

# CHRIST FOR THE NATIONS

## *The Voice*

### DEVI TITUS

HOME IS WHERE  
THE HEART IS FORMED

Simple and Proven Ways to  
Bring Peace to Your Home  
and Joy to Your Family

"I Feared and  
Hated Muslims"  
God brought love to  
one man's heart  
in Jordan

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Getting real with  
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WINTER 2013



# NEW WORSHIP FROM CHRIST FOR THE NATIONS

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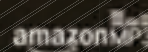
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# The Christ For The Nations *Voice*



***And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises ( 2 Peter 1:4).***

My heart skipped a beat; I couldn't find the tag required to pick up my children from their new school's carpool. Sure, it's not like they would permanently keep my kiddos, but it wasn't a production I felt like facing, especially since I was already sitting among the sea of SUV's.

After frantically searching, I panicked; *It isn't here!*  
I sent a text to my husband; *did he know what had happened to the tag?*

"It's there," he assured me. Unbelief. "No, it isn't." "Yes. I saw it earlier, just look," he continued. My heart slowed down a bit.

Immediately my eyes honed in on the blue slip. You see, understanding that it was there caused me to easily find it! It's amazing how powerful our beliefs can be in determining what we obtain!

Did you know that the Word of God is filled with more than 5,000 promises? However, if we don't know that they are there, we likely won't "find" them either. Sometimes, there is a discrepancy between current circumstances and God's intentions for us. God's promises are our roadmap.

Let's consider our sand-stricken herdsman Abraham for a moment. He left all that he knew to travel 400 toasty desert miles to a land he knew not of. And my child-loving mom-heart can hardly fathom how he took his beloved son up the sacrificial mountain. You see, the reason he could do those things (and more) was because he believed, with all he was, what God said. And not just a little teeny part; Abraham believed *all* God had said to him. He took God's promises as gold, and it got him through. That was the exact reason he ended up in the great Hall of Faith, as listed in Hebrews 11—he believed God over circumstance!

If we don't know that Jesus is our Savior, healer, provider, peace-giver and way-maker, we may not "find" these things that have been there for the taking the whole time! We might run around panicked instead. But when we go to the Source of all and get ahold of what He has said in His Word, we will lay hold of all of the beautiful assurances He has for us, His precious children. The knowledge of His promises gives grace to weather the storms and squelch those seeds of doubt that try to derail us during our journey.

As Charles Spurgeon said, "Trials are the winds which root the tree of our faith. They are the trainers, drilling God's young soldiers, and teaching their hands to war and their fingers to fight."

God's Word in us provides the glasses to see things the way He sees them. Believing His promises changes our perspective. In Him we then believe strong and feel a hope-filled joy of victory, even when we're still on the journey. We know the trial to be only training, circumstances to be short-lived veils over Kingdom reality. Awesome!

Remember, your victory is near! He has given great and precious promises. Find them. Memorize them. Live by them. As you do, you will find all the wonderful jewels He's hidden on this crusty pathway called life, as you journey toward the land He's shown you. May you be encouraged in these pages to learn more about all He has for you today and evermore! Be Blessed!

Kelly Head, Managing Editor *The Voice*

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS



▲ WINTER ISSUE 2013

## THE STORIES:

6-7

### **Leadership: Title or a Towel?**

Dr. Dennis Lindsay  
shares leadership principles  
from God's Word.

8-10

### **Home is Where the Heart is Formed**

Devi Titus tells how to keep  
your home filled with peace  
and your children  
off of drugs.

12-15

### **Poetry of Praise**

Anna Elkins  
uncovers the spiritual meanings  
hidden inside the  
Hebrew Aleph-Bet and  
Psalm 119.

23

### **Facing a Storm?**

Lance Wallnau  
encourages,  
"You are a storm-riding child  
of the Most High God."

24

### **Worship: Blowing Kisses to God**

Zach Neese  
challenges us to evaluate  
how we are expressing love  
toward God through our  
everyday lives.

28-30

### **Up Close with**

Chris McClarney  
"Your Love Never Fails" writer  
and rising worship leader  
shares how God filled him  
with the Holy Spirit.





## SOCIAL MEDIA



facebook.com/CFNTheVoice



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<http://www.cfni.org/calendar>

## Departments:

**The Eleventh Hour Call**..... Pg. 26

**Money Chat:** Estate Plans ..... Pg. 27

**Top Five:** Classic Worship..... Pg. 31

16-17

### **UnBelievable**

Indian Pastor **Martin Borgai** shares how God raised the dead and is bringing hundreds of Hindus and Muslims to Christ through his ministry.

18-21

### **Jordan Mission**

One man testifies how he found love for Muslims, was taken with the plight of Syrian refugees and heartbroken for women forced to wear burqas.

32-33

### **Parents: Watchman Warriors**

**Dutch Sheets** teaches how to pray for our children and future generations with amazing results!

34

### **Saving the Broken Pieces**

What looked broken and useless in our lives shines His brightest glory!

## MEET THE VOICES

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# LEADERSHIP:

## Seeking a Title or a Towel?



By Dennis Lindsay

The greatest king of Israel, David, did not seek the throne. God simply gave it to him. The same is true with Moses, Gideon, Isaiah, Esther and Paul; all became powerful leaders with great authority because God empowered them. What *authority* means from a biblical perspective is radically different from that of

the world. Authority must be leadership embodying service. Jesus never spoke directly on leadership, but He did teach it by example. He was a servant leader in every sense. He led by serving those He recruited to carry out His mission, which is also why He was highly effective and respected as a leader.

---

### FOUNDATIONAL STONES FOR GODLY LEADERSHIP

1. Jesus humbled Himself and allowed God to exalt Him.
2. Jesus followed His Father's will, rather than His own.
3. Jesus never used His title or position to influence people.
4. Jesus defined greatness as being a servant.
5. Jesus served others, regardless of title or position, because He knew where His authority came from.
6. Jesus left the head of the table to serve the needs of others.
7. Jesus shared authority with those He called to lead and work with Him.

The way Jesus led is foundational for understanding servant leadership. Service—not status or position—is the goal of servant leadership.



... all became powerful leaders  
with great authority because  
God empowered them

## > BY INVITATION ONLY

The most basic principle for co-workers to accept a leader is when the leader humbles himself and waits on God to exalt him (Luke 14). As it was in Jesus' day, many religious leaders still seek places of power and prominence among their peers. Jesus taught that "head table" seats are given "by invitation only." Such honor must be accepted and recognized by co-laborers, even if the position was granted by the Board.

To earn authority and respect, one must be credited by individuals who recognize a spirit of servanthood coming from the leader. A humble spirit leads to being honored by others. What is amazing about servanthood is that those who may not even have a title or position of authority will be highly honored and respected by followers because of a sincere heart.

Philippians 2:3, 4, states, *"In humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."* How do we do this? By having the same attitude as Christ (verse 5)—dying to self and taking up our cross.

## > POWER DOESN'T MEAN AUTHORITY

Power is not a measure of authority, but a release of authority. The more you release, the more you gain. Jesus never sought earthly power or recognition. He simply came to do His Father's will. He accomplished this through humility. The key phrase in Philippians 2 is *"God exalted Him"* (verse 9). This is so contrary to the world's view of leadership and success, because humility and patience can be perceived as weakness. Yet we know, *"humility comes before honor"* (Proverbs 15:33), and we are to *"humble ourselves, and He will lift us up"* (James 4:10).

## > RESPECT AND TRUST

How does one learn humility? By staying close to Jesus. Humility is seen when one is totally dependent upon God and has learned to release their right of respect, power, authority and position. In order for relationships to flow effectively in an organization, there must be trust. Without trust there will be no respect, and without respect there will not be true authority of position established or sustained. Trustworthiness begins on a personal level. It must be earned. It is earned when co-workers feel they are respected for their own ideas, thoughts and opinions, even during moments of conflict. Without trust, a leader will never be fully empowered.

## > RULE-OVER OR SERVE

In the Kingdom of God, there is no place for anyone who uses their position alone as a means of authority. You can be firm in your role, but the key is to treat others respectfully.

