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The Christ For The Nations *Voice*



"After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb" (Matthew 28:1).

Caves are not for the claustrophobic. They are dark, dank, suffocating places. That day, the hearts of Jesus' followers are as heavy as the rock guarding the cave entrance. Only Mary and Mary make their way to their Beloved, even though their hope is also about as black as inside the tomb. They are there, heavy-hearted, to pour oil on a dead man's wounds; to scrub the marks of hatred from His beard; to wash His dried blood with their tears. They want to untangle His hair and kiss Him goodbye.

But the Master Storyteller Himself, Who created the epic suspense of the "turning point" is at it again. Our Hero, Who loves to swoop in, just when things look the most bleak, sends a bright-as-lightening, glory-clad angel to proclaim the best news ever. Hollywood has nothing on this epic tale. The God of the reversal is at it again. Victory has ensued!

The angel said to the women, *"Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said"* (Matthew 28:6).

Perhaps you have a tomb-like area in your life that looks desolate, dark and has your hope feeling like it is trapped inside darkness. Do you need healing, help, or a long-awaited salvation for a loved one? Perhaps you've just grown weary from the journey? But you should know, the Lord of the "turning point" is there for you, too! Do you doubt? Just ask the thief on the cross, the hungry 5,000 or the once-abandoned lepers. They all learned that just when things look to be at their worst, the God of Heaven still shows up. The darkest part of night is just before dawn, but joy comes in the morning!

We all have days when, like Mary and Mary, our lives seem more duty-bound than hope-driven. But He is still in the business of heavenly surprises! As followers of Christ, we were born again as cave escapers, freedom fighters, prison chain busters and overcomers. Jesus Christ is the Great Storyteller and Waymaker, and He is still writing the wonderful chapters of your life.

Our prayer is that these pages serve as a reminder of your High Calling and an encouragement for your journey, even the days when hope seems far off. We want you to know that, even 2,000 years later, the tomb is still empty. He has overcome. He declares to you too, *"Do not be afraid. I am risen!"* He overcame death, hell and the grave to give you life and hope. Promise fulfilled.

So keep anticipation alive for the next chapter, for His epic story of grace is still being written upon all your days. May His joy and peace be upon you today and always! Be encouraged, beloved.

In Him,
Kelly Head

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MEET THE VOICES

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Christ For The Nations *THE VOICE* Magazine is an interdenominational quarterly publication that seeks to encourage the unification of God's people, especially in efforts of mass evangelism, by reporting remarkable testimonies of healing and deliverance, and promoting sound teaching, deep spirituality and humility. Christ For The Nations Inc., a nonprofit organization, publishes this magazine under the laws of Texas.

The editorial offices are located at:
3404 Conway St., Dallas, Texas 75224.

REPRINT POLICY: NOTHING APPEARING
IN CHRIST FOR THE NATIONS *THE VOICE*
MAGAZINE MAY BE REPRINTED
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Subscriptions visit:

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Advertising contact: managingeditor@cfni.org

WHEN LEADERS FAIL US

By Dr. Dennis Lindsay

As the saying goes, *"If you've been in ministry or the Church for any length of time, you've probably been hurt."*

Like many believers, I've suffered some "battle wounds" during my life and ministry. There have been numerous times when a leader in ministry betrayed me or members of my family. Other times, moral failings of trusted leaders affected us in very hurtful ways. For example, a close friend of mine, who was married and an incredible worship leader, fell into homosexuality. My children attended a Christian school where the pastor and president of the school were caught in homosexuality. My son attended an "on fire" summer outreach, only to be deeply hurt when the anointed leader got divorced and left the ministry. None of this is ever easy to navigate through, but perhaps the most difficult is when the wounds come from "friends." Three times, as President of Christ For The Nations, close friends attempted to remove me from office.

I share a few of my painful experiences to warn believers that the enemy is looking to remove whomever he can from the Kingdom of God. If he can't do it through tempting us with something from outside the ministry, he will do it from within through a "friend."

At the same time, we don't have to look far in Scripture to see betrayal at work. When Judas approached Jesus on the night of His betrayal, Jesus called Judas "friend" (Matthew 26:50). How could He, knowing Judas' intentions? This is a warning to all of us that even our closest, most intimate confidants can fail us.

Scripture warns us—challenges will come. The question is, how will we respond? Through my life and ministry, especially the trying times, I've learned that there is truth to help us to stand strong in our faith and guard our hearts in the midst of difficult seasons.

7 lessons TO LEARN

2. KNOW THE CHURCH BELONGS TO JESUS

▶ Jesus is the Senior Pastor; the Church belongs to Him. The Church is founded upon

Jesus—He can grow it, or He can close it. So when things go from bad to ugly, Jesus is not surprised. Nothing Satan does can destroy the Church (Matthew 16:18).

1. EXPRESS GRIEF

▶ The wages of sin are costly. It is good to be real with God about our

feelings of hurt, betrayal and doubt. We read, *"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."* It's all right to feel sadness over the results of sin and what Satan tries to do. If you put this off, you'll only become bitter. Deal with it, and cast it into the sea of forgiveness.

3. GUARD YOURSELF AGAINST JUDGING

▶ *"Be careful not to judge, lest you be judged also."*

Do not judge or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged ... (Matthew 7:1-2, NIV). Enough said.

4. REALIZE NOT EVERYTHING THE LEADER DID WAS WRONG

▶ God speaks through imperfect individuals. When we are hurt, it's easy to think "The

minister was living a lie; everything he said was tainted."

God was working something out in the individual that failed, while at the same time, He was working something out in His Church. God knew what was going on, and even though the minister was not perfect, he still reached His children with the Word.

Ministers should not have any moral failures, and even if they have a failure of some kind, God still works through them. God can even use Satan—consider Job. Look at Jonah; God was working his plan out with a nation, while he worked something bad out of Jonah. Then there is Peter, who became a leader of the Early Church, but still had problems with his leadership (Galatians 2). Ask the Holy Spirit to help you hold onto the things that are true, removing what was from man.

5. EXAMINE YOURSELF, RATHER THAN OTHERS

▶ When sin is exposed and a person is humbled before God and man, it is not

God's will for us to continue to condemn them. They are in God's hands, and God will deal with them in bringing about repentance and restoration. At this point, it's crucial to examine our own personal lives for anything hidden there. The bad news is that when sin is kept hidden, it flourishes, entangles and blinds as it grows in strength. The good news is that once it's exposed, confessed and ready to be dealt with, sin loses its power and the prisoner goes free.

"When I kept silent, my bones wasted away ... For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; ... Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD'— and you forgave the guilt of my sin" (Psalm 32:3 5, NIV).

6. PRAY FOR FALLEN LEADERS

▶ We all fall short and are capable of failing. Leaders

are targets for the devil's schemes—the greater the leader's influence, the greater the fall. The overwhelming consequences of the fall create greater destructive power for the enemy. So leaders in the ministry need prayer support. I'm always blessed when someone tells me they're praying for me.

When a Christian leader falls, pray that God will wholly restore, heal and rebuild the leader, the family and every person affected by the fall. Pray that through the devastation, God's purpose will be completely accomplished, God will receive greater glory in the end, and that God's people will be strengthened. The blood of Christ covers and cleanses all our sins, so extend forgiveness to fallen leaders.


7. EXTEND GRACE TO FALLEN LEADERS

▶ The Bible teaches that love covers sins and offenses (Proverbs 10:12;

Proverbs 17:9; 1 Peter 4:8). Both love and grace will help you remain quiet, instead of speculating about the circumstances or maliciously gossiping about the situation. Think about them as you would want others to consider you. You will prevent the devil from wreaking further havoc by keeping quiet and covering that person with love and grace.

"When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise" (Proverbs 10:19, NIV).

FALLEN LEADERS THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE

All of God's chosen leaders were imperfect, just like we are. Moses and David committed murder. Jacob was a deceiver/con artist. Solomon and Samson had problems with women. Amazingly, God used prostitutes, thieves and every kind of sinner to reveal that mankind's sinful condition is not His focus. His focus is love—His power to forgive and restore. God sees us all as valuable, no matter what. *"All things work together for good to them who love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).* 

Prayers

for Harvest:

By Belinda Elliott

“America is on the verge of a powerful Christian awakening,” says Lou Engle, “if Christians are willing to take on the role of committed prayer warriors.”

