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INTRODUCING:

Christ For The Nations

The Voice

This inaugural issue of *Christ For The Nations THE VOICE* is about legacy, and that is no accident. While we have a new name, look and size, we are really re-digging deep the wells of blessing from which this ministry began.

The founders of Christ For The Nations, the ministry that publishes *THE VOICE*, were Reverend Gordon Lindsay and his wife, Freda. After Gordon's death in 1973, "Mom" Lindsay powerfully carried on the work for another 37 years until her death in 2010.

While the younger generations of Christians may not recognize Gordon Lindsay's name, he was a prolific writer and apostolic leader who helped usher in a mighty move of God in the 1940s. During this time, God really began pouring out His spirit with unprecedented physical healings upon the Body of Christ.

One of the foundational aspects of Gordon Lindsay's ministry was this very magazine. Starting in 1948, he chronicled the healing and miracles taking place – a move of His Spirit that shook the core of many denominational churches. Gordon helped provide solid biblical understanding of what was taking place, provided needed leadership, while also stirring the Body of Christ to have faith and understanding to receive all the Lord desired to give. His magazine was called *The Voice of Healing*; later, as his focus on world evangelism came forth, it became *Christ For The Nations Magazine*.

Reverend Lindsay also wrote hundreds of wonderful teaching booklets that have gone around the world to disciple many great Christian leaders. In 1970, the Lindsay's answered the call of God to start a Bible training institute called Christ For The Nations. This institution was open to anyone desiring to study God's Word and to learn how to move with the Spirit. Between Gordon Lindsay's writings and their faith, incredible salvations and miracles began to happen in Dallas, Texas. The ministry grew, and the impact and their legacy now have global reach.

In *THE VOICE* you will find that heritage, their legacy and the deep, rich history of the powerful Spirit of God as seen through Gordon and Freda Lindsay's ministry. With a strong foundation in faith and the Word of God, the pillars of Christ For The Nations continues to be prayer, world missions, support for Israel and worship. All they do is undergirded by a tremendous heart of compassion and with a spirit of humility. The fruit of their legacy is thousands of world-changers whose lives have remained steady because of the solid teaching and impartation they received from the Lindsay's ministry.

That rich legacy is the heart of this publication. In the spirit of our founders and their family, Dennis and Ginger Lindsay, who now lead this ministry, the purpose of this publication is to be a tool used by God to ignite people for His plans and purposes. We aspire to share words, inspired by the Holy Spirit, to kindle hearts to burn for our Lord Jesus and to passionately pursue His purposes in the Earth.

Our desire is to:

- Fan the wind of His Spirit into your heart and life;
- Encourage you to be equipped and launched into your fullest calling, both in the five-fold and marketplace ministry;
- Encourage you to be the conduit of Jesus for your generation;
- See awakening come to the nations of the Earth and thereby hasten the return of our Lord and Savior;
- Show that HIS Voice is THE Voice, and it calls us to come to Him anew each day!

So come and drink deep of encouragement. Quench your thirst through His refreshing goodness. Affirm His purpose for your life. Understand the deepest depths of His intense love for you and the nations of the world. Come and drink your fill from deep wells of His spiritual blessings!

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4:11-14).

Thank you for your faithful support of Christ For The Nations. We look forward to serving you! 🙏

In Him,
The Christ For The Nations THE VOICE Team

While our desire is to provide this publication free to all, printing and mailing costs have become prohibitive to get it into as many hands as we would like. We strongly desire to see this publication go forth as a teaching and evangelism tool, and it is our goal to bring thousands of complimentary issues into public places and churches. Therefore we are asking you to please consider a \$12 annual donation towards the work of Christ For The Nations to receive this publication in the mail. Along with your magazine, you will receive subscriber benefits such as montly sermon podcasts by great CFNI speakers like Dutch Sheets, Lance Wallnau and many others. Also consider giving a gift subscription to encourage a family member or friend in their walk with Christ. Your donation also helps to get this magazine into the hands of fellow and future world-changers!

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EVANGELISM TODAY MUST BEGIN WITH GENESIS ONE

by Dennis Lindsay

Evolution vs. Creation

Evolutionists say:

The universe began with a hot big bang billions of years ago, and has expanded and cooled ever since. It has evolved from a formless soup of elementary particles into the richly structured cosmos of today.

Scripture says:

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

TRUTH POINT: According to the Second Law of Thermodynamics, disorder cannot give way to order. The process of entropy cannot produce complex systems.

Evolutionists say:

All organisms share common ancestors with other organisms. Over time, populations may divide into different species, which share a common ancestral population. Far enough back in time, any pair of organisms shared a common ancestor.

Even secular scientists say:

"It's not reasonable to expect the discovery of that critical single species, for its identification would require a complete series of ancestor-descendant fossils on both the chimp and human lineages... such complete fossil sequences don't exist."
— Biology Professor, Jerry Coyne, *Why Evolution is True*, 2009

Scripture says:

"Then God said, 'Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping things and beast of the earth, each according to its kind;'" and it was so" (Genesis 1:24).

Evolutionists say:

Evolutionary change is a slow and gradual process that gives rise to diversity at every level of biological organization, including species, individual organisms and molecules such as DNA and proteins. This claim is substantiated by the reportedly long, observable changes of organisms in the fossil record.

Evolutionists admit:

"The absence of fossil evidence for intermediary stages between major transitions in organic design, indeed our inability, even in our imagination, to construct functional intermediates in many cases, has been a persistent and nagging problem for gradualistic accounts of evolution."
Stephen Jay Gould, American Paleontologist.

THE NEED FOR CHANGE

The famous Russian tennis star, Ivan Lendl, won the U.S. Open Tennis Tournament in New York City in 1985. It was an especially difficult win since the U.S. fans were yelling for his well-known, American opponent, John McEnroe. After the game, the commentator asked, *"Did you feel like Daniel in the lion's den?"* Lendl hesitated, and then said, *"I'm sorry, I don't understand?"*

It wasn't Lendl's English that was the problem. It was his godless, humanistic education. Lendl didn't have a clue who Daniel was. The well-known Bible story that every kid in America has heard since childhood was not familiar to this tennis star, who grew up in the Soviet Union.

The same is true with today's young people, who have grown up in America's post-Christian, humanistic culture. This also applies to hundreds of thousands of internationals who have immigrated to America from pagan and non-Christian cultures.

Can you imagine enrolling in a course listed as U.S. Presidents 101, and the professor begins with the death of John F. Kennedy? Then he continues with the Presidents who came after Kennedy. When test-time comes, the final exam begins with the first President of the United States, George Washington, and proceeds to our current President. Unless the student already had an understanding of the complete history of the American Presidents, they wouldn't have a clue as to where to begin.

"KENNEDY" EVANGELISM

"Kennedy" evangelism begins in the middle of the book. Kennedy evangelism starts by asking the question, *"What if you were to suddenly die tonight where would you spend eternity?"* Can you imagine preaching to pagans who have never heard the Gospel by beginning in the book of Matthew? No, one must begin in Genesis. Who would start reading in the middle of a book or begin watching a movie halfway through?

The same is true with evangelizing non-believers. The problem of comprehending the Gospel message of salvation becomes magnified because the listener has no foundation to understand the authority of Scripture. The un-churched, non-believer has no basis to respect God's Word. If the individual has been educated by a humanistic educational system, then most likely the person has been immersed in the evolutionary worldview. This view accepts millions and billions of years for the age of the universe, that death is part of the natural cycle of creation, existing since the beginning of time.

If this is the case, then why would one need a Savior? If death has been around for billions of years and is not related or associated with man's sin? What is the need of a Savior to die for my sentence if sin is not related to the origins of death? Is the story of Christ's death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead just a nice Christian fairytale?

"KENNEDY" EVANGELISM DEALS WITH THE PROBLEM OF SIN

Christians often seek to evangelize others by starting with salvation—John 3:16 and the Gospel message. For earlier generations that worked. Most people had some kind of church experience in their background, even if they did not have a strong personal belief. But in today's world, many people don't even understand the meaning of biblical terms, let alone basic stories that children previously learned in Sunday school.

SIN AND SALVATION MAY BE MEANINGLESS

For example, the basic term, "sin," makes no sense to people if they have no concept of a holy God who created us and who, therefore, has a right to require certain things of us. If people don't understand sin and its connection with death, they certainly will not comprehend the need for salvation.

The evangelistic crusades of the 1950s and 1960s had great results and reaped many souls into the Kingdom of God. In the 1950s, the public school system taught the foundations of Christianity: The Creator, Creation, the Ten Commandments, sin, guilt, punishment, the Crucifixion, and Resurrection, and so forth. School holidays were centered around these events.

Evolutionism has undermined the very fiber of Christian morality in Western society by replacing the Christian foundation of America; there is no understanding of the basics. We may preach with all the fervor of a reformer, but only win a few.

With the bombardment of the evolutionary worldview in education from secular humanism toward youth, via movies, TV, magazines and music, the worldview paradigm has shifted 180 degrees opposite the biblical foundations that existed in America and Western civilization over the previous several hundred years.

One cannot assume that our churches will still exist on Christian soil in a Christian culture. We no longer live in a post-Judeo-Christian culture; we live in an anti-Judeo-Christian culture. Most of the principle stories of the Bible are either unknown to Americans or they bear little meaning or relevance in everyday life. Statistics reveal that 80 percent of the young people who become Christians today only do so because it seems like the best lifestyle; it's not because Christianity is true.

Unfortunately, if they do not become immersed in the truths of Scripture it won't be long before something new will appear more attractive. We need another Great Awakening. A key to such a revival involves sharing the Gospel message beginning with Creation in Genesis 1:1, and providing new Christians with a biblical worldview.

Ministering to the present generation must start at the beginning for them to know how to see the world from a biblical worldview. In a nutshell, the first book of Genesis presents a Christian worldview.

1. It explains Creation and the origins of life.
2. It explains the fall and sin of man and why there is evil in the world.
3. It explains punishment and the consequences of violating God's moral code.
4. It explains the message of hope, redemption, and the restoration of all things.

By beginning at the beginning, people will have an opportunity to understand the origins of evil, the justice of God, the plan of redemption and the restoration of all things. Issues of sin, judgment, morality and purpose have their roots in the beginning of God's Word: Genesis and the Creation account, along with the crucial events from Genesis 1-12, where God selects a man through whom the Messiah, the Redeemer and Savior of the world will come.

EVANGELISM THROUGH CREATION

Genesis 1-12 is the foundation of the Gospel. If there is no reference to the Creator, sin causing death and judgment on evil (Noah's flood), and the promise of a coming Deliverer, the Gospel is without foundation. In Acts 2, Peter preached to the Jews, and thousands responded. This is just like the crowds during the 1950s crusades in America. In Acts 17, Paul preached to the Gentiles, and only a few responded. Why the difference?

The difference was the foundation, which the Jews already had, but the Gentiles didn't. The people in the Greek culture had no understanding or foundation of the Christian faith. They responded, "What is this foolishness of the resurrection?" They believed in a similar version of evolutionism—finite gods were the creators. This is the same belief as humanism today.

Paul learned that one cannot begin preaching with salvation to the pagan world. So, he preached the foundation to impact them with the rest of the Gospel. Paul started at the beginning of the Bible: *"You worship the unknown Creator. He is ..."*

If you start with the Cross and salvation, to the pagans and the secular humanistic worldview, it is foolishness (1 Corinthians).

"The God Who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of Heaven and Earth" (Acts 17:24).