Co-workers don't want someone to just rule over them. They are looking for the leader to be more concerned about their feelings and opinions, rather than being manipulated and used as a means to an end. When co-workers sense true humility, they will follow the leader, and it will be God Who exalts the person. A servant leader will give in, even if it means giving up personal rights.

The world's view of power stems from leadership positions from around the top of the flowchart. This is the way it was in Jesus' day, both among the Romans and the Jews. However, this breeds competition, rather than cooperation. Love, service and openness are key concepts. Without relationship, followers will not follow, they will rebel. Jesus introduced servanthood by example, not by force, which means there is no place for one's

ego. Jesus corrected the disciples' faulty view and laid out a principle for kingdom leaders in Mark 10:42-45. *"...whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*

## > TITLE OR TOWEL

In John 13, Jesus washed His disciples' feet. Once again, He teaches his disciples by doing something that dumbfounds them, as well as leadership in the world. Throughout His ministry Jesus continually resisted the outward status that accompanies leadership. Although clearly a leader, He refused to pull rank as a leader often does. No matter what we feel we deserve from others, we can't bend too low in caring for them. Our service doesn't demean our dignity, but as Jesus shows us, it defines it.

Do followers and co-workers see the title or the towel? It is easy for leaders to misuse their authority in order to get people to do what they want. Jesus attacked the misuse of authority by the religious leaders of His day. They didn't practice what they preached (Matthew 23:3).

The bottom line is that servant leaders are not afraid of surrendering their rights. In serving others, they fully trust God to be the source and controller of their lives. Jesus knew that His authority came from God. He didn't worry about challenges to His position. It should be the same for us. Every challenge of authority gives us another opportunity to learn and practice a lesson in servanthood. 🙏



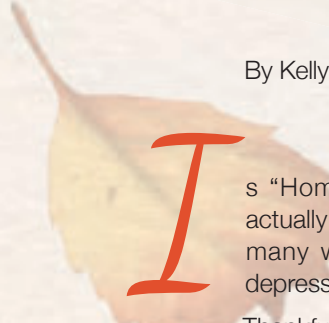


# Home is Where the Heart is Farmed

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By Kelly Head



**I**s “Home, Sweet Home” the last place you actually want to be? Perhaps it’s because (like many women confess) disorder, despair or depression are “residing” there.

Thankfully, the “fix” isn’t another set of rules we must try to impose upon ourselves. Rather, as global pastor and teacher Devi Titus offers, it is about an impartation and conviction regarding the purpose of our homes—and distinctly, our purpose *in* and *for* our homes.

Recently, Devi shared about her passion and life mission to see women come away with a real change in their ability to create peace and love at home. She says, “it’s really about the heart of the matter.”

Devi has written and produced the book and DVD curriculum *The Home Experience: Making Your Home a Sanctuary of Love and a Haven of Peace*, along with Marilyn Weiher. Devi says that most issues, from rampant divorce to addictions, relationship issues and more, can be traced back to the home.

*“A wise woman builds her house, but the foolish tears it down with her own hands” (Proverbs 14:1).*


Devi is the wife of renowned pastor and speaker Larry

Titus and a 50-year ministry veteran who now travels extensively ministering before large audiences. She has seen firsthand the broken lives that stem from homes that are out-of-order. She passionately desires to see change.

Devi notes the significance of home, stating that when the home breaks down, it causes the breakdown of our entire society. In fact, Edward Gibbon in *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* mentions the undermining of the “dignity and sanctity of the home” as the top reason for the fall of the great civilizations of the past.

“We need to understand the significance of our role,” Devi emphasizes. “Then, we need to go to God’s Word for His view about the home.”

“We have to have a plumb line of understanding of God’s Word,” Devi says, “because if we are off even just a little bit, we will miss the mark. In our society the value of the home has changed dramatically, even in the past two decades alone.” She adds, “I’m not here to create legalism, but to share principles from God’s Word that have been lost or misunderstood; because whom one becomes is a direct reflection of where one spends most of their time.”





## HOME IS MEANT TO BE A PLACE OF LOVE AND PEACE

Devi declares, "God created the home to be the institution to develop the two essential human emotions—love and peace. That's all your kids need, that's all your husband needs, and that's all you need." She asks, "Have you seen those little plaques that say 'Home is where the heart is?' Those are cute, but I say, 'Home is where the heart is formed.'"

We are called, as women within the home environment, to be the guard, or "keepers," of our homes. The word *keeper* used in Titus 2:4 is the same Old Testament word for the guard who was the watchman at the gate of the city. The keeper's assignment was to look beyond the walls of the city and discern if there was going to be an encroachment of the enemy to come in to take away the peace of the city.

"God has positioned women to be the guard at the gate of her household in the same way," Devi explains. "He has established you in the environment of your home to be a keeper of peace."

Having worked with families for decades, every personal issue people dealt with in life: relational issues, sin issues, anger, bitterness and addictions, can be traced back to the home, Devi explains.

"The heart is either hardened, hurt or hindered, or it's made sensitive, safe and secure from the home," she says.

"It is amazing how many people were wounded because their home wasn't a place of peace and love. We are either messing [our children] up or nurturing their hearts. We can disfigure who God made our children to be by the very basis of our homes," she says. "I think it's time, with redemption of the Cross, that we learn to live beyond that."

## EATING AS A FAMILY

Devi says that the number one thing people can do to bring peace at home is to make eating together as a family a top priority. Doing so creates deeper, more meaningful relationships.

The American Psychological Association published a study that illustrated the crucial role of the family meal in the lives of teenagers. The study found that adjusted teens, those with better relationships with peers, more academic motivation and few (if any) problems with drugs and depression, ate dinner with their families an average of five times a week.

"If academic research says that if your kids eat at a dinner table five times a week that they're less likely to experiment with drugs, experiment with sex, wouldn't

you think we would do it? It just seems reasonable. But we don't. Why? Because we are so busy doing good things—attending church, volunteering, playing sports, and all the other stuff that we sign our kids up for—that there is no time to come to the table."

Devi's message is that something supernatural, beyond your words, beyond your analytical abilities, beyond you trying to "convince your kids" or "condemning" your husband and arguing with him, will happen if you will prepare a meal and come to the table.

"There is a supernatural presence called the Bread of the Presence that will heal whatever happened that day, but we have to come to the table," she said.

**"There is a supernatural presence called the Bread of the Presence that will heal whatever happened that day, but we have to come to the table."**

## BRINGING THE PEACE

A main ingredient to a peaceful home is to find the way of excellence, or what Devi calls "The Also Principle."

*"My favorite scripture is, 'And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord... knowing from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance' (Colossians 3:23).*

"Just change Who you are doing this for," she says. "When you set the table, you light the candle, also. When you wash the dishes, you dry them, also. When you do, you will receive the reward of the inheritance, initially given to Abraham and includes: faith, provision, prosperity, obedience and intimacy with God."

## ORDER

Another pitfall that may steal the peace from your homes is a lack of order or structure, which can create a need to be outside the home as much as possible.

In contrast, the Proverbs 31 woman ran her home like a mini-corporation. There was order in her waking, feeding and caring for her family.

"If we treated our businesses like we treated our homes—talked to people the way we often talk to our families, ran things how we ran them at home—those businesses would certainly fail," Devi shares. "If we have order and structure in our homes, they can become a place that is life-giving to our families and give the joy and purpose that we might be seeking to gain from so many outside things," says Devi.

Making a peaceful home is also about keeping it simple and special for the important people in your life.

"People always say, '49 years of marriage, wow, how do you do it?' I say, 'Do something every day to make that day special for your spouse.' A kind word, a special meal—just anything your mind can create to add a touch of special for your husband and your children, too," she adds.






## CHANGE

Getting to the root of the issue is important in bringing peace back into our homes. *"For where jealousy and selfish ambition are, there is confusion and every evil work"* (James 3:11).

"You have to ask yourself, 'What is in me that has brought this result?' You have to take ownership," she said.