Engle is cofounder of TheCall, solemn assemblies in which youth fast and pray for 12 hours seeking to turn America back to God. With more than 30 years of experience in praying for revival, he has helped plant two churches, started the pro-life ministry Bound4Life and began the first Justice House of Prayer in Washington, D.C., to pray for Supreme Court justices and other leaders in America.



Laura Allred cries out for America's unborn at a Lou Engle TheCall assembly.

*“Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest
to send out laborers into His harvest.”
Matthew 9:38*



*Isn't it time the Church itself
would be praying
what Jesus is praying and asking
for every ethnic group?*



Hundreds of thousands of young adults from all over the world gather to intercede at TheCall gatherings.



*... there may be times
when we don't immediately see
the results of our prayers,
but they are still effective.*

A little over a year ago, Engle says he received a new assignment from God—and it is one the Lord wants all Christians to embrace. He describes it as a mantle, much like that which was on Billy Graham, falling on America again. He says many prophets have foretold the nation returning to stadium Christianity where great stadiums are filled with signs and wonders, many nonbelievers are saved, and thousands of laborers are sent into the harvest fields to reach the last remaining people groups who have not yet heard the Gospel. He is asking Christians to fast and pray for God to birth this movement in America.

There are currently 7,000 unreached people groups around the world. Just as in Jesus' day when He cautioned His disciples that workers for the Kingdom were few, more workers are still needed to reach the nations today. Christians play a vital role in this because it all begins with prayer.

Engle's passion is to call young adults into a lifestyle of radical prayer, fasting, holiness and acts of justice to bring awakening and hasten the return of Christ.



All Christians have a part to play in God's story.

— Lou Engle

"Jesus has been praying that for 2,000 years. Isn't it time the Church itself would begin to pray what Jesus is praying and ask for every ethnic group?"

He also notes that the language used in Matthew 9:38 implies this assignment isn't optional. The verb tense used in the verse for "pray" signifies it is a command, and the word used for "send" is *ekballo*—the Greek word Jesus uses when He talks about casting out demons.

"He uses the same spiritually violent word to describe sending out laborers," Engle says. "He is hurling forth laborers. He is not passive about the laborers."

Reaching the lost has always been at the heart of God's story for humanity. *"He wrote a storyline that ends in Revelation where every tribe and every tongue is around the throne worshipping God," Engle says. However, Scripture tells us that the Gospel must be preached around the world first (Matthew 24:9).*

"What if we raised up a million in America who were crying out to God every day, 'Lord of the harvest, thrust forth laborers into the harvest.' What if all over the globe – the Church in China, the Church in Argentina, Brazil – they're all crying out? We need to" exhorts Engle, "because it's prayer that connects the problem with the answer."

Since he began praying this more than one year ago, Engle began to see his prayers answered, even within his own family. Two of his children are now on the mission field ministering to unreached people groups. However, there may be times when we don't

immediately see the results of our prayers, but they are still effective. Engle relates the story of Dick Simmons from Washington, D.C. One day, Simmons was praying on the banks of the Hudson River. He felt a burden for the gangs of New York City and asked God to send out laborers to reach them. He was crying out to God so loudly that police came to arrest him for disturbing the peace.

*"What he doesn't know is that very night a young man in Pennsylvania is reading a magazine article about the gangs in New York," Engle says. "God breaks his heart and ekbалlos him into New York City." The man's name is David Wilkerson, founder of the addiction recovery program Teen Challenge and co-author of *The Cross and the Switchblade*, which chronicles his work with disillusioned youth who are embroiled in drugs and gang violence.*

All Christians have a part to play in God's story. Our first and most crucial role is to pray for more laborers with passionate hearts who want to advance God's story. *"I don't want to write my own story," Engle says. "I want to be a part of God's great storyline. It is Christ for the nations. We're asking God for 80 million souls in America in stadiums and 20,000 missionaries going to help finish the task."*

"I say God is not done with America yet," he explains. "He can shake our President. He can shake this American dream to release His own dream into the nations. He is able to do that if He finds a people who pray and call upon Him and dare to believe that the storyline goes on." 📺

Engle points to Matthew 9:38: *"Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."* When Jesus discussed this with His disciples, the action He told them to take was to pray. *"He doesn't say 'Go,' he notes. "Jesus says, 'Pray.' When you pray, you get God involved. When you move Heaven, Heaven moves men."*

He says he was reminded of this need to pray fervently for God to raise up more missionaries after reading the writings of Andrew Murray, a South African pastor and author. Andrew Murray said, *"The number of missionaries on the field is entirely dependent on someone praying out laborers."* *"When I read that statement," said Engle, "it was like a bomb went off in me. If that is true, then there are 7,000 unreached people groups because the Church has been playing games with the Great Commission. We should have been praying."*

Just as Jesus is interceding for all people to know Him, we should be also. "The Father said to His Son, 'Ask me and I will give you the nations as your inheritance and the ends of the earth as your possession,'" Engle says.

▶▶▶ To learn more about Lou Engle's ministry, visit LouEngle.com.



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By Belinda Elliott

America has lost its way, says Dutch Sheets, and it will take a generation of strong, committed Christians to put our country—and our world—back on the right path.

Sheets, an internationally recognized author and speaker, serves as Executive Director of Christ For The Nations Institute. In his book, *The Pioneer Spirit*, he urges Christians to answer God's call to become pioneers, forging the path back to righteousness in a world that has abandoned the teachings of Scripture.

"I don't think there's ever been a time in history that cries out more for a pioneer generation," Sheets says. *"We've strayed from the basic principles that made us great: truth, integrity, personal and corporate responsibility, self-discipline, biblical morality. Rejecting these ideologies*

has taken us down a wrong road. But deep in the DNA of every believer is the pioneer spirit of Jesus, the Pioneer of all pioneers."

Sheets says he was first awakened to this pioneer spirit after hearing the song "Pioneer" sung by Rick Pino and written by Nancy Honeytree. The song left him "wrecked" he says, and he connected with it deeply. Now, he has a message for Christians everywhere: It's time to take a stand and influence the world for Christ.

One doesn't have to look far to discover how our culture has rejected a biblical worldview. Sheets points to a Newsweek article that **mocked marriage by citing studies that found 60 percent of men and 50 percent of women will have sex with someone other than their spouse during their marriage, and that in 2008, 41 percent of births in America were to unmarried mothers.**

In addition, there are more slaves in the world today than there were in the Civil War era because of human trafficking. A large number of abortions occur in the U.S. daily. Political debates about gay marriage continue across the country. Sheets recalls a news report he heard about a teenager who sued her school board because they wouldn't allow her lesbian lover to be her prom date.

"Somebody is going to have to lead us out of this mess," Sheets explains. *"We're going to have to have a generation of believers, whatever their age, that accepts the challenge and says, 'I will not live my life accepting things as they are. I exist in this hour in history because God placed me in this hour in history. If He put me here, there is a purpose to my life. I must be part of the solution.'"*

PIONEER SPIRIT

**"IF HE PUT ME HERE,
THERE IS A PURPOSE
TO MY LIFE. I MUST
BE PART OF THE
SOLUTION"**

Characteristics of Pioneers

Being a pioneer in today's culture takes courage. As agents of change, pioneers must take the lead and prepare the way for others to follow. *"God's Word tells us not to be conformed to our culture (Romans 12:1-2), but to change it by being salt and light (Matthew 5:13-14),"* Sheets writes in his book. He believes there are seven characteristics people must have to become pioneers.

Pioneers are willing to be different. *"You can't go with the flow; you have to create it,"* Sheets explains. *"You can't be a conformist. You must think like a reformer. You have to reject peer pressure."* He encourages Christians to cultivate an attitude like Caleb. The Lord noted his "different spirit" (Numbers 14:24), comparing him to the 10 spies who accompanied him to survey the Promised Land. When the spies returned, they stirred up fear among the Israelites, reporting that the land was inhabited with giants. Caleb was one of only two men who trusted God to provide a victory and even asked to fight the biggest man himself.

Pioneers are people of uncommon commitment. They are committed to doing the right thing out of a sense of honor and duty. Sheets points to Ronald Reagan who stood his ground when multiple staff members urged him to remove the line from his speech that has become famous: *"Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall."* Doing the right thing isn't usually complicated, Sheets says, but it may cost you something.

