



### DEAR PRECIOUS READER!

If you have a feeling, that today's world is like a ship which is going to sink, you have touched the truth! It will sink in fire for sure.

Just as none of the passengers of the Titanic were reassuring themselves with thoughts that the ship will not sink immediately, but only in three hours, we too can't feel comfortable and live carelessly, saying that the end of the world won't be tomorrow. It will come soon for sure.

There is something that is surer: after our life on earth, everyone of us will stand before the Throne of the Almighty and Powerful God, giving an account for his life in the body.

If so, is it not the most important thing how we stand before God, how He sees us, and how to fix our relationship with Him, who keeps whole our future in His hands? Should we not make it a most impor-

tant priority to keep our eyes on the things with eternal values? How can we compare eternity with money, houses, cars, gold or whatever possessions on earth?... None of us will live on this earth forever, but man is an everlasting creation. He never dies. This is wonderful, but at same time terrible, because if you end up in Hell, there is no way back - you will stay there forever, and this is the future of living in rebellion to God.

But there is an other, wonderful truth, that if we obey God, we will live eternally in Paradise with the Eternal God! They are so many voices around you, preventing you from hearing the voice of God. The voices of the world, the voices of entertainment... Everybody is so busy. No time to think about God, no time to think where they are going.

There is a God; there is a Heaven and a Hell. Where you will spent your eternity? Sincerely yours, Kiril

### **GOD'S LOVE Magazine**

The Miracles of God Today

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## A young woman committed completely to the Lord

Aimee was born on October 9,1890 on a small farm near Ingersoll, Ontario, Canada. She was the only child of James Kennedy and his wife Mini Pierce.

Aimee's father used to work as a farmer and bridge builder. In the church, he served as an organist and leader of the choir.

He also taught his daughter to play the piano and organ when she was a little girl.

Although she was not born again yet, she was raised according to Biblical teachings. Her faith was shaken for a while by Darwin's theory of evolution. At the age of 15 she started to ask her teacher questions about evolution and creation. The teacher felt embarrassed at the impossibility of being able to give convincing responses to the young student.

# BORN AGAIN IN INGERSOLL

The Kennedys were well off financially, but above all, Aimee wanted God. She was longing to know her Creator. One day in 1907 she prayed

the words: "O, Lord, reveal Yourself to me."

Two days later, the Lord answered her prayer. While she was traveling back from school with her father, she saw a poster which read, "Revival of the Holy Spirit: Robert Semple – Irish evangelist."

Semple was an Irish Christian, who had left his country to come to New York. From there, he departed for Toronto and later on lived in Chicago. There he was baptized with the Holy Spirit. God called him into the ministry and Robert answered. Several fruitful and blessed evangelistic

meetings followed in the United States and in Canada. And now he had visited seventeen year old Aimee's native town.

According to Aimee's words, at that time she was "cold and away from God", but she was jealously seeking the

truth about life.

Aimee used to listen to interesting and curious stories about the Pentecostals. She insisted that her father and she go to Robert Semple meeting. So they went and sat in the last row.

The message about "repentance" and the need to be "born again" which Aimee heard, pierced her heart.

"I had never listened to such a sermon – shared Aimee later – Using the Bible as a sword, he has split the world in two." Robert was speaking simply and clearly:

> "You cannot serve the world and the Lord. You're either with the Lord or without Him."

Then Robert started to speak about the baptism in the Holy Spirit. This confused Aimee and embarrassed her. She

left the meeting before the end, but the Holy Spirit continued to work in her heart. After three days of inner fighting, Aimee stopped her buggy in the middle of a deserted road and cried out: "O, Lord my God, have mercy on me, a sinner!" The burden had been taken away immediately and the glory of the Lord filled her heart. She said:

"The heavens were filled with light. The trees, the fields and the small flying birds were glorifying the Lord and smiling at Him. I felt so clearly the forgiveness of Jesus' blood. It was like His blood was flowing over me."

Aimee was born again!



## JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME...



#### **DEVOTED**

She continued to visit the revival meetings and learned that God had even more for her. She started to long for the baptism in the Holy Spirit. After a time of prayers and seeking the Lord, early one morning when she was raising her voice to God, praising Him with greater depth of her heart, Aimee was gloriously filled with the Spirit and started to speak in her heavenly tongue, giving glory to the Lord. Aimee described those moments with the following words: "I felt like I was falling more and more in God's presence with each moment!" And my heart was crying: "Take me! Use me! Let it be Your will in my life! I'm only a disciple! I live on a Canadian farm, but the way I am, I give myself to You, Lord!"

God's love had come into her heart. This love had made her heart very soft. The compassion for the people had come as well as the desire to minister to them.

#### THE WEDDING

Robert used to travel a lot, but he was keeping in touch with Aimee during the whole winter of 1907-1908. Aimee had seen the ideal place for ministry for herself in Robert's evangelical team.

In the early spring Robert came back to Ingersoll. In the



same house, where several months earlier Aimee was baptized with the Holy Spirit, the young evangelist asked Aimee to marry him.

She quickly answered "Yes", and on August 12th 1908 Robert Semple and Aimee Kennedy got married in a very ordinary ceremony which took place in the apple garden of Aimee's parents.

#### **TOGETHER IN MINISTRY**

After the honeymoon the couple settled for a short time in Stadford, and afterwards in London, Ontario, where they started a church. Robert preached, and Aimee played the piano, singing and leading the new-believers in a prayer of repentance before the Lord. After only a few months around 100 people were baptized with the Holy Spirit, hundreds were saved, God made lots of healing miracles.

On January 2nd 1909 the young family moved to Chicago where Robert was ordained as a pastor by William Durham. In Chicago, the Semple family ministered for several months in an Italian neighborhood and was very satisfied and happy. Afterwards, the couple accompanied Durham during his evangelizations in northern USA and Canada.

### **HEALED**

One day Aimee fell off the stairs. The doctor who put the cast on her broken ankle said that four tendons of her leg were incorrigibly affected and she couldn't use them anymore. He

also told her not to step on her foot for a month. But she continued to go to church limping.

Once the pain was so unbearable that she came back in her room. There she heard a voice saying: "If you go the mission and ask brother Durham



to lay hands on your leg, I will heal it!". Aimee recognized the voice of her Lord and did exactly what He said.

When Pastor Durham laid hands on Aimee's leg, she felt electricity coming through it. Her toes weren't blue, the tendons set in the right position and her bones were healed. Suddenly the pain disappeared. Moved, Aimee asked to take off the cast. It was difficult to convince the people present to do it, but after doing it, they were amazed in seeing the perfectly healed ankle. Aimee put her shoes on and started to dance in the church!

# YESTERDAY, AND TODAY





### **MISSION IN CHINA**

Before getting together, Robert and Aimee decided to minister by faith as missionaries in China. In order to pre-

pare for the trip, for a short period Robert used to work in a factory during the day and was preaching during the night.

Leaving Chicago in 1910, they traveled to China. On their way they visited Robert's relatives near Belfast, Ireland. They went to London where Robert spoke in some churches.

Aimee was also invited and for the first time she was preaching in a big Christian meeting in Victoria and Albert Hall.

Through the Suez channel, they have arrived in Hong Kong in June and they have devoted themselves to learn the local language and spread Christian materials.

JESUS IS COMINO SOON - GET READY

Aimee tried to get back to the "normal" family life, but the call for ministry to the Lord was staying. God was constantly knocking on the door of Aimee's heart and was saying: "Preach the word! Evangelize! Will you do it? Will

you do it, Aimee? Will you go?"

In 1914 Aimee got ill very badly. Her heart wasn't working well and she had hemorrhage in the stomach. The doctors said to Aimee's relatives that she was close to death and that there wasn't any hope. They moved her in the unit for dying.

Being in a deep coma, the young woman heard God's voice

again: "Will you do it, Aimee?". Gathering strength she answered "Yes!" to God's call. Then nearly immediately Aimee was healed! Suddenly the pain disappeared, Aimee stood up fully healthy!

But the thing that started as a glorious adventure, ended with the tragic death of Aimee's husband. A few weeks after their arrival, Robert got malaria. He died on 19 August and left Aimee widow, pregnant in the 8th month, before her 20 birthday...

Having little finances, Aimee stayed in Hong Kong until the delivery of Semple's daughter, Roberta Star on 17th of September 1910. Afterwards, grieving about Robert, Aimee left for New York.

# THE CALL IS STAYING

After coming back home, Aimee met businessman Harold

McPherson and on 24 October 1911, they were married and had a son named Ralf.



#### **EVANGELIZATION WITHOUT END**

Keeping her promise to God, Aimee started to evangelize by leading revival meetings in a tent. In the beginning she used to travel in the eastern States of America and afterwards in the rest of the country. She was preaching in more than hundred towns. Eventually she started to lead meetings in other countries. Thousands and thousands of people visited the meetings in order to hear the Word from this remarkable woman-evangelist.

The multitudes felt God's presence, thousands received baptism with the

Holy Spirit. Healings started to happen through the Lord's hand. The first healing happened when a woman who suf-

## AND FOREVER. HEBREWS 13:8





fered from a rheumatological arthritis with her neck, strongly curved by the illness, was suddenly healed.