Once you've decided to bring peace and love back into your home, contrary to conventional wisdom, Devi says it's best to then work from the outside in—starting with just a small space. Devi suggests starting with the kitchen, so that the meals can be prepared and shared. Cleaning up the environment will start the path of peace.

"It didn't get this way overnight, so you won't regain order overnight," she says. "But when you begin putting the pieces of your life in order, you will gain the peace of God. Like any other aspect of discipleship, it is done in small bites. So do each thing, and then be proud of yourself," she encourages.

From Devi's perspective and experience, grasping the significance of our role in the home makes all the difference in whether we find and give joy and peace there. Her resources also offer many practical solutions on how to best love those in our lives through the ministry of what really can be "Home, Sweet Home." 



### Mimi's Banana – Chocolate Bread

This is absolutely the best banana bread recipe to be found.

It came from a small tea book and was appropriately named Mimi's Banana Bread.

Since this is what my grandchildren call me, the recipe seems like it should be original. My variation is definitely the addition of the chocolate chips.



#### RECIPE

3-4 ripe bananas  
1 cup sugar  
1 egg  
1 1/2 cups flour  
1/4 cup melted butter  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 cup chocolate chips

**PREHEAT** oven to 325 degrees. Butter and flour a 9"x5"x3" loaf pan.

**MASH** bananas in a large bowl, add remaining ingredients and mix well.

**POUR** batter into pan and bake for one hour.

Note: Nuts may be added to the batter. You can also use this batter to make muffins, decreasing the baking time.

#### Devi's tip:

You can freeze bananas that are ripening and use them in this recipe. The peel will turn black when frozen. Simply remove from the freezer, thaw under slightly warm water, cut off the end of the banana and squeeze the fruit out of the peel. You will always have bananas on hand for this quick-to-make recipe.



Devi Titus is among America's most noted authors and speakers. She is the president of Global Pastors Wives Network, serves on multiple ministry boards, and is a leader of leaders. Her most noted books are *THE HOME EXPERIENCE* and *THE TABLE EXPERIENCE*. Her new book co-authored with her husband, Larry Titus, is *WHEN LEADERS LIVE TOGETHER—How two strong personalities can thrive in marriage*. They reside in Colleyville, Texas, and co-lead Kingdom Global Ministries. Author Bunny Wilson said, "You don't just meet Devi Titus, you experience her." Devi's passion is to restore the dignity and sanctity of the home.







HE SENT  
HIS WORD  
AND HEALED  
THEM;

HE RESCUED THEM FROM THE GRAVE  
PSALM 107:20



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## Poetry of Praise:

# The Hebrew Aleph-Bet and Psalm 119



The VAV

By Anna Elkins

I remember the first time I noticed the phonetic Hebrew headings in a translation of Psalm 119. I wondered what they meant, but ignored them as I read through the verses. Only later did I learn those words are the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Still later, I began to discover the oceanic depth of meaning in each Hebrew letter.

I found that there are literally worlds within Hebrew words. In all my years of reading the Old Testament, I have been missing levels of significance I didn't even know were there. I'm not a Hebrew scholar by any means—quite honestly, I can't even write out the entire alphabet yet. But as a lay person wanting to know more, I'd like to share what I've found and perhaps encourage us all to go deeper into this mighty language.

## THE HEBREW LANGUAGE

Hebrew is formed of 22 letters. Our English name for the alphabet came from the Hebrew aleph-bet—literally the first two letters in Hebrew: aleph and bet.

Hebrew letters are consonants. The language has no vowels, though dots can be used to convey them. The Hebrew word for God spelled “Yahweh” in English would more directly translate “YHWH.” Notice the “v.” That's the vav, which is sometimes translated as “waw.” But the “w” sound isn't like our English version. It's pronounced like our English “v.”

Hebrew is read from right to left. “Yawheh” in Hebrew looks like this: יהוה

Hebrew is creative. It is a creative alphabet. In Jewish tradition, God created the world with the 22 Hebrew letters.

Hebrew is theological. Each letter expresses a relationship with our Creator.

## THE LETTER VAV

Let's look at the meaning of a single Hebrew letter to get an idea of that theological nature. I love the vav (ו), the second-to-last letter in YHWH.

The vav looks like a hook or a nail and symbolizes the connection between Heaven and Earth. It is also a symbol of connection between all of the letters of the aleph-bet; the vav happens to be the very middle letter of the entire Torah (the first five books in the Old Testament). Of the thousands of words that comprise the Torah, the vav—the letter representing connection—comes in the very middle.

A nail connects two objects. It connects heaven and earth through the symbol every believer recognizes. A nail connected Christ (Heaven) to

Earth (the wooden beam/cross representing Earth). How beautifully this illustrates the prophetic nature of the Hebrew aleph-bet: the very letter representing the connection between Heaven and Earth is in the shape of the nail that would fix Christ to the Cross, bridging the distance between humanity and Heaven.

In other words, vav is the Divine hook that connects Heaven and Earth.

And that's just an infinitesimal bit about a single Hebrew letter.

## PSALM 119

Now, imagine a psalm written with each letter of that aleph-bet in an acrostic form—a psalm, filled not just with meaning of the words, but also the meaning of the very letters themselves.

Most of us wrote simple acrostics in grade school. We wrote words vertically down a sheet of paper, using the individual letters of those words to start lines of poetry that extended out horizontally.

An alphabetical acrostic is similar, but it follows the order of the alphabet. That's what Psalm 119 does. It is made of 22 sections of verse that correspond to the 22 Hebrew letters. Every line of each letter section starts with the letter of the aleph-bet that heads that section. Unfortunately, that structure is lost in translation.

What remains is the Psalm's application. Believers—Jewish and Christian, both—have used Psalm 119 as a kind of “how-to” manual for generations. In fact, it has been called the “Little Bible” because it is filled with what people need to know to live an honorable life.

In Jewish tradition, Psalm 119 is used for celebration and prayer. When Jewish children are given their Hebrew name, they often receive an acrostic formed by the letters of their name and the corresponding alphabetical verses of Psalm 119.

And in similar traditions, when someone in a community is sick, friends and family form the ill person's name with those verses and pray their “name” over them. In a workshop I taught on Psalm 119, I asked the participants to do this for someone they knew who needed prayer, using the equivalent Hebrew letters to spell that person's name. For an easy example, I chose the Hebrew name “David,” which also happened to be the name of someone I knew who was ill. In Hebrew, “David” is spelled with the dalet, vav, yod, and dalet. Volunteers from the class then read the corresponding alphabetic sections of Psalm 119. A professional vocalist offered to sing the last section. When she finished, the room had filled with the presence of healing and power, and I was filled with hope for David's healing. I have since witnessed some of the fruit of that Psalm 119 prayer in his life.



א

## 1 - Aleph

The Symbol of God, First,  
Leader, Teacher

אלהים Elohim: God  
אב Av: Father, Source  
אחד Echad: One, Unity  
אהבה Ahavah: Love  
אברכה Avarakah: I will bless

ו

## 6 - Vav

The Symbol of Connection,  
Man, Work, Cosmos

11 Vav: 6th Letter  
11 Vav: Hook, Nail

ת

## 22 - Tav

The Symbol of Completion,  
Consummation,  
The Cross of Christ,  
The Seal of God

תו Tav: Name of 22nd letter,  
Sign, Cross, Mark  
תלה Telah: To Hang, to put to  
death by hanging  
תחם Tahm: Perfect, Complete  
תמם Tamam: Finished, Done  
תמי' Tamim: Perfect, Whole  
תכלה Tiklah: Completion  
תורה Torah: Law, Instruction  
תהלה Tehillah: Praise



## HEBREW FULFILLS THE LAW

Jesus says: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished" (Matthew 5:17-18, ESV).

The word "iota" corresponds to the smallest Hebrew letter, yod. It looks like an apostrophe and is the first letter in "Yahweh." The "dot" can refer to the vowel dots on some letters. In other words, Jesus is saying that every last detail of the Old Testament was significant and would be fulfilled in Him.

