you may die
or be maimed
depending on
how often
or much
you drive
percentages are
fairly high
that your accident
will happen
near your home
it's very dangerous
to get into
a car near your home

it's very dangerous
to have a heart
to be dependent
on just one organ
for life
many people
have heart attacks
heart disease kills
more people
than any other disease
hearts stop pumping
without warning

sometimes they
give warning signs
sometimes there is
pain
but most of the time
they just stop
hearts are astounding
most just keep on
doing their job
day after day

some dangerous things
you just get used to
some dangerous things
get your attention
and cause you to pause

perhaps we should
live in the reality
that life is dangerous
to itself
that we could be
face to face
with OUR creator
at any time
on any day
and then judgement

seasons change

by Jason Nightingale

it is inexorable
winter does
give way to spring
though sometimes
you begin
to wonder
summer comes
fall follows
leaves come
and leaves go
seed time
and harvest
till the end of time
I'm told

our seasons change
oh you can rage
against old age
but you will get old
lest the Lord take
you early
you can do
so much exercise
so much diet
but the eyes change
gravity wins eventually
wrinkles come
movement slows
strength and endurance
decline
changes come
sometimes subtle

sometime dramatic
but always change

there is only
One Who
Doesn't change
He is the ancient of days

already
He does not
sleep or slumber
He does not
vary or change

and He is
faithful always

He knows
all our ways
and loves us

anyways

He knows

all our days

there is no

haste or rush

He knew us

as we were being formed

in our mothers

and was our first breath

He has sustained us

and watched over

our foolishness

and rebellions

He has

shown His love to us

and adopted us

and He does not change