Aimee's sermons were filled with God's love and kindness. She never accused or threatened. She encouraged her listeners to fall into God's grace and mercy. She was picturing with words the face of the loving God Who was stretching His hands towards man to save him.

Aimee's messages spoke about Heaven where everyone wishes to go and about our ministry for Jesus as a unique and complete way of life.

Aimee was using every possible way and technical means of that time to evangelize. She was writing books, operas, performances, always with the aim to present the Gospel in a more accessible way.

She wrote about 180 songs and anthems along with her first autobiography "Divine Healing", and "Jesus' Second Coming"...

Often the tent was too small to fit the people

who wanted to be at the meeting, so she used to hire the biggest hall in the town.

In order to present the Word in a clearer and stronger way she used events which had happened in the town to build her sermon. She used the opportunity to spread God's Word before and after boxing matches, because many people were gathered there. Once, in San Diego she was speaking in front of 30 000 people. Other time, without the organizers and the police seeing her, she

was driving her evangelizing car in a carnival march in the center of a town.

People would line up for many hours before the following meeting in order to find a seat.

In the very beginning of her ministry Aimee started to publish "The Bridal Call". The edition started as a newspaper of four pages, but a little bit later it became a magazine with many sermons, photos, poems and a subscribing fee.

Aimee's husband, Harold, was following her and for a while they were ministering together. He was working on getting the necessary permissions for the tent meetings in which Aimee was preaching. But Aimee's devotion to the ministry was unbearable for Harold, who wanted a calmer

and more ordinary life. He eventually applied to divorce her. The couple divorced in August 1921.

#### THE WORD IN THE AIR

During a revival meeting in San Francisco in April 1922 Aimee was invited to preach the Word of God on the radio. Two years later she became the first woman to receive a license for her own radio station. Through the miracle of

the radio, Aimee's voice became one of the most known voices in the world. Someone could walk in the street, especially on Sunday morning, and listen to Aimee's sermon, which was coming from homes with open windows.



After years of traveling around the States and the world, God called Aimee to establish her home base town in Los Angeles. He told her that He

was going to build a home for her there – one for her family and one for His people. In a vision, the Lord showed her the home. It was a home with a rose garden in front. It was unknown how this would happen, but during a meeting, a woman had said that the Lord had put in her heart to give a piece of land to the evangelist. Immediately after her, other

people raised and promised their work and materials. Even the rose bushes from the vision were given to her and the home became a reality.

Aimee knew that she needed a permanent place to lead her services. Traveling and preaching all over the USA helped her gather the money from the donations to build her own church. She found the ideal place near the famous Echo Park in Los Angeles, which was surrounded with lots of vegetation and a beautiful lake.

Wherever Aimee went, lots of miracles happened and the local press published them on its first pages.







On January 1st 1923 the building of "Angeles Temple" was open. The huge hall with 5,300 seats was filled for meetings every day of the week, three times a day. In the beginning Aimee was preaching at each one of the meetings. "Angeles Temple" has become a spiritual home for thousands of people and a center for evangelization activity, from where soon many missionaries were sent all over the world. There was a praying tower in the temple, were people prayed for 24 hour's day.

Years later, during World War II, Aimee was invited to preach to the military servants and gave them Bibles.

On 26 September 1944, Sister McPherson, as her friends called her, was preaching to a revival meeting in Oakland, California. This was her last sermon. Early the next day she went to be with the Lord. The memorial service took place in

"Angeles Temple" on her birthday. Thousands of people attended the service.

Aimee was a woman in a man's world. Alone in a time

where a woman at her age had to have a husband. She was following God's call regardless of what her eyes were seeing, no matter the problems, led by the trust and faith in God who had called her to fulfill the greatest of all commands – to gain souls.

Once, Aimee wrote: "It isn't necessary to be a gifted speaker; the thing that God wants is to preach to the people with simple words the Good News, so that it enters their hearts, and they may also share it with the others.

The love to gain souls for Jesus Christ is a hot fire. To gain souls is the most important thing in the world. Everything I have is on the Lord's altar and the life and strength I have I 'll give them to fulfill the great command."

"New York Times" newspaper published in details the opening of "Angeles Temple", which was a big event for the town.

Many Hollywood stars used to come and hear what Ai-

mee had to say. Charlie Chaplin started to help her in the service in the church and Anthony Quinn was playing in the worship team.



#### **BIBLE COLLEGE**

Having the vision to send evangelists all over the world and un-

derstanding the importance to prepare disciples, in 1923 Aimee started L. I. F. E. Bible College to spread the Full Gospel internationally. The college is still working today.

Aimee was never too tired to teach. She equipped 8 000 servants who graduated her college. She always reminded her Bible students: "Stay in the middle of the way". She was teaching them not to compromise, but to stay firm in their walk with God, no matter the world's pressure brings.

> "Be courageous to fulfill the Lord's plan for your life!"

#### **LUNCHES OF LOVE**

In 1927, Aimee started in "Angeles Temple" a restaurant for free food. During the Depression in America, her ministry met the physical needs of 1 500 000 people.



The fruits of Aimee's ministry are infinite. Today the number of the family Foursquare Churches (International Church of the Full Gospel or Church of the four truths: Jesus saves, heals, baptizes with the Holy Spirit and comes to govern), which she started, has multiplied all over the world. The churches are already 67 000 in 134 countries all over the world.

God has made all this to happen thanks to a woman who surrendered her life in devotion to Him....





# KINGDOM LESSONS

by Barry James Buzza

This stories was set in the far away land of Israel more than 2,500 years ago. Those days were truly times of kings and kingdoms, princes and princesses. There were **real enemies**, who were out to dethrone the King, bloody battles, intrigue, deception, disobedience with its natural consequences of failure and defeat, and also obedience to God with its promised blessings of peace, power and prosperity.

The era of the kings, from Saul to Zedekiah, holds a **myriad of lessons** for us concerning the Kingdom of God.

How does a king rule in righteousness without getting off track? How can we handle power over our enemies without falling into the trap of pride? How can we enjoy the promise of prosperity and not develop a sense of entitlement or lose our attitude of humility? How can we have women knocking at our dressing room door and not fall into temptation? How can we stand up and be positive about our destiny and call to victory, when an enemy that is so big that other kingdoms are falling at his feet, has us surrounded and cut off from supplies? How can we remain faithful to our Lord God, when we are being pulled at, pushed away and seduced by Hollywood, Wall Street and Madison Avenue all at the same time?

We too are kings and queens in training. Like Adam and Eve, each of us has a realm or domain in which we rule; we make decisions in our kingdoms which sometimes have eternal consequences. As well, we have rewards or disciplines based on the rightness or the wrongness of our judgments.

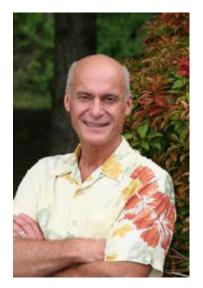
Our kingdom is invisible; our enemies are invisible; our power to choose comes from our invisible God. But yet, how you and I rule in our dominions will prove or disprove our love and faithfulness to the King of kings—Jesus Christ.

We are like the stewards whom Jesus talked about so often, with delegated power over money, people, time and talents, which ultimately determined their eternal reward. We too will one day be judged by the motives, attitudes and decisions that we make in our present kingdoms. That's the reason the Apostle Paul wrote that by faith in Jesus, we really do reign in our present lives.

Let's study and observe the lives of the kings of Israel, because both, the good and the bad, the successes and the failures, have some life changing principles to teach us.

### PRINCIPLE #1 – LIKE KING, LIKE PEOPLE

Saul was the first King. According to Samuel, he was tall, dark



and handsome. Everybody loved him. For the first half of his forty-year reign, King Saul flourished. He fought off his enemies, united the fractured nation of Israel and led the people back to God.

Saul's biggest enemy was not the Philistines or the Amalekites. Rather it was his own **insecurity and pride**. He was like the Manassehites whom we looked at during Joshua's reign, who couldn't conquer the Canaanites they'd been assigned, but still wanted more land.

King Saul could not conquer the internal demons in his own soul. His inner torment undermined his true authority as a king and deceived him into thinking that his true enemy was God. As hard as it is to be-

lieve, King Saul's sole purpose came to be annihilating anything that threatened his own self-centered rule. And that's what not only destroyed him, but set Israel on a confused downward fall.

#### PRINCIPLE #2 – KINGS WILL BE TEMPTED

All of us who have chosen to reign in our assigned domain will be tempted, as Adam, Eve, and these kings were, in the lust of our flesh, which says, "If it feels good do it"; the lust of our eyes, which says, "If it looks good, go after it"; and the pride of life, which lies to us by saying, "I am the center of my world—it's all about me."

Because God's intention was that He alone would reign over Israel, the prophet Samuel diligently warned the people who wanted their own king, of the problems that would follow if he granted their petition. He said that if they had a human king over them, he would tax them heavily so that he could live opulently (lust of the eyes); he would conscript their young men for his army, so he could keep increasing the size of his domain (pride of life); and he would take their most beautiful daughters to add to his harem (lust of the flesh).

In order **to protect ourselves, first we must know ourselves,** and honestly face our own tendencies and our family weaknesses. Our hearts have been twisted by Adam's fall. We are often self deceived, so we must constantly and vigilantly examine ourselves and readily turn from ungodly thoughts and behaviors.