The last letter of the Hebrew aleph-bet, the tav, represents a mark, sign or cross. In ancient texts, it looked like an "X" or a cross.

This is a beautiful non-coincidence: the Hebrew aleph-bet ends with the sign of the Cross. While on that Cross, Christ said, "It is finished." And tav finishes the aleph-bet.

Knowing just this tiny bit of spiritual significance inspires me to keep at my Hebrew lessons. I want to know more of this divine language. One of these days, maybe I'll even be able to read Psalm 119 in its original. 🕊

+	×	ת	ת
Early 2000 B.C.	Middle 1000 B.C.	Late 400 B.C.	Modern Today

+++

Anna Elkins lives the equation of art + word + spirit. She earned an MFA and a Fulbright Fellowship in poetry. Her words have appeared in various journals and books, and her art has been exhibited in the U.S. and abroad. In between travels, Anna resides in the mythical State of Jefferson, where she writes, paints and teaches. She is the author of the illustrated vignette, *The Heart Takes Flight*, and *The Honeylicker Angel*, a novel. For more about Anna, visit [annaelkins.com](http://annaelkins.com).



... letter representing the connection between Heaven and Earth is  
in the shape of the nail that would fix Christ to the Cross



## Psalm 119

### א Aleph

- 1 Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,  
who walk according to the law of the Lord.
- 2 Blessed are those who keep his statutes  
and seek him with all their heart—
- 3 they do no wrong  
but follow his ways.
- 4 You have laid down precepts  
that are to be fully obeyed.
- 5 Oh, that my ways were steadfast  
in obeying your decrees!
- 6 Then I would not be put to shame  
when I consider all your commands.
- 7 I will praise you with an upright heart  
as I learn your righteous laws.
- 8 I will obey your decrees;  
do not utterly forsake me.

### ב Beth

- 9 How can a young person stay on the path of  
purity? By living according to your word.
- 10 I seek you with all my heart;  
do not let me stray from your commands.
- 11 I have hidden your word in my heart  
that I might not sin against you.
- 12 Praise be to you, Lord;  
teach me your decrees.
- 13 With my lips I recount  
all the laws that come from your mouth.
- 14 I rejoice in following your statutes  
as one rejoices in great riches.
- 15 I meditate on your precepts  
and consider your ways.
- 16 I delight in your decrees;  
I will not neglect your word.

### ג Gimel

- 17 Be good to your servant while I live,  
that I may obey your word.
- 18 Open my eyes that I may see  
wonderful things in your law.
- 19 I am a stranger on earth;  
do not hide your commands from me.
- 20 My soul is consumed with longing  
for your laws at all times.
- 21 You rebuke the arrogant, who are accursed,  
those who stray from your commands.
- 22 Remove from me their scorn and contempt,  
for I keep your statutes.
- 23 Though rulers sit together and slander me,  
your servant will meditate on your decrees.
- 24 Your statutes are my delight;  
they are my counselors.

### ד Daleth

- 25 I am laid low in the dust;  
preserve my life according to your word.
- 26 I gave an account of my ways and you  
answered me; teach me your decrees.
- 27 Cause me to understand the way of your  
precepts, that I may meditate on your  
wonderful deeds.
- 28 My soul is weary with sorrow;  
strengthen me according to your word.
- 29 Keep me from deceitful ways;  
be gracious to me and teach me your law.
- 30 I have chosen the way of faithfulness;  
I have set my heart on your laws.
- 31 I hold fast to your statutes, Lord;  
do not let me be put to shame.
- 32 I run in the path of your commands,  
for you have broadened my understanding.

### ה He

- 33 Teach me, Lord, the way of your decrees,  
that I may follow it to the end.[b]
- 34 Give me understanding, so that I may keep  
your law and obey it with all my heart.
- 35 Direct me in the path of your commands,  
for there I find delight.
- 36 Turn my heart toward your statutes  
and not toward selfish gain.
- 37 Turn my eyes away from worthless things;  
preserve my life according to your word.
- 38 Fulfill your promise to your servant,  
so that you may be feared.
- 39 Take away the disgrace I dread,  
for your laws are good.
- 40 How I long for your precepts!  
In your righteousness preserve my life.

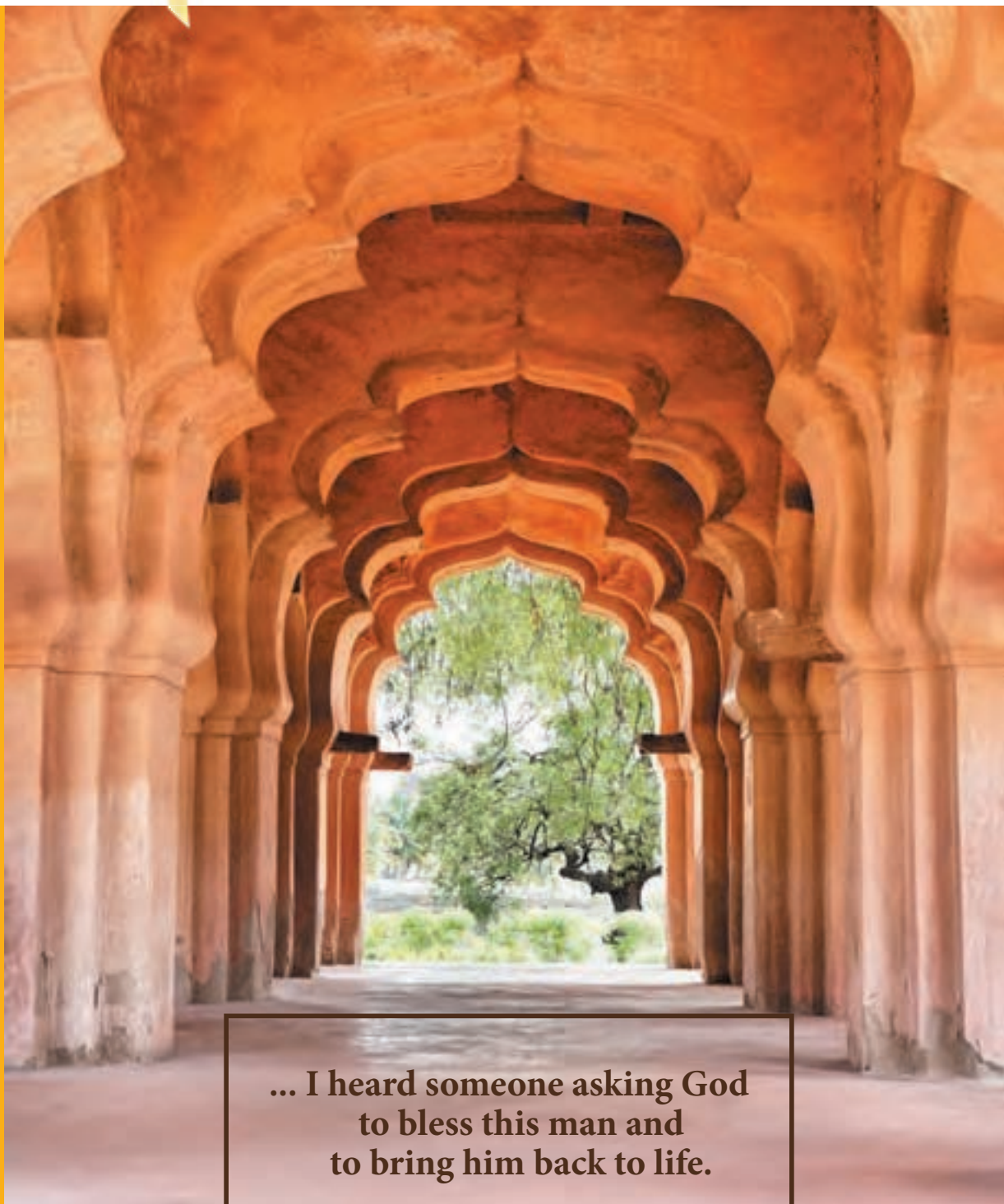
### ו Waw (Vav)

- 41 May your unfailing love come to me, Lord,  
your salvation, according to your promise;
- 42 then I can answer anyone who taunts me,  
for I trust in your word.
- 43 Never take your word of truth from my  
mouth, for I have put my hope in your laws.
- 44 I will always obey your law,  
for ever and ever.
- 45 I will walk about in freedom,  
for I have sought out your precepts.
- 46 I will speak of your statutes before kings  
and will not be put to shame,
- 47 for I delight in your commands  
because I love them.
- 48 I reach out for your commands, which I love,  
that I may meditate on your decrees.



