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NOVEMBER 2024

Brandon Bailey

Apostle, Teacher, Author and Influencer!

TESTIFY
MAGAZINE

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TESTIFY MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2024 EDITION



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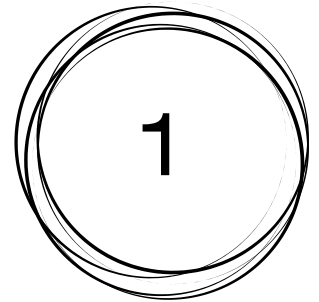
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KINDNESS!!



It does not cost a thing to be kind and in the society and life we are living at present it is so needed. Our kindness could change a life or even more importantly lead someone to Christ and into His Kingdom.

The harsh realities of the world mean we need to be vigilant of others and their needs and put love and kindness top the forefront

We are celebrating our 24th edition this month and it almost seems unbelievable, from the humble beginnings of the first edition to where we are now, one can only say “IT IS GOD!!:

We are grateful to everyone who participates in this magazine and helps us change the lives of others and steer people towards Christ.

May you all be blessed as you continue to support us and please pass our magazine on to others!

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APOSTLE BRANDON BAILEY

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Apostle, Teacher, Author and Influencer!

Apostle Brandon Bailey is Senior Elder at Teleios Church in Gauteng South Africa.

He is an Author and Teacher and well travelled and known in Christian Circles, the article in this month's edition is a extract from his upcoming book to be published in 2025.

He is also an influencer and commentator on many issues that are seen and experienced in the church today.

This book is not to be missed, for info please contact the church.





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New Book Release By
Apostle Bailey in 2025

Governmental Prophets and Psalmody Prophets

In the book of Samuel, we are introduced to two distinct expressions of the prophetic: the governmental prophet and the psalmodic prophet. These represent two different aspects of the prophetic ministry, both operating under divine inspiration but in markedly different ways. The first is the governmental prophet, exemplified by Samuel, who functions as a leader and king-maker, establishing governance and authority. The second is the psalmodic prophet, a type that focuses on worship, atmosphere, and prophetic utterances that arise in moments of spiritual euphoria.

The Psalmody Prophets

1 Samuel 10:5 provides a clear description of psalmodic prophets: “When you arrive at Gibeah of God, where the garrison of the Philistines is located, you will meet a band of prophets coming down from the place of worship. They will be playing a harp, a tambourine, a flute, and a lyre, and they will be prophesying. ‘These prophets are characterized by their musical expressions and their creation of spiritual atmospheres through worship and song’. Christian music literature developer Tom Inglis coined the term ‘psalmody’ to capture these various musical expressions, including hymns, anthems, and songs of praise. The psalmody prophets created environments that allowed prophetic utterances to flow naturally from a corporate sense of God’s presence. This prophetic expression closely resembles modern worship services, where music facilitates spiritual sensitivity and opens up prophetic experiences.

The Governmental Prophets

In contrast, Samuel stands as a governmental prophet, anointing kings and establishing the leadership structure for the people of Israel. While he was aware of the psalmodic prophets and even endorsed them, Samuel’s primary role was in governance. He did not rely on the atmosphere of

worship for his prophetic function, but rather operated out of a permanent grace that allowed him to establish the rule of God through the anointing of leaders and the administration of justice. Governmental prophets, like Samuel, establish the infrastructure of God's kingdom by anointing kings and appointing elders, as seen in 1 Samuel 10:1: 'Then Samuel took a flask of oil, poured it on Saul's head, kissed him, and said, Has not the LORD anointed you ruler over His inheritance?'

This function is deeply rooted in authority and the exercise of governance, fulfilling a vital role in ensuring the continuity and stability of God's people. Governmental prophets are not reliant on momentary spiritual experiences but operate from a continual grace that empowers them to execute divine mandates consistently.

Temporary Atmospheres vs. Permanent Grace

The psalmodic prophets operate within the realm of atmosphere, where the presence of God is felt corporately, and the prophetic word flows out of that moment. However, these atmospheres are temporary. This principle is illustrated in Numbers 11:25: 'When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied—but did not do so again.'

This passage reveals that the prophetic function tied to spiritual atmospheres is momentary and ceases once the atmosphere dissipates. In contrast, governmental prophets are not dependent on such atmospheres. Their calling and gifts are permanent, as emphasized in Romans 11:29: 'For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.'

The distinction between temporary atmospheres and permanent grace is crucial to understanding the different roles of these prophetic expressions. While psalmodic prophets engage in the creation of powerful, contagious moments of



prophetic worship, governmental prophets sustain their function regardless of the presence or absence of such atmospheres.

The Role of Governmental Prophets

Governmental prophets, as seen throughout scripture, are responsible for establishing the governance of God's kingdom. They anoint kings, such as Samuel did with Saul, and set in place the structures necessary for justice and judgement. The essence of their role is captured in Isaiah 9:6-7, which prophesies the governmental role of Christ: 'For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder...to establish it with judgement and justice from henceforth even forever.' The word 'government' in Hebrew is Misrah, meaning to rule and have dominion. Governmental prophets ensure that the rule of God is manifested in the earthly realm through the proper establishment of leadership and governance.



Gates, Judgement, and Authority

Governmental prophets also play a significant role in establishing judgement at the gates—symbolic places of authority and decision-making in biblical times. Genesis 22:17 speaks of the importance of gates in governance: ‘Your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies.’

This imagery highlights the authority that God gives to governmental prophets to shape the nation’s culture, laws, and administration. This is echoed in the New Testament when Jesus speaks of the ‘gates of hell’ in Matthew 16:18: ‘Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.’

The church, as a governmental body, is established to prevail over the ungodly forces that influence culture, and the prophets play a key role in drafting the policies and principles that guide the people of God.

The Ecclesia and Governance

The word ‘church’ comes from the Greek *ekklesia*, meaning a called-out assembly, originally used in Athens for a prestigious governmental body. Jesus appropriates this term to describe the church as a governing body that would establish the rule of God on earth. This body was responsible for drafting the spiritual framework that would shape Christian life and culture. The apostles and prophets were tasked with drafting the principles, while pastors, teachers, and evangelists administrated them.

Curriculum and Discipleship

A significant function of governmental prophets is the establishment of curriculum—formal and informal education that imparts the culture and values of the kingdom. Prophets like Samuel established ‘schools of the prophets’ (1 Samuel 19:18-24), where they trained others in governance and prophetic ministry. In the New Testament, Jesus himself spent three years discipling the apostles, ensuring that they were equipped with the content and grace needed to carry out their ministries effectively.

The Relationship Between Governmental and Psalmody Prophets

While psalmodic prophets create atmospheres conducive to worship and prophetic flow, they are dependent on the structure and authority established by governmental prophets. Governmental prophets can function

without the psalmodic atmosphere, but the reverse is not true. Psalmody prophets need the framework and authority provided by the governmental prophets to ensure that the atmosphere they create leads to lasting transformation.

In conclusion, the distinction between governmental and psalmodic prophets is essential for understanding the diverse ways in which God's prophetic voice operates. While both types of prophets serve important roles, their functions, spaces, and expressions differ. Governmental prophets are responsible for establishing long-term structures of leadership and governance, while psalmodic prophets create atmospheres of worship and prophetic utterance that facilitate momentary encounters with the divine. Both are necessary for the full expression of God's kingdom on earth.



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OUR GOD *IS A GOD OF SECOND CHANCES*

Introduction

Our lives can get so complicated that it's hard to figure out how to get from where we are to where God wants us to be. We all make mistakes, some unfortunately, like myself, have made bigger mistakes than others and it's easy to start thinking about what might have been if I had done just a few things differently. To be honest, I spent more than 10 years of my life carrying the burden of guilt and shame for some of the 'mistakes' I had made in life. I don't think it's helpful let alone productive to linger on your past mistakes and allow the devil to burden you with such guilt, which I can confess will eat you up from the inside out like cancer. Naturally, it would be different for unbelievers who have not yet accepted the benefits that come with their salvation and the gift that comes from having the Holy Spirit live in your heart. For someone that is trying to come to terms with the mistakes they have made in life without the help of God, I can tell you now, it is a road that is filled with emotional and psychological obstacles, and sometimes, most often than not it is full of pain, sorrow and suffering.

The Consequence of Sin

Regret comes at a price. Even for someone that has made simple mistakes that are not necessarily unlawful, but they are ungodly, will have a price to pay. That price starts



with repentance and ends in the unconditional love and merciful grace of forgiveness through Christ our LORD. For those that have unfortunately committed more serious mistakes or even crimes (especially if those mistakes were unlawful), there are and will be consequences. If for example you might have broken the law, then there is a price to pay for such mistakes. Mercy and grace don't simply mean that unlawful actions or behaviour are swept under the carpet by God. There is a penalty (punishment) that goes with breaking the law and GRACE cannot be seen as a way of 'covering up' such sin or mistakes in life. But, as a child of God, when you commit yourself to the principles and laws of God and you accept Jesus Christ as your LORD and Saviour, then all you need to do is repent and ask Jesus to remove the penalty of such sin from your name. This means taking responsibility for your mistakes or sin but the eternal debt is covered by the mercy and grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Remember also, repentance must have meaning and significance in the sense that you **MUST** try not to repeat those same mistakes again. But, when we do, of course, God is willing and able to forgive us. But don't take advantage of God's grace by committing the same mistakes or sin over "again" and "again" and "again." Grace does not mean that you can now simply play a game of Russian Roulette with God by continuing to make the same old mistakes which is reminiscent of your sinful nature. This would mean that you never understood the principle or doctrine of salvation and as a result you are living a lie.

We need to understand that God knows our hearts and when we come to Him as His children in repentance, remorseful of our sins or mistakes we made, we must be willing to turn from our old ways (our sinful 'default' nature) and at least try to do better next time.

Something I learnt during my journey of 'soul transformation,' when we continuously 'regret' the things we have done wrong, without honest and sincere repentance and start asking yourself questions like, "What if I would have followed God? What if I hadn't done this or that?" Satan will use such thoughts to beat us up mentally, spiritually, emotionally and psychologically. Rather than reliving the past, it's better to understand that God has ways of getting us from where we are to where we need to be after we surrender our lives to Him. It's always better for us to focus on the solution instead of the problem. This is also one of the principle elements to determine whether your salvation is genuine or not! You see, we can go through the motions of

believing in God but if we are not prepared to accept Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour and turn from our wicked ways by trying to at least follow the principles and will of God, we will never be able to reap the rewards of having the Holy Spirit come and live inside of our hearts to lead and guide us on the path to righteousness in Christ.

The Story of Saul and King David

The Old Testament book of First Samuel tells the story of Saul, Israel's first king. Saul's story is miraculous from the beginning. He was anointed king while he was out searching for some lost livestock. Then he stopped by to ask the prophet Samuel for help. He went there thinking that Samuel might be able to tell him where his lost donkeys were, but instead, Samuel told him that he was going to be the first king of Israel (1 Samuel 9:14-10:1). At that time however, Saul had no desire to be king. Despite Saul's humble beginnings, he was anointed by God and became a powerful ruler. He led the nation of Israel in battle and won great victories. The people rallied around him. But two years into his reign, the Philistines gathered to fight against him in such large numbers that the men of Israel became afraid and ran off to hide in caves. Saul regrouped the people to fight against the Philistines, while he waited for Samuel to come offer a sacrifice before leading his men into battle. (The offering was a request for the Lord's blessing before they fought the enemy). Saul waited the appointed time for Samuel to arrive, but he didn't come. The people grew restless and began to scatter. It was a crisis. So, Saul decided to make the burnt offering himself, instead of waiting for Samuel a little longer.

So Saul said, "Bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me." And he offered the burnt offering. 10 Now it happened, as soon as he had finished presenting the burnt offering, that Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might [a]greet him. 11 And Samuel said, "What have you done?" Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash, 12 then I said, 'The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the LORD.' Therefore, I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering" (1 Samuel 13:9-12 NKJV).

In those days, only priests who were anointed by God to offer sacrifices

could make a burnt offering. We don't know what caused Samuel's delay, but regardless Saul was wrong in overstepping his bounds and moving into the office of a priest. Saul wasn't anointed to be priest; he was anointed to be king. By assuming the role of priest, he took authority that he knew he didn't have. Saul said, "I forced myself," which shows that he knew it was wrong. He was admitting that normally he wouldn't have done such a thing, but the situation compelled him to do it. So, he did it even though he knew it was wrong. Saul's behaviour reveals a character flaw that's true of many people today—the tendency to do whatever is in their immediate best interest, regardless of whether or not it's the right thing to do. Christians shouldn't live like that. We need to be people of integrity, honour and trust. If God tells us to do something, we should do it. God's will should be non-negotiable for us, regardless of the circumstances or consequences.

Unfortunately, not many people live that way. Anyone who allows an excuse to cause them to deviate from what they know is right will end up going off course. We need to get to a place where we drive a stake in the ground and say, "This is non-negotiable. If God tells me to do something, I'll stand here and do it, even if it kills me. I will not change." We have to be uncompromising about the will of God, because we will veer off track once we start giving in to circumstances, false indoctrination, or wrongful influences. Saul knew he wasn't supposed to offer that burnt offering, but he forced himself because it was the convenient thing to do. It might have seemed like a good reason at the time, but he knew he was disobeying God, and yet he compromised. He made that decision out of his own 'free will.' No one forced him but he allowed the circumstances to overshadow the law and principles of God.

And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you. For now, the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. 14 But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you" (1 Samuel 13:13- 14 NKJV).

This is amazing. Samuel said that if Saul would have obeyed God that day, he would have ruled over Israel forever. Instead, God chose David to replace

Saul as king. If Saul had obeyed God, there never would have been a King David. We never would have heard of him, because David wasn't God's first choice. Saul was not just a temporary king until David came along. Saul was God's "first choice." Yet today, the Jewish nation looks to King David as one of their greatest heroes of that time. This incident happened in the second year of Saul's reign (1 Samuel 13:1). Then Saul reigned for another 38 years (Acts 13:21). We also know that David was 30 years old when he finally became king at the end of Saul's reign (2 Samuel 5:4). So that means that Samuel prophesied that "the LORD has sought a man after His own heart," eight years before David was even born! God said He had sought out a man after His own heart, long before David was even conceived. David was born to be king—that was his purpose—but he wasn't God's first choice. David became king because Saul failed to do what God called him to do. But look what God did with second best! David became a mighty man of God. He was a man after God's own heart, and he accomplished great things. We can't second guess about what could have or should have been. If you have wasted time chasing your own dreams or made some bad decisions, don't get caught up in mulling over the past. Just start seeking God. Submit yourself to Him and begin to submerge yourself in God's Word. He can take wherever you are today and make His 'Plan B' for your life better than you could ever have imagined 'Plan A' would be. The fastest route to God's perfect will for your life is to simply start seeking Him today. Saul's life also demonstrates that God doesn't sovereignly move us around and make everything automatically work out according to His will. Saul didn't cooperate with God, therefore he missed God's will for his life. Don't get worried though—God has never had anybody qualified working for Him yet! Hence, you don't need to have some serious qualification to be a 'servant' of Christ and to be used by God to share, teach or preach His Word. We will all make mistakes, but God is so awesome that He can take the little bit we submit to Him and use it to accomplish His will.

Success is the Greatest Temptation

"It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem" (2 Samuel 11:1 NKJV). David was a man after God's own heart even though he didn't do everything perfectly. In those days, kings were forced to wage war when the seasons and weather allowed. This

Scripture says that it was time for kings to go forth to battle. David was king so he should have been leading his troops in battle. But David had become so prosperous that he didn't need to go; he had generals under him who could lead the troops for him. So, David stayed home and got away from what God called him to do. When David was running for his life from Saul and it looked like he could die at any moment, he sought God with his whole heart. After he became king, he subdued his enemies, extended the borders of the nation of Israel, and prospered greatly. God blessed him and he was more successful than any other king before him. But he stopped seeking after God wholeheartedly. The awesome truth we need to understand here is that the greatest temptation we face in life is 'success.' Hardship is not the worst situation in our lives. Even someone with a minimal commitment to the Lord will seek Him when the pressure is on. Failure and disaster typically drive us into the arms of God. Success is different; it makes us feel like we can make it all on our own. When everything is going well and the pressure is off, or when we don't have to seek God because it looks like everything is going our way, the contents of our heart will be revealed. Success, not failure, is the true test of character. The question is: Are you going to seek God as strongly during the good times as you do when you are struggling? The majority of people seek the Lord more when they are in trouble. When everything is fine, they forget all about God—they don't seek Him, they don't pray, they even stop going to church and they don't study the Word. This is what makes them more vulnerable after a victory than they are during life's struggles. When things are good, people tend to forget their need for God; this leads to trouble. The Bible tells us,

“Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king’s house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold. 3 So David sent and inquired about the woman.” And someone said, “Is this not [a]Bathsheba, the daughter of [b]Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?” 4 Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house. 5 And the woman conceived; so, she sent and told David, and said, “I am with child”” (2 Samuel 11:2-5 NKJV).