Secondly, we must know and rely heavily on the Word of God. Jesus Himself defeated the devil's direct attack in all three of these areas of vulnerability by quoting the Torah, which He'd memorized as a boy. Then thirdly, we have to remain humble and dependent upon Jesus who is faithful and will always protect us, by shielding us from temptations that are too strong for us.

#### PRINCIPLE #3 – SUBMIT TO THE KING OF KINGS

An overriding axiom of life is; when we fall into line with our Commander-in-Chief, we will be successful. If we fall out of line, we will fail.











REHOBOAM comes to mind as an example of how this axiom works. He was the first-born spoiled aristocratic son of King Solomon and grandson of King David. Rehoboam had never seen a day of real work in his life, so when he took over the throne after the death of his father, he had never really been trained or dis-

ciplined. How sad to have an undisciplined son, especially for a father who'd earlier written: Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of discipline will remove it far from him.

Almost immediately after Rehoboam was crowned, his subjects pleaded, "Please, your highness, if you lead us with a listening, kind heart we will serve you forever." But rather than heed his elders' godly counsel, he leaned toward hard and cruel control of his people, as he'd been advised by his young foolish cohorts. It was the beginning of the end for young King. God took his dominion, cut off five-sixths of it and gave it to his rival Jeroboam.

contrast to the arrogant young Rehoboam, King JEHOSHAPHAT was almost always faithful to following the Lord. Because of the weighty threat of three united nations against Judah, Jehoshaphat became very afraid. (Remember how our frightening descent into the valley of the shadow of death usually turns our attention upward?) Here's what the scribe Ezra recorded regarding Jehoshaphat during that oncoming conflict: Jehoshaphat was afraid and turned his attention to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. So Judah gathered together to seek help from the Lord; they even came from all the cities of Judah to seek the Lord.

The unusual battle which followed leads us well into the next principle. Jehoshaphat did exactly as the Lord instructed him. Although it made no human sense whatsoever, he placed his large praise choir at the front of his army. We can only imagine what the sopranos and altos were thinking as they moved into the deadly fray, singing with fiery gusto, "Blessed be the Mighty Name of our King...."



As a result of their praise, even in the midst of horrific enemy attacks, the demons that were inciting the three opposing nations went crazy. They began turning their puppet-like soldiers against one another. King Jehoshaphat learned again that **submitting to the Word of the King of kings always results in success.** 

# PRINCIPLE #4 – WORSHIP GIVES ENTRY TO THE KING

King David, one of the greatest kings who have ever sat on the throne, with all of his warts and scars, was always the apple of



Jehovah's eye. The Lord God loved David simply because of his soft heart. His songs of praise called the Psalms, express it best, and draw a majestic portrait of the King whom King David lovingly and faithfully served.

My heart overflows with a good theme; I address my verses to the King; ... Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of joy above Your fellows. I will cause Your Name to be remembered in all generations; therefore the people will give You thanks forever and ever...

This portrait is clearly about Jesus Christ, who would in a

thousand years, sit on His great throne. He would come from the dynasty of David, take a beautiful bride for himself and rule over his enemies in consummate authority and righteousness.

In a poem penned around the same time, David explained why his kingdom had stretched to the farthest borders of any Israelite king before or after him. "Yet You are holy, O You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel."

When we give God the worship He deserves, then, our world is set right-side up. God is centered on His throne and all becomes right in our little domain. The secret of David was his consistent ability to always return to the heart of worship.

# PRINCIPLE #5 – THE WISDOM OF GOD IS AVAILABLE TO EVERY RULER

King David's son, Solomon, was an interesting character. He was a king who had it all; wisdom, wealth and power beyond what most of us could handle. And then he lost it all when he fell victim to the very traps he warned his readers to avoid.









His teachings on wisdom, which were personified in Jesus, are classic. Read what he wrote to his son Rehoboam: My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; For length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. Do not let kindness and truths leave you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body and refreshment to your bones. Honor the LORD from your wealth and from the first of all your produce; so your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine. My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD or loathe His reproof, for whom the LORD loves He reproves, even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights. How blessed is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding. For her profit is better than the profit of silver and her gain better than fine gold. She is more precious than jewels; and nothing you desire compares with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are pleasant ways and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who hold her fast.

I remember well as a six year old marching in line up and down the aisles of our church basement singing at the top of my lungs this great life lesson that Solomon taught, but never caught.

But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn. That shines brighter and brighter until the full day. The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know over what they stumble. My son, give attention to My words; incline your ear to My sayings. Do not let them depart from your sight; Keep them in the midst of your heart. For they are life to those who find them and health to all their body. Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flows the springs of life. Put away from you a deceitful mouth and put devious speech far from you. Let your eyes look directly ahead and let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you. Watch the path of your feet and all your ways will be established. Do not turn to the right nor to the left; Turn your foot from evil.

#### PRINCIPLE #6 - THERE IS ONLY ONE RIGHT WAY

In the twelve chapters of treatise on finding the path of life, in his book Ecclesiastes, Solomon laid out road maps, which he'd drawn from his own varied life experiences. Each of these ten roads, he later discovered, led nowhere.

He, like all of us, was desperately searching for fulfillment, inner peace and power to live life successfully. He had tried the pathways of personal pleasure that we call hedonism; amusement and fun; science and reason; intellectualism; capitalism; stoicism and good old common sense, but his conclusion was that all were dead-ends. Each promised what he was searching for, but ended

in disappointment. They were empty. "Everything is meaning-less", says the teacher, "Completely meaningless."

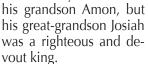
Finally, after sixty years of searching, at the end of his life, the prematurely aged king wrote: "But beyond this, my son, be warned: the writing of many books is endless, and excessive devotion to books is wearying to the body. The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil."

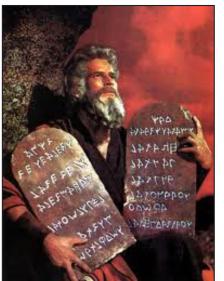
## PRINCIPLE #7 – THE RACE IS WON OR LOST IN THE PASSING OF THE BATON

We've all seen relay races. We know that the first runner sets the pace and that the last runner must be the strongest, but we've also noted that races have been won or lost in the way the baton is passed from one runner to the next.

To a good, pure-blooded Jew, Matthew's genealogy provides a colorful chart of his family heritage, from Abraham through to Jesus. But to us lay-Gentiles, the many names are simply dozens of reminders that King Jesus has a whole lot of dysfunction in His royal family. Read through the prestigious list and you'll see people who were adulterers, incestuous, prostitutes, murderers, idolaters and foreigners, woven among the very few who lived fairly righteous lives.

In my Bible, I took a couple of marking pencils and put a red dot beside every basically good person and a blue dot beside every king that the Holy Spirit recorded as being evil. It is amazing what came to light when I did that. Good King David passed the baton to so-so King Solomon, and then it went to bad King Rehoboam. Jehoshaphat was good, Jehoram his son was bad. Hezekiah was very good, his eldest, Manasseh was very bad. So was





It's easy to see why **Moses** pleaded with his followers, only days before he died:

"These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and









when you lie down and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your fore-head. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

How we pass the baton to the generation who follow us will determine our ultimate success. Of course, how tightly our children grip the baton, when it has been passed to them, is entirely up to them. After we have taught them well, modeled how to rule in our kingdom the best we can and passed the baton, it's up to them to run like the wind.

#### PRINCIPLE #8 – REMEMBER THE COVENANT

It is a sad fact that the drama we are observing ended as a tragedy. What could have been the victory which ushered in the King of kings, degenerated over their four hundreds years of divine monarchy. By the time this chapter of the Bible story closes, we'll

witness the kingdom's slow decline, with a few blips of success along the way, into defeat and imprisonment.

Our Creator saw it all before he placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and so He had already prepared a contingency plan. In order to disciple a ruling bride for King Jesus, Father God had to allow them the freedom that we needed, even if it meant failure.

Moses too, had seen how his beloved nation would finish their race. In his prophetic finish, the law-giver had clearly written what would be the consequence of either obedience to the covenant at Sinai, or disobedience.

If they did not stay on the path of life that God had prepared for them, Moses warned Israel that they would experience disease, loss of income,

rebellion, adversity, hunger, confusion, captivity and death.

His expansion of the covenant that God had made with Abraham five hundred years earlier, he reiterated that if they would obey God and follow in His right path, then He would bless them with many children, provision, happiness, victory over their enemies, all the food they'd need, peace and favor.

That covenant, both to Abraham and to Israel through Moses, was made with them, their children and their children's children. Remember that the Apostle Paul was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write that it reaches right down to us today. We too are children of Abraham.

#### PRINCIPLE #9 – GOD'S WORD IS POWERFUL

When God says something, whether in the sacred scriptures, by His holy prophets or by the still small voice of his Spirit inside of us, His words have creative power, they break through darkness with light. His words make what seems impossible to be reality.

One of the physically darkest times in my life happened just before I turned sixteen, when on a dark, cloudy Sunday evening my dad gave me permission to ride my motorcycle into Vancouver where we attended church. On Saturday I'd had a bit of trouble with my light system, but I had not told my parents about that. I didn't want anything to keep me from the half hour ride over the newly paved Barnet Highway to the city.