Only after establishing who God is and why we are morally responsible to Him, did Paul talk about repentance and Christ's Resurrection. This is the foundation in understanding the authority of God's Word as truth. Now there is a foundation to understand both John 3:16 (in which God loved the world so much that He sent His Son to pay the penalty of death for our sin) and Romans 6:23 (which declares the wages of sin is death).

The above excerpt is from Chapter 8 in Dennis Lindsay's new book, *Evangelism Through Creation*. To place your order, call 214-302-6276 or 1-800-933-2364.

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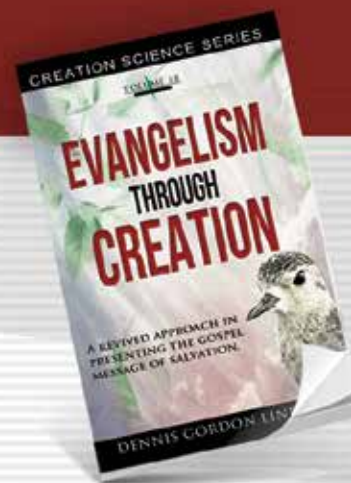
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Prayer

The Nations Cry Out Spotlight

CHINA:

336 million babies aborted

Recently, the Chinese Health Agency released a staggering figure. Since 1971, the government has performed 336 million abortions. Researchers say that breaks down to 13 million abortions per year, or about 1,500 every hour. The high number is largely due to China's policy of allowing only one child per family. The policy is often enforced through involuntary abortion.

China's one child policy was established by Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping in 1979 to limit communist China's population growth. Although designated a "temporary measure," it continues a quarter-century after its establishment. The policy limits couples to one child. Fines, pressures to abort a pregnancy, and even forced sterilization accompany second or subsequent pregnancies.

Many social and economic issues have resulted from this policy, including men unable to find wives, subsequent kidnappings, and a shortage of workers in some areas. Because of the worker shortage, the government may be moving away from the policy and going to a two-child policy. Egregious violations against women will likely still ensue with a two-child-policy.

Please pray for an end to these laws that are crimes against humanity. Pray that the leaders of China would rid their country of any of these policies and abolish the practice of abortion. Pray that a love and understanding of the value of life would come forth in China and globally.

The Great Omission of the Great Commission

The enemy knows that behind the vast numbers and statistics hides a face, a name, a life and a soul.

by Connie McKenzie, Director Children's and Family Ministries

If we are honest, most of us want to bestow a great legacy to our family. We want to leave this world better than we found it. We want to make an impact. We want our lives to count. However, wanting these things does not guarantee they will happen. Why do so many of us, even Christians, never reach the place of significance? Why don't we leave a spiritual legacy for the next generation? Could it be we haven't embraced a cause?

When David was about 15 years old, he followed his father's instructions to take supplies to and check on his brothers when the giant Goliath began to taunt the army of Israel. This 9-foot giant was demanding someone fight him. While the trained men in the army trembled and backed off, David inquired about the situation, asking *"Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"* When his older brother mocked him, David asked, *"Is there not a cause?"* (1 Samuel 17:29, KJV).

There is a cause! And this cause is a giant much bigger than a 9-foot Philistine named Goliath. It is the cause of this generation of children who are at risk. For them, childhood is no longer a time of innocence, or being safe, while they are vulnerable and dependent. Children are still precious to God. Jesus said, *"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these"* (Matthew 19:14).

There are 2.3 billion children in the world. What happens to one in childhood determines the rest of their lives. Children form their worldview by age 4-5, their moral foundation by age 9, and their spiritual identity by age 13.

But, children are the ultimate, silent majority. They make up over one-third of the world's population, yet they bear far more than their share of giants who are out to destroy them.

What are the Goliath's facing our children? The breakdown of the family may be the largest giant. Emotional pressures in dysfunctional families contribute to violence, drug abuse, incest and suicide. The giant of apathy within the typical Christian family keeps children from the great spiritual legacy we may want to leave. We are too busy being entertained by the things of the world and compromising on biblical values that our children never know what it is to *"give their lives away for the sake of the Gospel,"* because they do not see it modeled at home.

We cannot ignore the giant of poverty when 56 percent of the world's children live in poverty or severe deprivation. This results in the lack of education, child labor, children who are sick and dying of preventable diseases, orphans, abandonment, abuse and violence, and the growing phenomenon of street children.

We hate to even think about the giants of genocide, where girls are aborted or killed at birth, human trafficking of children for sex or labor, and the reality of child soldiers and young refugees of war. Persecution for being a Christian is a very real giant for children in many parts of the world.



We have to face the fact that while poverty keeps children from a great legacy, so does prosperity. We probably know children who have everything to live *with* and nothing to live *for*. They may receive a large financial legacy, but never know Jesus as their Savior. They face the giant of gaining the whole world but losing their soul. America is desperate for those who will fight this giant and reach the children of prosperity.

We have done a good job of training males to be tough and to be afraid of showing any emotion, except anger. There was a time in history that during times of danger, the men rose up to protect the women and children. Today, instead of rescuing and protecting them, men are abusing them in unimaginable, horrible ways. What a shame, that for many children, their most feared giant is their own father or stepfather.

Children are the great omission of the Great Commission. Only 10 percent of mission's efforts are on evangelism and discipleship of children. Most missions work is not targeting this reachable generation of children, who are open to change and could transform their nations.

The saddest giant is the Church. Like in missions, children's ministry is the great sin of omission by the Church. The Church has ignored the fact that children are open and receptive to the Gospel. Between 75 - 85 percent of those who make the decision to follow Christ do so between the ages of 4 and 14 years. Yet, only 15 percent of the Church efforts are on children. The Church has ignored the most receptive group to its message. The Church has also perpetrated the lie that training the children in spiritual matters is a *"woman's work."* Jesus commanded His male disciples to bring the children to Him.

Who will be the David to go against these giants? It is going to take mighty men and women to bring down the Goliaths of this day, those giants who keep children from receiving a godly legacy.

This is a cause and call for all generations. While everyone else saw a giant, David saw an opportunity. David's motives were different from others. He recognized that Goliath was coming against God, and knew God would be with him as he fought Goliath. The enemy knows that behind the vast numbers and statistics hides a face, a name, a life and a soul.

David's vision was different from others. It is puzzling that others don't see and hear the truth that God loves children.

David's experience was different from others. We believe the experience and training offered in Children's and Family Major at CFNI is different too, and helps us to see children, and the battle against them, with the eyes of God. It prepares us to take out the giants.

While everyone saw Goliath as a threat too big to hit, David saw Goliath as a target too big to miss.

Let's embrace the cause and the call to leave a legacy of God's love to the children of the world. We can do it! The target is too big to miss!

Our Mandate To Reach The Lost: MISSIONS

by Belinda Elliott

When did you last hear a sermon about missions? According to pastor and author Larry Stockstill, it isn't something that many pastors preach about today, despite the fact that 5 billion people worldwide still do not know Christ. Stockstill hopes Christians will catch a vision to change that.

A graduate of Oral Roberts University, Stockstill serves as teaching pastor of Bethany World Prayer Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He and his wife Melanie moved to the mission field only two weeks after getting married. Their time in Ghana and Nigeria quickly introduced them to the difficulties faced by missionaries. He contracted malaria four times, they no had electricity, and most places they lived in had no running water.

"I had an old jeep we pushed more than we drove," he recalls. "I know what it's like to have no money and to be totally destitute." Yet God gave him a passion for reaching lost people, which he longs to pass on to the next generation. He desires to see churches, once again, take a prominent role in missions.

"The enemy is succeeding in stealing this message from our consciences so that we are focused on so many things except the Great Commission," he explains.

To restore the Church's vision for missions, Christians need to remember that Christ has given them a mandate to reach the lost, Stockstill says. In our postmodern age, people are distorting the truth of the Bible and even claiming that hell is not a reality. *"We need to get this thing in our hearts that the lost are really lost,"* he explains.

To help people visualize what 5 billion people looks like, Stockstill suggests imagining a line of people that begins right where you are sitting and stretches around the world. A line of 5 billion people would wrap around the world 37 times.

"Once I got that in my spirit I've never been the same," he explains. "That was over 20 years ago. I woke up this morning thinking about those 37 lines. When you become a pastor or leader, don't let anything stop you or dissuade you from the fact that 5 billion people are on their way to hell."

What Stockstill has learned through his missions work around the world is that the most effective approach to missions is the one demonstrated in 2 Timothy 2:2 *"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."*

"You do missions by discipleship," he explains. "When you have one disciple become a mature follower of Christ, you have the most valuable thing in the Kingdom of God. If you can develop enough of them, who can multiply themselves to others, then you have started a movement."

China is a good example, he says, where an average of 35,000 people are accepting Christ daily; yet most of their churches are underground. Church leaders disciple new believers creating *"spiritual sons"* who will disciple others. *"They replicate themselves and send them out to go plant churches and raise up other spiritual leaders,"* Stockstill explains.

He also encourages Christians to not let financial concerns be a hindrance. He recalls hearing about a Tibetan tribe from a professor while he was at ORU. The tribe lived in a mountainous region accessible only by helicopter. He initially felt despair because no one would be able to reach them with the Gospel. But as he sat in class the Lord reminded him that God was willing to sacrifice His Son for people—surely He would be willing to provide a helicopter so a tribe in Tibet could hear about Christ.

"Something changed in my heart right then," Stockstill says. "Now, I don't care where people are. If I need a ship, if I need a helicopter, if I need anything, that's not my problem. That is God's problem. When the Lord looks at the world, He does not care about money; He cares about people. For anybody who will focus on people, the Lord will give you anything you need for missions."

Stockstill challenges Christians to catch the vision for missions early in their ministries and start looking for people to disciple. *"How about those 5 billion lost people? How about the greatest revival in the history of mankind at our doorstep now?"* he asks. *"God is looking at (you) and saying, 'Do something about it.' Christ For The Nations was founded on this. This is a school to compete with hell. We are plundering hell and populating Heaven."*

▲ The Surge Project

In 2001, Pastor Stockstill launched the Surge Project, an international church-planting venture.

Since its inception, Surge has planted over 20,000 churches in more than 35 nations around the world.

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Money Talk

By Joy Headley

Q. How much is enough when it comes to buying things I want?

A. Wondering how much is enough is a great question to ask. The advertising world is constantly promoting things we never even knew we needed. We are fed a steady diet of discontentment, so we will be motivated to buy and consume more and more, even if we cannot afford it. But one of the great freedoms in life is learning to spend less so we can give more, save more and live debt-free, which is the biblical view of how we should relate to money. This concept is difficult with all the pressure to acquire more things. However, when we learn to live life by godly principles and values we discover that God will bless us abundantly.

When determining “How much is enough,” it is helpful to have some guidelines in place to keep from becoming a prisoner of materialism.

First, we need to recognize the difference between a blessing from God and a greedy spirit.

Second, we need to take the time to consider the level we want to achieve as generous givers. When we tithe that 10 percent, it should just be the start of our giving to God. As a New Testament believer, is it in our heart to support the mission of the Church, to give to the poor and to send others to share the Gospel? If we spend all that we make, we will not be able to be a generous giver.

One guideline we follow in our home is to ask ourselves three questions before we make any purchase:

- 1. Do we need it?
- 2. Can we afford it (pay cash)?
- 3. Is it a good value (bargain)?

Often we do not get past the first question. If we really don’t need it, then we may already have enough. We can also limit the amount of money we spend on recreation, leisure and eating out. Some couples set a limit on their date nights so they seek out fun things to do that are inexpensive or even free! There are many fun ways to save money. For example, renting a movie for \$1 is cheaper than spending \$16 at the movie theater; going out for dessert or ice cream is a more frugal choice than eating out the entire meal.