David was bored. He was sleeping all day, staying up all night, and not doing the things God called him to do as king. If he had been out fighting his

battles, this temptation would never have come. David was bored hanging around the palace and ended up getting into trouble. He committed adultery with Bathsheba and she conceived a child. To cover up their adultery, David plotted the murder of Bathsheba's husband Uriah, who was one of the mighty men – off fighting the wars David himself should have been fighting. After Uriah was dead, David took Bathsheba as his wife. (2 Samuel 11:6-27) David got himself into a pretty bad situation, which shows how even a person who has a heart for God can get way off track. The lesson for us in this story is that when things are going well, we should seek God even more than we have been when things are going badly. The moment we achieve our dreams is the time we are most vulnerable to an attack from Satan. After a victory, we need to be more dependent on God than we have ever been in our lives.

The Bible says, “But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD” (2 Samuel 11:27). That’s putting it mildly. God was really displeased (disappointed) with David I would say. The Lord sent the prophet Nathan to expose what David had done. Nathan went to David and told him a story about a rich man who stole his poor neighbour’s only lamb, killed it, and used it to feed a guest. David said, “Any man who would do such a thing deserves to die!” After David made his pronouncement, Nathan said, “You are that man,” and gave a prophecy that the child conceived by Bathsheba in adultery would die. (2 Samuel 12:1-14)

I’m reading inbetween the lines here, but I believe the reason Nathan presented the prophecy in parable form is that God was letting David prescribe his own judgement. As I had mentioned earlier, according to the Bible, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23 NKJV). God has pronounced that the penalty of sin is spiritual death and separation from God in a place of judgement called hell. “For the wages of sin is death,” and God has every right to execute that penalty on anybody at any time He deems appropriate. Jesus clearly taught that sinners were condemned in sin and would perish and go to hell if they didn’t believe in Him as their Saviour. We should never try to silence that message or reduce its importance as the key to our salvation. Too often we try to obfuscate preaching on the subject of sin, spiritual death and hell, but these are doctrines that need to be exposed and understood to really appreciate the gift we have in Christ. We cannot hide behind the message of

mercy and grace all the time. There is unfortunately a price when it comes to sin. The penalty for sin is death but God's love allowed for our sins and ungodly mistakes to be forgiven and for the punishment to be carried by His Son on the cross. Scripture says that God will show mercy to those who have shown mercy to others, but to those who haven't shown mercy, God will have no mercy (see James 2:13 and 2 Samuel 22:26). David knew this principle because he had written about it himself. If David had been merciful, I believe he would have received mercy in return. But because he showed no mercy to the man in this parable, David passed sentence on himself and received no mercy in return. As a result, the child died and there was turmoil in his household. After the death of his baby, it says that David comforted Bathsheba and they conceived another son whom they called Solomon. The Lord loved the child and sent the prophet Nathan to announce that his name was Jedidiah (2 Sam. 12:25), which in Hebrew means "beloved of the Lord." God anointed Solomon to be David's replacement as king of Israel (1 Kings 1:17; 1 Chronicles 28:5), and he became so prosperous that he didn't even take any account of the silver in his kingdom (1 Kings 10:21). God never wanted David and Bathsheba to have a relationship. But after it was done, they repented. Then God took the child born to them and blessed him. The Bible says that Solomon was the richest man who will ever live—not just the richest man of his day (2 Chronicles 1:12).

It says there will never be another man who approaches the wisdom and the riches of Solomon. God knows how to work things out for the good of those who love Him! All of this came to a person who was totally outside of God's original plan and purpose. Saul was God's original choice; David was second best. Then David blew it! His relationship with Bathsheba was never God's will. Yet, after they repented, God blessed their marriage. Bathsheba is the virtuous woman whom Solomon wrote about in the book of Proverbs, and Solomon was greatly blessed by God. Maybe you think you have blown it because of bad decisions you have made in the past, but you can't blow it any more than David did. Yet, God took the mess David made of his life and worked it together for good—to the extent that we remember David as a great man. He certainly had faults and problems, but overall, David was used by God in a mighty way. We still sing about "the sure mercies of David," and recognize him as the "sweet psalmist of Israel." God did all of this with a person who wasn't His original choice. Even when this man messed up, God worked things out for good. Four or five hundred years after David died, God

was still blessing the nation of Israel. He wouldn't take His mercies away from them for the sake of His servant David. God made an 'everlasting covenant' with David, resulting in blessings to his descendants even when they weren't serving God. And all of this came through someone who missed it big-time. I hope this article will be an encouragement to you today. You may have made some less than perfect choices, or maybe you have made some big mistakes in your life, but I am here to tell you today that it is pointless to spend your time regretting the past. People have come to me and said, "I'm not sure I married the right person." It doesn't do you any good to go there now; you're married, and just like David and Bathsheba, you are committed – or at least, you should be! It would be wrong to walk away or try to reverse your life and go back. You are where you are because of the choices you have made in life. Accept them and move on. The thing to do is humble yourself, seek God, and realize that God can take where you are right now, in whatever situation you find yourself in and work everything together for good.

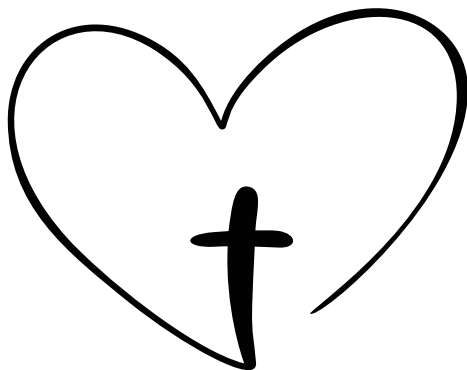
Do not allow Satan to play mind games with you, do not open the door for the devil to distract you from what God has instore for you. Remember, God will use you in whatever situation you find yourself in, it does not have to be perfect, it just needs to be in God's will. If you have made some wrong decisions in life, just repent and move on. The Lord can make your life right again. I am absolutely convinced that regardless of where you are today or how badly you may have missed God's will for your life, God still has a plan for you. The Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans: "For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable" (Romans 11:29 NKJV). The King James translation says, "For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance" (Romans 11:29 KJV). God doesn't change. Whatever His purpose for your life was when He created you hasn't changed either. You might be a long way from where God wants you to be right now, but God can get you where you need to be. Simply trust Him and allow Him through His Holy Spirit to lead you and guide you on the path He has planned for you. God hasn't given up on you. The simple fact that you are reading this article right now shows that God is drawing you nearer to Himself and trying to reach out to you. Not a single person alive is beyond 'hope.' No one has messed up their life so badly that God can't take it and do something supernatural with it. But you can't continue to do things the way you always have in the past and expect a different result. You're going to have to humble yourself and submit yourself to God. Transformation starts when we on our knees pleading to God for

help. That's the place of surrender! May God bless you and keep you, may God make His face to shine upon you and give you peace. Amen.

If you wish to support my ministry or the efforts of Planting Hope Foundation to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost and to help the widows, orphans and most vulnerable people in our region, feel free to contact me on the details below.

In God's love,

**Pastor Mike & Jada Gobel
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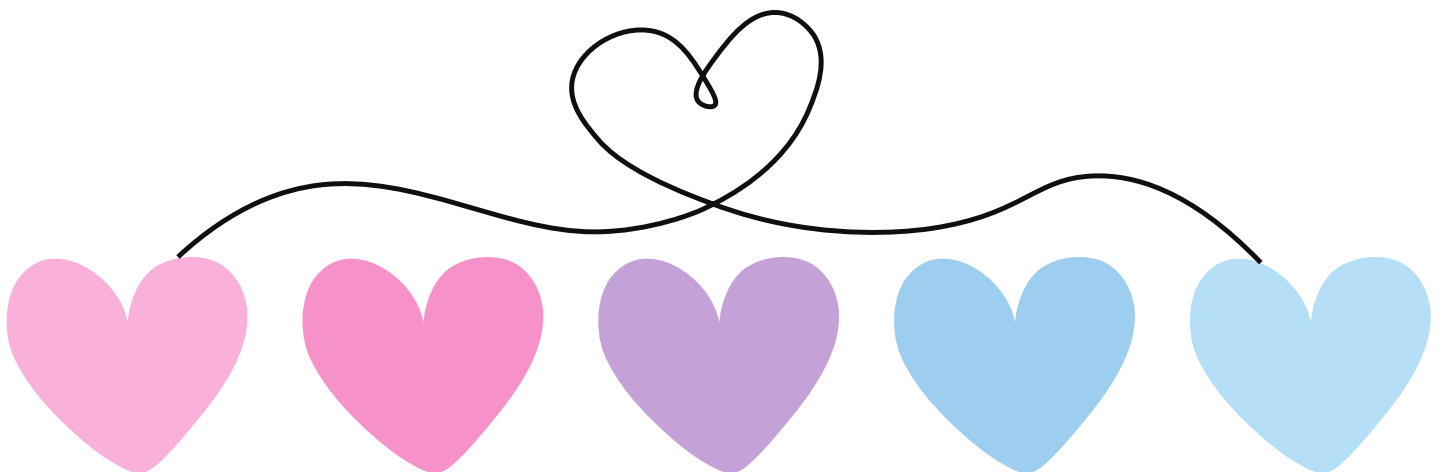


What does JESUS mean to me:

He willingly took our sins and our sicknesses in his body, suffered untold agony and died on the cross for us. He paid the price so we could receive the gifts of salvation and eternal life. Jesus is the only true life. He is the unique Son of God, fully God and fully human, the saviour of the world who came to take away the sins of the world. Jesus is important to me because through his atonement, his teachings, hope, peace and example. He helps us change our lives, face our trials and move forward with faith as we journey back to him and his father.



Claudia Mariana Maphike

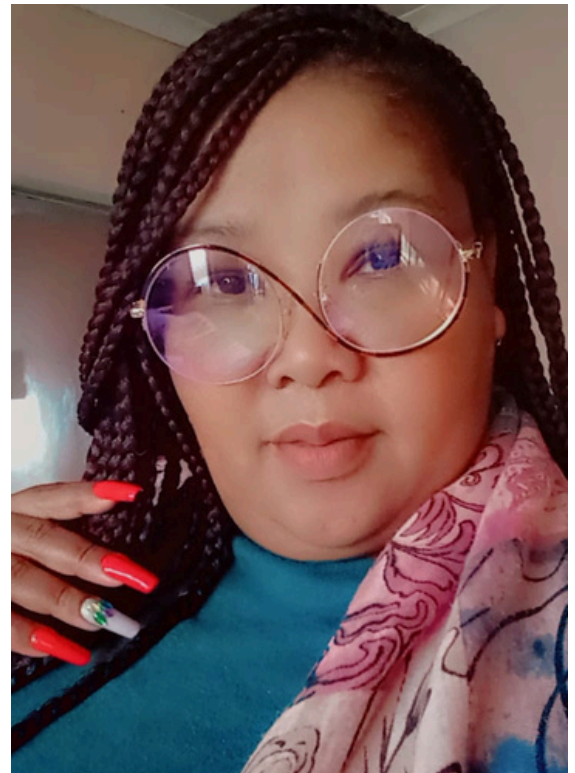


Jesus is the anchor of my soul, the unwavering presence that fills my heart with love, peace, and purpose. His life, sacrifice, and resurrection are the foundation of my faith, reminding me of the boundless grace and mercy He offers. Jesus walks with me through every storm, carrying my burdens, and leading me with His wisdom when I feel lost. His love is a wellspring of hope, constantly renewing my spirit. In Him, I find not only salvation but a deep, personal relationship that sustains me through life's greatest trials and joys.



Lucretia Veruscla Rose - Van Biljoen

What does Jesus mean to me
Hi my name is Judith Brooks from Nigel. I am a child of God serving at RHM (Rivers of hope) under the leadership of Bishop O.T and Apostle K.A Whitaker.
What does Jesus mean to me. Well He means everything to me. My Hope when I'm feeling hopeless, my light when my days are dark, my healer when I'm not feeling well, my provider when I am lacking, my advisor when I need advice, my guide when I'm feeling lost. I like to refer to Him as my one for all and all for one. But the ultimate one that stands out for me is according to John 14:9-11. My Father. He says in this portion of scripture that if you see me, you see the father and when you see the Father you see me. So that means that He is my Father.The



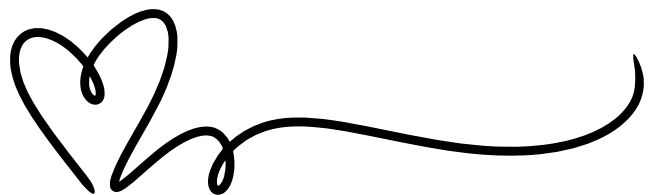
Judith Brooks

father that never left my side. You see when my earthly father's reached their quota with me, when they left my side, He reassured me that He would never leave me nor forsake me. Abba Father the one who makes everything right for them that loves Him and obeys His commands.

14 May 2006, the day my life changed. In November 2005 my world was turned upside-down. Due to a situation created by my sister, I was abandoned and rejected by my parents and my marriage of 8 years was crumbling. I was alone, depressed and suicidal. Everyday was a struggle to find a reason to live. I was filled with so much pain and loneliness that I just wanted to not feel anything anymore. My heart felt like it was broken and there was an ache inside of me that felt as if it was swallowing me up. On that Mother's Day (14 May 2006) I decided to go to church with my brother-in-law. I don't know what I was expecting to happen by going, I just knew that I needed to be there. It was during that service that I met the Lord and made the decision to give my heart to Jesus Christ. Instantly, it felt like a wet blanket was lifted off me. I felt peace that I had never felt in the 31yrs of my life. The Lord has been my strength, my rock, my solid foundation that I stand upon. I know that I can overcome any situation because I know who I am, because I know whose I am. I AM the daughter of the Most High, King of Kings, Lord above all.



Danasagrie Kogy Gangaram



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THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

SHARE IT WITH ALL PLEASE



HAVE YOU ACCEPTED JESUS
CHRIST?

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

Romans 3:23 ESV

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

The abovementioned verse is an extremely well used verse and many people know it and can even quote it off by heart, but the significance of it is the reality that every single person needs to contemplate.

If you have not accepted Jesus as your Personal Saviour yet or are thin king about it, you have to start here. The reality of your sin problem cancels and disqualifies you from the very presence of God and this bars you from eternal Life. Your choices are simple here, either an eternity with God or an Eternity without God. I would think that the logical answer would be an Eternity with God. Why? Well let's look at this:

2 Thessalonians 1:9

"They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might"

NASB

This is the reality of a choice that omits Jesus as your Personal Saviour -

= Everlasting Punishment

= Destruction

= Shut Out

= No Godly Presence

= And no Glory at all

This is not something to take lightly and by the way this is not scaring you into making a false decision, God is love, thus we as His followers are love, this means if I say I have the love of God, it is my duty to tell you the truth and point you into the right direction.

So in looking at the sin problem and the reality of this, what is the answer then? Let's look at this:

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

NASB

What a wonderful solution to an immense problem, Go gas made a way and in making the way He has also made it very clear that this is the only answer to the problem. You have to accept Jesus His Son in order to obtain Eternal Life and ward off all the destruction and other bad things spoken about in the previous Bible verse.

It also makes it very clear that this can only be done through JESUS CHRIST His Son, there is no other way to salvation or Eternal life other than through Jesus, NONE!

Let's look at this too:

John 1:12-13

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."