About three or four miles past Port Moody, in the blackness of winter, my headlights began to flicker on and off. I hit the switch firmly with my hand and hoped that would rectify the dilemma. But it didn't. Within a minute, I'd lost all my lights. The pure darkness that I experienced on that lonely stretch of highway was indescribable. I felt utterly frightened. I could not see my hand in front of my face and was forced to gear down and stop.

There I sat in the stark, sinister, opaque night, praying, hoping and silently crying for even a minute ray of light. After what was probably five minutes, but seemed like an hour, I heard a car and saw his headlights coming toward me. I quickly started my bike and like a shadow, wheeled on to the road behind him. I followed his light for several miles until I was finally safe in the happy glow of Burnaby's street lamps.

### **Good King Josiah in bad times**

That scene from forty-five years ago came to mind as I imagined the day into which young Josiah was crowned as King. He followed his evil grandfather, Manasseh, and his own father, Amon's reigns of terror. It is hard for us to conceive the depths of darkness to which God's people had fallen.

Manasseh had introduced every perverted form of worship that his pagan neighbors had relied on. They were even sacrificing their eldest sons to the cult gods Molech and Chemosh. He'd emptied the holy Temple in Jerusalem of all that was spiritually valid and had nailed the doors shut.

His son Amon was even worse. He repeated Manasseh's evil, and murdered anyone who he thought was conspiring against his dastardly rule.

Then came Iosiah.

Thankfully a godly priest had adopted the young eight year old boy after his father had been murdered by his own men. Hilkiah discipled teenage Josiah to be a king who would walk in the











middle of the King's Highway. By the time he was sixteen, he had both feet firmly planted on the path of peace. Everything that his grandfather and father had done, Josiah did the opposite.

In the eighteenth year of his reign, at only twenty-six years of age, Josiah ordered his friend Shaphan and his cohorts to begin cleaning up and refurbishing the Holy Temple. His plan was to restore worship to where it was when his God-fearing great-grand-father Hezekiah had ruled seventy years earlier.

One day Hilkiah, the priest was working in the temple when he made an amazing discovery. He found the only copy of Moses' Torah that Josiah's grandfather had not destroyed.

Hilkiah told Shaphan and Shaphan took the five scrolls to King Josiah to tell him of their find. Josiah had heard about the scrolls of course, but had never had the privilege of seeing them or having them read to him.

"Read them to me," he commanded Shaphan.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth," he began. "The earth was formless and void..."

King Josiah could not believe all that he was hearing. Shaphan read about Adam's and Eve's fall from grace; about Noah and God's judgment. Then he read the story of their Patriarch Abraham and the special

promise that God had given to his family.

Finally, hours later, when Shaphan got to the part where Moses read the Ten Commandments he'd received from God on Mount Sinai, Josiah began to weep.

"Why did I not know this? Why didn't my father tell me about this?" His sadness and crying turned to wailing and regret. Then Josiah ripped his robes as a sign of his deep sorrow and pain.

"What can we do? How can we return to this path of promise? Will God ever forgive us?"

Finally, Huldah, the prophetess prayed to God for the ruler and his advisors. She assured them that although the King of kings had had enough of Judah's rebellion, in mercy he would hold back His judgment until Josiah's reign had ended.

King Solomon had written earlier: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. The unfolding of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. I have only experienced an inkling of the power of light when it shatters the dark-

ness, but I know enough of the power of God's Holy Word to dedicate time every day to making sure God's light keeps burning the darkness out of my soul.

# PRINCIPLE #10 – THE GLORY OF GOD SURROUNDS US WHEN WE ARE CENTERED

Hezekiah was a great king. He was not only a military genius, but he was also a very strong leader. His invention of the catapult was used for thousands of years of warfare. Some of his architecture he designed still stands today.

But greater than his military might or his gifts of building, the highest good that Hezekiah did, was he restored worship again to Judah, years after his father had ended it.



Like his great-great-grandson did later, Hezekiah opened the Temple doors that had been closed, cleaned out the unholy rubbish (it took over two weeks just to haul the accumulated junk away), restored the Holy days and returned to the prescribed sacrifices.

When Sennacherib of Assyria threatened Judah, Hezekiah turned to his relative, the prophet Isaiah, for help. Together they sought the Lord, believed in His promise,

encouraged their downhearted citizens and won one of the most miraculous battles in history.

Years later, Sir John Keats wrote a poem about the Destruction of Sennacherib, when 185,000 soldiers who had surrounded Jerusalem, were killed by God-sent rats. The great King Sennacherib ran home to Ninevah with his tail between his legs.

Hezekiah knew what it meant to be God-centered. He'd experienced the glory of the Lord—but he also knew what it was like to wander outside the path. As often happens, When he became great, (the people were outside the palace chanting, "You're the best Hezekiah" and they sent him expensive gifts), he became proud.

For a brief period, Hezekiah fell off-center; he lived outside of God's glory and felt the distance away from God's presence when he strayed from the path of life. It was difficult for the King to have the fame, applause, wealth and power that he had and remain firmly centered; but thank God, he repented, returned and found the glory once again.







\* \* \*

### The glory departs again

The King of kings had clearly covenanted with both Abraham and Moses, and had outlined the promised consequences of both obedience and disobedience. The ten principles that I've just overviewed, had been illustrated and proven time and time again, but Abraham's family continued, except for a few glorious exceptions, to slide downward. Fourteen hundreds years after Father Abraham, and only four hundred years after King David, they finally hit the skids.

Nebuchadnezzar, the powerful king of Babylon, which has uniformly been a picture of evil itself, ruled by the Prince of darkness,

overthrew the City of Peace. Jerusalem, the jewel of God, his Holy Temple. The family he'd set apart as the prototype of Kingdom living, were once again decimated by darkness and taken into captivity.

The record is succinct: But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king and overtook him in the plains of Jericho and all his army was scattered from him. Then they captured the king and brought him to the king of Babylon at Riblah (Nebu-

chadnezzar), and he passed sentence on him. They slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah (the King of Judah) before his eyes, then put out the eyes of Zedekiah and bound him with bronze fetters and brought him to Babylon.

Now on the seventh day of the fifth month, which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. He burned the house of the Lord, the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem; even every great house he burned with fire. So all the army of the Chaldeans who were with the captain of the guard broke down the walls around Jerusalem.

Ichabod was once again written across the broken down doorway of the Temple, the glory has departed.

Had Abraham's family utterly failed? Was there still hope for them?

Had God finally and for all time been defeated by the crafty Nachash? Were there any signs of hope on the horizon?

### Another glimmer of light

The prophets were often called seers back then, because they could see what ordinary men could not. They could look into the heavens, the invisible realm, where the real battle for Kingdom sovereignty is engaged and see what was coming down the road in Israel's future.

There were literally hundreds of neon signs written by men, whom the Lord had sovereignly chosen, that clearly had pointed to a future savior. I'll hand pick a few of them to illustrate that God always has a plan and that he uses all things to work together for the good of those who love Him and have been called to fulfill His grand purpose.

Every one of the promises written here are about King Jesus, who would be born from the lineage of Abraham and David, and yet would also be born of God. We'll see why that is such a significant truth in the following chapter.

Prophetic passages such as these are one of the best ways to prove that the Lord Jehovah engineered history, has always worked according to His wisdom and plans, knows the future and is the only God. There is no other power alive who can tell us exactly what is going to happen hundreds, and even thousands, of years in the future besides God.



### Our King sits to the right of Father God

The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet." The Lord here is Jesus and the LORD (Jehovah) is Father God. See how the great King David bowed to them both; and also how the enemy, as strong as he may appear, will ultimately be defeated by King Jesus.

### He would be born of a virgin

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel." Not only will he be born from the virgin Mary, which meant that He would not be bound to slavery under Nachash as his father was; but also that His name would be Immanuel.

One of the most important secrets that God wants us to know, is that the Great God of Creation has chosen to live inside of us. Old Testament saints would have given anything to have what we have. Angels can only wish that they could experience having the









Spirit of Jesus live inside of them twenty-four hours, every day, as we can. That is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

#### The Messiah would come as a lamb

If only the people of Isaiah's day had listened to his sermons. The Holy Spirit was explicit regarding how the new King and His Kingdom would come—not as a conquering lion, but as a sacrificial lamb. This passage, and others like it, are the reason the book of Isaiah is often called the fifth Gospel. Read the entire good news in the prophet's sermon, which was penned seven hundred years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

Behold, My servant (Jesus) will prosper, He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted. Just as many were astonished at you, My

people,

So His appearance was marred more than any man

And His form more than the sons of men.

Thus He will sprinkle many nations,

Kings will shut their mouths on account of Him;

For what had not been told them they will see,

And what they had not heard they will understand.

Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

For He (Jesus) grew up before Him like a tender shoot,

And like a root out of parched ground;

He has no stately form or majesty

That we should look upon Him,

Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.

He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.

But He was pierced through for our transgressions (on the cross), He was crushed for our iniquities;

The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him,

And by His scourging we are healed.

All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth.