As we begin to think through our spending habits, we will be amazed that we often have more than we realize! When we spend less than we make, we have more to give, more to save and more peace of mind—and that’s priceless!

Remember, Jesus admonished us to, “Seek first the kingdom of God . . . and all these things will be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33). Consider that this may be spiritual or material blessings He desires to pour out upon us.

Joy Headley, along with her husband Gregg are pastors at Gospel Lighthouse Church in Dallas. Together they teach Ministry Ethics and Financial Freedom at Christ For The Nations Institute.

Question



Answer

{ 11TH HOUR } THE EARTHQUAKE SIGN

By Dr. Rod Groomer, Gordon Lindsay had this to say about one of the signs of the last days, “Jesus said there would be earthquakes in various places. The tremendous increase of this terrestrial phenomenon would indicate the world is drawing near to the vortex of a great dispensational crisis.” Gordon was referring to Jesus’ words about the Eleventh Hour that are found in Luke 21:11: “And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.”

Gordon wrote about the “great dispensational crisis” that we see the world experiencing in greater degrees. The word dispensation is defined as “a general state or ordering of things; specifically: a system of revealed commands and promises regulating human affairs.” Gordon was referring to the theological concept of the Dispensation of Grace; Christ Jesus’ salvation and mercy being offered to humanity until that dispensation concludes with His Second Coming.

In Gordon’s writings, from decades past, he had the foresight to see the relevant statistics of his time concerning earthquakes and their destruction. His focus was that there would be an increase of human crisis due to earthquakes around the world in the dispensation of time that we presently live in.

It’s hard to tell when researching information about earthquakes if seismic activity is increasing or whether we are just detecting them with greater accuracy through modern electronic means. Nevertheless, it is easy to see that earthquakes are making the news headlines with greater frequency. It is my personal opinion that we are experiencing an increase in earthquake awareness due to the electronic monitoring equipment that is installed in various parts of the world. Oddly enough, in the last few weeks there were several small earthquakes just south of the Dallas Metro area. In the local newspaper, the Red Oak Record, an article from February 28th edition stated that this county had never had a recorded earthquake since the U.S. Geological Survey, National Information Earthquake Center started recording earthquakes over 100 years ago. Perhaps they are increasing.

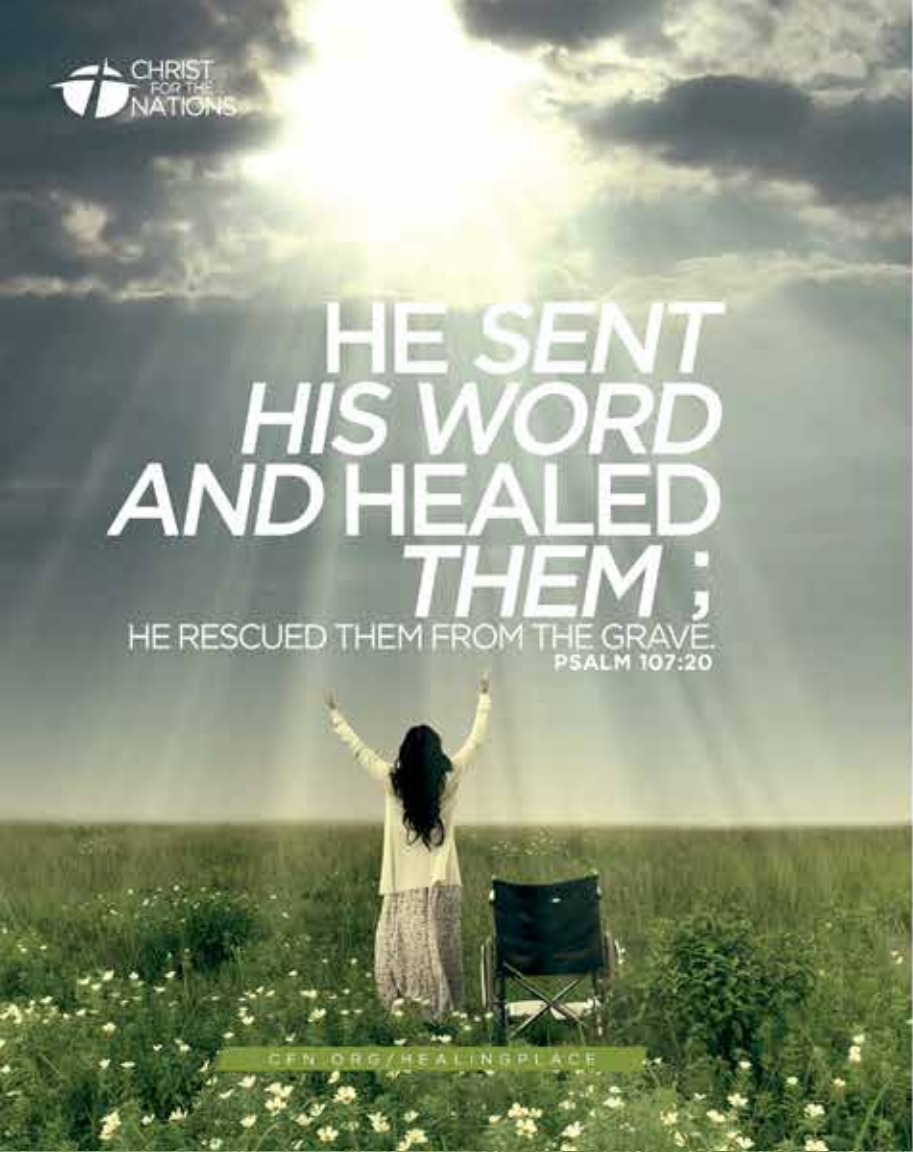
It’s not the thought of earthquakes increasing in the last days that is prophetic; Jesus didn’t say that earthquakes would increase, but that there would be great earthquakes. You can interpret Jesus’ words to indicate that there would be great destruction to the world’s population.

In a recent San Francisco Chronicle online article, science editor David Perlman states, “With populations growing in the world’s earthquake-prone regions, catastrophic quakes will kill more people during this century than ever before, scientists at the U.S. Geological Survey warn.”

The article goes on to describe the predicted increase of destruction.

“Thomas L. Holzer, an engineering geologist at the survey’s Menlo Park offices, and James Savage, a retired survey seismologist, estimates that 21 earthquakes with death tolls greater than 50,000—the kind they term “catastrophic”—will occur around the world before the end of this Century, while only seven such killer quakes were recorded during the 20th century. “. . . Earthquake fatalities around the world will reach at least 3.5 million in the 21st century—more than double the 1.5 million in the 20th century, the scientists forecast. . . . There is no question that we are currently seeing a rapid increase in the number of catastrophes from earthquakes,” said Richard Allen, director of UC Berkeley’s Earthquake Engineering Laboratory, who was not involved in the study. “Therefore, we should not be complacent about the earthquake risks we face in the coming decades and ensure that we are taking reasonable actions to push back on the increasing trend in the number of fatalities.”

We’re in the Eleventh Hour before Jesus Christ’s Second Coming. We need to be active with the Gospel and also prepare to help victims with humanitarian aid and Christ’s love before this dispensation concludes.



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THE POWER OF A SEED

by Mike Massa

We must persist, as the faith-filled saints before us did, receive the “logos-seed” of the Father’s heart, and allow it to die in us for the sake of bearing fruit in the next generation.

Do you ever enjoy eating seedless fruit, like watermelons or oranges?

Seedless fruit was created by scientists who removed the fruit’s seed-producing power. If you will, men’s hands are involved in developing a sweeter taste for us. Today, we have this same scenerio where we so often crave a “seedless” Christian message. Seedless sermons are sweeter and “go down” easier. They, too, have men’s hands on them to “taste” better.

Jesus told a story in Mark 4 about a farmer planting seeds that didn’t produce their intended crop. He was using the idea of farming to speak to us about the properties of seeds. However, the seed He literally referred to is the *logos*, the Word of God. The *logos* is actually a seed with the ability, if tended to properly, to produce fruit in successive generations, just like seeds planted in soil.

In considering this story in Mark 4, we should notice that the very substance and purpose of a seed is for growth and reproduction. Good soil produces fruit with seeds in it.

Do you see the correlation between seedless fruit and the parable about the farmer who planted seeds that didn’t produce their intended crop? The Divine Sower desires seeds that go into the good ground of our hearts to die.

“Listen carefully: unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, it’s never any more than a grain of wheat. But, if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. In the same way, anyone who holds on to life just as it is, destroys that life ...” (John 12:24-25, *The Message*).

Well-known speaker and author, Dennis Peacocke, made a succinct statement about giving watered-down messages to what should be the next generation of leaders we’re sowing into. *“God moves most powerfully in one generation when they make their priority the next generation,”* he said.

The word legacy is derived from the same root as *logos*. When Jesus sows His *logos* into you, He is seeking to launch a legacy through your life. Legacy is the substance of a living reality, bequeathed from one generation to the next. That legacy could be money, land or honor. Conversely, it could be shame, fear or addictions. Either way, our biological and spiritual legacy began before our birth. That generational inertia had already begun before we came onto the scene.

But even if that legacy is flawed (and all of us have a defiled legacy from Adam), Jesus came to liberate us from the “*vain manner of life inherited from our forefathers*” (1 Peter 1:18), by His blood. Jesus spoke His word into us in order to bring us out of the “*house of bondage*” just like He delivered Israel out of Egypt.

God’s grace includes for us to partake in something He began in the faith-filled saints preceding all of us—all the way from Abraham to more recent pioneers like Gordon and Freda Lindsay. We must persist, as the faith-filled saints before us did, and receive the “*logos-seed*” of our Father’s heart, allowing it to die in us for the sake of bearing fruit in the next generation.

We must not be afraid of the future as the Israelites were when first seeing Canaan (Numbers 14:31). Instead, we can hear the “*seed*” and obey the heavenly Sower, die to whatever He requires us to die to, and then see His fruit grow into the next group of Jesus-lovers. We could be approved as “*Calebs*” that go with them to tackle the giants of our culture as the Lord’s Kingdom legacy advances in the nations.

I like what Christ For The Nations Director, Dutch Sheets, said recently, *“If your eschatology does not permit you to hope for some degree of success from the Gospel in the nations before the Lord comes back, instead of speaking against us, could you at least root for us, as we seek to tackle the giants of our cultural Canaan?”*

Keep in mind, *“He will bring justice to victory, and in His name the nations will trust”* (Matthew 12:20).

Let’s all step into the momentum of His legacy, and see what the Lord might do in and through us! As we continue to dine on the true, life-giving Words of Scripture, we will grow the Father’s heart inside of us and be a people who produces a legacy that remains. This is what will be required to ultimately reap the harvest that is promised in His Word. 🌱

▲ *Michael Massa has served as a pastor in the Dallas area for over 30 years and is a current professor and alumnus of Christ For The Nations Bible Institute, Dallas, TX. Michael and his wife, Nancy, have four children and reside in the Dallas area.*

WHO’S BUILDING UNDER YOUR HOUSE?

by Dennis Peacocke

{ The foundational principles of any human institution, culture, or nation, are the most important thing for the leaders to both teach, re-enforce and defend. If the foundations are weakened or destroyed, all that rests upon them collapses and must be rebuilt. We live in such an historical moment when the very foundations of Western culture as we have known them are at risk. While many could argue what exactly those most critical foundational principles are, I would like to bring seven of them forward. }

1 Strong cultures have a clear hierarchy of values that hold the majority of citizens together. If the culture or the nation is unclear about their hierarchy of core values or principles, the nation will fracture, the people will be confused, and all existing social structuring will move into decay.