NASB

Wow! Just look at this, not only do we get Eternal Life but we become Children of God. The impact of this is massive as it speaks to the fact that we now belong to the family of God and receive the benefits of being part of a family, and not just any family but a royal family (1 Peter 2 vs 9).

So in looking and understanding all of this, How do you accept Jesus as your Personal Saviour?

Romans 10 vs 9-10

"that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

NASB

Let me just make one point very clear before we look at the above verses, your salvation cannot be obtained by good works, you cannot go to Heaven or be part of God's family because you are a good person, or you do good deeds, No! The Bible makes it clear, if you want to accept Jesus as your Personal Saviour then it gets done on the basis of two things. These two things are critical because it will also help you on your work with the Lord and attain righteousness and a life pleasing to God.



Firstly, you have to confess with your mouth that Jesus is your Lord, this is very important because by your confession God will know and people in the world will know. This is significant because one does not hide a light under a bowl. Everyone must see and hear that you are a child of God.



And secondly you must believe in your heart, with your whole being and understanding that Jesus was raised from the dead and is alive and is your only Saviour.

So if you have read all of this and the Holy Spirit is directing you to accept Jesus as your Personal Saviour please pray the prayer on the next page, God loves you so much.



ACCEPTING JESUS IS EVERYTHING!

PRAYER FOR SALVATION

Dear Lord Jesus,

I understand that I am a sinner and in need of desperate saving, The Bible tells me clearly that the only answer is for me to confess with my mouth and believe in my heart. I am now confessing with my mouth that I am accepting You as my Personal Saviour and believing in my heart that you are alive and well and dwelling within me. Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit and the fellowship of other Believers and allow me please to follow in your footsteps. Amen!

Wow! Congratulations if you have just prayed this prayer, and know that you are now part of the family of the Kingdom of God. Please tell someone about your decision, pray all the time and read and study your Bible. Find a Holy Ghost, Bible preaching church and join.

Please let us know if you have made this decision and allow us to point you in the right direction.

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THE HEART OF JESUS

BY PASTOR NOMSA

Calling All Saints
Calling All Sinners!

4

**YOU CAN TRY TO FEED ANYBODY A LITTLE SOMETHING
(PHYSICAL OR SPIRITUAL); BUT IF THEY ARE NOT
HUNGRY, YOU FEED IN VAIN” - MAMA NOMSA (2001)**

PRAYER:

Wonderful Father of Mercy and Grace, Teach us in this hour to Feed your sheep (John21:17) ... Help us to become good servants who will stretch forth a helping hand to the lost and the hopeless. Help us to feed the poor and to assist the needy. Your sacrifice allows us to live in Your Kingdom (here on earth already now). Help us to show others the way, the truth and the Life. Amen.

This month I wanted to do something totally different than my usual Teachings. I felt to share this true story of our Ministry at the Bush-Church in Blue-Skies, Boksburg. Please note this is Copyright Protected as it is part of the Foreword in my Book “The Bread of Life’, ISBN 978-1-928277-40-8.



Prophetic Teacher Nomsa
Email: RestorationTRT@gmail.com

There are some things in life that are too much for me to accept... Humanity's cruelty against one another; physical abuse, mental breakdowns and mankind hurting each other; or people's carelessness to help another when they have abundance to give; selfish people giving a cold shoulder; or the rejection to help the hungry crying for food! I don't like seeing people get hurt, beaten, killed or abused; and I cannot bear to see poverty which is why I desperately try to ignore going to third-world countries. It is just too much to see others ignoring someone because they look out of place in society. But even worse, I really don't like looking at people dying; especially pictures of little babies with big stomachs and no flesh, but just bones – the kind you see from Ethiopia. Once I saw a picture of a baby curled up busy dying slowly from hunger and a few meters away, the vultures waited patiently.... It made my stomach turn and I could not eat for two days.

When I look at the sick there is a desire to heal them as per God's promise; and to give them what I have –very good health! To show them that life is more than pain and suffering. My heart yearns to give them comfort and encouragement; and to make them laugh, even for a last time. Realizing that I have more than other people; I always try to give something extra in comparison with what they've had in life so-far; to show that life can change for the better. I also don't have enough patience to deal with Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and other dreadful diseases; and really don't like working with drug-addicted people, prostitutes; or cancer- or aids-patients, yet, in the midst of my "not liking" a deeper influence rises up from deep within me, creating an immense "caring" for these people. Making me realize I might be the last hope they ever have of living another day or two. It is a caring so deep, unpredicted, and unconditional. A caring so profound, true and honest – a caring that can only come from a deep-rooted source within me, alas... not my own. But His to give, His to use. Me to make a choice -to accept the responsibility or to walk away. True love... giving of self...

I believe that not even rejection or loss of a loved one can be so painful as when hunger strike: or the thirst for some liquid on the bed of your tongue. I am certain nothing can be worse than the feeling hunger brings; first in your flesh, then entering within your psyche, and lastly filling up your whole understanding with just four little words "this is the end!" Knowing there is nothing to fill your stomach... no nourishment is coming! The spirit of

starvation is friends with the spirit of death resulting in deterioration; degeneration and finally, the end... falling off from bones... leaving nothing but bodily fluids (“death-soup”). And with time, even that disappears into the ground.

Imagine being trapped in a deep-sea cave somewhere forgotten by those who were rescued and think you have perished; or being left in the rubble of an earthquake for days unable to call for help; or worse... lost at sea with just sky above and no water to quench your thirst; and no food to fill your stomach except maybe the body of your dearest friend lying next to you, the one who gave up the ghost... How far would you go to quench the hunger? What about slaves working themselves to the bone with just a slice of dry bread or sometimes nothing; or a person suffering to be set free from the debris of a demolished building. Envision the cry of a baby for food when the mother is lying next to him in pools of blood and no response... what can be worse than the cry for food when the mind wants to live but the body weakens and slowly fade away? In my life I have seen and experienced hunger personally, and it is not something I wish upon any human being, nor even your worst enemy. Though it seems the world out there had forgotten about others that are struggling to keep ends meet when they go to bed hungry at night. Dear God, what happened to this beautiful world you created? What happened to humanity? Is it right to go to bed at night with a full stomach from meats, baked potatoes, pumpkin, salads, a big cup of Milo; and a chocolate bar next to you for the “munchies” in the middle of the night; when you know that not far from you –there they are! The “out-casts” of humanity sleeping in the streets during the winter cold. Here we are - covering ourselves with feather-duvets while they are trying to shelter themselves with a big box against the onslaught of the north-wind and scratching through your garbage of yesterday to find a bone with a little meat, or some bread that have already turned green...



Will it really waste that much of your time to turn around and go back into the shop to buy another bread? Can this world not be a better place if every house leaves one fresh bread or one tin of food outside once a week for hungry people –will it not help to stop others stealing food? Will you really lose out on something of value if you miss the first five minutes of the “game of the year” when you see to the need of another before sitting down to watch your favorite sports. Will not Heaven smile upon you, if you forget about yourself for one minute and bless a hungry soul?

How is it that the world can turn their back on the sufferings of others around them when clearly, they have an abundance to give? Is it really a case of “I worked hard for it so get your own”; or is it an adamant thought of “I’m not responsible that you are in that position”; or is it a simple understanding in your mind that “I don’t owe anybody anything”. Which, by the way, is opposing to God’s Word since you do owe strangers something –read Rom13:8. As a child of God, you are obliged to introduce Jesus to them!

When, oh When? Will we start to give without asking back, dear God... where is the compassion and love that should draw us together as humans? Is there really no love left inside of us when we walk past hobo’s (beggars) ignoring their faint cry for something to eat? How can God’s Kingdom come to earth as it is in Heaven (Mat 6:10) when the occupants of earth have no compassion for each other?

Many years ago, we were going on holiday by the sea when we stopped with our Caravan next to the road and sat down to have a picnic basket filled with lovely cookies; hot coffee; some boiled eggs; cold meats; and fresh bread. It was in those days when people still spend time together as family at cement tables and chairs under trees before continuing their drive to their destination. As my mother was giving us some fresh bread with cold chicken, I noticed from the corner of my eyes something moving and when I turned to look, I saw three little homeless African boys standing by the fence-wire looking at us with big eyes. Noticeable poverty had struck their young lives due to their muddy-torn clothing. Then I looked up into their eyes... and could not swallow my tasty cold-meat sandwich. There it was... first-class Hunger!

The little one cried and the elder one tried to make him quiet, but their

famine-struck eyes followed the chairs to the table, and into the basket where they saw delicacies they have probably never seen in their life. Somewhere far away in the background my aunt was saying: “Just ignore them... turn around and eat so we can go”. It was in that moment, at a very young age that I had to make a free-will choice. A choice that would shape the future of my life drastically and into the will and purpose for my life. I looked at my parents and put my bread down. Then I said: “If there is not enough for them too, then I will give them mine because I cannot eat while they look at me with those hungry eyes”. That was the “bomb” that shocked satan, and chased him away from my life because in that very moment a deep cry sounded from my innermost being and the influence of the Holy Spirit filled my complete spirit rising up from within me; creating a new person and shaping me for a better tomorrow for one purpose only and that was to “Feed my people” (Joh 21:16-17) “Feed my sheep”, Jesus said.

At the end my parents agreed upon giving them some food since I refused to eat; and therefore, we made sandwiches, and I took it to them at the fence. I gave them a big smile as moa was so proud... then the smile turned my stomach upside down as I watched the tears flowing down the faces of the children as they ate the bread and cold meat with big gulps as if they were scared it was going to fly away. This was not something to be proud of... this was something to be ashamed of. The fact that the world has turned a cold shoulder to the hungry souls in the streets and bushes...!

How could I ever forget that picture? It was etched in my memory throughout my life. Those were tears of gratitude for a piece of bread that allowed them to sleep without hunger for one night. It was only years later I came to realize the event which occurred that day, was already the beginning of God’s handy-work in my life as He was looking for someone to feed His children -physically and spiritually speaking. As young as I was that day, I realized it was possible of doing something to change the world, and oh God, I want to be the change that someone needs. My mind told me I had the capabilities to sow a message of hope and peace, to help the needy and to pray for those that are lost. I recognized that God had a plan with my life before I was even born (Psa 139:15) and that I was here for a good reason; and what’s more, I loved the way it made me feel to know that He can use me to help the hungry people of the world. That feeling stayed with me until I left school and started working.

Hence, many years ago when I started the “Bush-church” for Jesus Christ in Boksburg (by grace), I met many different kinds of people in the bushes. There were seven-year-old prostitutes which sold their bodies for R10-00 just to buy a bread for the day. I could not bear to see them disappearing into the bushes with a man following, knowing they have to give themselves just so that they could eat that day. For me this was just so wrong! There were older ladies which were caught up in demonic bondage of alcoholism; there were the dagga-smokers; and those addicted to all kinds of medicines, including “cough syrup”, “grandpas”, and other types of supplements which could give them a “kick-start” for the day. I was saddened to realize that God’s original purpose for man which was to live Kingdom life in His image and likeness didn’t materialize; and it seemed that the world didn’t even understand or realize what Kingdom Life was about.



There were others who slept under carton boxes at night trying to hide from the onslaught of heavy rain and hail every so often. Some just couldn’t care anymore and slept under trees not concerned for the little protection it gave. As I moved between these “lost” souls, my heart became alive for the first time in my life. I saw the hurt in a stranger’s eyes when he came stumbling into the Sunday morning service as I was preaching. I felt the need to hold a ladies’ hand while she was busy dying of aids. There was a deep engrained force within me (Holy Spirit) to take the young baby “Mpho” in my arms who was busy dying from hunger –the father died, and the mother was a full-blown drug-user and therefore this baby knew nothing except sour-milk. As I held her, my heart exploded with anger for the fact that people in the world can be so unsympathetic to turn a cold shoulder against children like these; and so, I took her home and started proceedings

to adopt her. How can I forget the light that sprung up in her eyes when she drove in a car for the very first time? She didn't know what the inside of a car looked like and we just could not hold her down. In that moment of excitement, she forgot her hunger and was thrilled beyond anything I have ever experienced. At the age of just sixteen months Mpho had never tasted anything other than sour milk and had been wearing the same sweater for the last three weeks. She never had a bath in her life and didn't know what meat, vegetables or sweets tasted like.

Now thinking back, I remember "Maya" the little girl (18) who didn't know who the fathers were of the three children she had. She told me: "Ek gedink daarie wit man is Jopie hom se pa" (She thought one of her children was a son of a white man staying in the bushes). Another lady sat in the "church-service" and almost every Sunday she would start vomiting while I was talking about Jesus... How is that for a physical manifestation of a demon running away? There are so many stories I could tell...

I often think the reason why God took me to the bushes was to teach me the different kinds of bondage that people got caught up in; since I understand the spiritual world of Jesus so well, by grace. Today I know different –it was not just to show me the hurt of people or to teach me something for where I was going in the future; but He taught me the greatest lesson of all times: that we should "love" even those whom we detest. Those whom we look down on are usually the ones who can do great things in life if only we would help, encourage, and give them one chance to get up from where they are. It takes but one person to believe in someone...

The bush-church reminded me of the greatest teaching from the Word of God, which is Kingdom, and while comforting those lost souls I realized it was time for someone to start sharing Kingdom Life. Not just teach, but also start manifesting His power and His presence. It was during one of the services there I saw a drunk being wiped clean from his sins as he looked at us, and I saw the change in his eyes... I realized in that very moment he did not see me, but he saw Jesus. His life was saved, his soul was cleansed and his spirit was made whole, while he sat down crying for almost two hours. I left him alone with Jesus to complete in him that which He had started. That man today is a well-known preacher in Gauteng.

The Bush-church called “Blue-Sky’s” by grace of God, started almost by “accident” as I was going to hospital to pray for someone. The area was unknown to me and therefore we stopped for directions since those years there was no GPS’. As we entered into an old farm I noticed there were a lot of individuals sitting around everywhere doing nothing. After enquiring directions to the hospital, I asked the lady what the people were doing there and she said the old farmhouse was like a “haven” for people who don’t have place to stay. She then took me into the house and showed me something that I would never forget in my life.

There was a room with one double-bed in which a man, his wife and three children slept. Boxes were packed up to the ceiling, there were hardly enough space to move. Another room which was a little bigger just had blankets on the floor. Nine people; men and women; black, coloured and white were all staying and sleeping together. The more I moved through the house the more my heart started shouting inside of me that it was so wrong that people should have to live like this when there are other humans living alone in mansions of twelve rooms alone!

Some were sleeping around the house under the trees; others had little “shacks” just a few meters from the front door of the house. Freddie slept with his three big dogs in their “kennel” which was rusted zinc and carton boxes he put together so that his dogs would not get wet in the rain. He ate with his dogs since he could only afford to buy food for them, as meat was too expensive for himself. This is love in the deepest degree... He cherished his dogs so much, because they gave him more love than people ever did...

God’s spirit started speaking to me as I moved from room to room, and as I looked upon the smokers, the drinkers and fornicators lying everywhere, totally un-aware of what was going on around them, I just cried out in my soul “My God.... have mercy”. Then the spirit convicted me with just one question in my heart. “Why don’t you help them?” And then I saw a vision of Jesus feeding His people. Later that day God confirmed His calling inside me to help the people in the bushes, by reminding me of the miracle where He told His disciples to give the 5000 people something to eat, and Jesus said to them: “You feed them” (John 6/Mark 8). His disciples knew that they couldn’t do anything, but only through Him that the hungry people would be able to eat.

It is never by might, nor by power, but only through the spirit of God that we are able to help or feed others. So therefore, after coming back from the hospital once again I entered into the “lion’s den” where many spirits were roaming freely and I asked the lady if we could come to bring food and give Word to the people every Sunday morning. Thus started the “Bush-church” with as many as 85-105 people coming and going every Sunday, receiving a pot of soup and bread, and also hearing the precious Word of God.

It is not easy to teach worldly people (unbelievers) to listen to God’s Word if they have no knowledge; but through God’s Spirit I was directed to start playing music every Sunday morning. The music was worldly music... that is how you attract people of the world. You give them something that they enjoy and know; something that are familiar to them. We started playing songs like “Mama Thembu’s getting married” with speakers that sounded fifty meters away!