# UNBELIEVABLE

— *Miracles Like Jesus*



... I heard someone asking God  
to bless this man and  
to bring him back to life.



D

By Olena Ogiozee

oes the idea of people literally being raised from the dead today seem a little hard to imagine? If so, you wouldn't be alone. But if you were one who had the privilege to

meet Indian Pastor Martin Charles Borgai, whose ministry has been described as "unbelievable," you might just walk away a believer that miracles like these still happen!

Martin is an Indian native of a Hindu background. He got saved (converted to Christianity) on April 20, 1991, while working in aviation in the Middle East. "From that time until 2002, God was preparing me to go out and do His ministry," Martin says. He felt God telling him: "Martin, you have to step out of your comfort zone, and I want to use you for My glory." But he admits to not feeling ready then because he did not know much about the Bible. In 2002, Martin received a scholarship to study at Christ For The Nations. Pastor Borgai sees the school as the place where his preparation was completed. "The Word of God they spoke, the faculty, the prayer time early in the morning in the men's dormitory, the prayer also in the Institute Building in the evening ... All these things strengthened me and equipped me to go into the world to speak the Gospel."

After graduating in 2004, Martin returned to India to become a pastor. "We started our church with five people in the congregation: myself, my wife and our three children," he says with a smile. Martin explains that India is a predominantly Hindu and Muslim country; Christians represent only 4 percent of the total population. Preaching the Gospel here is not only rare, but also dangerous. This is where the "unbelievable" manifests itself in Pastor Borgai's ministry: he performs miracles, which are unexplainable by human reason or laws of nature. These, in turn, draw people to God.

Martin shares one of the most remarkable miracles in his ministry: the first resurrection from the dead. Hindu banker Shivalingappa got so ill that he fell into a coma and spent several months on life support. The doctors did everything they could, but eventually advised the family to save

their money by discontinuing the artificial life system. Shivalingappa's sister, however, attended Martin's church and asked him to come and pray for her brother. Pastor Borgai explains that the hospital was a long distance away from his house, but he and his wife felt compelled to go. When they arrived at the hospital, they saw a crowd of people there; they had come to collect Shivalingappa's body. Martin pressed through the crowd and told the doctor the reason for his visit. "Pastor, you came to pray for a dead man?!" the doctor exclaimed in disbelief. Nevertheless, he allowed Martin into the ICU room alone. "As I walked into that ICU room, I just knelt and started to pray to the Almighty God," Martin recalls.

By faith, he prayed for the man to come back to life. While praying, Martin felt God telling him to go and announce to the relatives who came to collect the body that Shivalingappa was going to be well. Martin obeyed. "My Lord has said that He is going to bring him back, and He is going to raise Shivalingappa to life," he declared to the astonished crowd.

The response of this Hindu gathering was complete indignation, and they moved in to apprehend Pastor Borgai. It was the doctor who ran out to save him; he led Martin out of the hospital through another exit. The same doctor, although himself a Hindu, decided to continue Shivalingappa's life support. Pastor Borgai's church started fasting and praying. On the third day after Martin's visit, signs of life appeared on Shivalingappa's monitors. His condition improved miraculously, and on the seventh day, the patient sat down and asked for an "idly," a traditional Indian rice dish.

Shivalingappa recovered completely. After an examination, the doctor asked what had happened to him. Shivalingappa described a vision that he saw: "The devil came to take my soul ... At that time, I heard someone asking God to bless this man and to bring him back to life. And then Jesus came and raised me up ..." Today, Shivalingappa and his family are faithful members of Pastor Borgai's church.

The second resurrection happened to a lady named Orpha. She was declared dead by the doctors and was issued a death certificate. The whole family came to claim the body. Someone called Pastor

Borgai at 3:30 that morning to come and pray. He rushed to the hospital. He remembers the crowd teasing him and asking if he came to revive the lady. But Martin went in and prayed. "I could see with my spiritual eyes that the presence of God came down," he says. Pastor Borgai felt God telling him again to go out and declare to the relatives that Orpha would leave the hospital alive. He did. By 8 a.m. that morning, Orpha got up and sat on her bed. The terrified nurses ran out of the room and called the doctor. After a thorough examination, the doctor found that the patient was perfectly well. Orpha saw a vision similar to that of Shivalingappa: "The big devil came to take my soul. At the same time, someone started praying to Jesus ... Jesus came down, He gave His hand to me and He lifted me up." Martin declares with joy that today Orpha is a living testimony of the power of God, and she attends his church with all four of her sons.

Resurrections are not the only miracles Pastor Borgai witnesses. When Martin prays, he sees cancers healed immediately, tumors gone, even broken families being restored. He says, "Every day we see so many healings ... I cannot number them: they are so many ... Only a few of them I was able to share."

As a result, Pastor Borgai knows of at least 2,539 people who accepted Christ through his ministry, all from Hindu or Muslim backgrounds. The miracles are so powerful that even whole villages have believed and accepted Christ. Recently, Pastor Borgai was given two acres of land by a village to build a church on. Martin believes God for funds to build churches and orphanages in this and many other places in India. This May, he came to the United States on a two-week visit to express gratitude to his alma mater for the training he received. "I took every minute, every second of the time I spent here at Christ For The Nations, and I grabbed hold of all the amazing things that God has been speaking in my life," Martin declares. He thinks CFNI is responsible for the "unbelievable" in his ministry. 🙏

If you want to join the miracles, you can donate to Pastor Martin Borgai's New Covenant Church in Dharwad, Karnataka, India. The address is "SINAI" Building 2nd Cross Jayanagar, Near Pavan English Medium School, Barakotri, Dharwad-7 Karnataka. Email: marpre123@yahoo.com.



Pastor Martin Borgai ministers to the sick and disciples new believers in India.



Pastor Borgai has seen thousands of Hindus and Muslims become believers in Jesus Christ.



Pastor Borgai disciplines believers.





# **Jordan: Uncovering The VOICE Behind the Veil**

**By Shane Oberlin**

**The Middle East is known for many things—history and adventure, beauty and mystery, valiant warriors and beautiful princesses, desert lands and nomadic tribes. But this perspective was forever scarred on September 11, 2001.**





## Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

**Population:** 6,472,392

**Official language:** Arabic

**Religion:**

Christians 2.24 %

Muslim 96.47 %

# JORDAN



The actions of 19 men caused the world to reevaluate their perceptions and base their opinions of an entire region around these acts of terrorism. I know, because I was one of them. Like most Americans, I began to fear (and even hate) what I didn't understand—the Muslim people.

Eventually, I learned about the differences between Muslims (the people group) and Islam (the religious ideology), but I was still skeptical. I knew the actions of a few did not mean all Muslims were terrorists, but I still struggled with loving Arabs. Then God transformed my heart when I visited Jordan.

Everything was so different! The language, traffic, cuisine and even the styles of clothing were unlike anything I had seen in America. Jordan is home to beautiful scenery and places of biblical and historical importance—the Jordan River, Jericho, Mount Nebo and the ancient ruins of Petra to name just a few.

Jordan's form of government is Sharia law, which is heavily influenced by and intertwined with Islam, Jordan's national religion. Sharia law is antithetical to the Western world's way of thinking and is extremely oppressive. The consequence of forsaking Islam is death, and proselytizing to an Islamic believer is illegal and punishable by jail time or even death. Discretion and discernment were vital for our team.