3 If the gifted and innovators of the culture are de-energized by prohibitive taxation, severe social disapproval, or used as a scapegoat for their “unfair” success, the loss of their creative energy will stall the entire culture and send it into steady decline.

5 Focus on the “rights” of the general population and minimize individual’s personal responsibilities, and you will create an entitlement-based culture that fragments into warring factions. Personal responsibility promotes the building of character and culture.

7 The culture’s philosophy of power is the single most important determinant of where it is going. If power is a position sought for personal advantage rather than to serve and empower the well-being of others, only those who are least qualified to have power will overwhelmingly have it. Power doesn’t corrupt; it reveals one’s true motives.

2 The family unit is the basic training place for socialization skills in any nation. If the family is broken, dysfunctional or at odds with the core values of the surrounding culture, it will produce marginalized people.

4 That which is owned by everybody is actually not owned by anyone. Private responsibility will, in the long run, always trump collective ownership.

6 A well-informed public that manifests local community involvement is the clearest sign of a healthy political culture. When a nation focuses on centralism, it is headed for widespread political and social apathy.

So who and what is digging under your house and your life? How many of these seven issues are you clear on in terms of their truth or lack thereof? What are you doing to promote the ones you believe in, rather than “just believing in them?” I both hear and see those digging around my house and am motivated to change it. Strategic action is always the bottom line.

Dennis Peacocke is the Founder and President of Strategic Christian Services, a leadership organization dedicated to demonstrating the relevance of Christianity to every area of contemporary life. An accomplished speaker and communicator, he has authored four books: *Winning the Battle for the Minds of Men*, *Doing Business God’s Way*, *The Emperor Has No Clothes: Commentaries by Dennis Peacocke*, and *On the Destiny of Nations*. This article was reprinted with permission. Copyright Strategic Christian Services. Visit GoStrategic.org.

TERRORISM IN CHURCH

by Scott Hinkle

Since 9/11, the word "terrorism" has new meaning for us all. An evil plot, spawned in the mind of a treacherous enemy, has changed the way Americans live. The aim of the terrorists has been to bring down the wonderful freedom we all enjoy in this country.

Yet, are we aware that "terrorism" is assaulting the Church—in the form of a hellish offensive by "anti-evangelism terrorists" to stop us

from taking the love of God to others and to stifle our passion for His mission?

I've identified at least five of the "Most Wanted" of these "terrorists" roaming the Body of Christ in this time. They aren't the flesh-and-blood type; but if you're a follower of Jesus, you're one of their targets.

1. BLINDNESS

"Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18, KJV). This means that a Christian, a Church, or a ministry without a vision to bring people to Christ will stand by and watch them perish. That is a bone-chilling thought. This is not a contemporary religious issue. Jesus addressed it with those closest to Him—His disciples. Whether we call them His "leadership team" or His "associate ministers," it was to those He knew the best who remained spiritually blind that He said: *"Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest"* (John 4:35).

What is a "vision" for the harvest? It's not an emotion. It starts with making God's heart our heart (2 Peter 3:9). Then we should order our lives like we believe Jesus' heart is ours. If you've lost this vision, ask Jesus to open your eyes to see the harvest. Expose yourself to solid evangelism training and ministry. Put the Gospel to work by actively sharing it.

2. DECEPTION

Often I hear Christians say, "Evangelism is not my ministry, my gift, my calling, my anointing." What a lie. Sharing Christ is not a ministry reserved for the super-brave. It is for every Christian, regardless of their ministry gift, temperament, or age.

You are never too old or young to be used by the Holy Spirit. There is no biological clock that dictates when God cannot use you. Feeling shy, quiet or inadequate is a smoke screen to divert you from fulfilling God's desire for your life: *"Not that we are sufficient of ourselves...but our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant"* (2 Corinthians 3:4-6).

4. APATHY

This means we simply do not care, period. It may be the most lethal anti-evangelism force we face. Life's circumstances, our own blessings, our words or the words of others, faulty teaching, or something else has turned our eyes and our hearts away from the harvest right in front of our eyes. Scripture brings some pretty stiff reproof for apathy. *"A curse on him who is lax in doing the Lord's work"* (Jeremiah 48:10). Ouch!

Too often I hear, *"I used to do evangelism."* May I ask what happened? Whatever the reason, return to your first love and do the things you did at first—like telling others about Jesus. God wants you to "never be lacking in zeal" in serving the Lord (Romans 12:11).

3. FEAR

This makes us think someone will be offended or that we will be rejected if we share the Gospel. It's a strategy that has locked up many gifted believers from finding great joy in leading others to Jesus.

The Bible says, *"Fear not, for I have redeemed you"* (Isaiah 43:1) and that *"perfect love casts out fear"* (1 John 4:18). With the God who is love, dwelling in our hearts, we are capable of stopping this work of the enemy cold.

5. IGNORANCE

Some of us just don't know how to share the Gospel. Usually, those who make the learning process long and drawn out do not witness very often. It takes longer to study than to do.

It is my guess that "the sleeping Church" has often forfeited the unbeliever as its inheritance because it has complicated the process of reaching the untouched.

Let's halt the activity of these anti-evangelism agents. Sharing Christ isn't just for the super-brave. Jesus' mission is for all of us to preach the Gospel. He's given us a sure promise to enable us to bring in the harvest: *"No weapon formed against you shall prosper"* (Isaiah 54:17).

Scott Hinkle is founder of Scott Hinkle Outreach Ministries in Frisco, Texas. A veteran evangelist, he regularly leads street ministry teams during Mardi Gras and other major events. He also sponsors evangelism training conferences. For more information, visit his website at www.scotthinkle.org.

WHAT TO PRAY FOR ISRAEL?

by Brittni Rummell

Have you ever wondered how you might pray more specifically for Israel? Here are some specific ways that you can pray.

1. PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee" (Psalm 122:6).

Jerusalem is the only city in the Bible we are specifically told to pray for. It's the heart of God and the most fought over location in the world. To whom does Jerusalem belong? It's the capital of Israel, the Jewish nation, established by King David over 3,000 years ago. But the Palestinians also claim Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state. The city is considered to be the third-holiest city in Islam (next to Mecca and Medina), home of the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The Jews say it belongs to Israel. The Arabs say it belongs to Islam. But God says its the eternal and undivided capital of the Jewish people and the location where the "Mashiach" (Messiah) will return to set up His Kingdom on Earth—the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21).

When Jesus comes back to Earth, He is heading straight to Israel, to Jerusalem in particular.

2. PRAY FOR THE IDF - ISRAELI DEFENSE FORCES

Not only should we pray for the peace of Jerusalem, but for the protection and salvation of the entire nation. If you haven't watched the news lately, there's some really "friendly" people living in Gaza known as Hamas, who seem pretty passionate about wiping Israel off the map. Hamas is a terrorist organization who is mainly responsible for the daily rockets that are launched into Israel, targeting Israeli cities, and at times, hitting Palestinians territories in the process. Imagine raising your kids where hiding in bomb shelters is the norm.

Just recently, Israel celebrated Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day) where the nation pauses to remember their fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism. The following day they turned from mourning to celebration for Yom HaAtzmaut (Israeli Independence Day) and wished Israel a "Happy 65th Birthday!" We have HaShem and the IDF to thank for this.

Sixty-five years, and many more to come!

Pray for protection over Israel's soldiers, that HaShem will have His hand upon them. Pray for strength to defend their country and for Yeshua's peace to reign in their hearts. Pray that they will be able to focus and think clearly in the midst of war and crisis, and pray that they will only advance in their endeavors and grow stronger than the year before.

3. PRAY FOR THE SALVATION OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE

In Romans 10:1, Rav Sha'ul, the apostle Paul, said that it was his heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel that they may be saved. He would give up his own salvation and be cut off from his people, if it meant Israel's salvation (Romans 9:3). Gentile believers should feel the same. Because of them, we have salvation. For salvation is from the Jews (John 4:22).

In Genesis 12:3, the Lord says that whoever blesses the people of Israel, He will bless. And whoever curses the people of Israel, He will curse. Just throwing that out there, Ahmadinejad.

As Gentile believers, we are to provoke the Jewish people into jealousy over the Messiah (Romans 11:11). A common response from the Jewish people when sharing the Gospel with them is, *"Leave me alone, I'm Jewish!"* and to which I reply, *"Well, then can you teach me? This whole thing is pretty Jewish. Jesus is Jewish, and I'm trying my best to follow him."* All of a sudden you've got their attention.

The Bible says that when Israel proclaims faith in Yeshua, He will return! (Romans 11:26-27).

There are some churches today who teach that Israel has been replaced by the Church, and they are now the chosen people of God. Such a view is false. This theory is also known as *"supersessionism"* or more commonly referred to as *"Replacement Theology."* It is anti-Semitic.

But according to the Bible, the Jews are STILL the chosen people of God, and the apple of His eye! Read Romans 9-11 for Israel's rejection of the Gospel, how the Gentile believers are *"grafted in"* and how God still has a plan for Israel.

There's also the argument that because the Jews are God's chosen people, they are automatically saved and Jesus is only for the gentiles. But John 14:6 says, *"And Jesus said to them, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"* He's referring to both Jews and Gentiles.

Not believing in Jesus doesn't send you to hell. Your sin sends you to hell. It is not His desire for anyone to perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16).

Brittni Rummell is a Christ For The Nations Student and Social Media Networker at Zola Levitt Ministries. You can follow Brittni on twitter at @Brittni_Rummell.

Would you like to visit the Holy Land and have the Bible come alive? Join Christ For The Nations annual tour, hosted by Dennis and Ginger Lindsay each spring. For information visit CFN.org.



by Bethany Bomberger

THE REAL STORY OF ROE VS. WADE

"I could out-cuss the most crass of men and women; I could out-drink many of the Dallas taverns' regulars; and I was known for my hot temper. When (some) pro-lifers called me a murderer, I called them worse. When people held up signs...I spit in their face...Though I had never had one, abortion was the sun around which my life orbited."

These colorful words paint an immediate picture of the heart of the plaintiff in the infamous Roe v. Wade case—before her conversion. Norma, dubbed "Jane Roe," was pregnant in 1969 with her third child. Having been unfaithful in her same-sex relationship, she falsely asserted that she was raped. Unable to have a legal abortion, she agreed to be represented by lawyers who would fight tooth and nail to legalize an abortion for her. Well, Norma gave birth and placed her child for adoption.

Even so, on January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court ruled in Roe's favor. That fateful day changed the face of America and legalized abortion through the seventh month of pregnancy. Within years of the ruling, God got a hold of Norma's heart and she now runs a ministry called Roe No More. She is believing to see Roe v. Wade overturned in her lifetime.

Many people don't realize that on the very same day that Roe v. Wade was decided, the Supreme Court also ruled on Doe v. Bolton. This ruling essentially legalized partial-birth abortion through the ninth month. The plaintiff, 22 year old Sandra Cano (dubbed "Mary Doe"), claimed she was lied to by

lawyers and sought an appeal based on the fact that she never wanted an abortion. She was denied and Doe v. Bolton's ruling remained law.

So, here we are. January, 2013. Forty years since these rulings.

Statistics say approximately 54 million plus abortions have been performed since 1973. The poverty rate for women is at 15.5 percent – the highest it has ever been since the U.S. Census Bureau started tracking. The percentage of unintended pregnancies hasn't budged from 49 percent. The amount of children born into fatherless homes is 42 percent. STDs are at an all-time high. I could go on.

Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton were based on lies. Abortion, as a solution to poverty, is obviously a lie. Abortion, as a means of freedom and healthy family planning (reducing unintended pregnancies), is also a lie.

What is true, my friends, is that Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion chain, has a billion dollar budget and profits significantly from abortion. Death has become our culture's birth control. And we have missed out on 54 million incredible people who could have been great moms, sisters, brothers or fathers . . . some may have even found cures for cancer, AIDS and accomplished other great things.

Looking at these staggering statistics makes me vow to live my life fighting for the abolition of abortion and the industry that

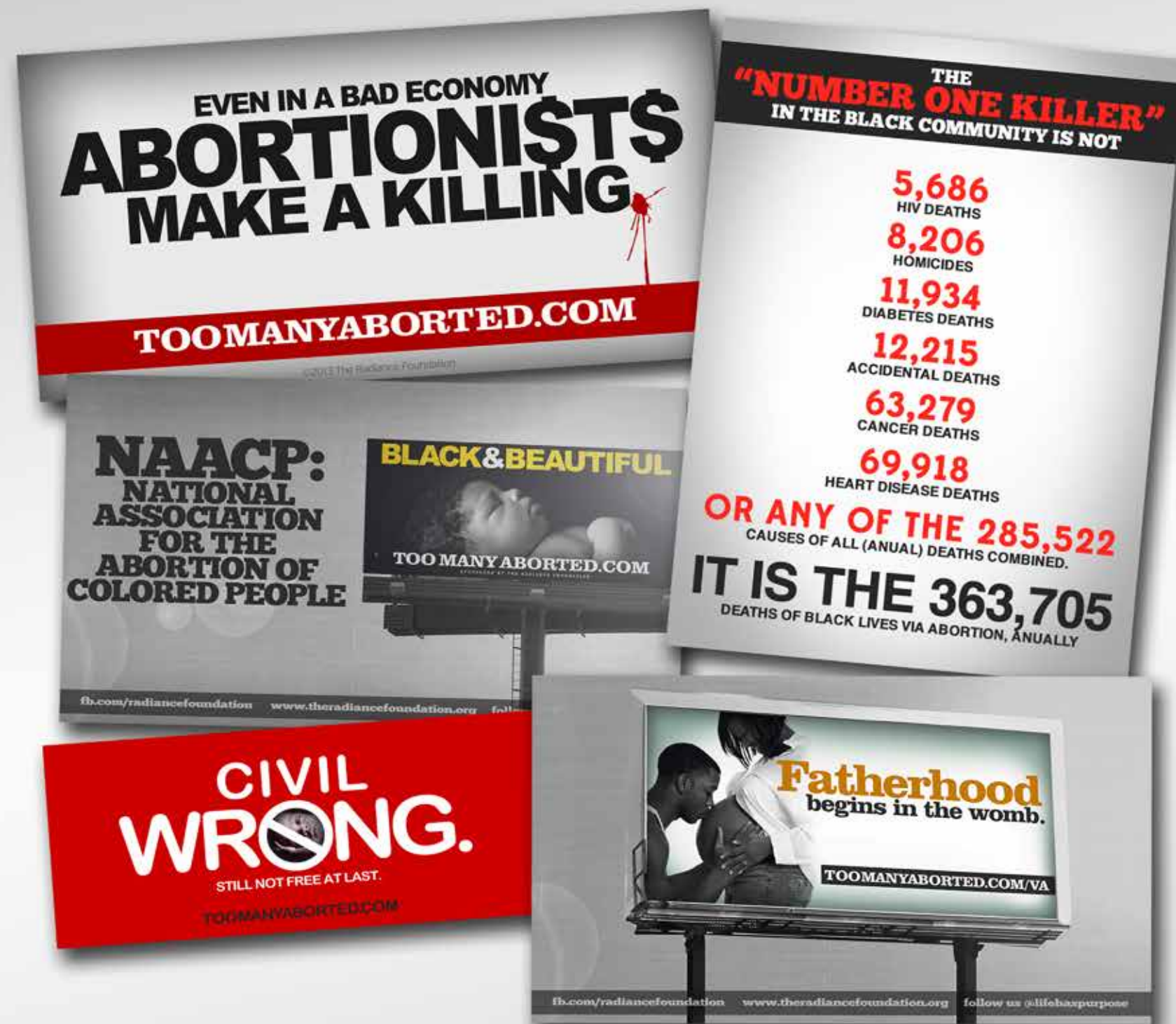
profits from it. I vow to advocate for the life-affirming solutions of parenting and adoption.

Having faced an unplanned pregnancy and lived life as a single mom myself, I know the motivating fear women face. I know the tears. I know the stress. I do. But I also know that human triumph is how we roll! We outdo ourselves all the time. We find the strength to make amazing decisions and we grow from them. We can do this when we realize the absolute supernatural power of a God who IS love (1 John 4:8). He loves us more than we can ever know. He forgives us more times than we can even count. He IS the true answer to all of our problems.

So, as I reflect on 40 years of Roe v. Wade, I choose to celebrate the God who forgave "Roe" and empowered "Doe." The Pharisees may have said these women were beyond redemption. But the God who created them spoke truth into their hearts and changed their lives forever.

He is the same God who forgives me repeatedly and gives me hope beyond my wildest dreams. Make a decision today. Stand for TRUTH. Let the God of love and hope wash over you with His Presence. You too will find that, with God, all things are possible.

Note: If you are pregnant and need help, or post abortive and looking for support, there are people who care. Find them at <http://www.toomanyaborted.com/help>.



THE RADIANCE FOUNDATION



PRAY FOR LIFE

THE RADIANCE FOUNDATION

In September 2009, Ryan and Bethany Bomberger took a leap of faith. Ryan left his full-time job to follow the dream God had placed in the couple's heart of establishing The Radiance Foundation (TRF). With kids in tow, determination and a lot of prayer, The Bombergers co-founded this unique life-affirming organization that addresses a myriad of social issues in the context of God-given purpose. In only a few short years, God has blessed their obedience.

Ryan is an Emmy Award-winning creative professional and Bethany is an educator. Together, they create original ad campaigns, powerful multi-media presentations, and run community outreaches. They take a bold stand on issues such as abortion, adoption, race relations, pop culture and poverty. Their well-researched approach (examining issues from a statistical and historical perspective) coupled with evocative messaging makes their campaigns effective. *"We have a passion to see lives transformed so we have to delve deep and speak truth. Truth is bold. It rarely conforms to the popular vote,"* says Bethany. *"But it is the standard by which we must weigh all of our decisions . . . we have to search it out and give it a voice."*

And give it a voice, they do. They have been able to reach millions. One of the most publicized campaigns, TooManyAborted.com, highlights the disproportionate impact of abortion on the black community – the result of very intentional racial targeting. Only hours after TooManyAborted.com's initial launch in 2010, the campaign garnered a media firestorm. Coverage from CNN, USA Today, Yahoo! News, MSNBC, NY Times, LA Times, JET, NPR, BET, ABC World News, Charisma, ChristianPost, the AP, and Fox News opened up a national conversation about the current abortion crisis in America. In response to their work, Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion chain, hired a new African-American Director of Media and held two national conferences to combat the campaign. Pro-abortion groups, such as SisterSong (funded by the multi-billion dollar Ford Foundation), the ACLU, and the NAACP vehemently opposed TRF's efforts. But that has never stopped TRF from following the Ephesians 5:11 mandate and exposing the fruitless deeds of darkness.

"Abortion is the antithesis to Purpose," Ryan says emphatically. *"We have to expose it for the injustice and destructive force that it is. Black babies are aborted up to six times more than those in the majority population. At the same time, we extend compassion to post-abortive women. Many of whom have been misled into thinking abortion is freedom."*

"ADOPTION IS A REFLECTION OF GOD'S HEART FOR HIS CREATION"

While TRF has such strong convictions about the abortion industry's destruction, the organization wholeheartedly advocates for the life-affirming options of parenting and adoption. TRF encourages and empowers parents with supportive discussions like *Changing the World One Diaper at a Time* and promoting powerful parenting.

Ryan (an adoptee) and Bethany Bomberger are adoptive parents. They know firsthand that adoption is a reflection of God's heart for His creation. Without adoption there would be no salvation. TRF has been able to educate many on the beauty of adoption through AdoptedandLoved.com – a series of videos highlighting adoptees and their stories of finding permanence and love in their forever families.

In addition, they celebrate adoption by cherishing birth moms who make the courageous decision to place their child for adoption.

The Sally's Lambs® outreach partners with birthmom caseworkers and liaisons to help meet the needs of birthmoms. This effort is close to Bethany's heart as she found herself single, pregnant and facing many of the same fears. Although Bethany parented her daughter, she knows the need for peace and fortitude a mom facing an unplanned pregnancy needs. John 14:27, *"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid"* is the cornerstone verse for Sally's Lambs®. Through maternity clothing

drives, unique gift boxes, financial assistance and spiritual support, the vision of the program is becoming a reality across the nation.

The Bombergers' desire to see hearts and minds changed by a loving and forgiving God comes from a very personal place. Ryan was 13 when he learned of the reasons behind his own adoption. His biological mother had been raped, yet courageously chose to continue the pregnancy and gave him life. He was adopted as a baby and brought up in a loving, multi-racial Christian family of 15. With siblings of varying ethnicities (nine others were adopted), he grew up with a great appreciation for diversity. As God's purpose for his life began to take shape, Ryan was empowered to share his personal testimony. His life truly defies the myth of the "unwanted" child as he was adopted, loved and has flourished.

The Bombergers believe they were "born to do" the work they are doing through TRF. *"We know how the revelation of Truth has transformed our own lives, and we'll never be the same,"* Bethany reflects. *"We'll never stop proclaiming the truth, in love, and watch as it sets others free!"*

As the nation's moral compass spins out of control, The Radiance

Foundation remains fixed in pointing their audiences to the Truth. Check out TheRadianceFoundation.org to join with them as they illuminate, educate and motivate.



Ryan Bomberger, an adoptee, with his multi-racial Christian family growing up.

TOP LEFT: Ryan today, fighting for justice for the unborn, often speaks before political leaders and with national news media.



Ryan and Bethany Bomberger with their beautiful family today. Bethany and Ryan co-founded The Radiance Foundation in 2009.

Prayer Points:

1. Favor with current court case vs. NAACP.
2. Safety and Protection as TRF brings truth to colleges, universities and conferences across the country.
3. An abundance of creativity and resources to continue effective messaging.

Practical ways you can get involved.

1. Educate yourself.

Understanding social issues is crucial. Take time to read TRF news and website resources to become better informed.

2. Pray.

Your prayer support in the most effective way we can combat the hold the enemy has over hearts and minds.

3. Volunteer.

Find a local pregnancy care center and get involved.

4. Involve your church.

Encourage your church leaders to take a stand about the issue of abortion and support life-affirming alternatives of parenting and adoption.

5. Financial support.

Help support TRF and other prolife organizations to continue the work God has allowed them to do.

Current Radiance Foundation Projects:

- TheRadianceFoundation.org/events for current multi-media presentations across the country.
- Too Many Aborted Billboard Campaigns
- Sally's Lambs® Outreach
- AdoptedandLoved.com Initiative

To learn more about The Radiance Foundation or get involved, visit TheRadianceFoundation.org.

Freedom after loss



by Nina Joundi

I guess to know how I got here, you need to know where I've been.