Most of the bush people, even in their state of drunkenness came forward to come and enjoy the music. And then every week I would play two-three gospel songs in between which they enjoyed so much, they even danced on them. This kept on for weeks until we only played gospel music and no worldly music anymore, but they did not even notice –they just enjoyed themselves. Eventually they started knowing the songs and would sing with, not even realizing what they were singing. As time went by they would ask what the songs meant, and we had chance to explain the gospel to them.

In the bushes the church grew into many numbers coming together every Sunday for soup and bread, and then sitting down to listen to messages about Jesus. Most of them came for the food of course, but that did not bother me since God provided to give these people enough to eat every Sunday. The bush-church started in the morning from 09:00am and sometimes we finished only at 16:00 in the afternoon –even then some of them did not want to leave until we were gone. I started teaching them small lessons like loving each other, caring for others, and then demonstrated our love by giving them food, clothing, blankets, shoes, music and the gospel of Jesus. They started becoming aware of who they were, and realized there are people in the world that really do care for others. Many got a sense of the fact that there was a better life out there – Kingdom Life! Some of them started getting “dressed” for church in their only pair of jeans they had.

There was one lady who spent her entire day's earnings buying a hat because she believed you have to wear one to church -that was the way her mother brought her up from young age. Several use to come without shoes in the beginning. Every Sunday I would go and preach with shoes on my feet and go home without shoes, so they started calling me "the barefoot preacher". Thinking back today I realized they obviously felt comfortable with me sitting on the grass in the warm sun or in the rain while talking to them about Jesus since most of them neither had shoes. My pulpit was an old "Castrol oil-drum" which two ladies washed with soap, turned upside down; and I threw a cloth over it, to put my Bible down.



Once they started receiving their own Bibles, they realized there was more in life than what they had till then. On Sunday mornings when I drove in there, everyone ran to the car and assisted to get the equipment out of the boot. There was the heavy amplifier, the two big speakers, stands, and microphones, everything we required to give a good service. Sometimes we would show them a DVD and taught them something from it. The little ones called me "mamma Nomsa" because the name which God gave me to preach with was familiar to their culture. The name Nomsa means "someone who is always smiling"; and in Sotho: "someone who is humble and merciful" and Zulu: "Kindness is found". Even when I went through hardships in life; my heart still kept smiling knowing God was in control and this proved that He gave me the right Name. The Xhosa people of Southern Africa believe that if you want to lead your people; you must be compassionate as Jesus was with His Disciples; and to be part of the human race, you must have kind-heartedness and love for strangers. Nomsa in Xhosa means "Mother of Compassion".

Today looking back, I recall their smiles when we arrived there and it was as if someone had given them a great gift in life –it was the Holy Spirit that ministered to them. Through just a meaning in a name, Jesus had touched the hearts of some lost souls and gave them a smile in life. I recall Psa 104:3 “Who lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters...” The word “beams” also mean: rays, streams of light, grins, smiles, big smiles, wide smiles. In other words, God’s “smile” is laid in His upper chambers (Heaven). These people received Kingdom Life as they started smiling –a new life manifested (Gal 2:20) through bringing them into the very atmosphere of God’s Throne-room. How amazing is this God we serve, making people whole through His Word? Just a grin or even a hug towards them was enough to get them standing up and try to eat something, even if they had already decided to rather give up in life and die. One very addicted man (Eddie) got delivered from a drinking spirit and started looking for a job, eventually found a flat and could pay for it, and started buying food and clothing for himself, earning a salary every month and started living! But he kept on coming back to the bush-church where he met Jesus the first time. He found “the truth, the way and the Life” –John 14:6. I can remember the little sick children clinging to my feet with their dirty hands and some days they would even vomit upon my clothes or over my bare feet. There were the ones that went behind a bush to do their “business” since there were no toilets or paper there, and then they would come back with streams of urine or “number two” running down their legs. Many times, I gave the homeowner R200- and then opened the water-hose, washing them to get rid of the smells and assisted them getting dressed in dry clothing.



Someone sponsored us with blankets and we could give everyone some. How can I forget the appreciation in their eyes as tears rolled down their faces as they mumbled “thank you” in their native tongue. The bush-church taught me a lot of humility and no matter where I go in life I would never forget the people that was there; the hunger in their eyes for the next story about this Jesus that could help them get a better life. There was a hunger deeper than the hunger for physical food. It was a spiritual hunger to learn more about Kingdom Life that can be lived here on earth in the present time.

One day when I arrived a few of them had taken their only protection against nature’s onslaught; some dirty old rags, plastic and newspapers which they gave to me with pieces of poles they cut from wood and said they wanted to “build” a church so that we don’t have to sit in the raging wind or hot sun the whole day. In their minds a church building would consist of wooden branches, plastic papers, and old blankets on the floor. This was the “Bush-church”. Needless to say, that I had to walk away for a few minutes where no-one could see me cry to God for the love I received from these individuals in the bushes. How much affection did they display for the Man they now knew as Jesus? How much care did they show to the servant of Jesus to help her build a “church”? The abundance of zeal these people had! They were prepared to give of the little they had, to build a small “carport-like” protection for us to have “church” in the bushes?

So why am I sharing these old memories with you today? Because there is a lesson with everything in life. And the greatest lesson I have learnt at the bushes was: it is not the money of the world who makes you who you are, instead it is what is inside your heart. Looking at people I knew in those years I realized: you may have all the money in the world but could still be lonely. You may have the most expensive car and might not have the knowledge how to drive it. You might have a big fancy church with marble floors and golden handles on doors and windows but if there is no love for the people in your church... your preaching will be unproductive! You might give food for people when they are hungry but could do it as a robot –it is not in the giving but in the way it is done. If there is no “love” in that which you are doing, you labour in vain. God’s love for His people was shown in the way Jesus treated people. The moral of this story is this – without love, we are nothing... and if you try to feed someone without love, you might as well leave them to starve!

Many years later, now at the beginning of our Ministry having built the

foundation for the third church in the last twenty years I found myself recalling that incident and smiling to Jesus – “Here I am, Lord, use me!” I am ready to feed them. During these twenty years I have studied the Word of God; prayed hours-upon-hours and even fasted months on end (in between pauses); started three “churches”; ran a Kingdom Bible College; helped at Soup-kitchens; prayed at Hospitals; taught individuals how to be Leaders; evangelized to lost souls living next to rivers; had weekly prayer meetings and church services; handed out food parcels; delivered clothing; and then we spread our wings to go abroad preaching in Hamburg, Westerland in Germany; Swaziland, Botswana, Nigeria, and other places, and throughout South Africa. And then, we went on Radio in South Africa to do a program called “Kingdom Authority”. And thus, I am here – feeding His children with the Word, making sure that the saints and sinners of the World are spiritually fed. And at the bottom of my heart, a small “tuck” - a calling from deep within... “What about those that are dying from hunger? Don’t forget those that cannot help themselves; the ones that are bound by hospital beds or physical defects that cannot allow them to eat food by themselves. The ones who are still crying during the night when the moon shines over them casting shadows of death....”



The Lord’s Kingdom Spirit is calling from within my soul – help them, feed them! Then I thought about rich people that don’t know the end of their

reserves - “billionaires”. I searched for the richest people in the world, they have Billions upon Billions. I wonder if they ever think about hunger. Maybe it is a concept rich people deliberately shut out of their minds since it is not part of their lifestyle. Why should they think about it? They have enough chefs, currency, servants... and lots to eat! Why worry about hungry souls crying in the stillness of the night with every dying breath?

God’s heart reminds me: at the end of every person’s life there is only one of two places they can go, and their riches cannot accompany them. Is it not ridiculous to keep millions in the Bank for “someday” if you are not going to be here to enjoy it? How easy can it be for someone to give of that riches to others who need food, clothing or even shelter? What use are all those millions if the owner is no longer here to spend it? How many lost souls could have been provided for during a lifetime of living if only there was no such thing as greed and lust for money and possessions? Oh God, I yearn for a world where money is not an issue, where greed and love for cash plays no part in having to prove your worth! A world where riches were shared with strangers so that they too can feel better and have a good plate of food every night – is this not your Kingdom teaching? My God, is there even a chance for Kingdom life on earth when things like hatred, racism, greed and gluttony rule peoples’ hearts?

I recall a time in my life when my family didn’t know I was pregnant. I made a mistake; one of which I am grateful for today because I have a wonderful son, and he is a blessing. I had a relationship with a man, but little did I know that he was married and “separated” from his wife! There was no ring, so it was hard to tell. It is a long story but to make it short; I lost everything and ended up being alone, scared and hungry while being pregnant. I was too proud to go to family and ended up sleeping in the backroom of a house that belonged to a friend. He and his girlfriend stayed in one room, and he rented the other room out. And then there was the third room which was his “science-lab” as he called it. He was a maker of perfumes and shampoo’s and so the whole place was full of bottles, boxes, soaps, bottles of perfume, caps, labels and cleaning stuff, etc. There was hardly any space to move and so he shuffled me in-between the boxes and threw a mattress on the ground for me. I had to leave the back-door open at night for his big dog to jump over me to go and do his “business” outside while I was six months pregnant. As it was in the middle of the winter it was freezing cold, but I could not shut

the door because of the dog. It was during those nights of loneliness, rejection and hurt, coldness and having a deep yearning to belong that I discovered not just the physical hunger I encountered every day, but also a spiritual hunger... Then I thought – how many others were in the same situation...? And I cried out to someone I knew existed but had no relationship with.

So yes, there is a place like Heaven on earth – I experienced this when God sent a German lady to take me away from where I slept on the floor. She looked after me as if I was her own. She fed me, clothed me, and even pour my bath for me every day. She called her family/friends and they collected nappies and clothing for my unborn baby including a pram, baby-bath cupboard and lots of toys. So, is there a chance of getting out of such a situation? Yes! I am living proof that Kingdom life on earth do exist without money in your pocket. God can provide and He will, when you cry out to Him! (Psa 34) I had no money, yet He provided for everything my child needed for the first year! This is Kingdom Life!

It is very painful to go through starvation in the flesh and many people in this world even today, live in these conditions. But for me even worse, the spiritual hunger and yearning for someone you know is real but doesn't know intimately... Thank the Lord that He has promised us if we hunger and thirst, He will provide what we need. We can go to the Father when we are experiencing a famine of spiritual food – see Mat 5:6.

The spiritual hunger is a thirst for understanding a God that cannot be seen (Col 1:15) but only exist because you believe. This is a totally different kind of hunger than a physical one. It is something that only exist in your mind... a thirst for understanding a Divinity with whom you can have an intimate relationship with. a spiritual connection build on faith in believing that He is, He was, and He will forever be... a trust that your whole life can be shaped around the Divine Godhead Who promises to give you everything you want and desire if you serve Him. It is a hunger that I have not been able to reduce in all the years I have believed. It gets stronger and grows immensely filling up my innermost being to such an extend that I wish to have nothing else in life. I hunger for His touch every moment of every day. There is a strong desire to read His Words until my eyes hurt from concentration. I thirst to hear His voice in my ear; and His presence around me always. This is a

hunger and thirst that cannot be satisfied by anything except the fulfillment of knowing that He is part of my life, and that I belong to Him - knowing I have come home to Christ! For my beloved is mine, and I am His...

My deepest cry today: Help me my God, to feed the poor in spirit and in flesh! My God! Send them who can help us feed the world. Touch their minds and spirit and shower them with love and compassion so that they can become part of this great thing You are doing in my life at the Vaal Triangle, SA. Lord, send the people we need to help others receive Kingdom Life. My spiritual heart yearns for the needy and the poor out there. I want to satiate their hunger and thirst in spirit and in flesh... Lord, send a famine in the Land, a spiritual hunger... Amos 8:11 "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord God, when I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but [a famine] for hearing the words of the Lord".



All God's creatures! Hear the cry of a Pastor's Heart I pray in Jesus Name. Today I ask God the question... How many of our people have the same love and craving for Jesus as I saw in the bushes to "want to" be part of building something where the spirit of God can move and heal people. There is that

great undivided love for Jesus which I saw in the bushpeople that I do not see in some people today. When I look back and remember the “bushes” I can never forget how those poor people gave almost everything they had just to put up a half-broken, dirty smelling, “all that they had” type of protection which they could call “church” just so that we could come together every Sunday to bring them food and Word about “their Jesus”.

I realized then already, it is not the building equipment that is building the church – it is the people... It is not the money, cement, bricks, the roof, windows, carpets, chairs, computers and all the other things we need to build this church that must be the centre of our prayers. It is rather that one thing which I saw in the eyes of the “bushpeople” ... that absolute love and devotion to help with what they could. The unconditional affection towards their preacher that taught them about Jesus; and the compassion for each other in the bushes knowing that everyone there had “issues” but no-one judged no-one! The complete knowledge that they were a family and were part of something great. And so. I taught them to partake of the sweet communion, so that they will never hunger or thirst ever again.

The bread and wine reminded me of Jacob and Esau and the revelation of the Birth-right blessings in Kingdom which I received as we were giving the bush-people soup. They started living Kingdom life; totally submitted under the Holy Spirit of God and in freedom through Christ. Putting all together it comes down to one word – love (care, compassion, devotion, smiling, hugging, accommodating and helping) ... everything that Jesus consists of! The key to living in His Kingdom!

The cry in my heart is that every person reading this will realize that God is restoring His Kingdom and we are part of that process. God’s Church “TRT” is a Tabernacle of Restoration that will change many lives in the future from all over the world. His Fellowship house will spiritually be built by love for one another, and not by bricks. The physical materializes as the spiritual is getting into place –and only “we” together can make it happen. As I close this true story today, may it in the future inspire people that are going to be great Leaders for Christ; and may they never forget the greatest thing in life starts with a smile and showing affection.... the “key” is Love to receive His Love.

You might ask what this story has to do with Communion? Everything!

Because if people can be taught that there is a better life when they trust in the One who is the spiritual Bread of Life, then the world can change! If you can share His amazing love and passion of the Cross so that they realize the truth; and they start living a better life once they partake of the communion, then you can win this world for Jesus!



Have mercy I pray, my God; upon the greedy and rich; humble the haughty and prideful; heal the afflicted; bless the poor in spirit; deliver the oppressed; give sight to the blind and let the deaf hear; spread Your Word; and let the lame walk; encourage the depressed; teach all about Your Kingdom; and summon the spirit of life into the walking dead on the earth. Oh my God, reveal Your Son, the spiritual Bread of Life to the Nations of the world... Lord, I stand upon Your promise: Psa 2:8 Ask of Me, and I will give you the nations as your inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth as your possession. My God, let the Bread of Life come forth and be seen through the manifestation of the true Sons of God (Rom 8:19). Reveal Yourself through us, I Pray in Jesus Name.

Humble Son of God Almighty, Nomsa



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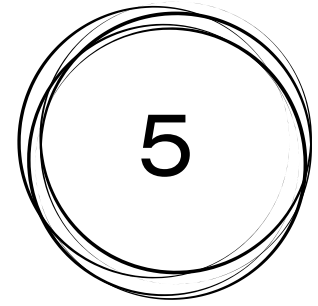
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us and we will do an Audio
prayer for you.
Cell is 074 774 7799**

Matthew 18 vs 20



NEWS ZONE

NEWS FROM THE GROUND



By Pastor Sakkie Roux

Hi Mark. Thank you and your team for the Advert in the magazine. We had a Holy Spirit filled, Word filled and God blessed Men's Camp 04 -06 October '24. Dr Bertie Roux spoke about the integrity of the man in the house, Apostle Hans Blunk spoke about the total man in God and Past. Sakkie Roux spoke about obedience of the man and of the man as King, Priest and Prophet of his house.

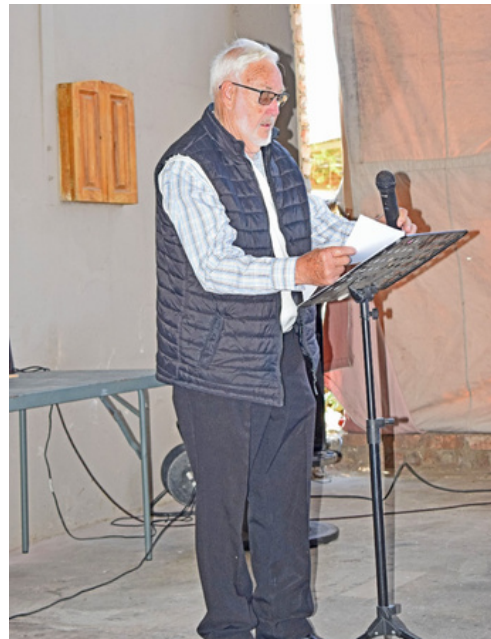
We got wonderful feedback from the men that attended the camp.

