

# TESTIFY

## MAGAZINE

December 2025



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# hybrid evangelism

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# IN THIS EDITION

Issue 35  
December 2025

## COVER STORY: CITY BIBLES HYBRID EVANGELISM



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We are a non-profit foundation with a team of 4 employees and 15 volunteers. By keeping overhead costs low, we are able to fulfill our mission: providing evangelists and organizations with Bibles, New Testaments, and evangelism materials at cost price. We dedicate all our knowledge and expertise to spreading the Word of God worldwide. Any surplus is directly reinvested into developing new languages and materials.

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**Spiritual Awakening**  
**PASTOR MIKE GOBEL**

**Restoration**  
**GERDA POTGIETER**

**ARE YOU A BELIEVER YET?**  
**Read and pray this**  
**Prayer!**

**HYBRE KIVEDO**  
**Girls on the Move for**  
**Jesus**



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## DISCLAIMER AND CONTACTS

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# COVER STORY

## CITY BIBLES: GROUNDBREAKING CONCEPT

### About our Foundations



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**SINCE 2008**

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4 employees and 15  
volunteers**

**LAST YEAR:**

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# HYBRID EVANGELISM



## Another view on the world

**If we continue in the old way, the gap will increase every day!**

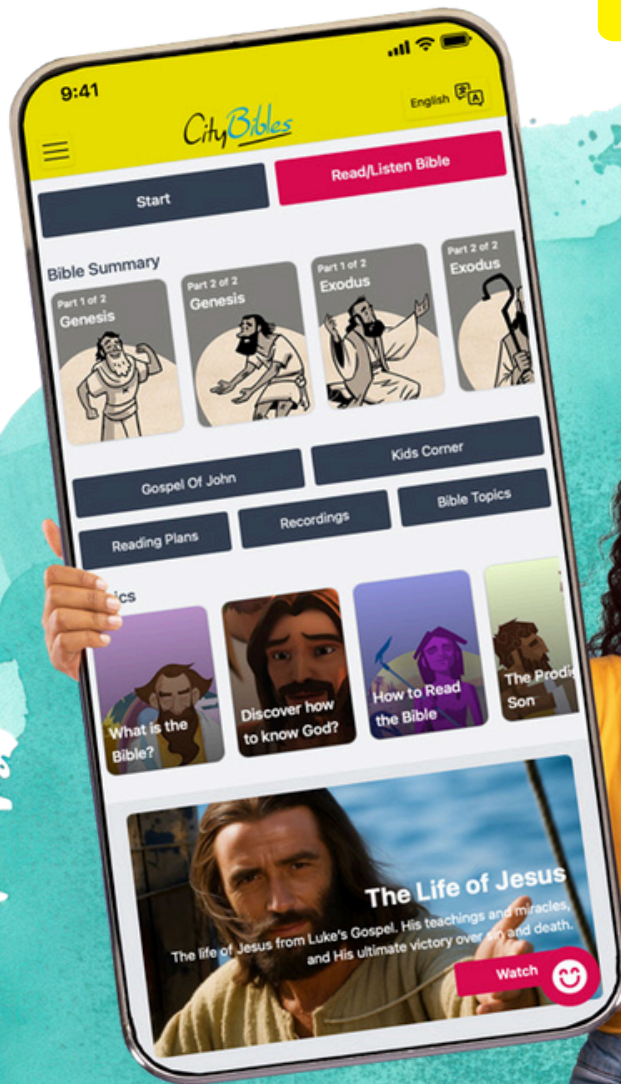
*"The number of unreached people will continue to increase until Christians and churches decide to change how we use our resources."*



# HYBRID EVANGELISM

## Bible Platform

CityBibles



***“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.” Mark 16:15***



# HYBRID EVANGELISM

We have built a Bible Platform specifically for evangelism, available in more than 2,000 languages. In the app, people can access the Bible through;



READ

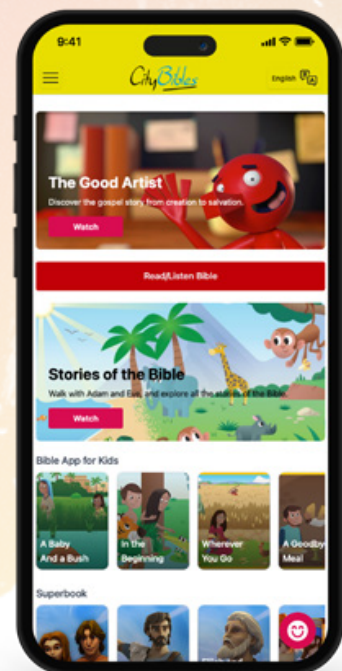
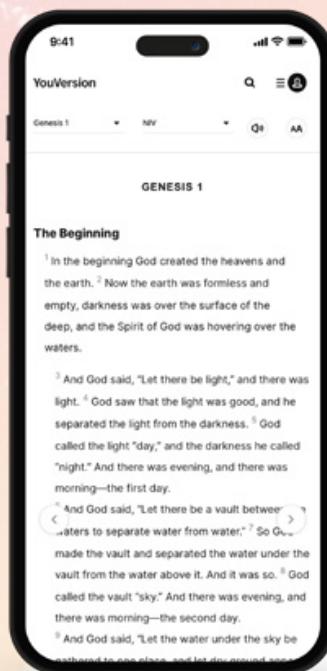


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WATCH

This way, everyone can discover the Gospel in their own heart language.



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NETWORK



The Bible App  
FOR KIDS



# HYBRID EVANGELISM



**Since 2017: QR scanners are built-in on 91% of iOS and 86% of Android devices.**



# HYBRID EVANGELISM

## The Concept

### What is Hybrid Evangelism?

*"A physical carrier that gives access to the digital Bible."*

A physical carrier that gives access to a digital environment (*Bible app, films, audio, and resources*). This way, people receive something simple and practical in their hands, while gaining immediate access to Scripture in thousands of languages on their phone.