Pioneers realize no price is too great to pay. Most of the 12 disciples and many leaders in the Early Church were martyred. Pioneers must be willing to lose everything for Christ. Sheets recalls the experiences

of William Wilberforce who worked for four decades to eradicate the slave trade in the British empire. His work cost him many things: his health, many sleepless nights and the ridicule of his peers. It was just days before his death that he saw his work pay off and the vote to end slavery passed.

Pioneers possess the heart of a warrior. Sheets recalls mighty warriors in the Bible including David, Benaiah and Eleazar. Pioneers may not need to fight physically, but they must battle against the powers of darkness (Ephesians 6:12) through prayer and by speaking out within the culture.

Pioneers are willing to go into the unknown. *"Jesus said, 'Go.'"* Sheets notes. *"He didn't say, 'Be comfortable.'"* He believes many churches have settled into routines and are unwilling to take risks or venture into uncharted areas. Yet, the Great Commission instructs us to go into the entire world. *"When God's mission statement is no longer our mission statement, something is wrong,"* he says. Pioneers must not fear the unknown.

Pioneers have extreme passion. *"People tell me sometimes I need to be less intense,"* he says. His response is to encourage them to be more intense, to break out of their lethargy. *"Where are the Davids of our day who run to the giants,"* he asks, *"and when they worship, they fling off their outer garments and make a fool of themselves? Where are the Apostle Pauls*

of today who say the love of God constrains me—I have no choice?"

Pioneers are willing to fight for a cause bigger than themselves. *"If your wants and needs are more important than the cause, you will never be a pioneer,"* Sheets says. Pioneers must be solely devoted to Christ and advancing His Kingdom.

They are not satisfied with the status quo; they long to make a difference and are willing to invest their *entire* lives to do it.

Are You Willing?

Through Christ, we all have the ability to be spiritual pioneers. The question is one of willingness.

"What are you going to tell your grandchildren?" Sheets asks. *"What are you going to say to them when they ask what you did about 55 million babies? What are you going to do when they ask you what you did about the slave trade in your day that was bigger than it was in the Civil War? What will you say? 'We were too busy?' 'It didn't touch our house?' 'I didn't know?'"*

He recalls the words of Winston Churchill as he spoke about the commitment it would take to stop the spread of Nazi ideologies around the world. Churchill declared the tragic record of events *"whether we like it or not, spells duty."*

"I would say to you that abortion spells duty," Sheets says. *"Human trafficking spells duty. Fatherlessness spells duty. Starvation spells duty. Somebody is going to have to rise up and do something even if it is difficult. We are a generation that is going to change the world. That's why you are here."* 📖

To purchase the book *Pioneer Spirit* or see Dutch Sheets upcoming schedule, visit DutchSheets.org.

THE HAT

By Chaim Goldberg

A few years ago I was asked to produce a short film for the Negev Tourism Office. Specifically, they wanted me to help them make a video advertisement promoting all the sites and attractions in the Israeli desert. So why did they come to me? Because I'm a Messianic Jew, and they wanted the video to target Christian tourists around the world. They needed someone who spoke "Christianese," and who would know how to market what they were selling to that specific audience.

I remember arriving at the bus station in Beersheva to meet the crew I'd be working with on the film. Someone from the tourism office was there to pick me up. I was a bit surprised to see they sent an Orthodox Jewish woman. I could tell by the way she was dressed that she was religious. She couldn't have been more welcoming, and she was so excited to take me around to all of the historical sites that would be featured in our video.

After a couple of hours in the car together, visiting everything from Abraham's Well to various war memorials, we became chatty and seemed to be enjoying one another's company. I got up the courage to ask her how she felt about this project we were working on, and specifically, how she felt about working with a Jew who believed in Yeshua. Her answer rings in my ear to this day: "Chaim," she said, "Some Israelis hate the religious. Some hate the secular. But everyone hates you."



Chaim Goldberg is an Emmy award-winning television producer, previously with Fox, NBC and CBN. He is now the Director of Media for Maoz Israel Ministries in Tel Aviv. To learn more, follow him on twitter @ChaimGoldberg.



THE MOST HATED PEOPLE ON EARTH

My friend and colleague, Ron Cantor, has a book called *Messianic Jews, The Most Hated People On Earth*. The title always amused me, but here I was, experiencing just that. This woman was being very honest with me, telling me how people really felt.

Recently, former IDF Chief Gabi Ashkenazi, gave a rare interview where he was asked what the greatest threat to Israel is. His response was, "Internal divisions over Judaism." I guarantee you, he wasn't thinking of Messianic Jews. He was thinking of the ultra-Orthodox versus the more 'secular' or mainstream Israeli Jews.

But as polarized as those two sides are, there is nothing that can unite them quicker than their mutual disdain for Jews who believe in Jesus. To both groups, we are considered missionaries (a very dirty word in Israel), trying to destroy Judaism and forcing Jews to abandon their faith and become Christians. We are the new Hitler, but instead of sending them to gas-chambers, we're trying to steal their souls.

Think I'm exaggerating? The Chief Rabbi of the city of Ashdod staged a rally outside a Messianic Jewish congregation in 2011 and said those exact words. "Hitlers!" he called us. I should know; I was there, and was nearly attacked by the angry crowd. Were it not for the police officer who escorted me away, the footage I shot of the inflammatory rally would never have been shown on Israeli national television.

LEAVE US ALONE

Modern-day Israel sprang back to life after the darkest period in our people's history. The Holocaust was a human catastrophe unparalleled in its horror. The Jewish people had been driven from their homes by the Nazis. And now, at the end of it all, they finally had a home of their own—their biblical, historical homeland no less. They were safe in Israel. They could finally rebuild the Jewish nation after two millennia in exile.

Most Jews just want to be left alone. They've been fighting Arabs, literally, since the day of Israel's declared independence. Wars and intifadas and terrorism never cease. So the last thing Israeli Jews want to deal with are fellow Israeli Jews, now trying to convince them that Yeshua (the perceived "Christian God") is actually their Jewish Messiah. They just want to be left alone, in peace. Thus, the conflict for Messianic Jews. We are compelled, and in fact, commanded to share our faith in love. And yes, we know our friends and family here in Israel are so loathed to hear such "Good News."

HATED ONES

“Some Israelis hate the religious. Some hate the secular. But everyone hates you.”

PRAYER NEEDED

Moving to Israel has been the greatest challenge of my life. Being thousands of miles away from my loved ones. Trying to adjust to a new culture. Trying to learn a new language. Trying to navigate new government bureaucracies from the driver's license office to the tax authority. Trying to make new friends and fit in with a new community. Trying to find a good job, with my limited Hebrew. Trying to survive the summer heat of the Middle East. Trying not to give in to fear when war and terrorism rages around you.

The list of challenges are endless. But the greatest challenge by far has been realizing what an alien I am amongst my own people. Realizing how much ignorance there is about the Bible; both the Old and New Testaments. Realizing how much hostility there is at the very mention of the name Yeshua. Realizing how ostracized I am, even in the midst of the most ostracized group on Earth...the Jews.