Religion is at the center of everything for the people of Jordan. When the call to prayer is played from the mosque, people will drop everything to pray. The call is

sounded five times a day, and there is a mosque on almost every corner. Islam is both accessible and inescapable at all times. The call to prayer sounds like a wail of desperation, rising from the desert plains, and it's one of the most evil—dare I say demonic—sounds that I have ever heard.

I was overcome by the amount of women wearing burqas (see inset) and the sadness that permeated the atmosphere. I met street children who were not shy in telling me how much they hate America. Their words pierced me to my core, because I once felt the same way toward them!

I didn't understand it as hatred at first, but it was true nonetheless. After I realized this, I repented and prayed that I would begin to see the Muslim people through eyes of love. And God answered my prayer, but in a far different way than I anticipated.

Before I left Jordan, I had the wonderful yet terrifying opportunity to distribute supplies at Syrian refugee camps. I was totally unprepared for what I would witness. I was overcome by a cascade of emotions. I saw pieces of the ragged tents flapping in the wind as the stench of livestock wafted past my nose. Clothed in rags, the refugees were both startled and intrigued as to why an American would come to bring them gifts.

These people lacked even the most basic of supplies, and they rejoiced over the new

clothing, hygiene items and a stove with cooking fuel. Growing up in America, I took these things for granted. But as I witnessed their abject poverty, and their gratefulness for even the little things, I was forever marked. A piece of my heart will always remain in those tattered tents with those precious people, because it was there that I finally saw the Muslim people as God sees them.

I was changed that day; God replaced my hidden hatred with a burning passion to see Muslims come to know His love. I observed this same passion in the hearts of the Christians there. I met pastors, youth and businessmen who were reaching people with the Gospel at the risk of their lives. There is unity in the Jordanian church that transcends generational barriers.

Believers are contending for peace to cover their land once again. God is drawing the Muslim people back to Himself! He is revealing His love to them in many ways, even through dreams and visions.

I would encourage you to hear the heartbeat of God on this vital issue. The Muslim people and followers of Islam are precious in His sight, so they should be in ours also. The enemy of our souls is using Islam as a weapon in our world to bring about his destructive purpose, but the power of God is ripping through this veil of deception! The Middle East is ripe for spiritual harvest, and I do not intend to miss this opportunity to bring Truth to Muslims all around the world!





## The Syrian Refugees

Today, more than 5,000 Syrians will seek refuge from the war zone that has overtaken their nation. Their future is plagued by uncertainty. They are scattered, shattered and searching for safety in the unknown. Where are these people going? Why are so many leaving? What can we do to help?

The conflict in Syria is the great tragedy of our century. Over 120,000 have been brutally slain since civil war began on March 15, 2011, during the tumultuous “Arab Spring” protests. Since then, over 2 million people have fled, escaping to neighboring countries such as Turkey, Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq and Jordan.

The patience and benevolence of Jordan’s citizens is wearing thin, because the nation’s economy was not prepared for the influx of over

1 million refugees. Za’atari, Jordan’s largest camp, has become the nation’s fourth largest city, growing from 60 to over 120,000 people in one year. Because of the economic strain, food and water prices have skyrocketed. Jordan is now the second-most “water poor” country in the world.

There is not enough work in the cities, so the black market is flourishing in the camps. This black market offers everything from drugs and electricity stolen from the hospitals to kidnapping and sex trafficking. Husbands stand on street corners offering to prostitute their wives for enough money to feed their families. But not all refugees are settling within the larger camps; many have found shelter in abandoned buildings and small refugee settlements built on the sides of highways.

## > How can I help?

Relief organizations are already on the ground in the Middle East, distributing supplies and sharing the Gospel with these precious people. Operation Blessing ([www.ob.org](http://www.ob.org)), Samaritan’s Purse ([www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org)) and One Child Matters are already working to restore hope in the midst of deplorable conditions. I encourage you to reach out and help alleviate the effects of this desperate crisis. Whether through prayer or financial support to one of the above ministries, you can do your part to bring hope to a hopeless nation.

## The Burqa: Submission or Slavery?



A woman wears a niqab as part of her Muslim dress requirements.

The women of Islam wear various garments to cover their bodies so as to not “lead men into sin.” The burqa is an enveloping outer garment worn by the most conservative of Islamic women to cover their entire bodies. The burqa, which hides the eyes behind a mesh, is most prevalent in Afghanistan or parts of rural Pakistan. The niqab is the full veil, which still allows the eyes to be seen. The hijab is a scarf that covers just the hair, with the rest of the clothes possibly being very western.

Jordan is one of the more liberal Middle Eastern nations in regards to their dress, especially in the capital city of Amman. The women in Jordan can be seen wearing the

burqa, the niqab or the hijab, depending on their family’s personal beliefs.

Seeing women in the burqa or even the niqab is typically very jarring for those who haven’t witnessed this style of dress before. Many feel that it deprives women of their identity and is a symbol of the oppression of woman in Islam. While not all women in the Middle East wear the niqab or burqa, they are still affected by what it represents. The Bible teaches that women are to be honored, cherished, valued, protected, respected and not considered lesser than men. We continue to pray for true spiritual freedom to come for all in Islam, and that the burqa be abolished in our generation as the love of Christ comes to set hearts free.





**Jordan Syrian refugees.** Umm Anas, 30, sits with three of her children in the area of Za'atari camp known in Arabic as the "ejection area." In this corner of the camp families wait, sometimes for many weeks, hoping for a space on a bus out of the camp. Although her fourth child is in Za'atari hospital recovering from eye injuries and his father is staying, Umm Anas has made up her mind to return. Although her relatives discourage coming, she finds her life in Za'atari miserable enough that she's willing to chance her odds with going back. "It's her choice," says her husband, although he prefers to stay in the camp. / UNHCR / Jared J. Kohler / May 2013

## Challenges for Prayer in Jordan

The unreached comprise the vast majority of Jordan's population. Upheaval in Iraq and the lethal violence of Islam opens many hearts to examine Isa al-Masih, which is Arabic for Jesus Christ. Pray that every Jordanian may have opportunity to hear the Gospel.

### Pray especially for:

- ▶ **The Muslim majority.** Many have still not heard the clear Gospel. Pray for a sensitive witness to Muslims. Several successful methods include literature, media ministry, friendship evangelism, development programs, home meetings and camps. Pray for the protection of converts amid persecution. Pray also that the growing number of Muslim-background believers might have the legal right to convert from Islam.
- ▶ **The millions of Palestinians, who are a majority in Jordan.** Many are the second or third generation after those removed from their traditional homeland. Some integrate into Jordanian life; others suffer from disillusionment, bitterness and frustration, which only Jesus can heal.
- ▶ **Refugees.** During and after the two Gulf Wars, around one million Iraqis fled to Jordan. Years later, nearly half of these are unable or unwilling to return home. Now, the Syrian refugees are fleeing to Jordan, as well. Pray that churches may be granted permission to provide education to refugees; this is a ministry on their hearts.
- ▶ **Outreach.** Outreach to the majority community, and development of house churches, remain unaccomplished goals. Perhaps only 10 percent of churches have any meaningful interaction with Muslims. Pray that believers may catch a vision for sharing Christ and for developing house groups; both are keys for the expansion of the Church. 🏠





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# IDENTIFYING AND RIDING THE THREE STORMS OF LIFE

By Dr. Lance Wallnau

There are three storms you will encounter—the storm God sends, the storm that bad decisions create and the storm the enemy sends! Each storm is navigated differently.

## Storm Number One

The Storm **GOD SENDS** is intense, but designed to get you to the other side larger and more liberated than you ever would have been had you avoided the sea and played it safe. God sent a storm to chase Jonah out of resistance and into the perfect will of God, in Nineveh, the place he was avoiding (Jonah 1:4).

From the belly of the great fish Jonah cried “those who regard worthless **IDOLS** forsake their own mercy” (and the fish spat him up—on location). An idol is something keeping you from God’s greater thing—His mercy; His undeserved blessing. An idol is anything you love more than God. Many a storm is sent to break a hidden attachment from your life. It may be the fear of man, an addiction or a person or influence that does not belong there. The idol is almost always seeking something more than what pleases the Lord. Jonah made his own agenda greater than God’s. He was delivered when he yielded, and the entire time he was in distress, the fish was taking him to his destiny.