By oppression and judgment He was taken away;

And as for His generation, who considered
That He was cut off out of the land of the living
For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was due?
His grave was assigned with wicked men,
Yet He was with a rich man in His death (buried in Joseph's tomb),
Because He had done no violence,

Nor was there any deceit in His mouth. But the LORD (Father God) was pleased

> To crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering,

He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days,

And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand.

As a result of the anguish of His soul, He (Father God) will see it and be satisfied;

By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant (Jesus), will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities.

Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong (the Church); Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.

But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah. From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.

And He will arise and shepherd His flock

In the strength of the LORD,

In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God

And they will remain,

Because at that time He will be great to the ends of the earth. This One (Jesus) will be our peace.











### A new and better covenant

"Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant (the New Testament) with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant (the Old Covenant) which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD.

### He would finally defeat death

Here's the prophetic passage which the Apostle Paul quoted to the Corinthian church. I often use this scripture as an encouragement to mourners as they stand over the casket of their believing loved one. He (Jesus) will swallow up death for all time, and

the Lord GOD will wipe tears away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; for the LORD has spoken.

### The Promised Messiah will be **King Jesus**

Since the times of Adam, Noah, Abraham and Moses, the Holy Spirit has been showing us glimpses of the coming Messiah, who would one day, overpower the evil Nachash, take back the planet from his control, free all mankind who've been enslaved by him, and set up his eternal Kingdom. He would reign as the King of kings forever.

In the New Testament his important Hebrew title, Messiah, was written in the Greek form as the Christ. Both words

can be interpreted as the Anointed One or the King. Note how the psalmist David referred to Him as the Son of the Lord, Jehovah. He is the promised anointed King at whose feet the mighty David himself would bow.

But as for Me, I (Jesus) have installed My King (Father God) upon Zion, My holy mountain. I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, "You are My Son (Jesus), Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware."

Later on, we'll see how Isaiah recorded the job description and assignment of the coming Messiah.



### We too are included in his kingdom rule

Here's the good news for us, who are not Jews by birth. Although none of Israel's listeners really understood, God had not been secretive concerning His kingdom plans. He'd promised Abraham, thirteen hundred years before Isaiah, all the privileges of peace, power and prosperity if he and his family would freely pass on the blessing of love, acceptance, forgiveness and kingdom authority to all the ethnic groups of the world.

We, the adopted spiritual sons and daughters of Abraham, have been included in the eternal purposes of our Creator.

The last days is a phrase which refers to the days between the resurrection of Jesus and his second coming. We are living that time period now.

> The mountain of the LORD was consistently a picture of the rule of Jehovah. The hills usually refer to lesser gods, while the highest mountain that rises over them speaks of the King of kings and Lord of lords.

> And it will come about in the last days (the days in which we are living) that the mountain of the house of the LORD (the Kingdom of God) will be established as the chief of the mountains.

> gods), and the peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say,

> "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD and to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us about His ways, and that we may walk in His paths."

For from Zion will go forth the law, Even the word of the LORD from Jerusa-

It will be raised above the hills (other

Then in that day the nations will resort to the root of Jesse (the king would come from David's family), who will stand as a signal for the peoples; And His resting place (throne) will be glorious.

So you see, although the visible situation among God's chosen people was desperately bleak and hopelessly dark, there has always been the promise that springtime will follow winter. Like the pictures on the little packets of seeds which we plant in the dark soil, even when all indicators are that the seeds are dead and buried, we have a promise that once again new life will overpower death.

Spring is just around the corner.



http://northsidechurch.ca





was born and raised in Canada. I grew up with two loving parents and was given every opportunity to do well in life. From a young age, I had a passion for the performing arts, and discovered that I was very good in Drama and Music. I pursued my interest in acting and music by going to a Special Arts high school, and then went on to study Theatre at University.

By the end of my last year in school, I had everything most young people in their early twenties could desire. I had lots of friends, fun, money, a nice house and car, girlfriends, and I was free to do anything I wanted. I partied all the time, there was lots of drinking, drugs, sex and I did whatever I felt like in the moment. I lived in a very artistic world where it was fine to experiment with everything and there were not many moral boundaries. If it feels good... do it!

However, by my last year of school this lifestyle had begun to depress me. Even though I was doing very well in my school and getting many lead roles in plays and lots of attention, I felt a great emptiness. I felt like I could not escape my addictions, and I felt dirty. I did not like who I was becoming, and felt a great despair. I couldn't run away from

the thoughts in my mind that left me feeling hopeless. I did not want to live like this.

#### **GREAT OPPURTUNITY, BUT...**

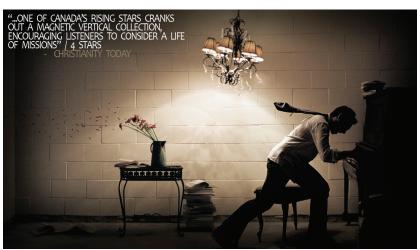
In February of 2001 before I had even finished school, I landed a very big acting job with one of the best theatre companies in Canada. This was a big moment as I had worked my entire life to become a professional actor.

I thought that this was going to make all my dreams come true. However, a few hours after I received the telephone call informing me that I was going to be in the play, I went right back to my old problems. People were congratulating me and I should have been happy... but I was miserable.

#### **LOOKING FOR EXIT**

The months following up to this moment I started to pray to God more than usual. I was drinking alcohol almost everyday to help me fall asleep better, but even then, when I was drunk in my bed, I would call out to God for help. A few days after I received the news of getting into the professional show, I had a week off of school. Someone who knew I was searching for help told me to read the Gospel of John. I figured why not? I was desperate.

I always believed in some sort of God. Some nights in the bars I would even philosophize about Him and tell others about my ideas about who God was. As a teen, I went on a New Age retreat where a Guru was said to have spiritual power. I was always hungry to experience God's power and reality in my life. But when I looked



# From Despair to Joy

in the Bible as a teenager I didn't like all the rules. It seemed like God wanted to spoil my fun! I came to understand that God did not want to spoil my fun, but rather that He wanted to protect me from hurting myself and others.

So in this break from school I took the Bible up north to get away from everything and look for some answers. I even stopped drinking for a few days because I was very serious about it all. I read

the Gospel of John and realized for the first time in my life that I had no idea about who God was. Even though I grew up in a religious tradition and went to church sometimes, I really had no idea of who God was.

After reading the stories about Jesus in John's gospel I began to believe that Jesus could help me. I realized that I did not know Him, and that I was a great sinner. I started to call out to Him with all my heart, and believed that if He could heal the sick and open deaf ears and blind eyes, He could change my life.

#### **ENCOUNTERED WITH GOD**

What happened next was amazing. As I was praying I felt God's presence come over me. I started shaking and fell to the

ground, and when I tried to speak I began saying words that I did not understand! This lasted for a few minutes and then I got up off the ground, looked in the mirror, and felt like I had died and gone to heaven! I felt like a new person. I grabbed my pack of cigarettes (I was smoking around 30 a day at that time) and threw it in the

garbage. I knew that I was free! From that moment on I didn't have to do drugs, get drunk, or watch pornography to feel good. God had delivered me!

I was not in a church so I did not understand what had happened. I asked God to show me right there and then what it was that I had experienced. I just opened the Bible, and out of the hundreds of pages it opened right on Acts 2. I read as the first Christians spoke in languages they did not understand when they first received the Holy Spirit at the day of Pentecost. I realized that this is what I just experienced. I received the Holy Spirit! I then asked God why I was shaking. Again, I just opened the Bible and it

opened to Mark 9 where a boy with an evil spirit was delivered. As the demon came out of him, it shook him to the ground. I realized this is what happened to me. I must tell you this does not happen to me all the time. God does not always speak to me instantly, but at that moment I experienced something of a miracle.

This was the beginning of an incredible journey. I wasn't made perfect right away. God delivered me from many things but I continued to experience a lot of healing over the next several years.

To this day and until the moment I die I know he will be changing me and making me more like He is. This can be difficult at times, but it is so very beautiful.

#### **NEW WAY**

I walked away from doing the professional theatre and a career in acting. It was a play all about sex anyway, and I was sure God

did not want me to do it. However, three weeks after I became a Christian I met the woman who would be my wife. In the next year I began traveling and singing for God's glory and God even opened up the door to work in a professional Christian Theatre company. He had a much better plan for my life than I could have ever imagined.

I realized very early in my walk with Him, that God wants nothing but the best for us. Sometimes we have trouble trusting Him because we think that life will be boring, or that we will become very religious and not really enjoy anything. That is a lie from Satan himself. The Bible says His yoke is easy and His burden is light. God has a plan and a mission for each of us, and following Him is about discovering what that means for your life. It is an adventure, not boring religion. If you read the New

Testament you will see that Religious people always stood in Jesus' way. They were interested in keeping rules more than they were interested in loving people and partnering with God to make the world a better place. His true disciples were all sent on amazing adventures! It may have cost them their lives, but the rewards were

eternal.

I could write for a long time about the amazing journey the last ten years have been for me. I have travelled all over the world, and seen amazing miracles and lives transformed. I have been blessed with 3 boys, a great wife, recorded a music album, performed in great Christian theatre, and God has blessed me with a job to minister in prisons, hospitals, homeless shelters and other places with music.