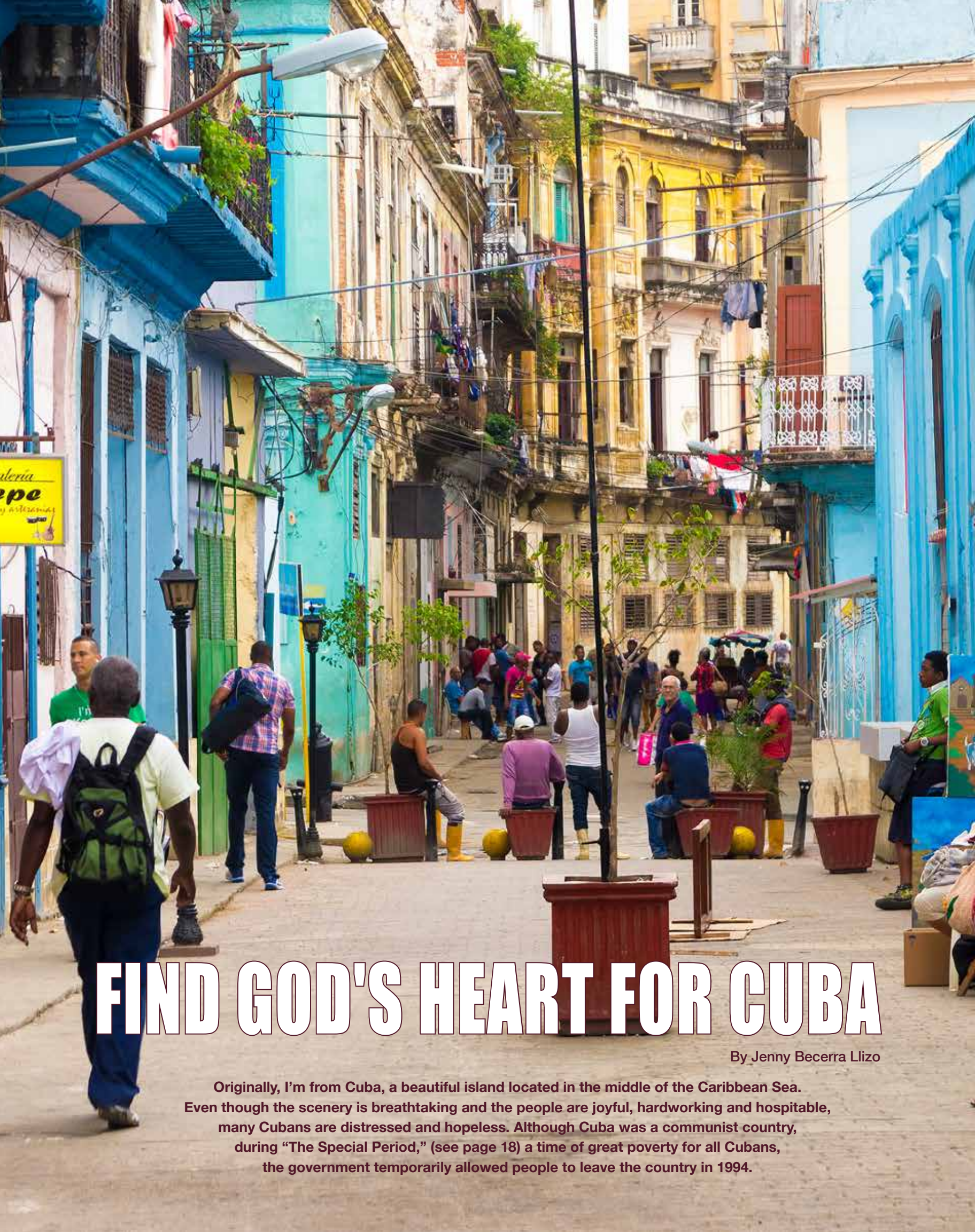
When looking at it through the eyes of men, we, the Messianic Jews, are the most hated people on Earth. The anti-Semites hate us for being Jewish. The Jews hate us for preaching an unfamiliar form of Judaism. But when looking at it through the eyes of God, we are actually quite the opposite. We are in fact the most loved and blessed people on Earth. We are twice chosen! We were first

chosen to be part of the special tribe known as 'the Jews' whom God set apart for a special relationship. Second, we were chosen to have our eyes opened to the truth of God's salvation in the form of Yeshua.

While so many stumble around in blindness and darkness and angst, we have our fulfillment. We have our forgiveness. We have our Yeshua!

So don't feel sorry for us. We Israeli, Messianic Jews. But please, do join us in prayer. We need you to stand with us, as we persevere to share the Gospel with the miraculously reborn nation of Israel. That is God's heart. That is our collective privilege. And so we carry on. 🕊





FIND GOD'S HEART FOR CUBA

By Jenny Becerra Llizo

Originally, I'm from Cuba, a beautiful island located in the middle of the Caribbean Sea. Even though the scenery is breathtaking and the people are joyful, hardworking and hospitable, many Cubans are distressed and hopeless. Although Cuba was a communist country, during "The Special Period," (see page 18) a time of great poverty for all Cubans, the government temporarily allowed people to leave the country in 1994.

It's the dream of most Cubans to leave in search of a better life. But before my family could leave, my sister suffered a horrible injury that had her in the hospital for a very long time, and prevented us all from leaving. So, I grew up in Cuba. While it was often rough living those years with nine of us in a very small house with little to eat, we now thank God that we stayed. Many, many died from bad weather or shark attacks as they travelled the 90 miles towards the United States in their handmade boats created from any scraps they could find. The pictures from some of these occurrences are devastating.

For me Cuba is like a big bowl where you mix races and religions. We have Spanish, African and also the Mestizos, which are a mix of both. Our religion is similar. We have the Catholic Church, but it

is mixed with the African gods and their rituals.

My mom was raised Catholic. My dad, on the other hand, decided there was no God at a very young age. My mom's mom was Catholic, but then got into Santería, which made her a slave to idols. My dad's mom, who lived with us, was a Jehovah's Witness. But she was the first person to teach me about the Bible. I remember going to her room every morning, jumping into bed, asking her to read me more from "My Book of Bible Stories." I fell in love with the Creator of Heaven and Earth. This feeling was so strong that I started sharing the stories with my mom, who then forbid me to go to my grandmother's room. I cried for hours. Her words marked my life, for I soon forgot about God.



Cuban Church Outlook

Challenges for Prayer

Cuba faces a difficult future.

Pray for the following needs:

▶ Leadership for the churches remains an urgent need

Many leaders had to flee or were expelled following the revolution. There are now a few evangelical and two Catholic Bible schools. However, student numbers are limited by government interference and a lack of materials and leadership.

▶ Bible distribution

The need remains urgent as church growth outstrips resources .

▶ Worship Leaders

Music is a core aspect of Cuban culture and identity. The raising up and training of Christian musicians and worship leaders is hugely strategic.

▶ Christian literature

Many more materials are needed. More can now be imported, but permission for local printing is difficult to obtain. Pray that the wide range of Spanish language resources would make its way into Cuba.

▶ Christian radio

Some FM Christian radio can be picked up from other Caribbean islands. Local Christian broadcasting is still not permitted.

Answers to Prayer

Praise the Lord:

▶ Opposition and hostility toward the Church

has actually refined it, causing believers to depend radically upon God, strengthening their prayer life and encouraging unity. The Church has continued to multiply at impressive rates.

PRAY FOR
CUBA



I was a teenager when my mom and sister started going to an evangelical church. They got filled with the Holy Ghost. They tried to drag me with them, but I was rebellious. But, eventually, I began to feel God's infinite love and went to church. Three months later, like on the day of Pentecost, I also received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

God restored me and healed me where I'd been hurt and bitter against everyone. He taught me that my prison was not the system of Cuba's government, but an angry heart. He taught me to love those who persecuted and hated me, and to pray and bless the president of my nation. He taught me to love my country and its people.

I was 15 years old when I met a youth leader. He had started a church in one of the surrounding towns. He taught the Word and called leaders to come there to be trained to be sent out. From that day of hearing him preach about missions, I realized that I also desired to do whatever I could to serve my King and to serve others around the world—especially in the places where they have no churches.

Through a series of miracles over several years, God saved my entire family. He then brought me out of my country with His mighty hand to study the Word of God at Christ For The Nations. I know it's with the purpose that His plans for me may be fulfilled.



Photograph "La Esperanza."
Many Cubans were filled with hope (esperanza) as they took a brief window of opportunity to legally leave Cuba during the Special Period in 1994-95. Boats were made out of any available scraps. Many's hope was fulfilled, but many also didn't survive the 90 mile trip to the U.S. due to storms, sharks or shoddy boats.

What is the Special Period?

The Special Period in Cuba was a long period of economic crisis that began in 1991 after the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

The economic depression of the Special Period was at its most severe in the early to mid-1990s before slightly declining in severity towards the end of the decade.

Things were so bad that people were forced to eat whatever they could find. Today meat is so scarce it's become a crime to kill and eat a cow. Because buying homes is impossible and illegal, families still typically live with several generations, who are crowded within the same home.



Photograph Graffiti on Callejon de Hamel alley on December 30, 2012. Callejon de Hamel is considered a public temple to Santeria religion and Afro-Cuban culture. These paintings are very typical in Cuba.

What is Santería?