## Storm Number Two

The storm of **BAD DECISIONS** may be choices you made or others made that effected you. Paul was nearly drowned in

a decision made by others to sail when they should have stayed in harbor. Many Christians are downright frustrated with the choices of leaders in government, because they know the end result will be loss of cargo (economic) and the very ship of state (shipwreck.) Paul however prayed and fasted until an angel got involved and the ship was rerouted to an island where Paul took over...and made it safely to Rome. Adding new territory that wasn’t even in the original plan (Acts 27:9).

God will overrule bad decisions to bring forth wisdom and get you where you need to be. Look at how Solomon, the wisdom child of David, came forth out of the disastrous decision David made to sleep with Bathsheba. The storm you create becomes a storm God is in, once you let Him take over the ship.

## Storm Number Three

The storm the devil sends is an **ATTACK** that is designed to stop you, overthrow you and destroy God’s purpose for your life. When Jesus was with the disciples, a great storm arose that threatened their lives. As experienced fishermen, this was a type of storm they had never encountered before. Jesus arose and **REBUKED** the manifestation in the wind and the sea and there was an immediate calm (Matt. 8:26). Disease, financial attack, theft and violence are all works of hell.

Jesus challenged his disciples “where is your **FAITH?**” The thought of their ship sinking while Christ was on board

provoked Him to challenge what they were focusing on. He told them, “Let’s go to the other side.” His Word was sufficient to give them leverage over the devil. Find the Word God is giving you in your Satanic assault and speak to the situation. Jesus talked to the wind and waves. He talked to things, to trees that did not produce and to spirits invisible to the human eye. Thoughts are “things” when they take on the power of fear. Speak what God says and watch Heaven back up your utterance.

**GOD IS ON BOARD IN EVERY STORM** and each storm will **BE MADE TO** fulfill God’s Word over your life! “Fire, and hail; snow, and vapor; stormy wind fulfilling his word” (Ps 148:8). The Holy Spirit knows the way through every storm and He is on the inside of you. Hence, **GOD WILL NEVER LEAVE** you or forsake you to the stormy elements.

All three storms are common to man—but you, my friend, are an uncommon vessel. What you come through becomes a testimony to others. You are a **STORM-RIDING CHILD** of the Most High God. 🚤

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*Dr. Lance Wallnau is a world-class trainer and consultant whose students span the globe from Business to foreign governments. All attest to Lance’s unique impact in the field of personal and organizational transformation and development. He directs the Lance Learning Group, a company dedicated to helping professionals by sharpening their unique talents and building a high trust culture. For more information visit [www.lancelearning.com](http://www.lancelearning.com).*



# Worship: Blowing Kisses to God

*"You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little"*  
(Luke 7:45–47, NKJV).

The most often used word for “worship” in the New Testament is the Greek word *proskuneo*. It captures both the love response and the lordship response of a worshipper toward God, but one meaning of the word has always intrigued me. It also means “to kiss the hand toward.”

Let me put this in a more modern idiom. The word *proskuneo* simply means to blow kisses to God. When I go off to work in the morning, my children come running to the door to receive their hugs and blessings from me before I leave. They often race my car down the road, waving and blowing kisses as they go.

Why do they blow me kisses? Because they adore me. Blowing kisses is an expression of love to someone who’s a little further away than you wish they were. If there weren’t a little bit of distance, you would simply kiss them on the face.

We know Jesus recognizes kisses as expressions of love, because in Luke 7, a sinful woman came weeping at His feet, anointing them and kissing them. When the Pharisees reproached her for publicly exhibiting inappropriate behavior, Jesus defended her.

Jesus recognized her behavior, including her kisses, as expressions of love. In fact, this passage is the only place in the Gospel where Jesus says someone (besides His Father) has demonstrated love to Him.

Did you get that? There’s only one place in the Bible where Jesus says someone has shown Him love. How tragically sad. May the Lord teach us to better love Him.

Just like a kiss, worship is an expression of intimate love. And, as is true in our human relationships, the more intimate our relationship is with God, the more passionately we express our affection.

I have two little sisters. There’s a specific way I kiss them—right on top of their heads. It would just be weird if other people kissed me that way. That’s my sister-kiss.


I also have six children. I don’t kiss them the same way I kiss my sisters, because our relationship is more intimate. I kiss my children to pieces—even my sons—and the baby gets the best of it. Almost every part of any baby that doesn’t go in a diaper is fair game for kisses. They’re so chubby and cute and edible. I kiss their fat little biscuit feet and their chubby chins. I nibble on their gooshy legs, smooch their stout little bellies and blow raspberries on their armpits.

dare not) share it with any other living person. Why? Because of all of my human relationships, my relationship with her is the most intimate. So our kisses are most passionate.

The greater the intimacy of a relationship, the more passionately its love is expressed. The greater the intimacy in our relationship with God, the more passionate our worship will be. After all, He defined passion for us on the cross. When we reciprocate that passion, we are demonstrating our love for Him appropriately, and our lives become vivid expressions of living worship.

As you go about your business today, ask yourself, “How is my life blowing kisses to God? How are my behaviors, my affections, my thoughts and my conversations expressing love to the God Who has already so well expressed His love for me?”

For Further Study, see Psalm 84:2–4; Psalm 63:1–8; Luke 7:36–47; Mark 12:28–29.

*“I have a profoundly full relationship with my wife, so how much more of an overwhelming, intimate, all-encompassing relationship should I have with God? I should be more in love with God, and that relationship should make me more complete, even than my own marriage.” — Martin Smith* 



And you know what? They love it!

If I tried to kiss one of my friends that way, it probably wouldn’t be well received. The reason I kiss my children that way is because our relationship is different. It’s more intimate.

Now, there’s also a type of kiss I give my wife that is hers and hers alone—it is reserved. I would not (and



*How To Worship A King*  
by Pastor Zach Neese. available at  
<https://store.gatewaypeople.com>

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.” [ZachNeese.com](http://ZachNeese.com)



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# The 11th Hour

## "The Sign of the Great Flood"

By Rod Groomer

Did you know that replicas of Noah's ark are being constructed in different parts of the world? Is the Lord communicating to us through amusement parks and ministries that we are in the last days, like it was before the great flood? In Hong Kong and Holland, there are now Noah's ark amusement parks. In addition, a life-sized ark attraction is being built in Kentucky, and recently there was a news report that four men were building a replica of the biblical ark in Florida. John Hagee's church in San Antonio, Texas built a sizable replica of Noah's ark in their children's building this past year that drew 28,000 people the first week it opened. Christ For The Nations in Dallas, Texas, has plans to build a Noah's ark exhibit as part of its Museum of Earth History that explains creation. The ark parks, attractions and museums are worth visiting with your children and youth to make them aware of the biblical Flood and the eleventh hour sign of Christ's soon return to Earth.

It may seem coincidental, but in my opinion, these recent ark construction projects are one of the many ways that God is communicating to humanity about the latter days and the soon return of Jesus Christ to Earth.

Christ For The Nations co-founder, Gordon Lindsay, wrote about "The Sign of the Great Flood" as one of the signs before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. He refers to the following verses:

*"And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all" (Luke 17:26, 27).*

Gordon's commentary concerning these verses explains, "Jesus, speaking of His Coming, referred to the days of the Flood in which conditions were similar to those which would exist at the time of His return." He goes on to add four points: "First, Jesus calls attention to the fact that in the days just before the Flood, the antediluvians (antediluvians defines the period of humanity before the biblical Flood account) were engaged in pleasure indulgence—'eating and drinking.' Second, Jesus mentioned that the antediluvians were engaged in 'marrying and giving in marriage.' Third, it was a day of notable human achievements; during that time the pyramids were built. Fourth, the moral conditions in the days of Noah were appalling. Sadly enough, we must admit that they compare with those of our times, as well."