# HYBRID EVANGELISM

Triangle of hybrid  
evangelism

**Digital**  
Bible App platform



**Physical**  
Keychain with QR code

**Physical**  
Hard copy Bible



***"The smallest key unlocks the greatest power."***



# HYBRID EVANGELISM

## The Unique Carrier

Where, When, What, Who?

Each keychain carries its own unique QR code, no two are the same. When someone scans it, the activity instantly appears in the dashboard, showing the Four W's: Where – Where the scan took place, When – When it was scanned, What – Which buttons were clicked, Who – Whether someone requested a Bible.



- Every keychain with an unique QR code
- Unlimited unique QR code
- Optional Personalization



# HYBRID EVANGELISM

## Projects and Productions

Every organization receives a personal dashboard login. Within it, you can create unlimited projects, for example:

- Project Brazil – 50,000 keychains
- Project India – 100,000 keychains
- Project Spain – 4,000 keychains

Each batch (minimum 1,000 pieces) is linked to a project, and you can reassign batches to new projects at any time.



## Keyfacts:

- Minimum production: 1,000 keychains per batch
- Customize the backside with your own logo
- Create unlimited projects in your dashboard

*Your organisation or logo here*



*"Every unique QR code holds the power of personal transformation."*



# HYBRID EVANGELISM

## Bible for Evangelism

We specialize in printing Bibles in hundreds of languages. Thanks to our special in-house typesettings, we save paper and always print as cost-effectively as possible, without compromising on quality. With more than 200+ licenses of Bible translations, we can supply organizations worldwide with Bibles at cost price.



Layflat  
Linnen spine



## Efficient typesetting without losing fontsize

We are able to keep the same font size while reducing the overall page count.

### 1. Linnen spine lay-flat binding:

allowing us to minimize margins without losing readability.

### 2. Two-column layout:

making the text more compact and efficient.

### 3. Removing poetry formatting:

simplifying line breaks and saving space.



1200 PAGES

Fontsize 7.8pt  
1 columns with poetry

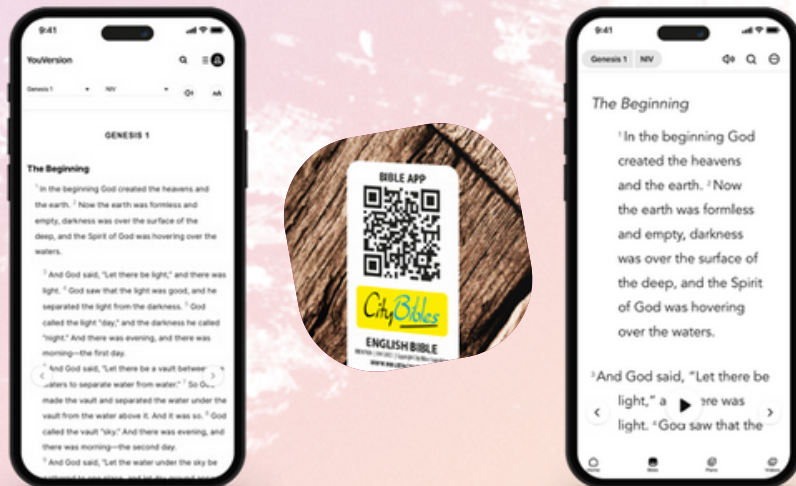
720 PAGES

Fontsize 7.8pt  
2 columns without poetry

# HYBRID EVANGELISM

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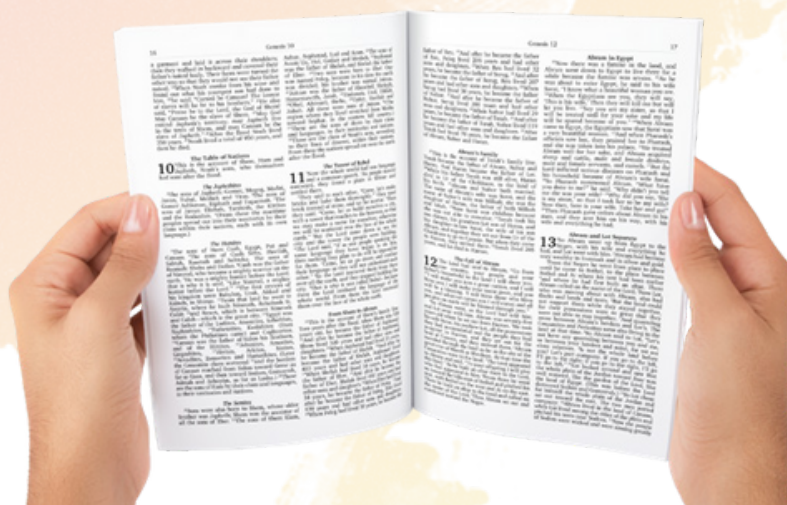
- Access to 2400+ full Bibles
- Change font size



## Typesetting, pages and font sizes

We have developed standard typesettings for every language, creating consistent page counts across editions. This ensures the same number of copies per box, making all shipments uniform and easily stackable.

| Product          | Typesetting S<br>Fontsize: 7.8pt | Typesetting M<br>Fontsize: 8pt | Typesetting L<br>Fontsize: 9pt | Typesetting XL<br>Fontsize: 9.5pt |
|------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| New Testament A6 | 432 pages                        | 528 pages                      | 672 pages                      | -                                 |
| New Testament A5 | 240 pages                        | 336 pages                      | 464 pages                      | -                                 |
| Full Bible A5    | 720 pages                        | 864 pages                      | 1008 pages                     | 1248 pages                        |





# HYBRID EVANGELISM



"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." **Matthew 24:14**



With Project Lodestar, we are preparing for the future of evangelism. Millions of people still live in remote areas without internet, yet many of them already own a simple cell phone. Today, scanning a QR code in such places often leads to a dead end. Together with Starlink, we are exploring a *direct-to-cell solution*. This innovation makes it possible for someone, even in the most isolated regions, to scan a QR keychain and immediately access the Bible app, without needing traditional internet coverage. This means that men, women, and children in remote deserts, mountain villages, or censored nations can open the Bible in their own heart language with just one scan.