Santeria, commonly referred to as Latin American magic, is a fused religion that intertwines aspects of Roman Catholicism (as it is practiced in Cuba) with "magic." The vast majority of santeros, followers of the religion, are found in Cuba. Santeria, deriving from the Spanish word *santo*, or saint, is the Cuban name for this religion because of the significance of saint worship. Despite the trappings of the Catholic sainthood, Santeria remains intrinsically an African religion that originated on the shores of the Nile River in present-day Nigeria among the Yoruba tribe. Because of this infusion of "magic" into the mainstream way of life in Cuba, it is important to pray for Truth to continue to rise in the Church.

I am not the only one in Cuba who God has called to serve, but I'm one of the few who has had an opportunity to come out to be trained and prepared. However, there are so many other Christians who have been called to serve Him, to carry the fire of His Presence with the little they have. God is moving powerfully in my country. People are hungry for the truth. The vision of our churches is to get Cuba saved for Christ. Every believer is encouraged to do evangelism. We go out in groups to preach the Gospel house-to-house, but we need materials to empower these new believers and leaders to help disciple them.

There is so much about Cuba that I love—the beautiful scenery, the joyful people, the music, the food! Mostly, I love the church in Cuba! Cuban Christians are on-fire, thirsty and hungry for the Holy Spirit, fighting to expand the Kingdom of God. There have been so many years of persecution, but we persevere! The pastors

keep dreaming of bigger churches, with big joined celebrations for God's people. They dream of Christian schools filled with students. Through faithfulness and prayer, the church in Cuba can achieve many dreams.

I see Cuba in my future; I believe that someday I will return to it to work in the ministry of the Lord there among my people. But I also have a strong desire to start congregations where there are none, and send leaders to minister to those who need to walk in the light of God—Who is real and is love. I dream about doing this, not only while I'm sleeping, but when I'm awake, too.

I love my country and I pray for it and its governors every day. But my homeland is in Heaven; I am a pilgrim on this Earth. I report first to Jesus my King, and I will go wherever He sends me.



Photograph Christian Worship
HAVANA, CUBA.
Worship Service in 2007
at Jenny's home Church.

Worship in the Cuban Church

Even though it is a small number of evangelical Christians, they get together and worship the one true God.

The worship services are always crowded and flow out from the room, but leaders and resources are scarce. We must pray for the Lord to uphold and strengthen the growing Cuban Church.

CUBA'S RELIGIOUS OUTLOOK

■ Catholic/Santería*	47%
■ Non-Religious	25%
■ Animist / Spiritist	18%
■ Evangelical Christian	9%
■ Others	1%

*Because Santería is sometimes very integrated with Catholicism in Cuba, it's difficult to accurately break these numbers into specific groups. Many Santaria followers would call themselves Catholic. Though, the reverse is not always true.

Statistics taken from the Operation World website
(www.OperationWorld.org) May 13, 2013
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Taste of Cuban Culture



*Despite their often difficult history and economic conditions,
Cubans love to enjoy their lives. They love to eat, dance and laugh all the time.
Enjoy a traditional Cuban meal so you, too, can get a taste of Cuba!*



Pollo en Salsa de Frijol Negro (Chicken in Black Bean Sauce)

Ingredients:

4 chicken thighs and 4 legs
1 large can of black beans
1/2 cup of sofrito casero
(onion, bell pepper, cilantro and
garlic blended together)
Salt and pepper to taste
1/2 teaspoon of cumin
1 tablespoon of oregano
1 teaspoon of apple cider vinegar
1/2 can of tomato sauce

Wash and season the chicken with salt and pepper and set aside. In a deep iron cast skillet, add olive oil and sautee the sofrito for a minute. Add cumin, oregano and tomato sauce and mix around. Add beans and mix well. Add 1 cup of broth and mix. Let cook for 10 minutes.

Finally add apple cider vinegar and mix and cook another 3 mins. Add chicken one at a time and submerge completely in sauce and cook for another 35-40 minutes. Let sit for a few minutes before serving over white rice. Yum, Yum!

The chicken will taste better if marinated overnight.

**Find more Cuban recipies at CFNTheVoice.com*



▶▶▶ ABOUT JENNY

Jenny Becerra Llizo just finished her third year of training at Christ For The Nations Institute where she was a Global Missions Major. She is in the process of preparing to be a missionary to Mozambique. To learn more about her and her ministry, visit: HeSentUs.weebly.com/index.html. To hear Jenny's powerful story of how the Lord made a miraculous way for her to study at Christ For The Nations, listen here with the video QR CODE or visit CFNTheVoice.com/jennybecerra.





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PSALM 107:20

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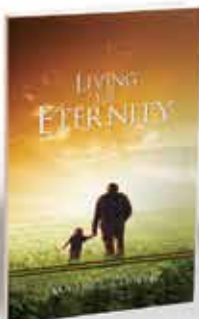

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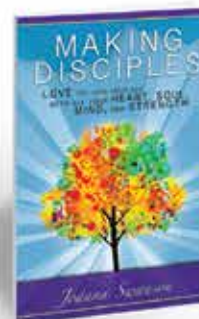
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Can Faith Really *move* MOUNTAINS?

By Miriam Sprague

“God tends to work more like an oven than a microwave.”

At times, we’ve all had to wait for a mouth-watering, juicy roast to come out of the oven. Cooking it in the microwave would be so much faster, but I’m not sure the taste would be as deep and flavorful. We know this cooking technique to be true with some food, but when it comes to His promises being fulfilled in our lives, we often want them to happen, like yesterday! We want microwave solutions—and answers! Many times the challenge is to not get discouraged and give up on our faith during the wait.

We may not love it, but most of us know the verse, *“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing”* (James 1:4).

I was just 14-years-old when I heard the Lord tell me that He wanted me to share His love with people in foreign nations. I thought about taking a ship to Africa, but my mother gave me some of her “wisdom.” Now, if I would have taken what I “heard” at that young age and acted upon it, I’m certain I would have failed. It was more than 20 years later when He sent me to the nations, but now I was equipped with His love and compassion.

How did I get prepared? It was actually “life” itself that “prepared” me while I was waiting. Just like in cooking, sometimes it’s the bitter taste that makes the sweet better.

Cookies actually have salt in them to make them sweeter. The bitter things or sadness in my life is what added to create the sweet in His “recipe.” Those things like leaving Mexico to marry my American husband, my dad’s passing away and all the financial struggles we’ve experienced along the way. But some of the sweet things in life were marrying my best friend,

Bill, the joyful birth of our son, Joey, and the fulfillment of my dream to attend Bible school.

Even though I didn’t realize it at the time, all of it was part of my “preparation.” Graciously, the Lord allowed me to stay in the “oven” a little while longer. Both the sorrows and the joy deepened my compassion and empathy, which gave Him a deeper well to draw from in ministry. I’ve learned that many times when we pray for things to happen, it takes a greater faith to trust our Lord, especially when we come to understand that the answer often depends on our ability to wait. Matthew 17:20 tells us that faith, the size of a mustard seed, can move mountains. However, when it’s our mountain that has to be moved, do we really believe a small seed of faith is enough?

If you were to take a trip to the mountains of California, you would see these magnificent trees that only started with a small seed, but now have such an extensive root system that they are visible even above the ground. When that seed is first planted, it’s small, and it only moves a little bit of dirt to burst through and become a seedling. But with water, sunshine and lots of time, the trees grow so large that their root systems are massive. This is a perfect example of how a seed, tempered with time, literally can move the ground. Tree roots can move homes off of their foundations, and if they get big enough, they can move the dirt with a powerful enough force to cause a shift in the Earth’s surface, sometimes large enough to cause earthquakes. Talk about moving a mountain!

These magnificent trees are a good mental image to keep in mind while we’re waiting on His promises to come to pass. When we patiently wait, things we can’t see move and shift beneath the surface. The key is to remember that with the unlimited power of God, we have the ability to speak to the mountains in our life and tell them to move! We also must keep the faith, and eventually, we will lack nothing! 🌱



WHAT'S YOUR

By Zach Neese

What's your story? I'm convinced that our lives are meant to be living, breathing, walking, talking worship. If that's true, then sharing our stories—our testimonies—are some of our greatest declarations of praise and some of our greatest weapons of warfare.