I was raised in a Hispanic Catholic family who attended, well, we were *dragged* to church every Sunday by Mom. I knew who Jesus was, I just did not know Him personally. My family fell apart on Halloween 1994 when I caught my dad in an adulterous affair. This event bred great anger in my heart; I just did not understand how he could do this to my mom. Everything I believed in and understood about my dad and my family was a lie. How could he hurt us like this?

The following year, I met a young man who was going to "rescue" me from the place I was in. I finally had someone whom I could share all of my feelings with. We were both virgins and prided ourselves on that fact. But after a night of *"one little drink won't hurt"* with friends, we slept together. We were both so disappointed in ourselves. Two months later, I found that I was pregnant. I thought, *"PREGNANT? But we were only together once!"*

The devil was setting me up to fail. A series of events took place that led me straight into the devil's den and ended in an abortion.

After the abortion, I immediately was enticed by drugs and alcohol. I wanted anything to numb the pain, shame and sadness. Of course, it was only

a temporary fix. I fell into a deep depression. All of my friends would ask me what was wrong and where was their *"old friend Nina?"* I couldn't answer that question. My relationship with my boyfriend unraveled and ended after three crazy years of abuse and blame. Not long after the break-up, I found that he had been cheating on me with my best friend. Another disappointment.

I had had enough. I went to college and went wild. I became promiscuous easily while intoxicated. I began using and selling drugs. Marijuana led to cocaine, which led to crystal meth. I truly have a span of months that I do not remember. Only by the grace of God did I not kill myself or someone else. And only by His grace did I graduate from college.

I moved home in search of a desperately needed new beginning. Then in 2006, I met Jesus. He came into my world and immediately delivered me from drugs and alcohol. It was so unbelievable to me how in an instant the desire could just leave. I married my amazing husband and started school at Christ For The Nations the same year. God began a deep work in me. My second year, I had an encounter with God in my living room. I was crying out to him for freedom from my abortion. The next thing I knew, I was on the floor. God asked me,

"Is Jesus' blood enough? Is His blood not enough?" And I realized that it was. He set me free right there!! I had an Isaiah 61 moment:

"He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound . . . To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified" (Isiah 61:1-3).

This was the beginning of my process. God showed me that day a toy tree house/dollhouse that I had as a child. My dad put it together, but the elevator crank never worked on it. We had to use our finger to push it up and down. God said, *"It looks perfect on the outside, but does not function the way the manufacturer intended."*

Wow! Next, I saw the tree house totally disassembled. The Lord placed the owner's manual in my hand and said, *"Use this to build it."* As He lifted His hand off of the book, I saw it was the Bible. It was the owner's manual to my life! All the instruction I needed to rebuild was inside this marvelous book. The Lord began to help me set a foundation that I never had before. He began to clean out each room of the house. He did not do it all at once. I have rebuilt my "tree house" with God's help.

My life does require maintenance and cleaning on a regular basis. This rebuilding happened over a two-year span. I met with Dr. Carol Thompson, an instructor at CFNI specializing in deliverance ministry; everytime we talked, God would reveal a new area where I needed healing and deliverance. When another problem area would be revealed, it would frustrate me, but God reminded me:

"When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest: and finding none, he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it swept and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first" (Luke 11:2).

God was protecting me. He made sure I was ready to deal with each issue. He made sure I had a firm foundation to be free in that area. He did not want me to be worse off than I was before. It started with breaking generational curses, then deliverance from a spirit of rejection, and a whole lot in between. Thank God for our fathers and mothers in the faith. Dr. Thompson taught me how to breakthrough and claim the freedom that Christ died for me. I think the most beautiful thing about me is my freedom. **My name is Nina and I am beautiful.**

Nina's story was also featured as part of the I Am Beautiful project, a website dedicated to redefining personal beauty. For more stories visit www.WholsBeautiful.org.

Photo by Anna Bowman

FROM DREAM TO DESTINY

By Olena Ogiozee

Little Gabe was a big dreamer. After watching preachers on Christian TV when he was 4-years-old, he told his mother that he would preach the Gospel all over the world. He lined up his toys and stuffed animals at the edge of his bed to preach to them. When telling his story today, Gabe waves his hand to show how he hit the toys to fall under the power of God: *“As if they got slain in the Holy Ghost,”* he explains with a smile.

Was it because he grew up in a strong Christian home that upheld godly values and lovingly nurtured such dreams? Quite the contrary, Gabe says, *“My dream was totally out of context with my background.”* He grew up in Albuquerque, NM, with a heroin addict father who was involved in violent street gangs. Gabe’s mother got saved (converted to Christ) when he was really young by going to Charismatic Bible studies. *“This is where I was introduced to Jesus and Christianity,”* Gabe explains.

But things at home were getting worse. Throughout his childhood, Gabe’s dad was in and out of prison. His parents divorced when Gabe was 6-years-old. The family was forced to move out of his grandmother’s house. *“We became homeless. We spent one whole holiday season in homeless shelters from Thanksgiving through the New Year all the way until Easter . . . That was an interesting Christmas when you are in the homeless shelter,”* Gabe recalls. Staying true to her Catholic upbringing where you always attend Mass, Gabe’s mother took him and his younger brother to church every Sunday. But there was no genuine change: *“We showed up on Sunday and left right away,”* he explains.

When Gabe was 8, his dad was sentenced to 22 years in prison—a sentence he is still serving today. His mother also got involved with drugs and nearly lost custody of her children. When Gabe was 9, his mother remarried. *“He [the stepfather] was a gang*

member as well, a heroine addict and very violent,” Gabe says. *“But because that was the only identity and security I saw, I wanted to be just like him. They seemed powerful. They commanded respect when they walked into a room.”* Gabe also started getting into a lot of trouble and acting out violently.

This pattern continued into his teenage years. But when Gabe was 13, he was invited to church again. *“I went to church and people just loved on me,”* Gabe says. They took him to the mall to buy new school clothes. *“The drug addiction at home got so bad that everything we ever owned was always being stolen or sold for drug money,”* Gabe explains. *“I had never had clothes straight from the store to my body. Ever. They were always hand-me-downs from somebody else.”*

This kindness was enough for the youngster to take church seriously. *“I am going to listen to what these people say,”* he decided. That same year, the youth group paid for Gabe to go to YFN, Christ For The Nations Institute’s (CFNI) youth camp.

“I was an angry little kid sitting in the auditorium,” Gabe recalls, *“when the guest speaker, Benny Perez, called me out and prophesied over me. It was all the same words that I used to dream of when I was 4-years-old. So the dream recaptured my heart again.”*

Gabe’s life was never the same after that. He became a small group leader and a youth leader at his Family Worship Center church in Albuquerque. *“Right at 14, they let me preach at my first youth service,”* Gabe says. *“My youth pastor should have probably never done that,”* he adds with a laugh.

From then on, his dream just kept unfolding. Gabe went to Spain, Morocco, Costa Rica,

Ghana and Liberia on missions trips. *“I became completely sold out for Jesus. I preached the Gospel constantly, in school or no matter where I was.”* Gabe glances at the beautiful blonde sitting next to him at the table. *“This is how I met Dominique when I was 18.”*

Dominique came out of a similar background and was serving as a small group leader at a neighboring church. Gabe jokes, *“It was an International House of Pancakes—not House of Prayer—where I got to hear her story.”* Dominique’s mother was also a drug addict, so she and her three siblings were raised by her father. *“She was so passionate for Jesus that it was very attractive to me. We became best friends, started dating and began praying for our families together.”*

On October 3, 2009, the couple got married. Their prayers were not in vain. By January 2010, they were able to testify in church with many members of their families, parents, siblings, nephews, nieces and cousins who have

Body President.”

Through it all, Gabe knows that he did nothing special. *“We loved God, and He did it. All I want my story to say is that He can do it with you too.”* He



From left: Gabe, Gabe’s father, and Gabe’s brother

“If you trust God and do not quit, He can pluck you out of any rough and see the diamond in you.”

adds, *“If you trust God and do not quit, He can pluck you out of any rough and see the diamond in you.”*

Gabe and Dominique know that their life is already a miracle. Dominique

passionately adds, *“Of course, it’s only going to get greater from now on!”* The couple’s dream now has a destiny!

accepted Christ as Savior. Gabe is especially proud of his younger brother, who passionately loves God and is pursuing a career in Criminal Justice.

Although the couple served wholeheartedly at the local church and to their families, they felt that there was more. They always dreamed of coming to study at CFNI, but didn’t know how they could afford it. In June, 2010, Gabe got laid off. He came home and asked his wife a life-changing question: *“What does 10 years from now look like to you, with no regrets?”*

“That we went after the call of God with everything inside of us and that we went to Christ For The Nations,” Dominique answered in one breath. In January, 2011, the couple enrolled in CFNI.

Today, Dominique looks at Gabe with tears shining in her eyes as they recount everything the Lord has done over the past few years. First, they have not had to pay their school bill out of pocket throughout all five semesters: God has miraculously provided for everything. But that’s not all. Gabe says, *“I don’t want to sound cliché, but this place really gave ‘direction to our dreams.’”* He explains, *“We had a privilege of being the Evangelism Student Ministry leaders, have served on Student Council, and I am right now the Student*



Gabe preaching in Africa



Gabe’s father in prison



Hear Gabe Preach!

■ ... *children are not a blessing because they are always easy to have around...*

Zach Neese



Kids-brats or blessings?



Children are a blessing because they train our hearts for destiny and equip us for our Armageddons.

Going out to eat with six children is always an adventure, not because the children misbehave (they are good children), but because everyone seems to feel they have the right to share their opinion about the size of our family.

If you are one of the 5 percent of American Christian couples with more than two children, you have probably had some smirking witster approach you with this question: “*You do know what causes that, don’t you?*”

In fact, we know full well what causes children to be born into our family, and we are well-practiced in the procedure. Children are the fruit of attraction, intimacy, potency and passion. And whether these are found in a church or in a home, they are designed to result in reproduction. Multiplication. Childbearing.

Why is our culture so constipated about kids? Why do professional women look down their noses at us like we are exceeding our oxygen quota by spawning so many Neeselings? Do children emit greenhouse gasses? Are they consuming more than their fare share of resources? Are they inconveniences to enlightened, independent adulthood? Are they hindrances to marital happiness?

When did we become allergic to parenting? When did children stop being blessings and become obstacles to fulfilling our dreams and destinies? When did America decide that children were no longer honored guests in our homes, but unwelcome parasites in our wombs?

Once, great-grandmothers felt that God had entrusted them with children. Now, God has burdened us with brats. When did our attitudes shift?

If the typical “*large*” American family were to name their children based upon their honest feelings about them, an introduction would go something like this: “*This is my son, ‘Trophy-Child.’ My daughter, ‘Fulfilled-American-Dream.’ And this is little ‘Inconvenient-Deviation-From-Our-Plan,’ but we call him ‘Oops’ for short.*”

The Church has bought into the popular theology of politically correct family values, which is more accepting of homosexuals than children. A modern family can be a dad and mom, two dads or two moms, or any combination who

are living in perverted relationships with one another. As long as there are not more than two kids. Our perspective is screwed up! We think large families are the result of irresponsible stewardship of resources and poor reproductive planning. The biblical view of childbearing is absolutely contrary to that position. From a biblical perspective, being able to reproduce and raise children is the proof of a godly man’s power. Jacob called Reuben, his firstborn, the FIRST sign of his strength (Genesis 49:3). He went on to prove his strength 12 more times.