# HYBRID EVANGELISM

## Call to Action

### Making Impact Together to Reach the World

We warmly invite you to join us in reaching the lost souls of the world through innovative and contemporary approaches to evangelism and spreading the Word of God."

### Why partner with us?



**Global reach** Bibles and digital access in thousands of languages.



**Hybrid Evangelism** physical keychains that unlock powerful digital tools.



**Clear insight** real-time data to measure true impact.



**Strong partnerships** connect with a worldwide network of evangelists and organizations.



**Faithful to Scripture** every project centers on God's Word.



### Be part of the mission!

**Together, we can ensure that every person, in every nation, in every language, can encounter the Gospel.**

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# PASTOR MIKE GOBEL

## SPIRITUAL AWAKENING



### Introduction

Many Christians know the Bible doesn't mention—much less sanctify—'Christmas' as a 'religious' day of celebration within the Christian calendar but how many truly know and understand that Christmas is not the day that represents the birth of Christ. So, the question might be asked, does it really make any difference as long as it's intended to honour God and bring families together? Well, I would argue that it makes a huge difference.



**Pastor Michael Gobel Associate Pastor  
of The Campus Church,  
Pietermaritzburg, KZN  
South Africa**

# SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

These subtle changes, misconceptions and distortions of the Truth are not by accident, they are a deliberate attempt of the devil to undermine the very foundation of the Christian faith. If Satan is able to make the world believe that Christmas was the actual day to celebrate the birth of Christ then whose to say, he is not capable to planting doubt and confusion into the Body of Christ in terms of God's purpose, His goal, His intent and even make people believe that maybe Jesus was just a mythical being or as some believe, a mere prophet and not the Son of God.

As Christians, it's about time we stop living a lie when it comes to the holiday season of December, and to the celebration of 'Christmas' as the period of the birth of Christ? Have we not come to the realisation that we are not living in the ancient period of the Roman Empire. Of course, there is nothing wrong with celebrating the festive season as a period of giving and receiving and of enjoying the fellowship and coming together of family and friends, but if you are celebrating December 25 as the birthday of the divine Saviour of this world, then you are in reality still following an ancient pagan tradition that was adhered to by the citizens of Rome and for which had nothing to do with the birth of Jesus Christ.

We should by now be living, breathing, thinking, acting and believing the Truth—which is the Word of God—like a citizen of the Kingdom of God and not a citizen of this world. A citizen of the Kingdom of God does not celebrate pagan Christmas day as though we are honouring the birth of Christ. But the world and sadly even some Christian churches, religious institutions and entities have gone and allowed for these commercialised worldviews to create the narrative that the birth of Christ is not only symbolically but directly and figuratively linked to Christmas.



# SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

As a result, we witness each year how Christian authors, spiritual leaders, manufacturers, and publishing houses create 'Special Edition' Christmas gifts, visual and written material, Bibles, books, CD's, and many other merchandise that all falsely associate the birth of Christ with Christmas. Collectively, all this false indoctrination has indirectly gone and clouded that perception to both believers and non-believers that Christ was indeed born on Dec. 25 which of course is a lie.

Now, you could be of the opinion right now that I might be taking this whole notion too far and that maybe I'm bordering on being legalistic in my approach on this subject but I want to make this categorically clear, I am far from looking at any of my analyses of the Word of God from a legalistic point of view, I simply wish for the Word of God to speak for itself by allowing you, the reader and believer of Christ to objectively assess for yourself whether we are doing the right thing to believe and adhere to traditions that contradict the truth of God's Word. My opinion doesn't matter, what matters is that we as the collective Body of Christ get back to believing and understanding the Word of God as it was written and to recognise our identity in Christ based not on human perceptions, narratives, false teachings or misguided interpretations but on what the true historical and biblical facts reveal.

That means, based on the Word of God, the heavens and the earth were created in seven days (or at least in 6 days and God rested on the seventh)—no buts, no compromises, no doubts or maybe. We cannot allow for science or worldviews to cloud our belief in the fundamental principles of the truth of our faith or indoctrinate us with the notion that it was impossible for God to have created heaven and earth in seven days or to open the door for us to consider some scientific theory or theological opinion that contradicts the very foundation of our creation and purpose of existence.

# SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The same would apply to the birth of Christ, if we begin to believe the worlds perception that Father Christmas (Santa Claus) is real and that Jesus was born on Dec. 25 then when will these lies stop? By opening the door to one lie, we are in reality saying that maybe there are other aspects of God's Word that can come into question, and that is no different from what Adam and Eve did by doubting God's Word and accepting the lie of the devil which caused the very fall of man and which brought eternal division between God and humanity that can only be restored by the acceptance of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour.

If you come to think about it, because the world (and I include Christians sadly in this mix) have allowed for these subtle changes and sinful inclusions to creep into our consciousness on what is truth and what is false or what is acceptable and what is not, we now find ourselves in a world where people and especially our children have begun to even question whether we have more than two genders (male and female), just as an example. This seriously undermines the very foundation of God's creation and puts into question the purpose and will of God for mankind.

## **Following in the Footsteps of a Different god**

Children are being allowed to believe in fairies, goblins, and mythical creatures, and worse, participate in ancient pagan celebrations such as Halloween and other folklores that are dedicated to remembering the dead and the calling up of ancestral spirits. None of these elements, beliefs, or traditional events, whether cultural, religious or spiritual remotely associate with the GOD of all creation.



# SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

You only have to look at the Top Ten Highest Gross Hollywood Movies of the 21st Century, which are: 1) Avatar; 2) Avengers: Endgame; 3) Avatar: The Way of Water; 4) Ne Zha 2; 5) Star Wars: Episode VII; 6) Avengers: Infinity War; 7) Spiderman: No Way Home; 8) Inside Out 2; 9) Jurassic World; 10) The Lion King (Source: IMDb.com, Retrieved: 12/11/2025). From this list we can clearly see that the world is more interested in the mystical elements, irrespective of whether they are far-fetched, false or even evil, than to keep our eyes focused on the reality of that which is true and real.