Past. Sakkie Roux





Dr Bertie Roux.
Dr. In Pastoral Counselling &
PHD in Theology.

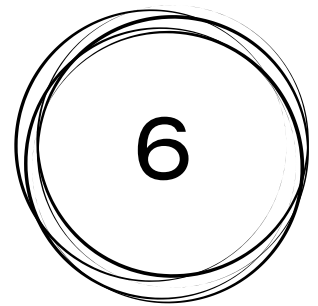


Apostle Hans Blunk.
Planted over 500 churches all over Africa,
spreading the Gospel far
and wide over our continent.



SAY IT AS IT IS

BY WANESSA NUNES



Halloween – should Christians Partake “just for the fun?”

HALLOWEEN – 31 October

Halloween is the vigil of All Hallows Day or All Saints Day, an important Catholic feast. Not only is it one of the most important dates on the Catholic's calendar, it is THE most important date for the Satanists! Halloween marks the Celtic new year. It was the end of the growing season. It became a festival of death. On this day, the god of the Celts was to have called up the spirits of the wicked dead who had died during the past year. At the same time, other evil spirits arose and went about the countryside harassing the people. On October 31, the Celts expected to be harassed by ghosts, evil spirits and demons; and it was no fun and games to them. They would light bonfires to guide the spirits to their own town and to ward off evil spirits.

The Celtic's had priests called druids. On October 31, the druids went from house to house demanding certain foods, and all those who refused were cursed. The people were tormented by means of magic. As they went, the druids carried large turnips which they had hollowed out and on which they had carved demon faces as charms. Each one was believed to contain the demon spirit that personally led or guided that priest: his little god.

Those who practised fortune-telling and divination found that this was the night that they had the most success. They called upon satan to bless their efforts. One form of divination was to put apples in a tub and bob for them. The one who first successfully came up with one without putting them in his

teeth was to have good luck throughout the year. They would then peel the apples and throw the peeling over their shoulders and then quickly look around. They expected to see a vision or an apparition of the one they were to marry.

These things happened several centuries before CHRIST. Sacrifices were made to the gods, especially the god of death – Samhain (pronounced Sah win). Sacrifices all the way from vegetable to human were offered. This went on and on, and, in some parts of the world, still goes on today.

In the 8th century, the Pope, in an effort to get the people to quit the festival of Sam Hain, invented All Saints Day (Nov. 1). This was an attempt to get the people to turn away from the horrible observance of Sam Hain. All Saints Day was intended to honor the martyrs of the Roman persecutions. It did not work! It never works to Christianize a pagan holiday. The holy and the profane do not mix. In the Middle Ages, there was a great revival of satanic practices and witchcraft and magic – like there is today. During this time the belief developed that witches travelled on broomsticks to the black Sabbaths to worship satan on October 31. They were guided by spirits in the form of black cats. The Druids worshipped cats believing them to be reincarnated evil people.

MODERN HALLOWEEN

Now let's look at the present day celebration of Halloween. Isn't the whole theme one of darkness, death, fear, threats, destruction and evil? There are witches, broomsticks, bats, owls, ghosts, skeletons, death, and monsters. You dress up your children as demons and witches and ghouls and monsters and werewolves and send them out into the street in the darkness to re-enact the Druids' practice of demanding food from people under threat of tricks (or curses) if they don't comply.

You take, not a turnip, but a pumpkin and carve demon faces in it and decorate with it. At Halloween there will be apple bobbing, divination, fortune-telling, haunted houses, candles lit and spirits called up. There will be seances and ouija boards in the name of fun and excitement. There will be sacrifices of dogs, cats, rats, chickens, goats and even humans!

You say, “Well, we don’t take it seriously.” But the devil does and so does God. Particularly this is true when the Church which He purchased with His own precious blood builds houses of horror in its fellowship halls so that the little lambs who have been entrusted to its care can be terrified and opened up to invading spirits of fear and torment and confusion.

How this must Grieve the Lord!

Scriptural References:

Hosea 4:6; Ezekiel 44:23; Deuteronomy 18:9-14; 7:25-26; James 1:27; II Corinthians 6:14; I Corinthians 10:19-23; I Thessalonians 5:21-23; Philippians 4:8.

“HALLOWEEN, TRICK OR TREAT?

You can call a duck a horse, cow, cat, etc., but it is still a duck. You can call what you do a “fall festival”, “alleluia party”, etc., but you are still observing halloween, even if you dress up as bible characters. Halloween is the highest satanic holy day of the year. On October 31st, the high priest of all witch covens are required to make a human sacrifice. God condemns witches and everything to do with them. The head of the first satanic church said, “a witch is a witch”, when referring to black and white witchcraft. All their power comes from the devil.

People think it’s funny to scare people to “death”. II TIMOTHY 1:7 says, “For God has not given to us the spirit of fear...”. So guess who is scaring you? Tell your children the truth about halloween. Revelation 21:8 says liars won’t make it to heaven. Then, parents, you will be doing your job as the high priest of the family like you are supposed to be. If you open your doors to pass out tracts, you are still observing halloween. Why don’t you pass them out another time?

Stop being worldly, Christians.”

“For Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft,” 1 Sam. 15:23, WITCHCRAFT = SATANISM

Satanists/witches on Halloween:

According to the Satanic Calendar Halloween, October 31st is a night for Human sacrifice: One of the two most important nights of the year. Attempts are made to break the bond which is keeping the doors to the underworld closed. Blood and sexual rituals. Sexual association with demons. Animal and human sacrifice – male or female.)

As believers, we are called to “Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil. [1 Thessalonians 5:21-22] Who can deny that virtually all of the symbols of Halloween are evil? Witches, monsters, ogres, vampires, ghosts, ghouls, goblins, devils and demons all portray evil.

Christians are to “... have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.” [Ephesians 5:11]

Should the church be compromised by accommodating itself to the culture?

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” [Romans 12:2] “For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial?” [2 Corinthians 6:14, 15]

The sort of practices celebrated on Halloween are what defiled the ancient nations [see Leviticus 18:24-30]. The Israelites were warned against such practices when they entered the Promised Land, “When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations.” [Deuteronomy 18:9]

Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD, and because of these detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you. You must be blameless before the LORD your God. The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practice sorcery or divination. But as for you, the LORD your God has not permitted you to do so. [Deuteronomy 18:10-14]

How some people can defend this kind of activity as just another innocent holiday that doesn't harm anyone is beyond me. Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. (John 3:19-20)

As satanic involvement among our youth increases, we begin to see the primary goal of such activity. According to Scripture (2 Cor. 4:4; Rev. 12:9), Satan's goal is to deceive man by blinding him to the truth of the gospel and to receive worship for himself (Matt. 4:9; Isa. 14:12-14).

It has become clear that the primary goal is to alter an individual's values and turn him against himself, his beliefs, family, God and society.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." (1 Peter 5:8)

SUMMARY:

SO WHAT IS WRONG WITH HALLOWEEN???

It does not have even one single redeeming virtue. It is custom born out of pagan superstition. It is a demon-inspired, devil-glorifying, occult festival.

It is an evening holy unto evil, death, and divination. The Scriptures tells us to "Abstain from all appearance of evil." [1Thess. 5:22]

Wake up Christian! This is the night of evil and those who love the Lord Jesus Christ should have nothing to do with it.

We are all accountable for our choices and decisions. Ignorance is no excuse. The choice is up to you.

Have you been involved in this satanic holiday?

Do you struggle with giving it up because "it's just fun" and an innocent opportunity for children to dress up and collect candy? Don't take my word for it. Let God show you what he would have you do. You might begin by praying the following:

I'm a sinner. I'm sorry! Please forgive me. I believe with all my heart that Jesus Christ is Your Son and that You raised Him from the dead. I believe that Jesus Christ died for my sins and that I might be saved. Each and everyday Father I turn my will and my life over to Your care, and may Your Holy Spirit lead and guide me in all the things I think , do and say. I'm Yours and You are mine. Father, please use me that I might help others come to know and love Your Son Jesus Christ. Thank You for saving me. Amen

Humbly praying that this truth finds deep roots..... in Jesus' name!

Humbly

Your servant and His

Wenessa Nunes Page

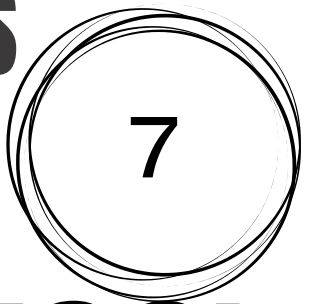


DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY BISHOP MATTHEW DANIELS

OVERCOMING

DARKNESS!



The Blood of Jesus!

Leviticus 16:14 reveals: "He is to take some of the bull's blood and with his finger sprinkle it on the front of the atonement cover; then he shall sprinkle some of it with his finger seven times before the atonement cover".

The High Priest sprinkles inadequate animal blood seven times upon the Mercy Seat, for temporary atonement, on the Day of Atonement.

The High Priest, sprinkled the blood of animals seven times over the mercy seat which was situated upon the ark of the covenant. The High Priests final act, once the sacrifice was made, was to sprinkle blood on all the people gathered within the grounds of the Temple.

Therefore when Christ sprinkled His Blood over the heavenly mercy seat, following priestly protocol, He actually sprinkled it over His people, the Church!

Christ's Blood speaks better things than that of Abel (Heb 12:24) in as much as Abel's blood cried out for judgment against his murderous brother Cain. Both Abel and Christ were innocent men.

Christ's Blood cries out to pardon even for His murderers and enemies, including those of His church (the Body of Christ).

Whilst Abel's blood profited for justification, Christ's Blood serves for the sanctification of us all, from the guilt and power of sin.

Repent each of the following powerful confessions 7 times.

1. Thank You Father for the benefits and provision of the Blood of Jesus Christ.

2. I stand on the ground of the Blood of Jesus to proclaim victory over sin, satan and his agents and the world.
3. I apply the Blood of Jesus to every stubborn problem in my life.
4. I plead the Blood of Jesus upon my body-from the top of my head to the sole of my feet.
5. I soak my life in the Blood of Jesus.
6. I paralyze all satanic oppressors delegated against me with the Blood of Jesus.
7. I hold the Blood of Jesus as a shield against any power that is already poised to resist me, in the Name of Jesus.
8. By the Blood of Jesus, I stand against every device of distraction.
9. I stand upon the strength of the Blood of Jesus and I declare myself unmovable, in the Name of Jesus.
10. Let the Blood of Jesus close down every door that I have opened to the enemy in the Name of Jesus.

**Bishop Daniels can be contacted at:
bishopmatthewdaniels@gmail.com**





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Psalm 46 :10 "Be still and know that I AM GOD"

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2024



Our sincere thanks to everyone who makes it possible to put Bible books in the hands of the children and the next generation. Brothers and Sisters of Jesus please pray about this and if Jesus puts it in your heart, then help spread the word amongst our children. Together we preach Jesus' in word to children and reaching the parents in the same way. Jesus thank You for helping us with this huge task, we need your partnering and know You are the ultimate sponsor and provider. You can help Yeshua SA by contributing. This is a big challenge and God willing it will again succeed because nothing is impossible for God.

Join hands with the **KIDS SA Bible Run 2024** and help share the Word of God with the children in South Africa. The Word of God brings comfort and hope to children, teenagers and adults alike. Children's Bible books and spiritual learning materials are distributed throughout South Africa in schools, orphanages, hospitals, churches, outreach actions and by missionaries abroad. This is a project that takes place **Yearly**. You can get directly involved in an organization of your choice or be part of the support to Yeshua SA Volunteers.

Please people join hands **Bless a child with R25.**

Bible books available in English and Afrikaans

The Creation- Die Skepping, The Birth of Jesus- Die Geboorte van Jesus ,
Jesus is Alive- Jesus Leef , The Fruit of the Spirit- Die Vrug van die Gees,
The Armour of God- Die Wapenrusting van God.

Thank you Holy Spirit for inspiring the now 5 Bible activity and Bible lesson books:

1st Bible Run April 2021-**14 500**,

2nd Bible Run November 2021-**24 500**,

3rd Bible Run April 2022-**22 300**,

4th Bible Run November 2022-**24 712**

5th Bible Run November 2024-**30 000**

The necessary funds must be raised to help make this new learning material a reality for the **6th Bible Run**

25,000 Children is the aim.

Please contribute before end of August 2024.

Blessed is the Hand of the Giver. Kids Bible Run 2024 Ref: Name and contact details.

For more information, please visit **Yeshua SA** at www.yeshuasa.co.za



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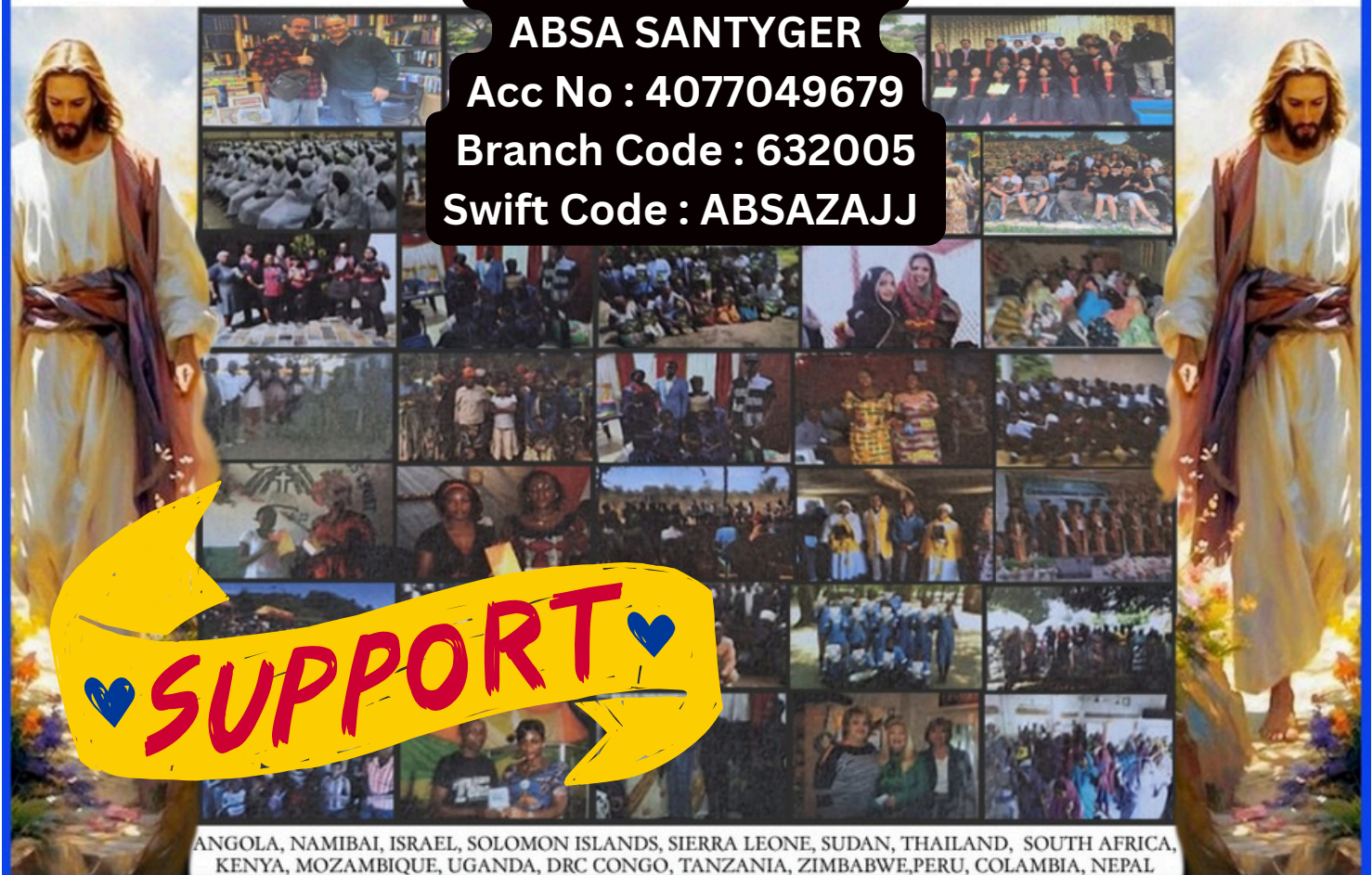
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RESTORATION

BY GERDA POTGIETER



The journey to restoration ended for Keegan Pillay at a place of grace

By Gerda Potgieter

Seated in front of me is Keegan Pillay, a man who has experienced life's challenges but has ultimately overcome them. Looking into his gentle eyes now, it's difficult to imagine that he was once a brutal and disrespectful person. Keegan successfully finished the restoration program of the Concerned Young People of South Africa (CYPISA), which we reported on in the previous edition of Testify. In that edition, we promised to share some testimonies of real-life events and young people who successfully finished the program, and Keegan's is the first story we share. He was once a gangster, hooked on dagga and Mandrax. By 14, he had already spent some years in a correctional facility. He now works at Emseni Farming, generating income, caring for his ageing mother financially and inspiring others with his life's story.