So my friends, have you thought much about what God has in store for you? Do

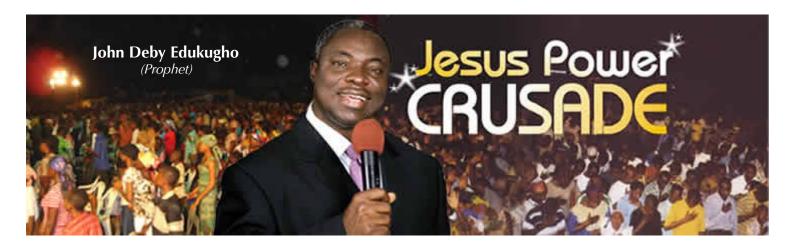
you know Him in a real and living way? Have you experienced His power in Your life? The Bible promises that all who seek God with their whole hearts find Him... what are you waiting for?

Arthur Wachnik, *Toronto* http://www.myspace.com/arthurwachnik





ARTHUR WACHN



**2012** is a year with very mysterious spiritual complexion. There will be a profound heavenly influence on earth, which will effect on some individuals, nations and families. This is the year for all true followers of Jesus Christ to earnestly WATCH and PRAY; moreso to be sensitive in the spirit.

I saw a monster, a creature like a beast emerged from the sea, released to the earth. For what? "To unleash more wickedness, frustration, hardship and adversity upon the earth" says the Lord. But FEAR NOT son of man. I will protect My own – those who are called by My Name, those who FEAR My NAME."

"Another assignment of this monster creature on earth is to increase perversion, corruption, and greed amongst the

rulers and leaders of nations on earth, also to weaken My Church especially My carnally minded children, to cause many of My ELECTS to be DECEIVED and fall into deep spiritual slumber. Because of this wicked agenda of this beast upon earth, arson, violence, crime, high food prices and unbearable cost of living will prevail on earth from now till the year 2019. Yet in all these, I will make MY

GRACE RAPIDLY AND SUFFICIENTLY available to those who FEAR ME" says the Lord.

**YEAR OF SIGNS AND WONDERS:** Those who know the Lord God- Jehovah and serve Him, in truth and spirit, they shall receive great anointing to enable them do great exploits.

This is a year every Christian should increase his:

- (i) Worship of God,
- (ii) Walk with God
- (iii) Love for God
- (iv) Love for his neighbor.

**SPECIAL BLESSINGS:** One of the unique things about the year 2012 is that, God will give many faithful Christians a special blessing, a kind that will have an extensive effect upon their lives in the next seven (7) years. If you can increase your walk in love and your walk with God this year, you will surely receive this UNIQUE BLESSING.

**UNBELIEVABLE RETURNS:** If you know how to sow into the advancement of God's kingdom, especially in evangelism, missions, widows, poor and needy, this year will bring forth great yields. There is something special about 2012, if

you have a discerning spirit.

Also in this year God will richly reward those believers who have been faithful in their tithes. "I am the righteous judge, My rewards are in My hands." Says the Lord.



#### **DIVINE STABILITY:**

Many faithful believers will have stability on their life ventures, business, ministry, marriage, etc. especially those who have gone

through some tough challenges and instabilities since the year 2009. They will receive miraculous divine intervention in their situations. The God of Israel, who is the God of WONDERFUL WORKS, will visit them. Amen.

LABOUR STRIKES / CIVIL UNREST: There will be unprecedented labour strikes and civil unrest in some European nations: U.K., France, Ireland, Ukraine, and Russia, Nigeria, South Africa, Egypt, Senegal, Mali, and Guinea

### About now and the next 7 years

Bissau. We should pray for God to give the political leaders of these countries the wisdom to handle these threats of instability. Many evil persons will want to capitalize on this unrest to destabilize nations. Nigeria, Egypt, South Africa and Pakistan must be very watchful.

**TERROR ACTS:** I see more terror acts in the Northern part of Nigeria and many people relocating from the North to the South. Christians in Europe especially Russia, Germany, should as well pray against terror acts.

**MARRIAGES:** All legally married Christians should pray for their marriages and household this year. "There is a concerted and protracted effort from the kingdom of darkness to unleash ferocious wicked attacks on marriages and homes of Christians this year, especially servants of God and young couples." Says the Lord.

There will be a sudden increase of divorce among Christians especially young couples in the next seven (7) years. Let's pray. God hates divorce.

THE SLUMBERING CHURCH: "The worldly character of many churches on earth have become a worrisome concern of heaven. This have made them loose SPIRITUAL POWER AND VERY GREAT SLOWNESS OF MAKING DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS. MANY CHURCHES HAVE ALMOST FORGOTTEN THEIR REAL MISSION IN BRINGING THE WORLD BACK TO GOD. The church drifted into a worrisome slumber, FORGETTING WHAT JESUS CHRIST, THE LORD OF GLORY, SUFFERED AND DIED FOR." Says the Lord.

GLORY OF EARTH: "Let My people who are called by name be heavenly minded, they should not be earthly minded, because the glory of this earth is already corrupted and it corrupts the soul of men. It is the glory of the devil.

In my Father's House there are many MANSIONS and UNDESCRIBABLE AWESOME GLORY; those that overcome to the end will richly and freely enjoy it" Says the Lord.

**TRUST IN GOD:** "Tell My children to trust in Me no matter the hard and trying times they are going through. My promise remains: "I will never leave nor forsake them, but be with them always. Nobody can alter or stop My purposed plans for their lives. My love plan for them is a perfect law. Their duty is for them to worship Me, walk with Me and obey My commandments, then leave Me to do My own business, thus, working out My love plan for their lives"

Finally, the message of salvation of the Saviour and King, our Lord Jesus Christ, more than ever requires great haste. Evangelize and win souls for Christ.

TO THE GOD OF GLORY AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, BE ALL GLORY, POWER, HONOUR, BLESSINGS AND ADORATION FOREVER.

AMEN! AMEN! AMEN!



### THE CROSS IN THE MANGER

IF THERE IS NO CROSS IN THE MANGER, THERE IS NO CHRISTMAS.

IF THE BABE DOESN'T BECOME THE ADULT, THERE IS NO BETHLEHEM STAR.

IF THERE IS NO COMMITMENT IN US, THERE ARE NO WISE MEN SEARCHING.

IF WE OFFER NO CUP OF COLD WATER, THERE IS NO GOLD, NO FRANKINCENSE, NO MYRRH.

IF THERE IS NO PRAISING GOD'S NAME, THERE ARE NO ANGELS SINGING.

IF THERE IS NO SPIRIT OF ALLELUIA, THERE ARE NO SHEPHERDS WATCHING.

IF THERE IS NO STANDING UP, NO SPEAKING OUT, NO RISK, THERE IS NO HEROD, NO FLIGHT INTO EGYPT.

IF THERE IS NO ROOM IN OUR INN,
THEN "MERRY CHRISTMAS" MOCKS THE CHRIST CHILD,
AND THE HOLY FAMILY IS JUST A HOLIDAY CARD,
AND GOD WILL LOATHE OUR FEASTS AND FESTIVALS.

FOR IF THERE IS NO RECONCILIATION, WE CANNOT CALL CHRIST "PRINCE OF PEACE".

IF THERE IS NO GOODWILL TOWARDS OTHERS, IT CAN ALL BE PACKED AWAY IN BOXES FOR ANOTHER YEAR.

IF THERE IS NO FORGIVENESS IN US, THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION.

IF WE CANNOT GO EVEN NOW UNTO GOLGOTHA, THERE IS NO CHRISTMAS IN US.

IF CHRISTMAS IS NOT NOW,
IF CHRIST IS NOT BORN INTO THE EVERYDAY PRESENT,
THEN WHAT IS ALL THE NOISE ABOUT?



My Mommy is sad a lot since Daddy went away. We can't find him. Can you?

Thave scary dreams at night. Where do scary dreams come from, or should I ask the devil that?

m sorry I forgot the words to Your songs yesterday in the Church. I don't sing that good anyway so sometimes I just hum along. Is that o.k. with You?

o you throw the lightening down at us? It scares me a lot when it goes BOOM. Please stop it.

o far today, I've done OK. I haven't gossiped, or lost my temper. I haven't been greedy, crabby, mean, nasty, selfish, bitchy or overindulgent. And I'm grateful for that.

But dear God, in a few minutes I'm gonna get out of bed, and then I'm probably gonna need a lot more help.

hate it when Daddy drinks his beer. He smells awful. Then he sleeps. He gets mean and yells at me a lot. Did you make up beer? Why?

hen I get big I want to play basketball. Maybe you could make my skin black so I can play better. Also, make me really tall, too.

O you like it when I pray to you? I do, too.

y Sunday School teacher says You always love me. Is that true? Even after what I did to

# DEAR GOD:

Sara yesterday - or do you know about that? I really am sorry so I wish you would still love me.

y grandma is dying. She says you want her back with you, but I want her to stay here with me. You can have anyone you want. She's all I have, so please let her get better and stay.

Did baby Jesus cry all the time? My new brother does, and I don't like it. Mommy says all babies do, and I did when I was little. I'm six now. I don't think baby Jesus ever cried. He's your son, so you must know the answer. We have a bet on it, so please write back.



saw a kangaroo and a buffalo today at the zoo. I like the lion best. What is your favorite? I think the ostrich is funny looking - did you do that on purpose?