We don't seem to care much these days about the Truth, whether Godly or otherwise. We believe that the truth (whether God's Law or human intervention) can and should be manipulated and even amended or changed if that truth negatively offends someone's religious, cultural, racial or ethnic dispensation or persuasion. As a result, we now even have denominations and religious bodies within the Christian church that are changing the very foundational doctrines of the Christian faith to make it more inclusive to human opinion and acceptance rather than to God's original Law as given to us by the Holy Bible.

When it comes to the issues relating to 'Christmas' and the misconceptions or false narratives that have been promoted by certain denominations, we now witness Christian churches, who are proudly displaying props and visual presentations in their churches of Christmas trees with lights and scattered gifts, including props demonstrating the symbolic significance and association of the birth of Jesus Christ in a manger in Bethlehem with the coming of Christmas and the festive 'December' period of holidays.

# SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Such depictions and demonstrations opened my eyes to how easily 'sincere ignorance' can blend with worldviews and uneducated religious rhetoric, false narratives and ungodly teachings that gloss right over the core facts (Truth) of what we as the body of Christ (the Church) do when we ignore or reject the notion to stick to the true facts in terms of the Word of God, no matter how difficult, no matter our insignificant or no matter how hard it is to accept or adhere to.

The Bible is clear on this matter in which it says in 2 Corinthians 2:17: "For we are not like so many others, who peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, as men sent from God." This verse underscores the importance of delivering God's word without corruption or ulterior motives, emphasizing sincerity and divine authority. Only one source can reveal to us the information we can find nowhere else. That single dependable source is the Bible.

This has nothing to do with legalism, this has to do with believing in and abiding by the true Word of God. Are we going to continue teaching our children and our congregations lies or twist the narrative by making our children and the body of Christ believe this nonsense or are we going to get back to the reality of believing the Word of God as it was written and not for as it pleases the ear of man?

The Bible makes it clear that civilizations and societies are influenced by Satan. The apostle John writes that "the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one" (1 John 5:19). Through his influence Satan has deceived the whole world (Revelation 12:9). The entirety of civilization has been seduced by this cunning being through his persuasive deception and insidious lies. The result has been thousands of years of human anguish, misery and suffering.



# SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Deceived by his lies, people have willingly adopted Satan's way of life rather than God's way. The result of following Satan's way, which through his deception appears fine and well and quite natural to most people, is predictable: "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end, it leads to death" (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25, NIV). Satan's deception is so complete, so pervasive, that the Bible calls him "the god of this age" (2 Corinthians 4:4). The apostle Paul, in the original Greek, identifies him as the 'theos'—the god, the one who is worshipped—of this 'eon,' this age, this period in history.

Consider the magnitude of Satan's influence over humanity—so great that most of mankind unknowingly worships and follows the devil as its god. That is the incredible truth revealed in our Bible! Understanding that reality explains so many of the troubling paradoxes we see in the world around us. Paul explained that as a result of Satan's hold on humanity, most people do not believe the truth of the Bible. They do not understand the gospel—the Good News—of God's plan for mankind. As he stated in 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, "But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them."

## **Finding a reliable source of knowledge**

Members of the early Church would have been astonished to think that the customs and practices we associate with Christmas would be incorporated into a celebration of Christ's birth. Not until several centuries had passed would Christ's name be attached to this popular Roman holiday.

# SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

As Alexander Hislop explains in his book *The Two Babylons*: “It is admitted by the most learned and candid writers of all parties that the day of our Lord’s birth cannot be determined, and that within the Christian Church no such festival as Christmas was ever heard of till the third century, and that not till the fourth century was far advanced did it gain much observance” (1959, pp. 92-93).

As for how Dec. 25 became the date for Christmas day, virtually any book on the history of Christmas will explain that this day was celebrated in the Roman Empire as the birthday of the sun god.

Explaining how Dec. 25 came to be selected as the supposed birthday of Jesus, the book *4000 Years of Christmas* says: “For that day was sacred, not only to the pagan Romans but to a religion from Persia which, in those days, was one of Christianity’s strongest rivals. This Persian religion was Mithraism, whose followers worshiped the sun and celebrated its return to strength on that day” (Earl and Alice Count, 1997, p. 37).

Not only was Dec. 25 honoured as the birthday of the sun, but a festival had long been observed among the heathen to celebrate the growing amount of daylight after the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year. The precursor to Christmas was in fact an idolatrous winter festival characterized by excess and debauchery that predated Christianity by many centuries.

## **Pre-Christian practices incorporated**

This ancient festival went by different names in various cultures. In Rome it was called the Saturnalia, in honour of Saturn, the Roman god of agriculture. The observance was adopted by early Roman church leaders and given the name of Christ (“Christ mass,” or Christmas) to conciliate the pagan converts and swell the number of the nominal adherents of Christianity.



# SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The tendency on the part of third-century Catholic leadership was to meet paganism halfway—a practice made clear in a bitter lament by one of the early Catholic church fathers, Tertullian. In A.D. 230 he wrote of the inconsistency of professing Christians. He contrasted their lax and political practices with the strict fidelity of the pagans to their own beliefs:

“By us who are strangers to Sabbaths, and new moons, and festivals [the biblical festivals spelled out in Leviticus 23], once acceptable to God, the Saturnalia, the feasts of January, the Brumalia, and Matronalia, are now frequented; gifts are carried to and fro, new year’s day presents are made with din, and sports and banquets are celebrated with uproar; oh, how much more faithful are the heathen to their religion, who take special care to adopt no solemnity from the Christians” (quoted by Hislop, p. 93).

Failing to make much headway in converting the pagans, the religious leaders of the Roman church began compromising by dressing the heathen customs in Christian looking garb. But rather than converting them to the church’s beliefs, the church became largely converted to non-Christian customs in its own religious practices.

Although at first the early Catholic Church censured this celebration, “the festival was far too strongly entrenched in popular favour to be abolished, and the Church finally granted the necessary recognition, believing that if Christmas could not be suppressed, it should be preserved in honour of the Christian God. Once given a Christian basis the festival became fully established in Europe with many of its pagan elements undisturbed” (Man, Myth & Magic: The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Mythology, Religion, and the Unknown, Richard Cavendish, editor, 1983, Vol. 2, p. 480, “Christmas”).

# SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

## **Celebration wins out over Scripture**

Some resisted such spiritually poisonous compromises. “Upright men strove to stem the tide, but despite all their efforts, the apostasy went on, till the Church, with the exception of a small remnant, was submerged under Pagan superstition. That Christmas was originally a Pagan festival is beyond all doubt. The time of the year, and the ceremonies with which it is still celebrated, prove its origin” (Hislop, p. 93).

The aforementioned Tertullian, for one, disassociated himself from the Roman church in an attempt to draw closer to the teachings of the Bible. He wasn’t alone in his disagreement with such trends. “As late as 245 Origen, in his eighth homily on Leviticus, repudiates as sinful the very idea of keeping the birthday of Christ as if he were a king Pharaoh” (The Encyclopaedia Britannica, 11th edition, Vol. 6, p. 293, “Christmas”).

Christmas was not made a Roman holiday until A.D. 534 (ibid.). It took 300 years for the new name and symbols of Christmas to replace the old names and meaning of the winter festival, a pagan celebration that reaches back so many centuries.

## **Was Jesus born in December?**

Most Bible scholars who have written on the subject of Jesus’ birth conclude that, based on evidence in the Bible itself, there is no possible way Christ could have been born anywhere near Dec. 25.



# SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Again, we turn to Alexander Hislop: “There is not a word in the Scriptures about the precise day of [Jesus’] birth, or the time of the year when He was born. What is recorded there, implies that at what time so ever His birth took place, it could not have been on the 25th of December. At the time that the angel announced His birth to the shepherds of Bethlehem, they were feeding their flocks by night in the open fields . . . The climate of Palestine . . . from December to February, is very piercing, and it was not the custom for the shepherds of Judea to watch their flocks in the open fields later than about the end of October” (Hislop, p. 91, emphasis in original).

He goes on to explain that the autumn rains beginning in September or October in Judea would mean that the events surrounding Christ’s birth recorded in the Scriptures could not have taken place later than mid-October, so Jesus’ birth likely took place earlier in the fall (Hislop, p. 92).

Further evidence supporting Jesus’ birth in the autumn is that the Romans were intelligent enough not to set the time for taxation and travel in the dead of winter, but during more-favourable conditions. Since Joseph’s lineage was from Bethlehem, and since he had to travel from Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem, and since his expectant wife Mary travelled with him, it would have been nearly impossible for the two to make the trip in the winter.

## **What difference does it make?**

The Bible gives us no reason—and certainly no instruction—to support the myths and fables of Christmas and Santa Claus. They are tied to the ways of this world and contrary to the ways of Christ and His holy truth. The Bible makes it clear, in which it says, “Do not learn the way of the Gentiles,” God tells us (Jeremiah 10:2).



# SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Professing Christians should examine the background of the Christmas holiday symbols and stop telling our children that Santa Claus and his elves, reindeer and that Christmas gift-giving are connected with Jesus Christ. Emphatically they are not! God hates lying. The Word of God says, “These six things the Lord hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren” (Proverbs 6:16-19).

Christ reveals that Satan the devil is the father of lies (John 8:44). Parents should tell their children the truth about God and this world’s contrary and confusing ways. If we don’t, we only perpetuate the notion that it is acceptable for parents to lie to their children.

Can a professing Christian promote a pagan holiday and its symbols as something that God or Christ has approved? Let’s see what God thinks about people using customs and practices rooted in false religion to worship Him and His Son. We find His views clearly expressed in both the Old and New Testament.

God specifically commands His people not to do what early church leaders did when they incorporated idolatrous practices and relabelled them Christian. Before they entered the Promised Land, God gave the Israelites a stern warning: “Take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them [the inhabitants of the land] . . . and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.’

# SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

“You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way; for every abomination to the Lord which He hates they have done to their gods . . . Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it” (Deuteronomy 12:30-32, emphasis added throughout).

Many centuries later the apostle Paul travelled to and raised up church congregations (followers and believers in Christ) in many gentile cities. To the members of the Church of God in Corinth, a city steeped in idolatry, Paul wrote: “What fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God . . .

“Therefore ‘Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.’ . . . Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2 Corinthians 6:14-17; 7:1).

Instead of allowing members to rename and celebrate customs associated with false gods, Paul’s instructions were clear: They were to have nothing to do with them. He similarly told Athenians who were steeped in idolatry, “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30).



# SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

God alone has the right to decide the special days on which we should worship Him. Jesus Christ plainly tells us that “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24). We cannot honour God in truth with false practices adopted from the worship of non-existent gods or demons posing as gods.

Jesus said: “This people honour Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men” (Mark 7:6-7). With God no substitutes are acceptable. It makes no difference that Christians mean well when they observe Christmas. God is not amused or pleased. The knowledge of how to honour Almighty God, who made us, preserves us and gives us eternal life, has been made available to you. Will you honour God or follow the traditions of mankind? (Holidays or Holy Days, The Good News, Kingdom at War, Dec. 2015)

## **Personal Message from the Author**

From the start of my writings, teachings and articles being posted in the Testify Magazine, I had sort to bring readers to two fundamental elements of God’s Word, firstly, to the importance of the Good News—which is the meaning of the term “gospel”—that Jesus Christ brought when He walked the earth 2,000 years ago. He came “preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel’” (Mark 1:14-15). And secondly, to teach and preach the unadulterated Truth as it is written in the Word of God.

I bear that same message in my writings for this new season of 2026—the message of the Kingdom of God that Jesus Christ will establish throughout the world following His return to the earth, and how you and I now, through repentance and belief in that Kingdom, submit to the rule and way of life of the King of kings and Lord of lords.



# SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

That is a truly life-transforming message that I hope to write about, teach and preach on in the years and seasons ahead, if we allow our Creator to work within us to change us from the inside out. It is also a message of great hope, because although we live in a time of great turmoil and trouble, “if God is for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31).

We know that God is working out His plan, and it will come to pass exactly as He sees fit. I look forward therefore to a world and a way of life beyond that which has been sadly corrupted by false teachings, misguided truths, misinterpretations and worldly narratives—a world in which the Body of Christ will strive for discipleship and not merely believing in a God they don’t really know or have any personal relationship with.