Even though I'm familiar with Keegan's story, it's still hard to believe that there was a time when he lived up to and even embraced the name his friends had given him - 'Lucifer'. Keegan knows about the life of gangsters - he's hung out with the country's most famous and biggest villains and even worked for some of them. He carried out his work as a criminal with passion and even worked for Nigerians as a drug smuggler. It had been his job to recover the drug lords' money from the addicts and to do it violently, if necessary. His violent childhood prepared him to be able to do the job successfully. But that was before he discovered the unconditional love of

the Lord Jesus. He left the life of a criminal behind for good a decade ago. Keegan is now a responsible and first-class farm worker who contributes significantly to ensuring food security. His steadfast work at Emseni Farming in KwaZulu-Natal now pleasures him greatly.

Keegan recalls that as a child, he never lacked material possessions, but his father's drinking problem had a devastating impact on the family. Additionally, he was exposed to violent movies from a young age and began emulating the violent behaviours he saw by engaging in physical fights with other children. He was taught to fight by age eight and frequently found himself in street fights. He also started drinking at a young age and soon progressed to smoking cigarettes. By the time he turned twelve, he was already struggling with drug addiction with any drug he could obtain. Like many individuals with substance abuse issues, Keegan turned to theft to support his habits and resorted to violence to get what he needed.

Keegan admits that he enjoyed the image of being a 'bad boy' who struck fear into others. His friends even called him "Lucifer," a name he embraced and lived up to, showing no mercy to others. At the age of fourteen, he found himself in prison for attempted murder. And so began the spiral of in-jail-out-of-jail, back-in-jail-out-of-jail, and there Keegan learned how to get serious about drug dealing. Going to jail for his offences did not make him a better person; on the contrary, his crimes only increased. His mother finally had enough and sent him to his uncle in Durban, hoping he would make it there. His mother did not know that his uncle was also a drug smuggler, and the visit there made him disappear further into the dark hole. His life spiralled out of control.

"In 2015, everything changed for me," says Keegan. "I was living on the streets, my health was deteriorating, and I felt completely out of control. Despite being raised in the Hindu faith, I found myself turning to Lord Jesus when I hit rock bottom. I was homeless and would sometimes stay with my brother, but most nights, I slept on his front porch without him knowing. I would leave early in the morning and continue on my path of self-destruction."



"My brother told me about the KwaSizabantu Mission Station in Kranskop, KwaZulu-Natal. He suggested I join the CYPISA program (Concerned Young People of South Africa) offered there, which he had heard great things about. The Mission provides free assistance to addicts, and my brother believed it could help me."

16 October 2015 will always be an extraordinary day for Keegan. That day, his brother loaded him into his car and took him to the mission station to start the CYPISA restoration program. This is the day that marks the beginning of his new life, even though he was then still suffering from the withdrawal symptoms of heroin. At the mission station, Keegan was treated like a 'real' person for the first time. He also found the Lord and has followed Him faithfully ever since.

"In my entire life, I have never experienced anything like this", explains Keegan. "The respect and acceptance I received from strangers was unprecedented for me. These people did not know me but welcomed and accepted me unconditionally. This while my people rejected me. I don't



know of another place in the whole world where an addict is taken in so unconditionally and without any payment for the restoration program. When I asked how much it would cost, I was told that Jesus had already paid for me on the cross."

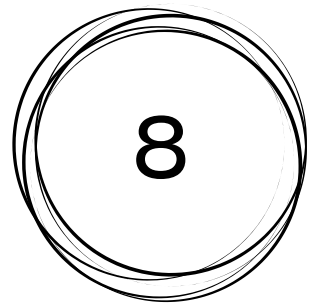
Keegan felt he wanted to stay with the Mission after his life recovered, and he unconditionally gave his heart to the Lord. He asked to stay and help where he could. The Mission is self-sufficient in that, over the years, they have implemented various agricultural and other projects (such as Emseni Farming) to help pay the costs of their work. The Mission also has a skills development program and helps ex-drug addicts to work in this way when others do not want to give them the opportunity.

Emseni Farming is a versatile agricultural project with various fruit trees, avocados, and vegetable gardens. It is also one of the largest bell pepper producers in the country, with more than 11 hectares of greenhouses for bell peppers. Keegan eventually landed at Emseni, which means 'grace' in iSizulu. He found his grace in the greenhouses for sweet peppers, and the rest, as they say, is history. Psalm 34:4-6 has special meaning for him: "I sought the Lord, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears. This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; He saved him out of all his troubles".

Next month we will have an exclusive article on CYP SA!

GIRLS ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS

BY HYBRE KIVEDO



Embracing Ordinarity: Finding Strength in God's Plan



Scripture: "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well." (Psalm 139:13-14)

As I sit down to write this month's article, I am reminded that being ordinary is not only okay but a beautiful thing. In a world that constantly pressures us to be extraordinary, exceptional, and outstanding, it's refreshing to remember that God uses all kinds of people to do His work. As women, we often grapple with feelings of inadequacy and insignificance, comparing ourselves to others and believing we don't measure up. Society tells us we must be perfect, but God's Word tells us a different story. Psalm 139:13-14 assures us that we are fearfully and wonderfully made—not because of our accomplishments, but because of who God says we are.

Finding Identity in God's Word

As women of faith, our identity is rooted in Scripture, not in societal expectations. We don't need the world to define us; we already know who we are: "We are loved" (John 3:16) - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

"We are chosen" (1 Peter 2:9) - "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light;"
"We are redeemed" (Galatians 3:13) - "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree')"

"We are empowered" (Acts 1:8) - "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

"We are unique" (Psalm 139:14) - "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well."

Many may wonder, "What happens when hurt, betrayal, and disappointment

enter our relationships?" It's natural to question God: "Why is this happening to me, Lord? I am Your daughter." Reflecting on my journey over the past year, I've faced immense challenges as I've tried to be a pillar of strength for my partner amidst repeated betrayals. The weight of hurt, mistrust, and disappointment has tested my faith and resilience.

Rebuilding trust after multiple betrayals often felt impossible. If I'm honest, it's still a challenge that the enemy reminds me of. The emotional exhaustion from constant stress, anxiety, and turmoil drained me. Uncertainty about the future paralyzed me, shaking my sense of self-worth and purpose. In the midst of my spiritual struggle, I questioned God's plan and goodness amid pain. In desperation, I turned to Him, crying out for strength, wisdom, healing, forgiveness, and guidance.

The Lord revealed to me that this battle is not mine to fight alone. Many times, I'd pray for help, then take the problem back, trying to solve it myself. The lesson I've learned during this process is that God's presence is my rock, even in turmoil.

Forgiveness is a process, not an event. - Matthew 18:21-22: When Peter asks Jesus how many times he should forgive someone, Jesus responds with an expansive answer, emphasizing the need for continual forgiveness. This underscores the notion that forgiveness may require ongoing prayer and reflection, as we wrestle with our feelings and seek God's help to let go of resentment.

Trust is rebuilt incrementally, not instantly. - In Lamentations 3:22-23, it states, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." This reminds us that God's unchanging nature provides a foundation upon which trust can be rebuilt over time.

Self-care is essential for emotional survival. - Philippians 4:6-7: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Prayer is my lifeline, connecting me to God's power. - 1 Timothy 2:1: “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people.”

I asked the Lord to help me trust Him, even when trust has been broken, to grant me the strength to forgive, and to restore my relationship with Him and my partner, if it be His will.

As wives and partners, we are called to be pillars of strength and support. It's easy to feel less of a woman, wife, or partner and to question our loved ones' commitment. Yet God's Word reminds us: "The Lord is near to the broken-hearted and saves the crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18). We don't have to face these challenges alone. God is our Rock, our Refuge, and our Restorer.

As strong Godly women, we must confront countless challenges with courage and faith. We need to be strong and courageous: "Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9). Our strength comes not from ourselves but from God.

As we look at the examples from Scripture, we find many women in the Bible exemplify this resilience. Mary, the mother of Jesus, trusted God despite impossible circumstances (Luke 1:26-38). Ruth remained loyal and faithful through hardship and loss (Ruth 1:16-17). Esther bravely stood for her people despite fear and uncertainty (Esther 4:14). These women, though ordinary, were used by God in extraordinary ways, facing their challenges with faith and strength.

To rise above our challenges, we must:

1. Focus on God's sovereignty (Isaiah 46:10). - Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,’

2. Trust in His goodness (Psalm 27:13-14). - I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living. Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!

3. Cultivate gratitude (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). “Rejoice always, pray

without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

4. Surround ourselves with a supportive community (Hebrews 10:24-25). -

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

To those walking this difficult path, I see you. I understand your pain. Remember, you are not alone. Your worth is not defined by your partner's actions. Forgiveness is a journey, not a destination, and healing is possible.

In conclusion, navigating the complexities of relationships can be incredibly challenging, and it's essential to approach these struggles with empathy and understanding. I see you. I understand your pain. Your journey is valid, and you are not alone in your experiences. Remember that your worth is not defined by your partner's actions; rather, it is rooted in your identity as a beloved child of God.

Forgiveness is indeed a journey, not a destination, and it may take time to heal. As you walk this path, know that healing is possible. Embrace the process with grace and patience, allowing God's love to guide you through. Seek support from your community and lean on your faith, as these are vital components in your journey toward restoration.

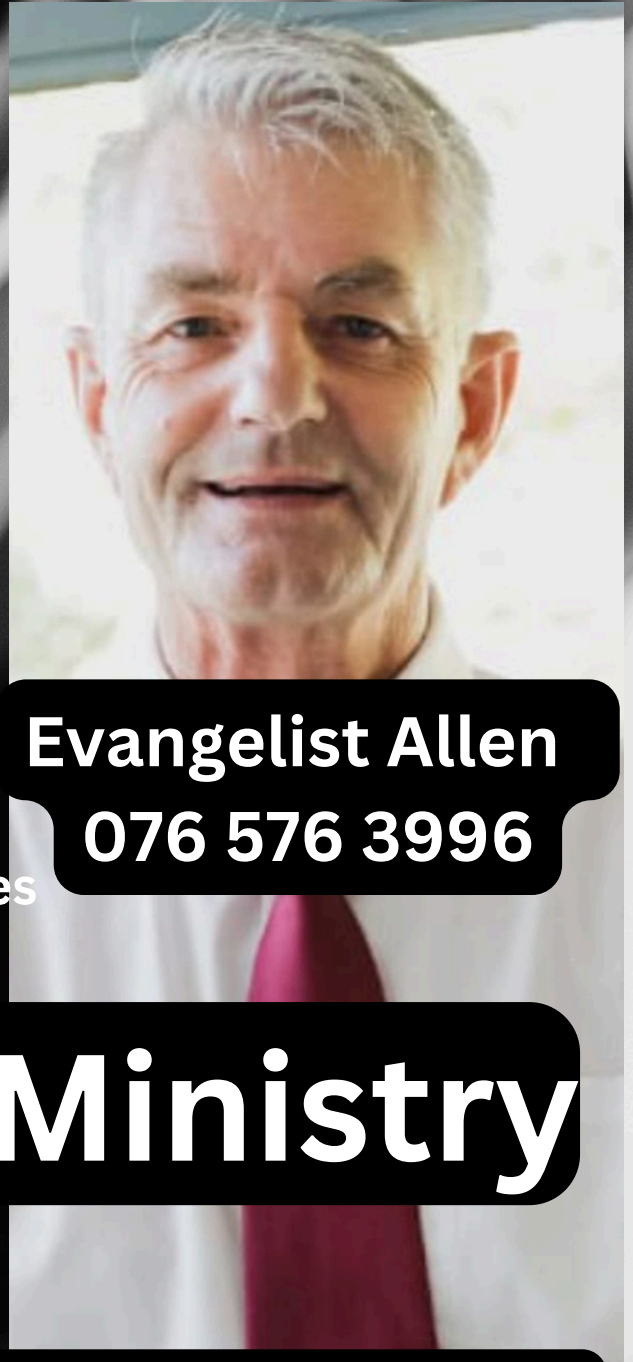
As you cultivate gratitude and connect through prayer, may you find strength in knowing that God walks with you every step of the way. Together, let us foster a spirit of resilience and hope, trusting that even in our ordinary lives, we are capable of extraordinary healing and transformation.

May God's Word guide and comfort you.



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CROWNS AND REWARDS IN HEAVEN

CROWNS & REWARDS IN HEAVEN



THERE ARE TWO HEAVENLY JUDGEMENTS:

- 1. THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST AT CHRIST'S THRONE (REV. 11:18)**
- 2. THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT AT GOD'S THRONE (REV. 20:11-13)**

WE ARE GOING TO FOCUS ON THE FIRST JUDGEMENT.

*** THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST**

THIS JUDGEMENT IS CALLED THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST AND TAKES PLACE AT THE THRONE OF CHRIST. (ROM.14:10 - BUT WHY DO YOU JUDGE YOUR BROTHER? OR WHY DO YOU SHOW CONTEMPT FOR YOUR BROTHER? FOR WE SHALL ALL STAND BEFORE THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.)



IT WILL BE FOR THE SAINTS, PROPHETS, SERVANTS, AND THOSE WHO FEARED GOD'S NAME (REV. 11:18 - THE NATIONS WERE FILLED WITH WRATH, BUT NOW THE TIME OF YOUR WRATH HAS COME. IT IS TIME TO JUDGE THE DEAD AND REWARD YOUR SERVANTS THE PROPHETS, AS WELL AS YOUR HOLY PEOPLE, AND ALL WHO FEAR YOUR NAME, FROM THE LEAST TO THE GREATEST. IT IS TIME TO DESTROY ALL WHO HAVE CAUSED DESTRUCTION ON THE EARTH.”)

IT WILL BEGIN THE MOMENT THE TEMPLE DOORS IN HEAVEN ARE OPENED (REV. 11:19 -THEN, IN HEAVEN, THE TEMPLE OF GOD WAS OPENED AND THE ARK OF HIS COVENANT COULD BE SEEN INSIDE THE TEMPLE. LIGHTNING FLASHED, THUNDER CRASHED AND ROARED, AND THERE WAS AN EARTHQUAKE AND A TERRIBLE HAILSTORM.)

IT IS TO SEE, WHO WILL BE REWARDED AND WHO WON'T. (THE WORD FOR REWARD IN REV.11:18 IS MIS'THOS AND MEANS “A PAYMENT FOR YOUR WORKS”

REWARDS – MATT. 10:41-42

THERE ARE THREE TYPES OF REWARDS AND GIVEN BY LEVELS OF OBEDIENCE (REV. 22:12 - “LOOK, I AM COMING SOON, BRINGING MY REWARD WITH ME TO REPAY ALL PEOPLE ACCORDING TO THEIR DEEDS..)

1. A PROPHET'S REWARD IS GIVEN FOR RECEIVING AND BELIEVING THE WORD OF GOD PREACHED.
2. A RIGHTEOUS MAN'S REWARD IS GIVEN, FOR RECEIVING A RIGHTEOUS MAN AND HIS WORKS.
3. A DISCIPLE'S REWARD IS GIVEN FOR BEING A GOOD SAMARITAN AND CARING FOR THE NEEDY.