In Ephesians 6, Paul spends 12 verses equipping us to engage and defeat spiritual enemies and overcome life's adversities. It's a reminder that each of us is designed for a specific role in the age-old struggle between the kingdoms of Heaven and hell. Each of us has been assigned something to defend, something to defeat, and something to declare.

That's what your testimony does.
It scares the tar out of hell
and strengthens
the Church's hands for war.

It's the declaration part that we don't always pull out of these verses. Ephesians 6:13 uses the same Greek word for "stand" as the previous verses, but it follows the statement *"having done all."* The Greek word is *katēgazomai*, and it means to accomplish or achieve something. In other words, Paul is saying that it is not enough to fight and win. When we are done kicking cans and taking names, we are supposed to stand again. Why? So that everyone will see who came out on top—to make a spectacle of the enemies of God.

That is the purpose of a testimony. So that all of Heaven, all of Earth, and all of hell is made to face the crushing, humiliating, awe-inspiring victory of the children of God—to rub the devil's nose in his failures and to inspire faith to rise up from the Earth.

That's why David didn't just thump Goliath on the noggin with a stone. He chopped his great wooly head off and raised it as high as he could. When they saw it, the Philistines panicked and fled, but the Israelites were encouraged. The same soldiers who had been cowering in terror at the sight of this "invincible" monster saw a boy effortlessly swat a giant aside. Their courage soared; they roared like lions; they leapt out of their hiding places, and they chased their enemies back to Philistia (1 Samuel 17).

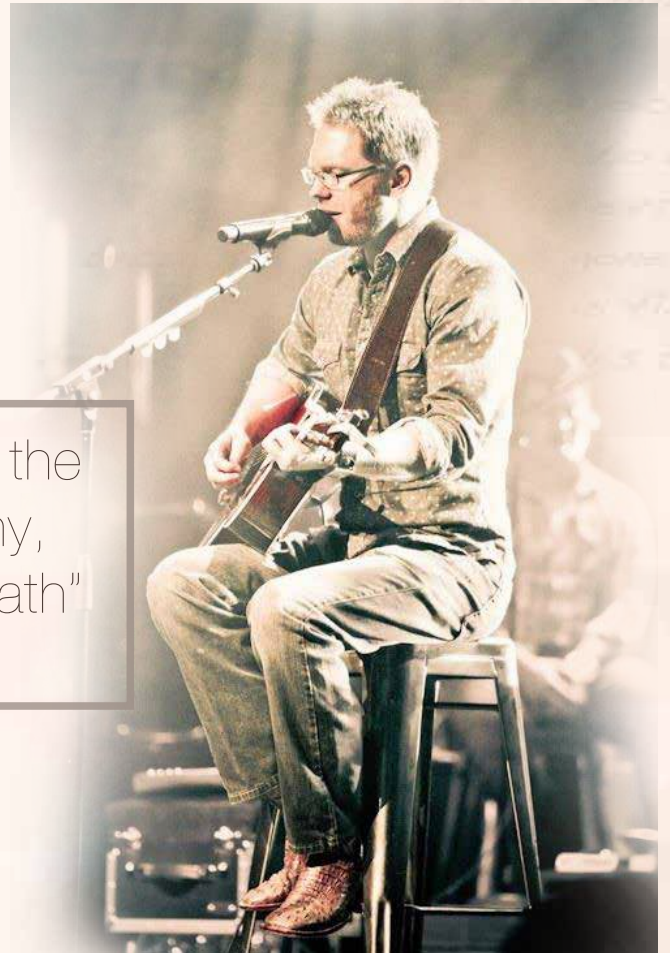
That's what your testimony does. It scares the tar out of hell and strengthens the Church's hands for war.

At first, sharing your testimony can be intimidating, especially if you are a private person. Who wants the whole world to see their laundry hanging on the line? But in the end, it's clean laundry, after all. And it's God's laundry, not ours. That means your testimony is also God's testimony, because it was His work that accomplished the victory for you. What He has done in you is worthy of praise and worth sharing.

So when you get the chance, tell somebody the story of God's work in your life. I am praying that when you hold up the head of your Goliath, your enemies will flee, your hands will find strength to fight, and others will be encouraged to take their own stand—to share their own story. 🙏

STORY?

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death" (Revelation 12:11).



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

THE KING'S UNIVERSITY *at* GATEWAY

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By Cameron Clark

HELPFUL APPS FOR MINISTRY

1



YouVersion - YouVersion.com

The most popular Bible app is easy to use and available for most smartphones and tablets. Hundreds of versions, translations and languages are available, many with the ability to download for offline use. Sharing bookmarks, notes, devotionals and more with others is easy and quick. The closest you'll get to the traditional Bible, includes a notepad, pen, and highlighter combo.

2



Blue Letter Bible - BlueLetterBible.org/iPhone

If you want to dig deeper into your Bible reading, Blue Letter Bible is the perfect tool. Lexicons, commentaries, dictionaries, Greek and Hebrew definitions, and many more useful features will help you understand the Word better and learn more about the Scriptures.

3



Evernote - Evernote.com

Evernote lets you save your ideas and inspirations – notes, images, links, audio recordings, whatever you need, and the app syncs it across all your devices and computers. Jot down creative ideas, record your thoughts about your next sermon and have easy access to it on your phone, tablet, or laptop.

4



DropBox - DropBox.com

Just like Evernote, DropBox will sync your items across all devices. But instead of quick notes and thoughts, DropBox is mostly used for large files and folders. Download DropBox on your work computer, home computer, and phone and you'll have easy access to whatever files you need on the go.

5



Day One - DayOneApp.com

Apple named this one of the best apps of 2012, and for a good reason. Day One takes your personal journaling to the next level. Include images, GPS locations, tags and more into your entries and notes. It even includes a timeline and calendar that allows you to find and view your old entries easily.

FINANCES:

Living Beyond the Possible

By Wayne Myers

Once I was asked to speak at a church conference on the subject of giving. I printed up hundreds of little red labels beforehand with one word stamped on them: PERISHABLE. After I spoke, I handed out those red labels to everyone at the conference, making sure they all got a handful of 15 or 20 to take home with them.

"When you leave here, take these with you and use them," I instructed everyone. "Put one on the hood of your car, because it's going to perish. Brand the door of your house with another one—it's going to perish, too. Stamp one on your bankbook because—you guessed it—it's going to perish." I challenged them to put it on their most prized antiques, their furniture, even their refrigerators.

Now I don't know if all those people went home and plastered red labels on their furniture or not, but that object lesson got my point across. We live in a perishable world, a fact that most of us forget. We live as if we are going to live for a thousand years down here. But no matter how well we take care of our bodies, they are perishable, too. Even if we could live that long, a thousand years is nothing compared to eternity.

**"Only those who see the invisible
can do the impossible."
Wayne Myers**



No wonder Jesus commands us to develop a habit of looking at and living for the unseen: "For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18, NKJV).

Anything we can't relate to eternity is not worth our time. If money is our reason for living, then we have no reason to live. If our main goal on Earth is not to seek God's Kingdom, then we have no goals that are worth our time or effort. On the other hand, Jesus said that if we put His Kingdom first in this world, then all these other things shall be added to us. C. S. Lewis once said, "Aim at Heaven and get the Earth thrown in extra. Aim at the Earth, and you'll miss both." When you live to bless somebody else, you live in a dimension that is above the ordinary.

If you and I are going to leave an inheritance to God's work that can be transferred to the other side, then we must ask God to let us see the invisible. Faith that sees the invisible receives the incredible. 🙏

The above is from the book *Living Beyond the Possible: Trusting God with Your Finances and Your Future* by Wayne Myers. To contact Wayne Myers, visit WayneMyers.com.



IS THE CHURCH OBESE?

God's heart for His creation—humanity—is found throughout the Bible. The whole purpose of God in sending His Son Jesus to this Earth, to live a life without sin and to die a brutal death on the cross was to make it possible for people to have eternal life with God. That eternal life starts now—not the day you die. He has an unconditional love for all of us, and He wants the best for our lives. This is why the obesity epidemic should be such a major concern in every church in America. There is an attack today on much of humanity and particularly Christians. Satan, the enemy, is winning. Christians, the Church needs to take a stand.