Hence, beginning with our January edition I aim to focus my writings and teachings on the ‘Journey of Discipleship’ and how we as children of God are able to draw nearer to our Creator. I will continue to bring you in-depth analysis of God’s plan and purpose for you and your loved ones. I will continue to explain God’s Word in clear, down-to-earth language to help you understand and act on what it reveals. And I will give you revealing studies about what the Bible teaches about various topics relevant to your life as a child of God and explain lessons we can learn from the lives of biblical characters. Most important of all, I will show you how to become the kind of person God wants you to be. I look forward to having you with us as we turn the page on a new season with the Testify Magazine.



# SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

On behalf of my wife and I, we want to wish you a blessed festive season, may you use this time for sharing, fellowship, renewal, and refreshing but most importantly, don't forget that you have a God that wants to be included in every aspect of your life. I pray God's protection over you and your family if you happen to be travelling during this time and may the grace and truth of our Lord Jesus Christ guide you always.

If you wish to support my ministry to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost or in helping the efforts of my registered 'non-profit,' public-benefit organisation called Planting Hope Foundation NPC to offer humanitarian aid and relief to many struggling widows, orphans and vulnerable families and individuals suffering in our community, as a result of poverty, unemployment, or various addictions, feel free to contact me on the details below.

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Branch Code: 7626

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Account Number: 241116686

May God bless you and keep you, may God make His face to shine upon you and give you peace.

Amen.

In God's love and service,

Pastor Mike Gobel

Associate Pastor of 'The Campus Church'

Co-founder/CEO of 'Planting Hope Foundation'

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# GERDA POTGIETER

## RESTORED LIVES



**Exploring the profound spiritual journey of  
transforming lives.**

**By Gerda Potgieter**



# GERDA POTGIETER

## RESTORED LIVES

The phrase ‘restored lives’ beautifully captures the journey of guiding individuals from experiences of loss, pain, or isolation towards a sense of wholeness and dignity. This journey can take many forms, whether it’s healing from illness, trauma, or overcoming challenges. It often involves empowering individuals to regain control and rebuild connections with loved ones and their community, fostering an environment where healing can genuinely thrive. At its heart, restoring lives is about creating space for hope and new beginnings, honouring each person’s unique journey along the way.

From a spiritual standpoint, the path to a renewed life becomes profoundly meaningful. It involves nurturing healing within, harmonising mind, soul, and spirit, and rediscovering what truly brings purpose. This journey appeals to everyone, offering a chance to connect with the divine, whether through faith in Christ or personal exploration, inviting all to embrace a life filled with hope and significance. Over the years, I have had many interviews and discussions with people seeking to change their lives. A common thread among those who succeed is that a person must be dedicated and do it for themselves, not because others pressure them to change.

### **A RESTORATION PROGRAM THAT WORKS**

The Concerned Young People of South Africa (CYPSA) restoration programme of the KwaSizabantu Mission has assisted over 20,000 people since its beginning. It started because the Mission’s well-known



# GERDA POTGIETER

## RESTORED LIVES

youth conferences played a key role in recognising the struggles and challenges young people face. The CYPISA program was implemented to deal with those challenges, which include HIV/AIDS, human trafficking, corruption and crime awareness. The destructive impact of drugs can be seen across all segments of society. Within the framework of their programme, CYPISA encourages young people to stand up against the harm caused by drugs, promiscuity (which can lead to HIV/AIDS), human trafficking, gang activity, crime, prostitution, pornography and abuse. Through its nationwide drug prevention program, CYPISA addresses these issues by supporting churches, teachers, traditional leaders, community leaders, and government officials in their efforts to combat them.

The CYPISA restoration program began in 2007, was registered as a non-profit organisation in 2010 and has held public benefit organisation status since 2018. The KwaSizabantu Mission supports the CYPISA program from its main campus in Kranskop, but also has branches in other parts of the country. CYPISA conducts awareness campaigns nationwide to warn youth and communities about the dangers of drugs, pornography and human trafficking. The aim is to inform young people and thereby try to prevent crime. It provides support to prostitutes, drug addicts, street children, prisoners and learners. It helps young people develop skills to navigate challenges and shares a message of hope for a better future. The goal is to equip youth with well-researched knowledge and practical advice to make informed decisions. CYPISA believes in the power of peer interaction to communicate

# GERDA POTGIETER

## RESTORED LIVES

effectively with youth, and the recovery program is based on Biblical principles. CYPISA has a proven track record of visiting hundreds of schools annually across various provinces. By assisting educators and the Department of Education, CYPISA informs learners about social dangers and supports school communities in addressing the challenges. The stories below are extracts from previous God-stories previously shared in the online Devoted magazine. If you are interested in the complete stories and others like them, I encourage you to visit the website and share those inspiring stories with others to give them hope. Perhaps someone you know needs help and can be supported by knowing that hope exists.