Interestingly, we measure God’s strength by the same standard. We all agree that God is OMNIPOTENT. The word *potent* means powerful, but it also means “*able to reproduce.*” In other words, God is all-powerful, but He is also a Father who is “*all-able-to-reproduce.*” His power is demonstrated in His creation of life and in the formation of His children into His image—the reproduction of Himself in us.

What if we are most like God when we are reproducing children and discipling them to maturity? What if our marriage best represents Christ’s relationship with His Bride when the power of our intimacy (worship) is proven by our fruitfulness (creating disciples)?

Sadly, the decline of the American Church is due in part to our negative perception of childbearing. In contrast, the global rise and spread of Islam is not due to the superiority of its religion, economics or military strength: it is due to the superiority of their potency. In our day Islam is more potent than Christianity. Not because its god is more potent, but because its people are more potent. They have embraced the inheritance of childbearing. And they are literally taking over the world through superior multiplication.

Christian couples need a paradigm shift—a return to the perspective of God.

According to Psalm 28:3 a righteous man’s wife is like a fruitful vine. Psalm 127:3-5 asserts that children are a reward from God and evidence of His blessing upon a righteous man’s life. So, here’s a perspective change: children are God’s badges of honor.

The world says that children prevent us from accomplishing our goals. God says that children are our heritage. As couples, we can forsake parenting and focus upon the transient success of our personal goals, or we can invest our lives in success that will succeed us. As for the Neeses, we believe that the only things worth doing in life are the things that will outlive us. Parenting is investing in generations of success. Our children will be greater than us. Their children will be greater than them. And our great grandchildren will prove the power of our lives as they carry on our heritage of godliness. True success is proven through succession. So here’s a second perspective change: children are God’s plan for our successes to outlive us—part of our eternal reward.

You may be thinking, “*Yes, but parenting is so hard, so expensive, so time consuming, so inconvenient.*” Well, of course it is. “*But,*” you might say, “*the Bible says that children are a blessing from God. Isn’t that a contradiction?*”

Not at all. Our confusion is in our misunderstanding of the word *blessing*. A blessing is not something God gives us to make life easy. When God blesses us, He is catalyzing destiny in our lives. A blessing pulls calling out of us. It shatters our mediocrity and sets our feet upon the path of greatness. Children bless us because, in parenting them, we embrace an essential ingredient to the fulfillment of our own destinies.

We, Jen and Zach, are not just parents, but being parents is essential to our becoming the people that God designed us to be. And each individual child contributes something to who we are – they contribute to the fulfillment of our created purpose.

So, though they are a blast to make, children are not a blessing because they are always easy to have around. Children are a blessing because they train our hearts for destiny and equip us for our Armageddons.

How do they equip us? God says that children are like arrows in the hands of a warrior. In other words, when we are raising a child, we are fletching a shaft. We are sharpening an arrowhead. We are practicing our marksmanship. And when the day of contention comes (as it does each morning), we knock our children on the strings of our bows, draw them back, aim them at our foe

and we let go. Those children will fly straight to the heart: they will pierce him and break his charge, topple his minions from the walls and cause confusion in his camps. Our children will thwart the devil’s plans and pulverize his resolve. Why? Because that is what they were born for. And they will sense the pleasure of God as they do it.

When we have family prayer time in the Neese house, we are firing flaming arrows into the enemy camp. And it scares him to death. Arrows don’t see their targets and flinch. They don’t doubt the archer’s aim. They just fly and strike. That is the blessing of a godly man and wife. As we raise these children we are promoted from the ranks into high command. Zach becomes the general, Jen the Field Marshal and the children are the troops. The eight of us are a more formidable opponent because of our numbers, training and discipline. We are pack, and we are powerful.

So allow us to introduce you to our family. We know exactly what caused them, and we are honored to have the privilege of parenting them. If we were to rename them according to our feelings about them, it would sound something like this: “*This is my son, ‘Vanquish.’ My daughters, ‘Javelin,’ ‘Morning Star,’ ‘Trebuchet,’ and ‘Intercontinental Ballistic Missile.’ And this is the baby, ‘Beloved,’ but we call him ‘Kick the Devil’s Tail Up Around His Ears’ for short.*”

You’ve probably heard of them. If not, you will, we assure you. They are the proof of our potent intimacy. They are our reward from God. They are our blessing and our inheritance. They are daily catalyzing destiny in our lives. And they are going to conquer the world. 🏹

Zach Neese is a CFNI alumni and former Director of the CFNI School of Worship and Technical Arts. He currently serves as Worship Pastor at the Gateway Church North Fort Worth Campus and teaches for the King’s University Gateway. Zach believes there is a difference between “*leading worship*” and pastoring people in the presence of God. He is a seasoned songwriter and author of the book “*How to Worship A King.*”

Zach lives in Fort Worth, Texas with his wife Jen and their six children; Simeon, Judah, Charis, Maggie, Nora, and Sam. They are his first church and the prize of his heart.

Breathing Life Into Your Dream

by Melissa H. McDermott

Hope Still Grows: Seasons in wait

A wise woman once said that each season of life is both a fulfillment and a preparation.

There are times when the Lord brings us into a season that is the fulfillment of a promise. This is convergence. Yet there are other times when it's difficult to keep hope for His promises because we're in a such a seemingly long season of waiting.

However, it's essential to discern your current season to understand more fully what God is doing in your personal life and in the world.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, *“There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven”* (NASB).

Timing is key in the Kingdom of God. The Greeks used two words for time in the Scriptures: *chronos* and *kairos*. *Chronos* refers to chronological time we're all familiar with, measured in seconds, minutes, hours, or years. But *Kairos* is a right or opportune moment. *Kairos* moments occur in the midst of *chronos* and are times pregnant with divine opportunity. We just have to keep aware, ready to seize these opportunities when they arise.

Often, in the *chronos* time of our lives, there are seasons of waiting for the Divine opportunity. It is not always easy to wait while holding the heavy anticipation of what lies ahead; we want to see dreams fulfilled and God's purpose unveiled. However, Lamentations 3:25 says, *“The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.”*

The word for wait used here is *qavah*, which means to wait in hopeful expectation. It is in the season of waiting where roots go down firmly into the soil, so that you can grow fully into all that the Lord has placed within you. It is a time of abiding so that your reliance is not on yourself, but on Him.

“The tears that are sown on the way to your dream will one day reap a harvest of joy!”

Remember how the Jews were in Babylonian captivity and exile for 70 years? There must have been times in the midst of their captivity that they wondered if they would ever return home. They waited a long time to see God's promises fulfilled. Psalm 126:1-2 gives us some faith-inspiring insight, *“When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, ‘The Lord has done great things for them.’”* When they finally returned home, it was like a dream come true! And they praised God for what He did for them after many years.

Psalm 126:5 then says, *“Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy.”*

The tears that are sown on the way to your dream will one day reap a harvest of joy! It is in brokenness that you become the leader who God desires you to be – one filled with compassion and reliance on Him. The Spirit-Filled Life Bible says, *“Tears in Scripture play a unique role in spiritual breakthrough. Here we discover that the planting of seeds accompanied by a spirit of brokenness will not only bring a spiritual harvest of results, but will leave the sower with a spirit of rejoicing in the process”* (p. 865). Sometimes our dreams require a fight. In the midst of our brokenness, God resurrects and restores hope.

Many people once had big dreams, but months have turned to years, or sometimes even decades, and things haven't turned out as hoped. When dreams or plans don't come to pass quickly enough, it's easy to become discouraged.

Perhaps you feel like you are living on a *“boulevard of broken dreams.”* Life has not turned out as you had expected. But I want to tell you, in the midst of your waiting, God will breathe His *ruach*, which means wind, breath, mind or spirit, onto the flickering flame of vision in your heart. There have been seeds sown into your life and seeds that you have sown that will reap a harvest as your dreams begin to percolate in your heart once again. When He empowers you, that small flame of vision can become a raging fire that is beyond your expectations or limitations. *Ruach Elohim* is one of the names of God and refers to the Spirit of God.

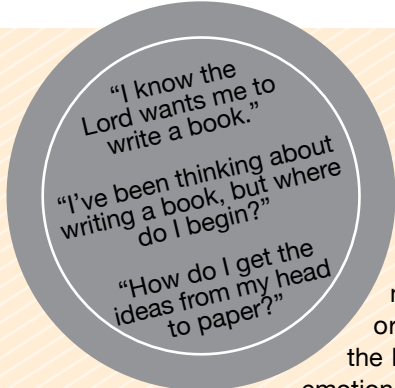
Job 33:4 says, *“The Spirit of God hath made me and the breath of the Almighty has given me life.”* There are many passages where God has breathed His breath of life on individuals and they are empowered to speak or act on the behalf of Yahweh (Genesis 1:2, 41:38; Exodus 31:3; Numbers 24:2; 1 Samuel 10:10, 11:6, 16:5, 23; 18:10; 19:20, 23; 2 Chronicles 15:1; 2 Chronicles 24:20).

Although, though there is a temptation to go out before our *“time,”* Jesus says in Luke 24:49 to *“stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”*

When we are empowered by the Holy Spirit, then all things are possible! His breath will breathe life and sustenance onto our vision, even during times of waiting. We can do more with Him than we would ever be able to do without Him!

As we lean up against His chest, our hearts will break for the things that break His. He will ignite new dreams that can transform people and society. Just hold strong, for he is faithful!

—
Melissa McDermott has a Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership and an MBA in Non-Profit Management from Regent University and a BA in English from Dallas Baptist University. She has traveled internationally speaking on global and servant leadership and finds great joy in helping and encouraging people. She has been married to her husband, Paul, for 12 years and they have two young children who are a dream come true.



Have you ever thought about or asked yourself if you could write a book? If you have, then you know what comes next . . . FEAR! *“How can I write a book,”* or even, *“Can I write a book?”* Anytime the Lord asks us to make a change, the first emotion we all have to deal with is fear. Why? It's because the enemy knows that fear destroys our faith. Satan came to kill, steal and destroy. So, if faith pleases God, and faith requires action, then why wouldn't the enemy steal faith and try to replace it with fear? Think about it! Faith=action. Fear=paralysis.

I know when God told me to write my first book, for the first few months everything I tried failed. So now I'm not only afraid I can't do it, but I'm afraid I've failed Him. This was an interesting sensation, since the subject matter of the book was overcoming fear. It all began one day while I was in Bible school. I heard a professor state, *“That's why God gave us 365 verses about overcoming fear — to cast out fear on a daily basis.”* It was right then I heard the Holy Spirit say to me, *“I want you to write about each one of those verses.”* During the next few months, I heard other people quote, *“That's why God gave us 365 Fear Nots in the Bible, so we could live each day fear-free.”* But when I tried to find the 365 verses to use in this devotional, there weren't 365. Instead, there were only around 70, and some of those were in the Old Testament. If you weren't afraid when you read those verses, you would find yourself in the same trouble the Israelites had been in. Can you see why I thought I had failed Him? But God is faithful, and He showed me where the verses were and the book was published in 2006.

FROM CONCEPT TO PRINT

by Polly Harder

So how does one overcome fear? It often seems like from the moment you sit down to write, great big drops of sweat start to run down your face. You must overcome fear with the Word of God. You may believe you can't do this, but the Word says, *“You can do all things through Christ Who strengthens you.”* Who are you going to believe? The Holy Spirit was sent to lead us, guide us, and instruct us in all wisdom and truth. So again I ask you: who are you going to believe when you hear the words, “I can't do this?”