Tre you really invisible or is that a trick?

id you mean for the giraffe to look like that or was it an accident?

ould you make me a little brother? I want to have someone to boss around like my brother does me. hy didn't you make me special? Cloe is specially pretty and Janine is specially smart. Ryan can run faster than anyone and wins all the races. Tina has perfect teeth. And Carmen can speak two languages. Did you forget to give me something special to be?

have no best friend. Everyone at school seems to have a best friend but me. Could you send me one, please? And hurry.

have a spelling test on Tuesday. I never get all the words right. Maybe you could help me this time. Or is that cheating?

In Sunday School we learned that You are everywhere. How big are You? As big as Shaq? He plays basketball and is the biggest I've ever seen.

Here went to this wedding and they kissed right in church. Is that okay?

he bad people laughed at Noah
– "You made an ark on dry land
you fool". But he was smart, he stuck
with You. That's what I would do. Instead of letting people die and having to
make new ones, why don't You just keep
the ones You have now?





# The Bread of Life

hen the people found Jesus on the other side of the lake, they said to Him, 'Teacher, when did you come here?'

Jesus answered, 'I am telling you the truth: you are looking for Me because you ate the bread and had all you wanted, not because you understood My miracles. Do not work for the food that spoils, but for the food that lasts for eternal life. This is the food which the Son of Man will give you, because God, the Father, has put His mark of approval on Him.'

Then they asked Him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?'

'What God wants you to do is to believe in the One He sent.'

'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat." '

'Very truly, answered Jesus, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.'

Then the people said to Him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to Me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in Me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. Everything that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and anyone who comes to Me I will never drive away; for I have come down from Heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that I should lose nothing of all that He has given Me, but raise it up on the last

Jam
The Bread
of Life
John 6:35

day. This is indeed the will of My Father, that all who see the Son and believe in Him may have eternal life; and I will

raise them up on the last day.'

Then the Jews began to complain about Him because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.'
They were saying, 'Is

not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, "I have come down from heaven"?'

Jesus answered them, 'Do not complain amongst yourselves. No one can come to Me unless drawn by the Father who sent Me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught by God." Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; He has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.

This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.'

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?'

So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat My flesh and drink My blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and My blood is true drink. Those who eat My flesh and drink My blood abide in Me, and I in them.

Just as the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats Me will live because of Me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this Bread will live for ever.'

He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. And He is telling it to us... today.

# MY HEAVENLY VISION

I knew nothing about visions or hearing God's voice. I was only fifteen years of age and out of the orphanage only six months.

As I was in prayer at the Church one evening, I felt the hand of God come and press itself on my forehead. In a moment of time I was in the presence of God. I do not know how long I lay there, but it seemed to be quite some time before the vision began to unfold before my eyes. The vision came slowly. At first, one scene, then another, each piece fitting into place like a puzzle until the complete picture was formed.

From one end of my eyes' vision to the other appeared a beautiful blue sky. Just to look at it gave the feeling of something supernatural. I was unable to understand what was taking place. My heart was beating rapidly, a thousand thoughts ran through my mind. I had heard of the Second Coming of Christ and that it was soon to take place, so I wondered if the trumpet of God had sounded and we had been caught up to meet the

Lord in the clouds of the sky. Yet, I reasoned that it could not be, for I was fully conscious that I was lying here on earth prostrate before God's Spirit.

The next scene that appeared startled me for I saw stretched from one end of that beautiful blue sky clear to the other end literally thousands and thousands of people. They came before my eyes in rapid succession. There was something unusual about this mass of humanity for they were not conglomerated together as you would expect to see a sea of people, but they were seated in even rows in a semi-circle, row upon row upon row, as far as my eyes could see, literally tens of thousands of people. In the midst of my feeling of wonderment I was further amazed for right in the very first row of that mass of humanity I suddenly saw myself sitting with the rest. From that moment I lost complete contact with my body on earth, my spirit was

snatched from my earthly body and taken into the heavens. Pulsating feeling began to vibrate through my whole being. I knew for sure I was in heaven.

Seated with that sea of people in this heavenly atmosphere, every eye set as a flint straight ahead.

Directly in front of that great mass of people in the height of an average man, about six feet tall and two feet wide,

> there appeared a great flaming ball of brightness and glory; it had no physical human features about it at all! I began to shake with the host of people!

> There had not been a sound made up until this time for this

scribe its glory, but it stood there in its crystallization of glory and brightness which caused the whole heavens to light and shine with its radiance.

tremendous presence commanded the reverence, quietness, and attention of everyone. Its very glory was indescribable for it shone as ten thousand suns, and a million moons. I cannot describe its color nor is my vocabulary adequate to de-

The next portion of the vision which took place is very hard to describe with pen. Just as you would take your right hand and arm, and stretch it forward; a ray from that tremendous bright light of glory came from its right side and that ray came right in the direction I was sitting. The light struck my body. I felt every muscle of my whole being paralyzed by its glory. Before I knew it I was standing on my feet and that light which had paralyzed my body was drawing me, and I was walking towards the presence of God.

Can you imagine the sensation that struck my innermost being? I felt as Moses of old who stood before the burning bush and took the shoes from his feet because the place he was standing was holy ground.





### MY HEAVENLY VISION

This light was the glory of the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. I walked toward the presence until I got right to the place where the light was. I felt that "my cup runneth over".

Then to my amazement the presence of God moved about a step away from me. Perplexing, conflicting emotions began to grip me. I had felt so wonderful in the presence of God, but now my heart ached as He moved.

Then my eyes were drawn to the place where the glory of God was standing before. Now there was a hole in the sky in the form of two footprints. When I looked through them, it was this that I saw, and this that I heard **that changed the** 

**course of my life** and caused me, as a fifteen year old boy, to dedicate my life to winning souls for Jesus and to bringing deliverance to the afflicted.

I saw coming up through the footprints the very flames of hell. I saw them rising and rising until they were literally burning right underneath the hole which had been made by the presence of God.

In the midst of those flames were multitudes of lost souls. No mortal tongue can describe the anguish. If a messenger were sent straight from hell to warn the sinner, man still would not comprehend the awful anguish and torment that awaits the unsaved in that dreadful place.

Oh, the screams and the cries of these anxious souls! Surely sin grinds. The Bible declares Samson "...did grind in the prison house ..." as the result of sin (Judges 16:21). Throughout the endless ages of eternity these souls would be continually

reminded through the torment of their souls of the awful sin of rejecting God's love and mercy.

I heard the cries of sons and daughters who had rejected parental guidance and were now crying aloud that their mother's prayers might yet snatch them from the burning.

I heard the cries of mothers and fathers. I heard the cries of the backslider and truly "... it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them." (II Peter 2:21).

Oh, the screams for another chance, the cries and prayers

that were now going up, but there was no answer. Truly the Word of the Lord shall not return unto Him void for God has said in Proverbs 1:24 "... I have called, and you refused; I have stretched out My hand, and no man regarded."

My heart began to burn with a compassion for the multitude. I knew what I had to do. I put my feet into the indentions that had been made by the presence of God, and to my utter amazement my feet fit perfectly into those footprints. They were the exact size. I stood in these footprints with a sense of deep satisfaction, for God, you see, had called me in this vision, had shown me the need, and then left the choice up to me. There was only one thing needed and that was my complete surrender to the will of God! I

would be the hedge; I would stand in the gap.

As I was standing in those footprints, answering the call of God, I felt a warm sensation all around my back. As I turned, that bright light was right by my side, for when I put my feet into the footprints I moved closer to the glory of God. That ray that drew me to the presence of God was now glowing all around my shoulders. It made me feel strong. It took away fear and nervousness, and seemed to give me an unusual power.

A voice spoke forth and said, "My son, arise, shine, for your light is come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. You shalt not be afraid for you shall not stand in your own strength, neither shall you stand in your own place but you shall stand in the place I have made for you and My strength shall uphold and guard you." "When

thou shalt see My glory in the midst of My people know then that I am there in the midst of you to bless you as you shalt minister to My people."

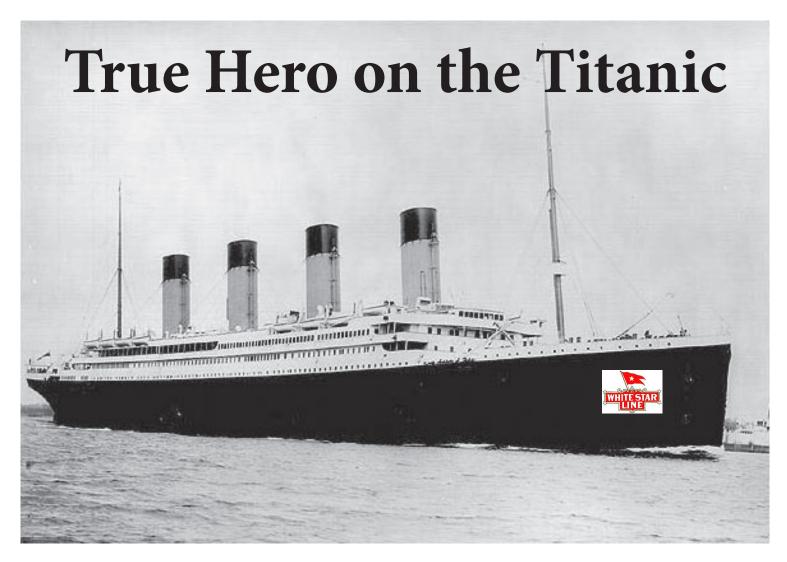
The glorious presence of God begun to shoot rays of bright light and glory all over the heads of that sea of humanity.