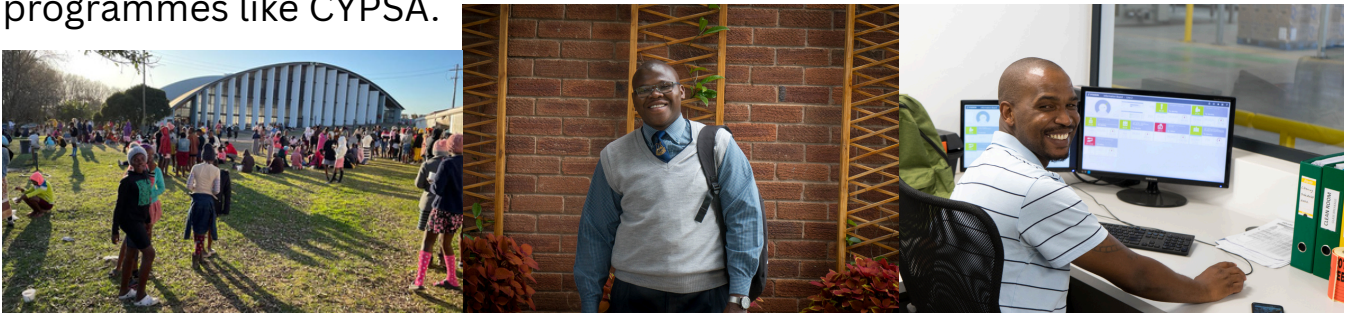
### REAL-LIFE STORIES

Khulekani Mkwize experienced maternal abandonment as a child when his mother left him with his unemployed father. Raised by his grandmother with limited resources, Khulekani struggled with feelings of distrust and inadequacy. As he grew older, he turned to substance abuse, including glue, cigarettes, and heroin, leading him to commit serious crimes and become a gang member. After being sentenced to two years in a correctional facility, Khulekani decided to change his life. While incarcerated, he discovered CYPISA and accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour. This transformation allowed him to reconcile with his community and even repay those he had wronged. From 2016 to 2019, he found employment and, at 28, returned to school, working towards completing his IEB matric. After that, his life was back on track. He found a job and can now contribute to society in a meaningful way.

# GERDA POTGIETER

## RESTORED LIVES

Thabo Motlaung's road to transformation was not easy. He started having problems at the age of 14. In grade six, he started smoking cigarettes, a habit he learned from his brothers, who would get drunk and smoke cigarettes. Thabo said, "Around Grade Nine, I started stealing pens from classmates and progressed to smoking dagga. One day, my friends and I decided to rob a delivery driver for cash. Armed with a gun, we held him up but were caught by community members and arrested. I spent six months in prison and became involved with the 26 gang. After being introduced to nyaope (heroin), my family expelled me, and I ended up homeless. "Eventually, a friend introduced me to CYPISA at KwaSizabantu, where I received spiritual help. Afterwards, I got a job at the Mission's water bottling plant, starting as a packer and later serving as the assistant production manager. My life has been restored, my relationship with my family has improved, and I've built a house that provides rental income. CYPISA was instrumental in my transformation, and I pray to stay in God's service." The above young men are just two of the thousands of young people the CYPISA restoration programmes have helped, and who echo the Biblical call to share testimonies of faith. Their stories remind us that no matter how lost one may feel, the path to recovery and renewal is always within reach, fuelled by faith, determination, and the support of dedicated programmes like CYPISA.





# THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

## SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS!

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, God has 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:

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### **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.



# BELIEF

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.



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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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# HYBRE KIVEDO

## GIRLS ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS



Hybre Kivedo is Writer and Author with an amazing insight and passion for Jesus!

### I DON'T KNOW WHAT GOD WANTS, BUT GOD KNOWS WHAT I NEED

***“Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.” — Matthew 6:8***

There are seasons in life when you stand at a crossroads, unsure of the path, uncertain of what comes next. You may whisper into the quiet of your heart, “Lord, I don’t know what You want.” And in the stillness, heaven answers gently: “But I know what you need.”



# GIRLS ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS

The year 2025 became that kind of year for me, a year where joy and sorrow lived side by side. Battles came uninvited, blessings arrived unexpectedly, and my own strength failed me again and again. Yet God's strength carried me through each moment. I didn't know what God wanted when illness entered my father's life. I didn't understand what God wanted when grief wrapped its heavy hands around my heart. I struggled to know what God wanted when surgery tested my body and when recovery stretched me emotionally, spiritually, and mentally.

But in the quiet, I began to hear a deeper truth: God is not asking me to understand everything. He is asking me to trust. Even when I didn't know what God wanted, He knew exactly what I needed.

## **I Don't Know, But God Does**

To admit that you don't know what God wants is not a sign of weakness; It is one of the most profound expressions of humility a believer can have. Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking less of your own understanding and more of God's wisdom. It is the willingness to step into a season of uncertainty and to say, "I do not see the whole picture, but I trust the One who does."

Scripture reminds us time and time again that God's ways are far higher than ours. Isaiah 55:8-9 declares, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord." Our limited human perspective cannot contain the fullness of His plan. What feels confusing today may be the very framework God is using to build something extraordinary in your life tomorrow.

Even the strongest believers walked through seasons of confusion. Job, blameless and upright, did not understand why suffering struck him.

# GIRLS ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS

The disciples, walking with Jesus, often struggled to comprehend His mission. And Paul wrote, “For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face” (1 Corinthians 13:12). To say, “I don’t know what God wants,” is not doubt; it is faith. It acknowledges that God sees the whole picture, while we see only fragments.

Yet even in uncertainty, Scripture shows us the life God desires for us: to love Him, to love others, to pursue holiness, to forgive, to show gratitude, and to walk humbly before Him. And this gives us a grounding truth: I may not always know what God wants in every situation, but I can know the kind of life He wants me to live. That is enough to guide us when answers are hidden, enough to steady our hearts when storms rage, and enough to anchor our faith when clarity is absent.

## **God Knows What You Need**

There is a profound peace that settles in the heart when we realize God knows exactly what we need. Jesus reminds us: “Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him” (Matthew 6:8), and again, “...your heavenly Father knows that you need them all” (Matthew 6:32). Before we even voice our prayers, God knows our hearts, our struggles, our longings.

He knows your physical needs, the weariness of your body. He knows your emotional needs, the silent fears and unspoken grief. He knows your spiritual needs, the areas where faith trembles and hope feels fragile. He knows your eternal needs, the deepest desires that reach beyond today and tomorrow. Even when the path is unclear, God fully understands what you need. His wisdom is infinite, His care complete. My understanding may falter, but His does not.

# GIRLS ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS

Take a moment and let it sink in: “I may not understand this season, but I can trust My Father knows exactly what I need.” His knowledge is active. He moves on our behalf, orchestrating circumstances, positioning people, and opening doors according to His perfect timing. Sometimes the blessings arrive through trials, teaching us dependence and faith. Sometimes what we long for is delayed so that what He gives is even more beautiful than we imagined. You are never alone in your need. His hands are holding the pieces of your life, even when it seems impossible to hold them yourself.