By Cody Bobay

THE ATTACK

A 2006 Purdue University study found that fundamental Christians are by far the heaviest of all religious groups (led by the Baptists) with a 30 percent obesity rate compared to Jews at 1 percent, and Buddhists and Hindus at 0.7 percent. This study prompted the lead researcher, Ken Ferraro to say, "America is becoming a nation of gluttony and obesity, and churches are a feeding ground for this problem."

Satan and his demons, but we fight, in my opinion, a scarier enemy—ourselves.

The Bible paints a clear picture of this in Galatians 5:16-17: "*So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature*

desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions."

Satan isn't stupid; he knows to hurt God's heart, he has to destroy yours. What about your brain? Everything you eat may not go to your hips, but it definitely goes to your brain. Are you taking good care of your brain by exercising and eating healthy? What about your strength? Do you have the endurance to go to Mexico on a mission trip to build a house and share the love of Christ with others in the summer heat?

I know these questions you may not have considered, but they need to be addressed. If Satan and his army can destroy your health, he has crippled the hands and feet of Jesus—the Church. He can slow the advancement of the Christian message to this hurting world. Christianity is about loving God and serving others, and we need healthy bodies to do this.

... fix your attention on God.
You'll be changed
from the inside out ...

I served this great country for six years in the United States Navy where I flew as an aircrew man in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I was honorably discharged in 2009, because I felt God calling me to inspire people to change their minds about healthy living and to make true and lasting changes. The most important thing I learned while serving in the military is the importance of respecting your enemy. By respecting your enemy I mean, "to be on guard." We have lost respect for the enemy in the Church today. The Bible not only shows us that we war against

This battle inside is for the physical and emotional health of your life. Satan wants to destroy everything you are, so you're incapable of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. One way he knows to do this is to use a poor diet and a sedentary lifestyle to attack the key components of a healthy body. Jesus shared the first and second great commandments in Mark 12:30-31, and those are clearly under attack.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, heart disease is the leading cause of death in America.

At the current pace, nearly one-half of the American population will be obese by 2030, according to a 2012 study published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine. Unfortunately, the Church is too often leading the way in fatness and fitness. The researchers estimate that this will result in an additional \$66 billion dollars in health care expenditures, 7.8 million new cases of diabetes, 6.8 million new cases of stroke and heart disease, and 539,000 new cancer diagnoses.

THE POWER OF CHRIST FOR HEALTH IS YOURS

THE SOLUTION

To reverse this obesity epidemic in America, it really is going to take the power of Christ in all of our lives. We can't assume that we can do it on our own. In fact, for all the good in the Church, we can't do any good without God's strength. It is crucial that we learn His ways and lean on His strength to fight against this growing epidemic. Living a fit life with our body and soul should never be an occasional activity—it should be a lifestyle. It is essential if the Church is to be able to love and serve others with the healthiest body possible. Consider how much more you can give to others now by having the healthiest version of you.

There are many ways to express wellness in the Church. It's time for the Church to take this challenge to heart. It is a challenge to live a life of self-sacrifice—a life of service to others. Make the decision to love Him wholly.

"So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what He wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you and develops well-formed maturity in you" (Romans 12:1-2).



► Cody Bobay, NASM CPT, PES, CPT is the founder and CEO of Bobay Fitness. He is the author of *Lose 40lbs In 1 Day* and the accompanying six-week small group DVD. Cody and his team are on a mission to inspire the Church to fight against the obesity epidemic in America one day at a time. To schedule Cody to speak please visit bobayfitness.com/booking

► Cody will be imparting more about Divine health at the upcoming **Voice of Healing Conference**. See the back cover for more details.



BANANA OATMEAL SMOOTHIE

1/4 heaping cup raw oatmeal
3/4 cup (6 oz) almond milk
3 ice cubes
1 handful blueberries (optional)
1 banana
1 scoop vanilla whey protein powder (optional)
Blend all together with a hand mixer or blender for a great, healthy breakfast!

For more healthful recipes visit
www.bobayfitness.com



FROM SURVIVOR TO ADVOCATE

By Kelly Head

Some stilettos may be difficult to walk a mile in, but Ateba Crocker has found they carry the power to help kick sex trafficking to the curb! Ateba herself is a sex survivor turned advocate who founded her non-profit organization called Shoe Revolt in 2010.

Ateba never imagined she would be in prostitution for years, unable to escape the vicious cycle of sexual abuse that began as a child. By the time she was a teen, she was looking for love through promiscuity. Her lifestyle led her to becoming a teen mom.

In order to provide for her child, she accepted an offer to become a "high-class" escort. She was led to believe she would be paid to accompany men to events, or to "simply dance" for them. *"It promises a lot, and then slowly takes more,"* she explains. Ateba said she didn't remember feeling like an actual prostitute, because she wasn't out working on the streets. Then one day, out of the blue, her then three-year-old son told her that he wanted to be a preacher when he grew up. As reality caught up with her in one crashing moment, Ateba realized that something had to change.

Wanting to be a better mother to her young son, she cried out to God. She hadn't ever known much about the Lord, but knew that she was quickly approaching a train wreck and needed help. Shortly thereafter Ateba made her way to a local church, committed her life to Christ, and left the escort service. She had been rescued by the Lord Himself! By God's grace, Ateba was able to walk away from the sex industry that had degraded her body and shattered her spirit.

Many others, however, are not as fortunate as Ateba. The statistics are staggering. Ateba realized, after becoming aware of this epidemic, she needed to do something to stop the sexual exploitation of women and children. She knew that she had made the wrong decision to sell her body and

it devastated her to know that others were being forced, manipulated or even tricked into the sex industry. She knew the Lord had helped her turn her life around, and knew she could be a lifeline to help others from being lured into the sex industry; she wanted to help eradicate lies that had stolen so much from her own personally. So she asked the Lord for an idea. He provided, and Shoe Revolt was born. Ateba's plan is simple: take donated shoes, many from top stars like Sarah Jessica Parker, and auction the shoes on places like eBay or the Shoe Revolt website.

Ateba's mission is to use funds from Shoe Revolt's shoe auction to educate youth about the hidden dangers of domestic minor sex trafficking. She recently launched Teen Revolt to do just that. Her focus is to raise funds to deploy Teen Revolt Chapters throughout the United States to educate, engage and empower teens to take the lead in the fight against domestic minor sex trafficking.

Ateba knows from experience that almost anyone can become a victim of this sinister trade. She remembers her own painful past and now uses that as fuel for her campaign. She encourages others to do what they can to get involved and help with this issue, too.

"Be mindful of this issue." She says. *"Be alert, and please pray! Pray that the rescue efforts for the victims and the crackdown on the demand for sexual exploitation would come together."* *"Also,"* Ateba urges, *"please refer teen girls to teenrevolt.org to start chapters at their school, or to simply be educated. Education about this issue goes a long way!"*

Shoe Revolt is a testament that ordinary women can accomplish great things for God. Ateba stepped out of her past into supporting the abolishment of the second-largest criminal industry in the world, using the power of shoes. 🍷



Ateba is now married with three children. She is currently working toward her doctorate and is an advocate for victims of human sex trafficking. To find out more about Ateba's ministry visit shoerevolt.org



THINGS TO PRAY ABOUT

We hope people will form prayer groups dedicated to prayer and fasting for this issue. Some prayer points might include:

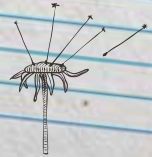
Pray for strength and salvation for victims (Psalm 138:7, Isaiah 40:29).

Pray for the conviction, repentance and salvation of the traffickers (Isaiah 55:7, 2 Timothy 2:25).

Pray the government would implement just laws (Nehemiah 9:13, Proverbs 29:4).

Pray for increased awareness (Psalm 25:4-6).

Pray the church rises in unity (John 17:23).



Lea Michele's shoes



shoes from Barbara Corcoran!

Lisa Kudrow's shoes!

We've all heard the expression "walk a mile in someone else's shoes." Well, Shoe Revolt allows you the chance to walk in someone else's (fancy) shoes in order to pave the path for others to be set free from the wiles of the sex industry. Turn your fashion slavery into freedom for women everywhere. Be a part of the revolt to kick human trafficking to the curb!

[shoeREVOLT.org]

FACTS TO KNOW

The average age of entry for children victimized by the sex trade industry is 12 years old.

More than 2.8 MILLION kids in the U.S. run away each year. Within 48 hours of hitting the streets, one third of those children are lured into the world of prostitution and pornography.