God knew we would have reason to be afraid, and on a daily basis, but He sent His Word to bring the truth, and the truth will set us free. Use His Word to speak directly to the lie the enemy has told you, and begin to do what you know you should be doing. Writing is just another way of expressing yourself. The words become like the paint and the paper becomes like the canvas. Our words can paint an even greater picture, at times, because we don't leave anything for interpretation, like the artist does. We can say exactly what we mean.

Don't feel that your first draft has to be the final copy. Just start! There will be sections, chapters, possibly the whole book that you will feel the need to rework. I had six other versions of my book before the Lord tell me, *“Let's print.”* Those were welcomed words, but I also knew that we were both really ready.

If you would like to find out more about Polly Harder or get her book Don't Be Afraid, go to DontBeAfraid.info. To obtain more information about publishing your book, visit CreativePress.org.

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You Must DREAM

by Dutch Sheets

You may or may not be aware of it, but you have a dreaming nature. You inherited this part of your disposition from your Creator. He created us in His image and likeness so our hearts could relate to His and His dreaming heart could find millions of expressions. You were designed to dream and you must dream—both for yourself and for God. In fact, if you don't dream with Him, He can't experience all of His dreams, and you'll never achieve your destiny.

A life without dreams is like a GPS without a satellite. The GPS might operate, but it would lead you nowhere. Likewise, without God-given dreams to guide you, you will travel life's highway searching for a destination you'll never find. Divinely inspired dreams, on the other hand, will guide you to the destiny He intended for you.

Your Designer dreamed dreams for you before you were even born, then skillfully wove them into your DNA as you were created, along with the ability to find and fulfill them. His destiny for you will be the sum of those dreams. The journey of life, then, is meant to be a dream quest; finding those dreams your Maker has dreamed for you brings life's ultimate satisfaction and should be life's ultimate pursuit.

If you don't discover God's dreams, you'll either waste your life running in wrong races and crossing wrong finish lines or, like many people, have no finish line at all. Other individuals stop running altogether, wandering through life as though it were a maze, hoping they stumble upon the right exit. What a tragedy! Your Creator doesn't intend for life to be such a gamble. You can find His plans and dreams for you and pursue them with confidence! Things are supposed to be different on Planet Earth because you showed up. You're part of the plan. A solution, an invention, a prayer, another person yet unborn—there is something in you we need. It begins with a dream.

In his book *A Savior for All Seasons*, William Barker speaks of dreaming. He tells of a disagreement between a traveling bishop and the president of a religious college who also taught physics and chemistry. The itinerant minister persistently contended that we must be near the return of Christ and the beginning of His millennial reign. Why? *"Because just about everything concerning nature has been discovered and all inventions created."*

The college president disagreed and insisted there would be more discoveries. *"Name one,"* challenged the preacher. *"Well, I'm certain that within 50 years humans will be able to fly,"* replied the president. *"Nonsense!"* shouted the skeptical minister. *"Only angels are intended to fly."*

The preacher's name? Wright. He had two sons at home, dreamers named Orville and Wilbur—you know them as the innovative Wright brothers—who proved to have a bit more vision than Dad!

Dreaming ignites creativity. The impossible is powerless against the relentless energy and creative imagination flowing from a dreaming heart. Dreams are pregnant with hope, persistence, ingenuity and inventiveness—if you dream you will create. Contrarily, if you do not have dreams to pursue, you'll languish and stagnate in a sterile, uninspired, unimaginative and uninventive world—exactly the way most people live!

The world of the non-dreamer is small and confined, restrained by his or her mundane existence. For them, the fulfillment of destiny is not accomplished by dreaming, planning and creativity, but instead, is based on chance. God's plan for us, however, is not to spin in circles on the roulette wheel of life hoping we bounce off at the right place and land on success. Our Maker wants us to dream, plan and create.

Many people are simply waiting for *"the big break"* or longing to be *"discovered;"* they trust to chance, wandering through life hoping for the right lottery number to appear. Those are fantasies, not dreams. God doesn't want you to live in a fantasy world, waiting for a magical spider bite to launch you on your Spider-Man journey. Just because we're dreamers doesn't mean we have to live in a make-believe world.

The Bible says much about dreaming, and it is enlightening that the concepts of dreaming and creating are both found in the same biblical word. Yatsar (Hebrew) means *"to create;"* yetser, a slightly different form of the word, means *"imagination, conception, and thought."* Yetser refers to the plans and purposes formed in the mind, which, of course, includes dreaming; yatsar is the resulting act of creation. So the power to create begins with the ability to dream.


This is exactly how God functions. Isaiah 46:10 states that He declares the end from the beginning. In other words, He sees or imagines the end result (yetser), backs up to form the plan or design, then begins creating (yatsar). He dreams, then He creates. Likewise, when God fashioned humans in His image, He placed within us a portion of His ability to imagine and create. We have a God-given ability to conceive something in our mind or heart, which then awakens the creativity and innovation He placed in each of us. Like Him we dream, and then we create the dream. Consider these cases-in-point.

- We have airplanes because a couple of brothers dreamed we could conquer gravity and fly. Eventually, we went to the moon because someone dared dream we could conquer space.
- We have light bulbs because a man dreamed of light without a fire. People continued to dream and now we have lasers.
- Telephones were invented because some dreaming mind conceived the outlandish concept of talking through wires. But dreaming begets dreaming, so someone imagined telephones without the wires and cell phones were born. Crazy!
- Some nerd dreamed of the computer. Someone *"nerdier"* dreamed they could be portable—not bad since initially one computer filled up an entire room. Then came the Internet... wireless... Facebook... Twitter... Google. And the multi-zillionaire nerds are still laughing. And tweeting. (Someone even had to dream up new words for all these crazy ideas.)
- Someone dreamed of a television and—it was inevitable—some guy dreamed of changing the channel without getting out of the recliner. Yep, along came the remote. (Sorry, ladies.)

All of these once unbelievable concepts began with a dream. Dreaming, then, unlocked creativity. And by the way, dreams don't have to be big to be substantial in their impact. Consider these "insignificant" dreams:

- Someone got tired of their papers being displaced and dreamed of a paper clip. (They also made sure they were small enough to lose easily so we would have to buy trillions of them.)
- Annoyance over trapped food inspired the toothpick dream.
- A would-be writer grew tired of drawing in the dirt and dreamed of a pencil.
- A guy with sore feet from going barefooted dreamed of sandals. A woman dreamed of making them stylish. Some teenager dreamed of making them comfortable and voilà—flip-flops were born! (Go ahead, smile.)

Dreams happen! But they don't just happen. They're accomplished because dreaming unlocks creativity, innovation, action and originality. If you don't dream you won't create. Period. End of story. But if you do dream, you must create.

Necessity isn't the mother of invention, dreams are! 



The above is an excerpt from the book :
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GET OUT OF CHURCH

It's Time To Take Nations!

by Kelly Head



Lance Wallnau

"The gates of hell shall not prevail," proclaims Dr. Lance Wallnau, citing Matthew 16:16, to call forth the Body of Christ to fulfill their God-given place or "assignment" to bring the nations to the full knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Wallnau, president of Lance Learning Group, a Dallas/Ft. Worth based training and consulting organization, is an internationally known speaker and trainer who has a strong message for Christians today.

His message? Perhaps it's time to get out of the church pews and out into the world to shape the cultures of nations through the most influential spheres of influence.

"Ministry isn't just those who aspire to the ranks of Christian leadership within the church," he says. "There are seven areas that the enemy seeks to establish mind control, because the devil's goal is to disciple nations. It should be ours."

"I don't know how the church signed off on the idea that we do soul winning, and leave Planet Earth to the devil," he says.

As an answer, Wallnau outlines what he calls his 7M or 7 Mountains strategy. There are seven vertical sectors in society that predominantly mold the way we think. Society is changed/transformed through all seven mountains, which are Business, Government, Education, Family, Religion, Media and Arts.

"These 'mountains' are vertical territories," he explains. "This means that there are a remnant of people at the top of each sphere who control power over 90 percent of the influence that happens in their sphere. These people are called 'kings.' Jesus says the gospel goes to kings. For some reason, the church focuses on taking the gospel only to the poor and completely forgets about taking it to rulers and world authorities."

"I can't think of a more stupid strategy for taking territory," said Wallnau. Giving an analogy, he explained, "It's like (going to Las Vegas) and leaving the mafia in charge of the casinos, the gambling and everything else, but you take the prostitutes to church. No, what you have to do is to shut down the mob (to bring real change.) Make sense?"

Wallnau served as a pastor for 20 years while he says he labored under a deception. He describes a predominant thought in the church where we seek to pray and have such revival intensity to break through the heavens that the multitudes will get sucked right into our churches. *"That was the going strategy when I pastored," he says with a grin.*

"(As Christians) we're often busy going from revival to revival, looking for the next Azusa Street, the place where the cloud comes down. But, the challenge behind all of that is that the purpose behind God pouring out His spirit and creating these encounters has never been to park people perpetually in the wilderness being visited by God in a tent. It was meant to prepare a generation to cross over and to bring the inheritance of Jesus to a greater maturity," said Wallnau.

God says to us, just like He did to the children of Israel, *"I don't want to leave you here in the wilderness. I actually want you to cross over into the place where you have land. Why? Because land actually represents nations," said Wallnau.*

"What did Jesus say to make disciples of in Matthew 28:19? We mentally take out the 'of all nations' piece of that. If I'm going all over the world to get a handful of souls for a photo op in front of my hut for my ministry, that's making some disciples in a nation," Wallnau shares.

"When I've got a picture of my students, my peers in the supreme court, in the military, getting elected to office, running media, courageously making documentaries that are exposing corrupt practices such as sex-trafficking etc. When I see that kind of picture, I see someone discipling a culture" he said

"The key here, if you can capture the high places, you can shape a culture," says Wallnau.

The Lord wants to set Christians free from deception so that they can be free to fulfill their God-given destiny and be part of the company rising up to fulfill our biblical mandate.

The only time you can then disciple a nation is when you identify where the gates of hell are located, and like a missionary church, go plant your church where the gates are, says Wallnau.

"I'm providing you with a template of seven mission fields that you can go plant a church in. The paradigm is no longer about just church; it's about you invading the system. Going into the system. It's about you going into the second heaven realms where Satan has had his cartel, and you punching through that realm and opening up a corridor for third heaven to come right through and invade Planet Earth."


So going into all the world is no longer a geographic phenomenon. Rather, that every Christian is called to be in full-time ministry for God. The question, Wallnau asks is, *"Where will your ministry, skills and anointing excel?"*

God is really looking for the Esthers, Nehemiahs, Daniels and Josephs, because they are operating by the gifts in the enemy's house. When we get a word of knowledge, discernment of spirits, words of wisdom, and so forth. The majority of spiritual gifts are meant for invasions of territories in places the church never went.

Wallnau encourages Christians to rise up "as one" in every sector of society.

"Many of you have never been told where mission field might be morphing into. It might be as an author or architect. You are not compromising your high calling because you are occupying that sphere. The Lord said, 'I will build my church. The gates of hell will not prevail against it.' He has given us the keys to kingdom. We can disciple nations. No longer will we be a part of the world system, but we will invade the world system. You have permission to be a secret agent for God!" declares Wallnau.

Ask Him, *"What is my mountain?" Don't be afraid to be on more than one! It will open your mind to the possibilities and give you the freedom to be used how He designed and created for you to be used," he said.*

You can find more from Dr. Lance Wallnau about fulfilling your assignment at LanceLearning.com. 

*"The blind and the lame
came to him... and
He healed them"*
Matthew 21:14



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