PUNISHMENT – MATT. 23:13-39

PUNISHMENT IS ALSO GIVEN BY DEGREES. HYPOCRITES WILL BE JUDGED MORE SEVERELY THAN OTHERS, BUT THE FAITHFUL WILL BE REWARDED GREATER THAN OTHERS.

HOW ARE REWARDS DETERMINED?

AS A BELIEVER YOU WILL BE REWARDED ACCORDING TO YOUR WORKS.
1 COR. 3:10-15 – 10 BECAUSE OF GOD’S GRACE TO ME, I HAVE LAID THE FOUNDATION LIKE AN EXPERT BUILDER. NOW OTHERS ARE BUILDING ON IT. BUT WHOEVER IS BUILDING ON THIS FOUNDATION MUST BE VERY CAREFUL. 11FOR NO ONE CAN LAY ANY FOUNDATION OTHER THAN THE ONE WE ALREADY HAVE—JESUS CHRIST. 12ANYONE WHO BUILDS ON THAT FOUNDATION MAY USE A VARIETY OF MATERIALS—GOLD, SILVER, JEWELS, WOOD, HAY, OR STRAW. 13BUT ON THE JUDGMENT DAY, FIRE WILL REVEAL WHAT KIND OF WORK EACH BUILDER HAS DONE. THE FIRE WILL SHOW IF A PERSON’S WORK HAS ANY VALUE. 14IF THE WORK SURVIVES, THAT BUILDER WILL RECEIVE A REWARD. 15BUT IF THE WORK IS BURNED UP, THE BUILDER WILL SUFFER GREAT LOSS. THE BUILDER WILL BE SAVED, BUT LIKE SOMEONE BARELY ESCAPING THROUGH A WALL OF FLAMES.

NOTICE: THE TYPES OF MATERIAL, TEXTURE AND TESTING OF IT. THE MATERIALS ARE EARTHLY AND PRECIOUS. SOME ENDURE AS A FOUNDATION, BUT OTHERS WILL CRACK. AS THESE MATERIALS ARE TESTED BY FIRE SOME BECOME PURE AND OTHERS BURN UP.

REWARDS CAN BE LOST OR GIVEN TO OTHERS

“I AM COMING SOON. HOLD ON TO WHAT YOU HAVE, SO THAT NO ONE WILL TAKE YOUR CROWN.”
- REV. 3:11

CHRIST WARNED THE SEVEN CHURCHES IN REVELATION THAT THEY HAVE OPEN DOORS AND ARE WEAK. CHRIST ENCOURAGED THEM TO STAND FIRM IN THEIR FAITH AND COMPLETE THE JOURNEY. BY STANDING FIRM YOU HAVE TO CONSTANTLY INTROSPECT AND PRESERVE WHAT IS PRECIOUS. CHRIST MENTIONED TO ALL SEVEN CHURCHES THAT HE KNOWS AND NOTICES THEIR WORKS.



CROWNS IN THE BIBLE

1. CROWN OF HONOR (JOB 19:9 - HE HAS STRIPPED ME OF MY GLORY, AND

1. TAKEN THE CROWN FROM MY HEAD)
2. CROWN OF KINGS (EST. 1:11 - TO BRING QUEEN VASHTI BEFORE THE KING, WEARING HER ROYAL CROWN, IN ORDER TO SHOW HER BEAUTY TO THE PEOPLE AND THE OFFICIALS, FOR SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL TO BEHOLD.)
3. HIGH PRIEST'S CROWN (ZACH. 6:11 - TAKE THE SILVER AND GOLD, MAKE AN ELABORATE CROWN, AND SET IT ON THE HEAD OF JOSHUA THE SON OF JEHOZADAK, THE HIGH PRIEST.); EX. 29:11
4. CROWN OF PRIDE (IS. 28:1-5 - WHAT SORROW AWAITS THE PROUD CITY OF SAMARIA—
THE GLORIOUS CROWN OF THE DRUNKS OF ISRAEL.)
5. CROWN OF THORNS (MATT. 27:29 - THEY WOVE THORN BRANCHES INTO A CROWN AND PUT IT ON HIS HEAD, AND THEY PLACED A REED STICK IN HIS RIGHT HAND AS A SCEPTER. THEN THEY KNELT BEFORE HIM IN MOCKERY AND TAUNTED, "HAIL! KING OF THE JEWS!")
6. CROWN OF GLORY (1 PET. 5:4 - WHEN THE CHIEF SHEPHERD APPEARS, YOU WILL RECEIVE THE CROWN OF GLORY THAT DOES NOT FADE AWAY.)
7. CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (2 TIM. 4:8 - FINALLY, THERE IS LAID UP FOR ME THE CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, WHICH THE LORD, THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE, WILL GIVE TO ME ON THAT DAY, AND NOT TO ME ONLY BUT ALSO TO ALL WHO HAVE LOVED HIS APPEARING.)
8. CROWN OF LIFE (JAM. 1:12 - GOD BLESSES THOSE WHO PATIENTLY ENDURE TESTING AND TEMPTATION. AFTERWARD THEY WILL RECEIVE THE CROWN OF LIFE THAT GOD HAS PROMISED TO THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.)
9. CORRUPTIBLE CROWN (1 COR. 9:25 - EVERYONE WHO COMPETES IN THE GAMES GOES INTO STRICT TRAINING. THEY DO IT TO GET A CROWN THAT WILL NOT LAST, BUT WE DO IT TO GET A CROWN THAT WILL LAST FOREVER.)
10. SOUL WINNERS CROWN/ CROWN OF REJOICING (1 THES. 2:19 - FOR WHAT IS OUR HOPE, OR JOY, OR CROWN OF REJOICING? IS IT NOT EVEN YOU IN THE PRESENCE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST AT HIS COMING? 20FOR YOU ARE OUR GLORY AND JOY.)
11. CROWN OF SILVER HAired PERSON (PROV. 16:31 - GRAY HAIR IS A CROWN OF GLORY; IT IS GAINED BY LIVING A GODLY LIFE.)
12. CROWN OF GRANDCHILDREN (PROV. 17:6 - GRANDCHILDREN ARE THE CROWNING GLORY OF THE AGED; PARENTS ARE THE PRIDE OF THEIR CHILDREN.)

THE ROMANS AND GREEKS USED CROWNS AS SYMBOLS OF VICTORY AND REWARD. WINNERS OF THE OLYMPICS WERE GIVEN CROWNS WOVEN WITH LEAVES AND WILD OLIVE BRANCHES. IN THE PYTHIAN GAMES, THE LAUREL WAS PRESENTED AS THE REWARD AND IN THE NEMEAN GAMES THE PARSLEY WAS USED. OTHERS USED THE LEAVES OF PINE AND THE ROMANS PREPARED A CIVIC CROWN FOR THE ONE WHO SAVED THE LIFE OF A CITIZEN. THESE CROWNS FADED; BUT THE CROWNS GIVEN BY THE KING OF KINGS WILL NEVER FADE AND ARE CALLED INCORRUPTIBLE.

5 CROWNS BELIEVERS WILL RECIEVE



1. THE INCORRUPTIBLE CROWN (1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-25)

IT IS NONPERISHABLE, INCORRUPTIBLE, AND WILL NEVER RUST OR DECAY. THIS CROWN IS GIVEN FOR RUNNING AND COMPLETING YOUR RACE ON EARTH (HEB. 12:1-2), WHEN RUNNING YOU MUST LAY ASIDE THE WEIGHTS AND THE SINS WEIGHING YOU DOWN. A GOOD SOLDIER WILL NOT ENTANGLE HIMSELF WITH THE AFFAIRS OF THIS LIFE (2 TIM. 2:4)

2. THE CROWN OF REJOICING (1 THESSALONIANS 2:19-20)

THIS CROWN IS OFTEN CALLED A SOUL WINNERS CROWN, AS SOULS WINNERS REJOICE WHEN A SINNER IS SAVED.

3. CROWN OF LIFE (JAMES 1:12)

THIS CROWN IS GIVEN TO THE OVERCOMER – THE CROWN OF REV. 2:10 THOSE WHO DIE MARTYRED WILL RECEIVE A SPECIAL CROWN (REV. 2:10 - BE FAITHFUL UNTIL DEATH, AND I WILL GIVE YOU THE CROWN OF LIFE.) THOSE SUFFERING SEVERE PERSECUTION AND REMAIN FAITHFUL WILL RECEIVE THE CROWN OF LIFE

4. CROWN OF GLORY (1 PETER 5:4)

1 PET. 5:4 WAS ADDRESSED TO MINISTERS AND PASTORS. THOSE MINISTERS FOUND FAITHFUL TO THEIR FLOCK AND MINISTRY RECEIVE A SPECIAL CROWN.

1. CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (2 TIMOTHY 4:8)

THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN AND LOVE THE APPEARING OF THE LORD AND WHO LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY ON EARTH WILL RECEIVE THIS CROWN.

SUMMARY

IT IS CLEAR FROM ALL THESE SCRIPTURES THAT ALL BELIEVERS WHO HAS A RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST AND THOSE THAT ENDURE TILL THE END WILL ENTER HEAVEN, BUT NOT ALL WILL RECEIVE A CROWN. OUR WORKS WILL BE TESTED BY FIRE, SOME WILL BECOME PURE AND OTHERS WILL BURN UP. REWARDS ARE GIVEN BY LEVELS OF OBEDIENCE, LIKEWISE PUNISHMENT WILL ALSO BE GIVEN BY DEGREES. IF WE ARE NOT CAREFUL WE COULD LOSE OUR REWARD, OR IT COULD BE GIVEN TO SOMEONE ELSE. DON'T GO INTO HEAVEN WITHOUT WORKS TO LAY AT CHRIST'S FEET, IT WILL BE VERY EMBARRASSING TO MAKE IT TO HEAVEN, AND NOT GET A REWARD.

CHRIST WEARS THE ROYAL CROWN AND WE WEAR A VICTOR'S CROWN IF WE OVERCOME!





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Sent 2 Serve Ministries is an inter-denominational, interracial ministry to the glory of God alone.



The village of Dopeni is nestled in the beautiful mountainous area of Nzhelele in Venda. Pastor Kenny and Mrs. Susan Ratshimolo have been pastors at the “Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life” Congregation for many years. Sent 2 Serve Ministries got involved in Dopeni and started conducting Youth Development Seminars in 2016, and over the years the relationship between us has grown stronger.

About our Youth Development Program

ALL our Youth Seminars are free of charge. On average about 70 children attend per weekend, resulting in 280 plates of food and cups of cold drink being prepared. The food is usually prepared by the mothers of some of these teens and done on open fires. The average cost for a Seminar amounts to about R9000-00, which includes my travelling cost, the manual that each child receives as well as their Certificates of Attendance. On average a cost of R129 per child. We trust God to raise up sponsors who will invest in these life-changing Seminars.

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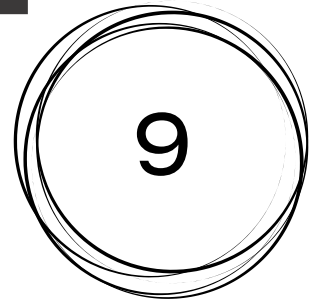
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FOR THIS CAUSE BY BISHOP O T WHITTAKER THE BLEEDING *WOMAN*



Dying Youth (Mark 5:22-23; 35-43)

Possessed Man.

Let us recap on Mark 5, where we started with the subject of the possessed man. We concluded in previous series that the bible described him as a possessed man but did not mention how it began. We then drew a parallel with the current challenges that men face in today's society where they are judged by their behaviour but no one tries to find out about the underlying cause. We also identified the different types of possession e.g. mental; emotional; demonic; but there are also certain types of possession that looks innocent but can also lead to bondage such as possessed with materialism that it changes your behaviour towards yourself and family; possessed with success at the expense of your health and even family. There are other type of possession like substance abuse; sexual obsession that drives you away from your family. The bible say that the man lived among the tombs.

Bleeding Woman.

In the same chapter of Mark 5 we meet up with the bleeding woman and although we said that though her condition was physical we can draw a parallel with the women in our society that also has their own bleeding issues. She could have come into the relationship or marriage bleeding or it could also be as a result of the possession of the man. Whilst the men in our society are suffering from their possession we now having women who

are bleeding. This now leads us into the next series which is the “Dying Youth.”

Dying Youth

Whilst the men and women grapple with their personal struggles, there is a generation of youth quietly facing mortality. As fathers and mothers contend with their own challenges, their children are left to fend for themselves. The absence of guidance, protection, and mentorship for the younger generation is evident as parents are preoccupied with their own dilemmas. For example, a single mother working multiple jobs may not have the time or energy to provide the emotional support her children’s needs. Some adults are in the midst of a journey to self-discovery, leaving little room for nurturing their offspring. It’s not uncommon for parents to prioritize their own personal growth over their responsibilities towards their children. Children are prematurely forced into adulthood while their parents are engrossed in finding themselves outside the home. This situation can lead to a sense of abandonment and isolation for the youth, who need guidance and support to navigate the complexities of life.

In this narrative, we encounter a man named Jairus, who not only held a position of spiritual leadership but also faced the heart-wrenching reality of his 12-year-old daughter’s impending death. The poignant moment when he uttered, ‘My daughter is at the point of death’ resonates deeply, highlighting the profound anguish and desperation he must have felt. This scenario serves as a stark reminder of how easily we can overlook the subtle indications of a deteriorating situation, especially within our own families. Often consumed by the demands and distractions of daily life, we fail to recognize the subtle cries for help until they escalate into a crisis. It is a sobering reflection on the importance of being attuned to the needs of our loved ones and fostering open communication within our households. Just as Jairus was compelled to seek assistance when his daughter’s condition became critical, we too must prioritize proactive care and support for those closest to us. Let us heed this lesson and strive to cultivate an environment where concerns are addressed promptly and compassionately, preventing avoidable tragedies and nurturing stronger familial bonds. The name Jarius, which means ‘He who wakes up’ carries a profound message that resonates deeply with the challenges faced by our young people today. Just as Jairus woke up to the imminent danger his daughter was in, we too must awaken to

the pressing issues affecting the youth. Often, we tend to overlook and dismiss the struggles of our young ones, attributing them to mere phases they are passing through. However, some of these phases can be incredibly detrimental, leading to outcomes far worse than physical death.

Consider the heartbreaking scenarios where young individuals succumb to the pressures of dropping out of school, losing their dreams, passion, and zest for life, or falling into the abyss of substance abuse and gang involvement. It is a painful reality to witness bright, intelligent students compromising their values and potential to fit in with societal norms that are far from nurturing.

The sight of innocent girls being lured by manipulative boys who later subject them to abuse is a stark reminder of the dangers lurking in the shadows of ignorance. These girls, once full of promise and intellect, find themselves trapped in toxic relationships, sacrificing their well-being for a false sense of belonging. As adults, as parents, we must not wait until the situation spirals out of control to intervene. Our absence and lack of involvement have rendered us voiceless in the lives of our youth. We must reclaim our roles as mentors, guardians, and guides, actively participating in their journeys to ensure they navigate through life's challenges with resilience and wisdom. Let us heed the wake-up call that Jairus embodies and proactively engage with the struggles our young ones face, for only then can we truly make a difference in their lives.

In conclusion, it is paramount for parents to find a delicate balance between their personal self-discovery journey and their responsibilities towards their children. The well-being and growth of the younger generation significantly rely on the guidance and assistance they receive from the adults in their lives. It is of utmost importance for parents to be fully present, both physically and emotionally, for their children, in order to ensure that they are equipped with the necessary tools and support to navigate the various challenges they may encounter. By recognizing the needs of the youth and offering them the essential resources, we can empower them to overcome hurdles and flourish in a constantly evolving world. For instance, a parent who actively engages in conversations with their child about their interests and aspirations not only fosters a deeper connection but also provides valuable insights into how to best support their development. Additionally,

parents who prioritize quality time spent together, whether through shared activities or meaningful conversations, create a strong foundation for building trust and open communication within the family unit. These examples demonstrate how parental involvement and support can positively impact a child's overall well-being and resilience. Moreover, by being attuned to their children's emotional needs and actively fostering a safe and nurturing environment at home, parents can help instill confidence and emotional intelligence in their children. This, in turn, enables young individuals to navigate social interactions and challenges with greater ease and resilience. Through consistent encouragement and positive reinforcement, parents play a pivotal role in shaping their children's self-esteem and overall outlook on life. In essence, the role of parents in the lives of their children goes beyond mere provision of material needs; it encompasses emotional support, guidance, and encouragement that are essential for nurturing well-rounded individuals. By being actively involved and attuned to the needs of the youth, parents can create a supportive environment that empowers children to overcome obstacles and thrive in a rapidly changing world. It is through this concerted effort and dedication that parents can truly make a lasting impact on the lives of their children.



