



C.S. LEWIS INSTITUTE

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

THE LOVING, LONG REACH OF THE LORD FOR THE LOST

JOEL S. WOODRUFF, ED.D.

PRESIDENT, C.S. LEWIS INSTITUTE



his makes it all worth it!

That is how I felt during an arduous workweek, when out of nowhere I received a message through our website from an eighteen-year-old woman from Singapore, I'll call Krista. She wrote, "This email is a follow-up to the invitation to contact you on the 'Follow Jesus' page on your website."

Krista continued by explaining that, as the "Follow Jesus" page on our website encourages one to do, she had accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. Krista then went on to ask us for some counsel, as she had some intellectual struggles to deal with about her faith. She wrote, "I relate to C.S. Lewis as I faced intellectual challenges as well as emotional ones in my journey to faith. While these have largely cleared, they linger even after my acceptance... I would appreciate any advice for starting out as a new believer."

Since this first email, we have started an ongoing dialogue with Krista to encourage her in her newfound faith and hope in Jesus Christ.

Isn't it amazing how God lovingly reaches out across the oceans to find and save the lost? We added the "Follow Jesus" button on our C.S. Lewis Institute website home page with the prayer that God would use it to give hope to those seeking for truth. Krista, from Singapore, managed to find the C.S. Lewis Institute website, which was designed in the United States and built in India by our website developer. Through the long reach of the internet, God pursued a young woman who was longing for truth and a relationship with her Creator. And, by God's grace, she found

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JESUS





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Jesus Christ, in part by reading through the resources on our website and then going to our “Follow Jesus” page. We were then able to connect with her in a more personal way and are now in a long-distance discipling relationship. We will try to connect her with a local church as well, so that she can fellowship in person with other believers in Singapore.

Krista also wrote, “Thank you for the work that you do and the resources available, they have greatly helped me along my journey.”

I am so grateful to our Lord that He is using the website and discipleship resources of the C.S. Lewis Institute to help make disciples all over the world, and reach a young woman in Singapore.

In Luke 15:3–7 (NIV), Jesus tells this parable of the Lost Sheep,

Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

I hope that you will join me in praying that the Lord will continue to use the website and other discipleship resources of the C.S. Lewis Institute to reach lost men and women around the world, even another young person in Singapore, seeking for the truth that can be found only in Jesus Christ. ■



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Joel Woodruff, President, C.S. Lewis Institute, has worked in higher education, “tent-making,” nonprofit administration, and pastoral ministries in Alaska, Israel, Hungary, France, and Northern Virginia. He served as Dean of Students, Chaplain, and Professor of Bible & Theology at European Bible Institute, where he helped train Europeans both for professional ministry and to be Christian leaders in the marketplace. Prior to joining the Institute, he was on the leadership

team of Oakwood Services International, a nonprofit educational and humanitarian organization. He is a graduate of Wheaton College, earned his M.Div. from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and has a doctorate in Organizational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University.

As a Parish-Pulpit Fellow, he studied Biblical Backgrounds & Archaeology in Israel for a year.