UNICEF states the global market on child trafficking is \$12 BILLION

My Story of Healing

By Abbey Derstine

When I was just five years old, I lost my kind and loving grandmother, Louis Glass. She was only in her early 60's when she passed away in her kitchen, while making a sandwich. Her heart just suddenly gave out. It was a huge shock to all of us.

Years later, my mom started having heart issues. The doctors said that our entire family should be tested for this condition because it was possibly genetic in nature. In January of 2006, when I was 13-years-old, the doctor noticed a malfunction in my heart called cardiomyopathy. In layman's terms, this meant that my left ventricle was larger than my right one, which for starters, makes it difficult to pump blood. Fortunately, my brothers found out that they were fine. My older sister, Natalie, however, didn't want to be tested.

For me, the cardiomyopathy meant that I would sometimes tire very easily. I also had to take some medication to help my heart work better. Going to heart specialists on a regular basis was standard fare.

Despite the inconveniences, everything seemed fine for my family and I, until one day my sister Natalie, then 16, was at the movies with her friends when she felt like she was suffocating. The doctor discovered the worst. She needed a heart transplant right away or she would die. Through a miracle of prayer, she had a new heart within five days of going onto that list! She basically went from being in gym class one week, to being in the hospital undergoing transplant surgery the next. It was incredible. We had so many people praying, I saw my parents strong faith. It was amazing.

In 2010, I made the decision to come to Christ For The Nations Institute. I knew this was exactly the place where God had called me. But during my time studying, I always wondered and questioned my healing. *"Why haven't I been healed?" "Is healing for everyone?"* "God must be testing me." I never could fully grasp the truth of healing, despite the teachings of my parents and the church while growing up.

Then, in 2012, the worst happened. My sister had been living well for six years with her transplanted heart. But in March of 2012, she called my mom to say that she felt very tired. My mom instructed her to go to the emergency room. She ended up being medevac'd to another hospital that specializes in heart conditions. For reasons that are still hard to grasp, my sister was pronounced dead just as we were arriving at the hospital. It was horrific for all of us. My parents, especially, are still deep in the grieving process.

Despite my sister's death, I felt that I still needed to return to school at Christ For The Nations. In worship, it seemed like every song was about proclaiming life, God as our healer and hope. It was everywhere. Rather than my sister's death causing me to be angry at God or question Who God says He is (healer), my sister's

death drove me to ask myself, *"What does God really say about healing?" Is it really for everyone?*

I was surrounded by such hope at CFNI that it began to get into my spirit in a deeper way.

At first, I was still praying and believing for my healing; but I will be honest with you, it lacked faith. My view on healing was that it was selective. That God chose those whom He desired to heal. I couldn't have been more wrong.

But as I began to have more in-depth teaching through a miracles and healing class, the eyes of my understanding were opened.

In Matthew 9:35, it describes Jesus going through all the towns and villages, healing every kind of sickness and disease. Not some, but every kind! And in Acts 10:38, Paul writes, ***"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."*** There it is again! "Healing all..." All!

Jesus died on the cross for every disease and every sickness so that all might receive healing through Him. Through faith we are saved, not by works. And when we, as believers, are contending for healing, we must always stand in faith. There is no formula other than standing in faith, believing the Scriptures and understanding the power of the blood of Christ.

In February, 2013, I went to the doctor for my annual checkup. By this time, I was really standing in faith, believing that I was healed. (I also want to preface that during those seven years I continued with my medicine, and I took care of my body. Healing requires wisdom and also taking care of my "temple.")

During this February 2013 visit, the doctors ran tests like they normally did. When the results came back, I just continued to thank God for my healing. The doctor's reported that my heart was functioning normally! *"I don't know what you are doing, Abbey, but keep it up."* It was like I had a normal heart and nothing was ever wrong with it. My doctor had said that getting pregnant would be too dangerous, but now I know my dreams would come true when he gave the okay for me to have children when the time comes!

God answers His Word as we declare it in faith. The blood of Christ Jesus tells us that He desires for all to be made whole in Him. He does not bring death, for the enemy is the one who steals, kills and destroys. If God did not desire for all to have the potential to be healed, He would not have sent His Son to die for it and endure the stripes on His back on our behalf. His death would have been in vain. So, today, I stand in faith knowing that I am completely healed.



I am thankful everyday for what He taught me, through His Word and what I learned during my time at Christ For The Nations Institute. Healing is for the children of God. And ALL have access to that healing through faith.

As for my dear sister, she is sorely missed. Especially as I am planning for my wedding in a few months—I so wish she was here to be a part of this with me. But I also know that more than her death, I want to celebrate her life. She was such a strong believer, an overcomer, with all she went through. She was just amazing with children. I so admire her. I know that even in her death, there is purpose. I'm also grateful that she inspired me to press into the Lord as I didn't know where else to turn with my grief. In that process, I found my own healing. So, to her, my big sister, I will always be grateful.

This is my story. I'm so thankful to know that God still heals. 🙏

*"He himself bore our sins' in his body on the cross,
so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness;
'by his wounds you have been healed.'"*

1 Peter 2:24





11TH HOUR

By Rod Groomer

Gordon Lindsay traveled several times to the state of Israel after May 1948 in support of the nation's sovereign

right to exist once again in history. Freda Lindsay, the co-founder of Christ For The Nations, also took numerous tour groups to Israel in her lifetime. Gordon and Freda also left a lasting legacy within the Lindsay family, who now champion the right of Israel's established ownership of the Promised Land.

While Gordon was alive, he wrote about Israel's reestablishment as one of the most significant signs that Christ's return was near. In Luke 21:24, he points to this last day's sign, **"And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled."**

Gordon gave his perspectives about this verse in the following narrative: *"The story of the dispersion of the Jews and their return to their homeland is an amazing one, and it is also another striking proof of the soon return of Christ. To understand this we must note the reason why the Jews have been scattered throughout the world. The answer is that God had chosen Israel for a special purpose, but this great privilege carried a solemn responsibility. Although special blessings were to be upon the nation if she were*

obedient, severe judgments would also come if she failed to obey the Divine law. As history reveals, Israel was disobedient and rejected her Messiah. Consequently, judgment came upon the nation, and the people were taken captive and scattered throughout the world.

"Nevertheless, the chastisement was not to be forever. The children of Israel were to return to their land when the times of the Gentiles (non-Jews) were fulfilled. The prophet Ezekiel tells about this in Ezekiel 36:28, "Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God."

"Today, we see Israel dwelling once more in the land of her fathers; many are beginning to be convinced that Christ is the Messiah. This highly significant development in Israel is another proof that Christ's coming is at hand."

Today, Gordon and Freda's son, Dennis Lindsay, the President of CFN, carries on their rich tradition of support for the Jewish people. He has taken up the responsibility of engaging believers with the roots of Christianity, as well as to see the last day's prophecies being fulfilled in the Holy Land. The annual tours he leads are wonderful times of inspiration, revelation and education that also provide opportunities to pray, minister and worship in the Holy Land.

I recently traveled with Dr. Lindsay to Israel

to witness this awe-inspiring land. As I stood on the border of Israel looking into Syria and Lebanon, it was evident of the fruitfulness of Israel in comparison to the other nations that I was peering into. I now understand Gordon's insights about the restoration of Israel when he wrote, *"Looking at the luxuriant vegetation that now flourishes in the land of Israel, one might find it difficult to realize that state of desolation that existed a generation ago. Marshes and swamps, infested by mosquitoes, had to be drained. Land had to be graded, the fertility of the soil restored, stone and boulders removed, and noxious weeds eliminated. Today, after much toil and labor, large areas of the country have been reclaimed and put back into cultivation. Forests have been replanted; hundreds of thousands of fruit trees have been planted. Orange and citrus fruit have become valuable commodities for export to provide Israel exchange for imported goods."*

The prophet Ezekiel sums up the restoration, *"Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate. I, the LORD, have spoken it, and I will do it" (Ezekiel 36: 36).*

Please join us for our next tour to Israel in May 2014 to see first-hand prophecy being fulfilled. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity, and remember, the Lord's return is near, according to this eleventh hour sign. 🕒

ISRAEL

MAY 2014



EXPERIENCE THE HOLY LAND

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



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