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WISDOM SEED

BY PASTOR OLUWATOMI OYEBANJI

KNOWLEDGE *SEED*

Prophetic prayers for you and your family.

Dear family and friends,
It is my greatest privilege to welcome you into your season of multidimensional promotions. God, who is the lifter of men shall lift you and your family up supernaturally. You shall no longer dwell in the low places of the earth again. You shall from today ride in your high places majestically. God will promote you and give unto you all that you're due for in life and destiny. You shall not be rejected nor marginalised again. You shall be celebrated and acceptable to your world. Your joy shall know no bound as you enter into a new season of all-around rest and mega abundance. You shall be established in righteousness, and you shall be far from oppression. Your fortune and wealth have come in Jesus' name. Amen. Hallelujah. Congratulations.

Pastor Oluwatomi Adeoye Oyebanji





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Dear Family, friends and supporters,

We owe a debt of gratitude to the numerous churches, spiritual leaders, companies and community members who so graciously assist us with food hampers, clothing, toiletries, stationery, blankets, financial donations and other essential items that we in turn are able to donate to some of the most needy families and children in our region. Caring for the community in times of trouble and helping the most vulnerable cannot be achieved without the love, compassion and support of like-minded people and enterprises willing to open your hearts in helping us be the Lords servants in the community.

We appeal to you for your assistance and financial support especially in our efforts to implement and roll-out various prison and schools programmes and interventions – one of which is our PEDI Programme for children in school. This programme is aimed at helping children cope with '**Adverse Childhood Experiences**' and by empowering them with sound teachings on the importance of having fundamental moral values and principles in life to be respectable, law-abiding citizens.

Thank you for your sincere consideration.

In God's service,
Pastor Michael Gobel

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9 Things A Mother Would Never Say

“How on earth can you see the TV sitting so far back?”

“Yeah, I used to skip school a lot, too.”

“Just leave all the lights on ... it makes the house look more cheery.”

“Let me smell that shirt — Yeah, it’s good for another week.”

“Go ahead and keep that stray dog, honey. I’ll be glad to feed and walk him every day.”

“Well, if Johnny’s mamma says it’s OK, that’s good enough for me.”

“The curfew is just a general time to shoot for. It’s not like I’m running a prison around here.”

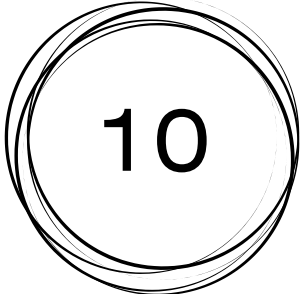
“I don’t have a tissue with me... just use your sleeve.”

“Don’t bother wearing a jacket – the wind-chill is bound to improve.”



REVIVAL'S FIRE

BY PASTOR RIAAN
ENGELBRECHT



10

REVIVAL TO RETURN TO THE FATHER PART 1

The word “home” conjures up all kinds of feelings, mostly good. For some, if not many, it speaks of a place of safety, family, friendship, good times, laughter and joy. Granted, for some “home” reminds of dark times, torment, abuse, violence and prison. The reality is that we all have known homes of some other kind. Some are born into a home, others are placed in a home. A home is supposed to be a shelter from the storms of life, yet sadly for some, there are worst monsters within than without in the world.

God promises us an eternal home. He promises to make a home within us. All of us have been created by God, and our ‘home’ is with God. John 14 says, “23 Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.” Glory to God, God wants to dwell with us, here and forever! To speak of a ‘home’ will remind of a place of joy and love, while for others it is the nightmare that devours. Yet, the eternal ‘home’ that God provides is void of darkness, trouble, strife, monsters, pain, illness, sadness, or bitterness. For those in whom God makes a home, they shall experience His love, joy, peace,

strength and contentment. To be honest, a lot of people find it difficult to equate God's home with a place of kindness and grace because of their childhood struggles. Just as so many have endured a difficult relationship with their biological or even foster father, just so they will struggle to relate to God as a good and faithful heavenly Father. One understands that for some it is not easy to "buy into the idea" that God is good, a loving Father, and His home is beautiful, and without suffering. Yet, the truth will not alter or change because God is good, He is kind, He is love and He wants all of us to experience His grace.

Psalm 139 says, "13 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them." We have all been created by God. None of us are a mistake. For our life to find true meaning, it is about making our way "home" to our Creator. Jesus came to make this journey possible, for it says in "John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Glory to God, He is the Creator of all on earth. And He calls us all "home". And this is the crux of any revival or an awakening – coming home to the Lord (not now eternally, but now find our place with Him). The Lord has shown over the years a house with a light shining inside. And this house is beautifully nestled in a beautiful valley, surrounded by flowers, trees and a river. It is a place of rest, of hope, and therefore, a shelter from the storm. The house represents God, for He calls us to find the right path again that will lead us back to Him. And God reminds us that there is always a light shining to lead us home and that God is always waiting for us to welcome us with open arms. Before we walk down the path, there is a farm gate, which reminds us that we come to the Father through Jesus who is the door (John 10). Our divine journey of peace, acceptance, hope, love and forgiveness begins with Christ. As we enter through the gate (Christ), we walk God's path of the redeemed, and such a path only leads to goodness. It is the path

of the Good Shepherd. It is the path of healing, restoration, salvation, and eternal glory with God.

The peaceful setting for the house reminds me of Psalm 23 which says, “1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. 3 He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.” We must find and walk the path of God for such a path leads us home. Matthew 7 says, “13 Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

Jeremiah 6:16 says, “1 Thus says the Lord: “Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’ Every one of us has a choice that we must make – either follow the path of God or follow the path of the world. The path of God leads to the light, to safety, to love, and to peace. The path of the world leads to darkness, strife, confusion and fear. The home God offers is a refuge, a shelter, a place of hope, safety and beauty. Of God, we read in “Psalm 144: 2 My lovingkindness and my fortress, My high tower and my deliverer, My shield and the One in whom I take refuge, who subdues my people under me.” Moses writes in “Psalm 91: 1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.” Psalm 62:8 declares, “Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.” It reminds of the yellow brick road in the film the Wizard of Oz. The road that leads to Oz speaks of the road to success or happiness. It signifies a course of action that a person takes believing that it will lead to good things. God’s narrow way leads to our eternal ‘Oz’, for it does lead to good things and joy. It is a road where we find life and joy in the here and now with God, but also eternal bliss in our divine home.

The Parable of the Prodigal Son is found in Luke chapter 15, verses 11-32. The main character in the parable, the forgiving father, whose character remains constant throughout the story, is a picture of God. In telling the story, Jesus identifies Himself with God in His loving attitude to the lost. The major

theme of this parable seems not to be so much the conversion of the sinner, as in the previous two parables of Luke 15, but rather the restoration of a believer into fellowship with the Father. In the first two parables, the owner went out to look for what was lost (Luke 15:1-10), whereas in this story the father waits and watches eagerly for his son's return. We see a progression through the three parables from the relationship of one in a hundred (Luke 15:1-7), to one in ten (Luke 15:8-10), to one in one (Luke 15:11-32), demonstrating God's love for each individual and His personal attentiveness towards all humanity. We see in this story the graciousness of the father overshadowing the sinfulness of the son, as it is the memory of the father's goodness that brings the prodigal son to repentance (Romans 2:4).

The parable of the prodigal son is all about returning 'home'. It is all about finding the yellow brick road to return to God, and, therefore, to be reconciled with a loving and faithful Father. Indeed, God will never leave or forsake us. He still calls us home. Yes, we are all like the prodigal son who has wandered away from our Father to explore the world. It is only when we realise that this world offers selfish, shallow fulfilment that we seek and yearn for true contentment only to be found in God. At one stage in the parable the prodigal son hits hard times, even willing to eat pig's food. He realised even such unclean animals seemed to be better off than he was at this point. This is when the son begins to reflect on his condition and realises that even his father's servants had it better than he did. His painful circumstances help him to see his father in a new light and bring him hope (Psalm 147:11; Isaiah 40:30-31; Romans 8:24-25; 1 Timothy 4:10). It is indeed glorious news when the sinner discovers the destitute condition of his life because of sin and that the world offers little joy! It is a realisation that, apart from God, there is no hope (Ephesians 2:12; 2 Timothy 2:25-26). This is when a repentant sinner "comes to his senses" and longs to return to the state of fellowship with God which was lost when Adam sinned (Genesis 3:8). The son was willing to give up his rights as his father's son just to go 'home'. He was prepared to be a servant (slave). His actions demonstrate true humility and true repentance, not based on what he said but on what he was willing to do and eventually acted upon (Acts 26:20). He realises he had no right to claim a blessing upon return to his father's household, nor does he have anything to offer, except a life of service, in repentance of his previous

actions. With that, he is prepared to fall at his father's feet and hope for forgiveness and mercy. This is exactly what conversion is all about: ending a life of slavery to sin through confession to the Father and faith in Jesus Christ and becoming a slave to righteousness, offering one's body as a living sacrifice (1 John 1:9; Romans 6:6-18; 12:1).

This prodigal son was satisfied to return home as a slave, but to his surprise and delight is restored to the full privilege of being his father's son. He had been transformed from a state of destitution to a complete restoration. That is what God's grace does for a penitent sinner (Psalm 40:2; 103:4). Not only are we forgiven, but we receive a spirit of sonship as His children, heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, of His incomparable riches (Romans 8:16-17; Ephesians 1:18-19). The father then orders the servants to bring the best robe, no doubt one of his own (a sign of dignity and honor, proof of the prodigal's acceptance back into the family), a ring for the son's hand (a sign of authority and sonship) and sandals for his feet (a sign of not being a servant, as servants did not wear shoes—or, for that matter, rings or expensive clothing, vs.22).

All these things represent what we receive in Christ upon salvation: the robe of the Redeemer's righteousness (Isaiah 61:10), the privilege of partaking of the Spirit of adoption (Ephesians 1:5), and feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace, prepared to walk in the ways of holiness (Ephesians 6:15). Yes, we serve an awesome God!

Riaan Engelbrecht is the co-founder of Avishua Ministries and also serves on the board of Lighthouse Ministries. He has been teaching the Word for the past couple of decades, which included being involved with online Christian radio stations (Lighthouse Radio, Rainbow Radio) for many years, and also featured on Osasogie TV (Nigeria-based). He has written over 85 books to uplift, edify, prophetically guide and speak the Lord's will in the last of days. His heart's desire is to seek the world flooded with God's truth, for only such a truth sets free. To contact the author, send an email to prophetriaan@gmail.com or forward a WhatsApp message to 084 666 3070.





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HE MADE ME IN MY MOTHER'S WOMB

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WHO AM I?

STORY TIME

A lot of times people tell us who we are or what we should be. We are labeled. Most time we are labeled with lies the world wants us to believe. Lies that hide away the truth about who we are.

In the bible, God gives us a blueprint about who we are. Who he created us to be. He wants us to take off the labels of this world and walk in our true identity.



Sitting down, you grabbed a nice big bowl, spoon ready for action. Slowly you open the lid, your cheeks ache from how hard you are smiling. Only once you see what's inside all your excitement fades away and your smile turns into a deep frown. Why? Because instead of creamy ice cream goodness, the tub was filled with left overs.

Do you like ice cream?

Picture this, you just came home from school. You barely stopped in the drive way before you run to the fridge. Nothing could stop you now. For the whole day, all you could think about was the tub of ice cream you saw this morning.

This is it...the time has come!

GOD'S TRUTH

CHALLENGE

We would like to challenge you this month to go through this list. Take 5 min every day and look into the mirror, proclaim these truths over yourself.

God sees you differently. He loves you differently. It's time to embrace the identity God gave you.

1.

I am faithful
(Ephesians 1:1)

7.

I am forgiven
(Ephesians 1:8)

2.

I am God's child
(John 1:12)

8.

I have purpose
(Ephesians 1:9)

3.

I am Christ's friend
(John 15:15)

9.

I am completed by God
(Ephesians 3:19)



4.

I belong to God
(1 Corinthians 6:20)

10.

I have been called
(Ephesians 4:1)

5.

I am chosen
(Ephesians 1:4)

11.

I am included
(Ephesians 1:13)

6.

I am adopted as his
child (Ephesians 1:5)

12.

I am God's workmanship
(Ephesians 2:10)





NPO 265-652

Serenity - Oak Rehab Centre

Tanya Engelbrecht 060 9948 390

015 065 0971

E mail: serenityoak.64@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.serenityoakrehab.co.za/>

Who we are?

Serenity Oak Recovery and Wellness Centre is a non-profit organisation, found by Pastor Pieter Engelbrecht, who has a TBH degree, as well as a Diploma in Apologetics. Pastor Pieter, as well as his wife Tanya, who has a bachelor's degree in Pastoral Counselling are well loved in their congregation and in their community. Serenity-Oak is designed to provide a drug and alcohol rehabilitation service in the Polokwane area of Limpopo Province, where there is a critical shortage of such facilities to address the

currently alarming statistics of drug misuse and addiction in the area. It is Serenity Oak's primary aim to provide a highly effective and expertly managed Recovery and Wellness centre, in a welcoming home-like setting, with the assistance of individually appointed specialized and appropriately skilled and qualified personnel. With a good success rate over the past three years, we are destined for greater things.

Our Vision

Our vision is to become the number one choice accredited drug centre for drug rehabilitation and recovery services, in Polokwane and the neighbouring rural regions. Provide a safe and professional environment for inpatients and give them the necessary tools to become viable in the society. To give them the life they deserve.

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide a professional, quality, and affordable service to anyone who needs alcohol and drug rehabilitation treatment and to give them the assurance that this is the best choice they made. The assistance of individually appointed specialized and appropriately skilled and qualified personnel.

Running the following Programs:

1. 12 Step plan of the Narcotic Anonymous.
2. Authentic Manhood
3. C.B.T Treatment (Cognitive Behaviour Treatment)
4. One-on-one sessions and counsel sessions
5. Recreational exercises

The 24/7 physical and emotional support of the well-trained staff members helps the road to recovery to become just that much easier. It is also very important to repair the broken relationships between the loved ones and the addict due to the behaviour of the addict, with the assistance of individually appointed specialized and appropriately skilled and qualified personnel regular counsel meetings between patients and family, the family bond will be reconciled. The road to recovery is always better when we stand together. "United we stand but alone we fall".

Our Goals

- Provision of counselling to corporate employees, individuals, couples, and

families. □ Provision of a temporary save-heaven for Alcohol and drug addiction patients. □ Provision of various therapeutic group sessions, including the provision of drug prevention and health maintenance groups. □ Development and provision of drug prevention and recovery plans and after-care services for recovered patients. □ Evaluation of patients' addictions and their readiness for treatment. □ Review and recommendations of treatment options with patients and their families/support groups. □ Assistance to patients to help develop their own treatment goals and plans. □ Development of the necessary skills and behaviours to enable patients to recover from their addictions. □ Work closely with patients to help them to understand and manage their behaviours and/or the situations that can interfere with their recovery. □ Educate patient's families and support groups about drug addiction and help them to understand and develop strategies to assist the patients with their recovery. □ Promotion of a sobrieties lifestyle and the provision of a support system for the after-care of recovered patients, providing them with the necessary tools and support to ensure they remain recovered. □ Prepare the patients to not only recover from their afflictions, but also to be able to fit back into society as productive members of their community.

Sponsorship

Because of our nature of business, we are a Non-Profit Organisation, and we are fully relied on the sponsorship of the community. There are a lot of needy people that we had to showaway because of funding. We would love if the big businesses can become involved and sponsor us, through your sponsorship we can help the needy and the business sector of Polokwane can become personally involved in a good "cause" that will improve the quality of life of everyone.

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