## **Walking Between Questions and Faith**

Life often places us in a space between what we see and what we cannot see, between the questions that weigh heavily on our hearts and the faith that whispers, “Trust Me, I am with you.” This is the sacred tension Jesus embraced in the garden: “Not my will, but Yours be done” (Luke 22:42). Even the Son of God experienced the struggle between fear and surrender, longing for clarity yet choosing obedience.

It is the cry of faith spoken by those who long to believe but wrestle with doubt: “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24). Proverbs 3:5–6 reminds us: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.” God does not ask us to have all the answers or carry every burden. He asks us only to walk with Him, to acknowledge Him, and to trust His guidance.

Do you feel the invitation? Even when the path seems unclear, God asks for trust. You are not in control, but He is. You may not understand, but He does. You may not see the plan, but He is faithful. Faith is not the



# GIRLS ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS

absence of questions or fear; it is moving forward in trust despite them, lifting your eyes beyond confusion to rest in the certainty of God's care and His promises.

## **A Year of Learning His Sufficiency**

Grief is a strange companion. It can whisper or roar, shaking the foundation of your world. After my father passed, faith felt heavy; breathing felt like an effort. I didn't just lose a parent—I lost a protector, a voice of wisdom, a place of comfort.

While my body healed from surgery, my soul was learning to stand again. Yet even in his absence, my father's words, spoken in love, became a pillar I leaned on. Isaiah 46:4 became a lifeline: "I will be your God throughout your lifetime... I made you, and I will care for you. I will carry you along and save you." I discovered that feelings may shift, bodies may falter, and hearts may break, but God's promises remain steady. His hands hold every piece of your life, even when it seems impossible to hold them yourself.

Through this season, I learned that God's sufficiency is not measured by the absence of struggle, but by His presence amid it. His strength is made perfect in our weakness. His grace is enough for every moment. Even when our resources are depleted, His provision never runs dry.

## **Miracles Wrapped in Mystery**

In October, I stepped into a sacred chapter, my marriage to Kevin. The day was simple yet holy, quiet yet overflowing with God's presence. The joy was real, yet the ache for my father's presence lingered, and yet, his blessing, spoken before he passed, covered us like a mantle from heaven.

# GIRLS ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS

Sometimes, God allows blessings to arrive alongside tears. Sometimes, miracles are wrapped in mystery. Sometimes, promises are fulfilled even while wounds are still healing. My surgery forced me to slow down, not because I wanted to, but because God needed to protect what He was developing within me. What seemed like a setback became a divine setup. 2 Corinthians 12:9 reminded me: “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.” Weakness became strength, pause became protection. God knew I needed healing deeper than the eye could see. Sometimes, He heals the soul by first slowing down the body.

## **Hearing His Voice in the Storm**

If you are walking through your own storm, hear this clearly: you may not know what God wants at this moment, but He knows exactly what you need. He knows that you need strength, and He will provide it. He knows that you need clarity, and He will reveal it. He knows that you need healing, and He will complete it. He knows that you need comfort, and He will surround you with it. He knows that you need direction, and He will lead you through it.

Not knowing God’s plan is not a weakness; it is an invitation to deeper faith, to surrender, to trust a God who already stands in your tomorrow. Romans 8:28 reassures us: “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him.” Even in silence, heaven is speaking. Even in stillness, God is working.

Surrender is not giving up; it is giving God room to move. When we finally say, “Lord, I don’t know what You want,” He responds with a peace that whispers, “But I know what you need.” Fear loosens. Striving

# GIRLS ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS

stops. Healing flows deeper. Peace settles stronger. Strength rises unexpectedly. Favour positions quietly, and clarity unfolds gradually. Exodus 14:14 declares: “The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.” Stillness is not passivity; it is spiritual authority. It is declaring that this battle is not yours, this story is not random, this season is not wasted.

## **A Promise for Your Future**

As you step into the chapters God has prepared for you, carry this truth in your heart: you do not need to know all the details of His plan. You do not need to understand why the storms came, why the waiting seemed endless, or why the path was hidden from your eyes. Your task is not to figure it all out; it is to trust. Trust that the God who has faithfully carried you through grief, through illness, through brokenness, through moments of fear and uncertainty, is the same God who is walking with you now, shaping your tomorrow.

He knows your needs before you even speak them. He knows the desires of your heart, the hidden wounds you carry, and the longings you cannot yet express. He knows the strength you require, the peace that must settle in your spirit, the clarity that will guide your steps, and the healing that your soul craves. And because His wisdom and love are infinite, He will provide exactly what you need, at the perfect time, in the perfect way.

Your story is not ending, your purpose is not paused, and your miracle is not denied. The chapters you long for, the victories you hope for, the joys you have not yet seen, they are still unfolding. Even when life feels uncertain, even when questions outnumber answers, God is writing



# GIRLS ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS

every line of your story with intention, love, and divine precision.

Take a moment. Breathe. Let this truth settle into your spirit: you do not need to understand every season, you do not need to control every outcome, and you do not need to see the entire plan. Your Father sees it all. He knows it all. And He is faithful.

Whisper it back to Him in faith: “I don’t know what God wants, but my Father knows exactly what I need, and He has never failed me.”

Hold that truth close, let it guide your steps, calm your heart, and lift your eyes above your circumstances. Every question, every moment of doubt, every tear is known to Him. Every need, every longing, every prayer has already been placed in His hands. And in His perfect timing, He will reveal the fullness of His provision.

You are not alone. You are not forgotten. You are not forsaken.

**Step forward with courage. Step forward with trust. Step forward knowing that the God who has never failed you will never fail you now. And in the quiet, sacred space of surrender, you will discover that His care, His guidance, and His provision are always enough, always present, always perfect, always yours.**

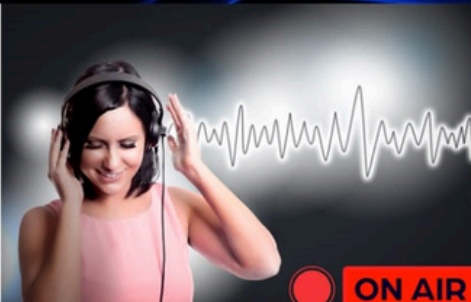


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