Our life would make the difference between thousands of souls falling into the pit of hell, and thousands of souls walking through the gates of glory.

Dr. Morris Cerullo







will be beautiful in the morning," remarked Reverend Harper, standing on deck and admiring the sunset, before retiring for the night. He was completely right, but he could even not imagine in which way.

John Harper was born to a pair of solid Christian parents on May 29th, 1872. It was on the last Sunday of March 1886, when he, thirteen years old, received Jesus as the Lord of his life. He never knew what it was to "sow his wild oats." He began to preach about four years later by going down to the streets of his village and pouring out his soul in earnest entreaty for men to be reconciled to God.

As John Harper's life unfolded, one thing was apparent... he was consumed by the Word of God.

When asked by various ministers what his doctrine consisted of, he was known to reply "The Word of God!"

After six years of toiling on street corners preaching the gospel and working in the mill during the day, Harper was taken in by Rev. Carter of Baptist Pioneer Mission in London, England. This set Harper free to devote his whole time of

energy to the work so dear to his heart.

Soon, John Harper started his own church (known today as the Harper Memorial Church). Starting with 25 members, the Church had grown to over 500 members when he left 13 years later. During this time he had gotten married, but was shortly thereafter widowed. However brief the marriage was, God did bless John Harper with a beautiful little girl named Nana.

Ironically, John Harper almost drowned several times during his life. When he was two and a half years of age, he almost drowned when he fell into a well but was resuscitated by his mother. At the age of twenty-six, he was swept out to sea by a reverse current and barely survived, and at thirty-two he faced death on a leaking ship in the

Mediterranean. Perhaps, God used these experiences to prepare His servant for what he faced next...



## True Hero on the Titanic

It was the night of April 14, 1912. The clear sky was filled with sparkling stars as Titanic, the largest and finest steamship in the world, sailed swiftly on the bitterly cold ocean waters heading unknowingly into the pages of history.

Many of the passengers had gone to bed, but some still could be found in the lounges, enjoying the Titanic's luxury. On board were many rich and famous people.

Ignoring iceberg warnings, the Titanic had been steaming full speed ahead. Suddenly, at 11.40 pm, a large iceberg scraped the ship's starboard side, showering the decks with ice and ripping six watertight compartments. The sea poured in.

Realizing the danger, the captain had commanded the wireless operator to put out a call for assistance. Lifeboats (enough for only 1/3 of the passengers and crew) were quickly made ready and women and children were ordered to get into them first. There were 12 honeymooning couples on board the ship. Though all of the brides were saved, only one of the grooms survived.

The captain ordered the band to play to keep

up the spirits of the passengers. It began playing a rag-time tune, but soon was playing worship hymns.

As soon as it was apparent that the ship was going to sink, John Harper took his daughter to a lifeboat. The widowed preacher could have easily gotten on board this boat to safety; however, it never seems to have crossed his mind. He bent down and kissed his precious little girl; looking into her eyes he told her that she would see him again someday. The flares going off in the dark sky above reflected the tears on his face as he turned and headed towards the crowd of desperate humanity on the sinking ocean liner.

As the rear of the huge ship began to lurch upwards, it was reported that Harper was seen making his way up the deck yelling, "Women, children and unsaved into the lifeboats!" It was only minutes later that the Titanic began to rumble

deep within. Most people thought it was an explosion; actually the gargantuan ship was literally breaking in half. At this point, many people jumped off the decks and into the icy, dark waters below. John Harper was one of them. He was seen swimming frantically to people in the water leading them to Jesus before the hypothermia became fatal. He swam also up to one young man who had climbed up on a piece of debris and asked him between breaths, "Are you saved?" The young man replied that he was not. Harper tried to lead him to Christ only to have the young man who was near shock, reply no. John Harper then took off his life jacket and threw it to the man and said, "Here then, you need this

A few minutes later Harper swam back to the young man and succeeded in leading him to salvation.

more than I do..." and swam away to other people.

an and succeeded in leading him to salvation. Of the 1528 people that went into the water that night,

> only six were rescued by the lifeboats. All 85 engineers continued to work to keep the ship afloat as long as possible. At the end many people knelt together in prayer until the waters covered them.

> Throughout the mournful, evacuation, with loved ones being tearfully separated, the band continued to play "Nearer My God to Thee." The band went down with the ship. The last hymn they played was "Autumn," which concludes with the prayer:

Hold me up in mighty waters Keep my eyes on things above, Righteousness, divine Atonement, Peace, and everlasting Love.



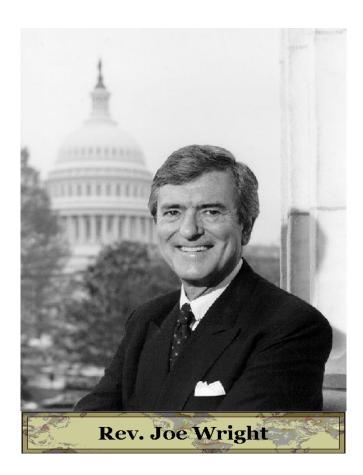
One of the saved people was the young man on the debris. Four years later, at a survivors meeting, he stood up and in tears recounted how that after John Harper had led him to Christ, he had tried to swim back to help other people, yet because of the intense cold, had grown too weak to swim. His last words before going under in the frigid waters were, "BELIEVE IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS AND YOU WILL BE SAVED."

Does Hollywood remember this man? No. Oh well, no matter. This servant of God did what he had to do. While other people were trying to buy their way onto the lifeboats to save their own lives, John Harper gave up his life so that others could be saved.

**Moody Press** 



## A PRAYER TO CHANGE A NATION



When minister Joe Wright was asked to open the new sessions of the Kansas Senate, everyone was expecting the usual generalities, but for their great surprise this is what they heard:

eavenly Father, we come before You today to ask Your forgiveness and seek Your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, "Woe to those who call evil good," but that's exactly what we've done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and inverted our values.

We confess that we have ridiculed the absolute truth of your Word and called it moral pluralism. We have worshipped other gods and called it multi-culturalism.

We have endorsed perversion and called it an al ternative lifestyle.

We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.

We have neglected the needy and called it selfpreservation.

We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare. We have killed our unborn and called it choice. We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable. We have neglected to discipline our children and

called it building esteem.

We have abused power and called it political savvy. We have coveted our neighbors' possessions and called it ambition.

We have polluted the air with profanity and pornogra phy and called it freedom of expression.

We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our fore-f athers and called it enlightenment.

Search us O God and know our hearts today; try us and see if there be some wicked way in us; cleanse us from every sin and set us free.

Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent here by the people of Kansas, and who have been ordained by You, to govern this great state. Grant them Your wisdom to rule and may their decisions direct us to the center of Your will. I ask it in the Name of Your Son, the living savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The response was immediate. A number of legislators walked out during the prayer in protest. In six short weeks, Central Christian Church, where Rev. Wright is pastor, logged more than 5,000 phone calls with only 47 of those calls responding negatively. The church is now receiving international requests for copies of this prayer from India, Africa, and Korea.

Commentator Paul Harvey aired this prayer on "The Rest of the Story" on the radio and received a larger response to this program than any other he has ever aired.

With the Lord's help, may this prayer sweep over our nation and wholeheartedly become our desire so that we again can be called one nation under God.



### ON THE CROSS GOD PREPARED SALVATION FOR YOU



### **GOD LOVES YOU!**

"God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16)

Jesus coplied: "I came that the people might have life, and might have it abundantly" (John 10:10). Nevertheless most people are not experiencing the abundant life, and it is because...

### MAN IS SINFUL AND SEPARATED FROM GOD

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

Man was created to have fellowship with God; but, because of his stubborn self-will, he chose to go his own independent way, and

fellowship with God was broken. This self-will, characterized by an attitude of active rebellion or passive indifference, is an evidence of what the Bible calls sin.

### THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH (SPIRITUAL SEPARATION FROM GOD) (Romans 6:23).

A great gulf separates man and God. <u>Man is continually trying to reach God</u> and the abundant life through his own efforts, such as a good life, philosophy, or religion. But there is only one way to bridge this gulf...

### JESUS CHRIST IS GOD'S ONLY PROVISION FOR MAN'S SIN. He Died in Our Place!

"God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (*Rom. 5:8*) "Christ died for our sins...He was buried...He was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures...He appeared to Peter, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred..." (1 Corinth 15:3-6). "Jesus said 'I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me" (John 14:6).

Even if you were the only person on the earth, God still would sent His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for you! Open your heart and invite Jesus to come into your life. Say the Prayer of Salvation sincerely, and you will become a child of God. We bless you! We have a free Bible for you, write us!

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12)



## **Prayer for Salvation**

"Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank
You for dying on the cross for my
sins. I open the door of my heart
and receive You as my Savior and
Lord. Thank You for forgiving
my sins and giving me eternal
life. Take control of the throne
of my life. Make me the kind of
person You want me to be."