It's very easy to see Gordon's insights being fulfilled today. There's also a contemporary explorer who is making headlines about his insights of the great flood evidence that exists today. In a recent Huffington Post article entitled "Evidence Suggests Noah's Ark Flood Existed,"

author Meredith Bennett-Smith writes, "Robert Ballard, one of the world's most famous underwater explorers, has set his sights on proving the existence of one of the Bible's most well-known stories. In an interview with ABC's Christiane Amanpour, the archaeologist who discovered the Titanic discussed his findings from his search in Turkey for evidence of a civilization that was swept away by a monstrous ancient flood. 'We went in there to look for the flood,' Ballard said. 'Not just a slow moving, advancing rise of sea level, but a really big flood that then stayed . . .'"

In another article, ABC news writes the following about Ballard's discoveries: "Four hundred feet below the surface, they unearthed an ancient shoreline, proof to Ballard that a catastrophic event did happen in the Black Sea. By carbon dating shells found along the shoreline, Ballard said he believes they have established a timeline for that catastrophic event, which he estimates happened around 5,000 B.C. Some experts believe this was around the time when Noah's flood could have occurred."

It is evident to me that the biblical Flood and Noah's ark are being brought to our attention through amusement parks, attractions, museums and a world-renown explorer as one of the eleventh hour signs of Christ's soon return. 🌐

# ISRAEL

## MAY 2014



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# Keep Your Money Safe

*This may not be a subject that you'd bring up at your church's potluck, but planning your estate and creating a will is essential to being a good steward of your assets. We spoke to attorney Jason Head about proper estate planning and how it can benefit you in the long run.*

By Joseph Cole

## Q: Who should plan their estate? Just "rich" people?

A: Estate planning is for anyone who has children, is married, owns property, operates a business or ministry, or simply wants their desires carried out in the event of a medical emergency or death. Proper estate planning can provide significant estate tax saving benefits, prepare for unexpected medical emergencies, avoid probate with proper trust formations and insulate assets from creditors.

## Q: What is estate planning exactly? Isn't it just a will?

A: Estate planning is not just a will, but a trust, general power of attorney, living will, advance medical directives, medical disclosures—all of these are estate planning. It's important to realize that when you do a full estate plan, you avoid probate, but a simple will, will not in itself, keep your assets from going to probate.

## Q: What is Probate?

A: Probate is the legal process by which the assets of someone who dies are distributed. When a person dies, he or she usually leaves behind assets (money, property or other items of value) and debts of some kind. In probate, the court takes account of all of these assets, requires that all debts are paid and distributes anything that remains to the person's heirs.

If the deceased left a will, the court tries to honor the requests indicated. However, if there is no will, the assets are distributed, as the court deems appropriate.

## Q: Why would I want or not want to let my estate go to probate?

A: Probate is required if you don't have a will, or your will is contested. It's better to have a will, so that your desires are followed and not solely the probate court's determination.



If you can avoid probate, it's a better option because:

### —Probate is slow.

Since probate is a process controlled by the courts, it usually proceeds very slowly. In most instances, probate takes from one to three years. It can take even longer if the estate is a complicated one or if any of the heirs are contesting the will. Three years can be a very long time to wait for your family to receive their inheritance.

### —Probate can be costly.

While the costs of probate vary by state, probate can be very expensive. The court takes a portion of the gross estate (the amount left by the deceased even before debts are paid) in probate fees. This fee can be as substantial as 10 percent. The court may use money from the estate to assign lawyers to conduct other parts of the process.

### —Probate is a public process.

Since probate is handled by the court system, all of the documents and information used in the probate process becomes part of the public record. Not only are the debts and the assets of the estate made public, so are the distributions made through the probate. This means that anyone who cares to look up the correct public record can discover that you now have your great aunt's gold coins, Renoir painting and other valuables. This sort of publicity often makes people targets for burglars or scammers.

## Q: What's the first step I should take in planning my estate?

A: I would suggest you find an attorney who specializes in estate planning and call them to set up an appointment. As an estate-planning attorney, I know most attorneys will offer a free initial consultation. This will give you the opportunity to learn what options are out there and discuss the design of your own estate plan. A good estate-planning attorney will educate you on the options and help you think of issues you may not have considered.

## Q: What part does charitable giving play in estate planning?

A: When deciding your estate-planning strategies, consider a charitable contribution option, which can help the charity of your choice, provide you with potential tax benefits, as well as the peace of mind that your charitable giving wishes are fully followed after your death. You can give to a charity, such as a church, college or other qualified charitable organization in your will or during your lifetime.

Before you choose a way to give, it's important to understand the tax implications of your decisions. Giving as much as you want to charity during your lifetime and after you're gone may help to reduce federal estate and gift taxes significantly.

Don't wait until it's too late to speak to your financial or legal consultant about creating an estate plan. 🗣️

*If you have any questions concerning your estate planning needs, especially about ensuring that your charitable giving desires will be adhered to, please contact Jason Head at [JHead@cfni.org](mailto:JHead@cfni.org) for details.*



UP CLOSE WITH

# CHRIS McCLARNEY



◀◀◀ Photo by YoungBong Kim





Chris McClarney leads worship at Youth For The Nations, Dallas, TX.

By Kelly Head

**I**f you're going through hard times, Chris McClarney might be just the music to put on "repeat" on your iPhone. He is a rising singer and songwriter who captures the heartfelt thoughts a typical believer might feel, and expresses them through soulful songs of hope.

Chris penned the sincere worship song called "Your Love Never Fails." This song is what first brought the spotlight onto Chris when the single caught the attention of the Bethel Church worship group in Redding, California, called Jesus Culture. They recorded it on their 2008 "Your Love Never Fails (Live)" album. The rest is history, as the song has now become the theme song of sorts for the current youth worship movement. The Newsboys later recorded the song, and it again topped the charts earlier this year.

Chris also recorded the song on his album "Defender," which is filled with soulful and message-driven songs.

Chris was quite seasoned even before his "fame" hit, having already been a worship leader for 15 years. Today, he leads worship at churches, youth events

and conferences across the country and globally. Recently, Chris led worship at Youth For The Nations, a large teen summer camp/conference, in Dallas, TX., where *The Voice* caught up with the down-to-earth, humble musician. He shared how he got his start, his first encounters with charismatic Christianity and his message to those with a God-dream in their hearts.

This soulful musician was born in Nashville, TN., to youth pastor parents. While Chris is now a unique and rising voice, he got his start almost by accident.

"I was about 13-years-old, and we were doing a little church home group at the time. They asked if anybody knew how to lead worship. I did not know how to lead worship," he laughs, "but I said to myself, 'How hard can it be? I like to sing, I play piano and I just bought a guitar.' So I was like 'Yeah, I can lead worship.' I guess it went all right because they kept asking me to lead."

The home group turned into a youth group that quickly grew to more than 400 members. It was there that Chris had the room to hone his abilities. Then five years later, a life-changing event ultimately changed the course of his

ministry. A buddy of Chris', who was a youth leader at the church, died in his sleep, devastating the entire youth group. "I remember thinking, 'Why didn't we pray for him?' Because, I guess I just never heard the sermon that said we weren't supposed to pray for sick people and expect them to get better," he said.

"It's funny growing up in a conservative church. If someone's grandma were sick, we would always pray for the grandma, but I'm not sure where the line was (in expectation)." Although he had taken prayer requests like this, Chris had no personal experience with sickness, death or healing. His only frame of reference





for such miracles was what he had seen from television evangelists. “But after [the death of my friend], I got really interested in the Holy Spirit and was searching for answers. “I asked a friend if he knew anybody that spoke in tongues and where people fell over when they prayed. He said, ‘Man, you need to meet my brother; he is totally one of those crazy guys.’”

So, Chris went to church with the brother. “I wanted the Holy Spirit so badly,” he said. “So I prayed what they prayed about the Holy Spirit coming and filling us with power and authority. Others were speaking in tongues and falling over, but I just didn’t feel anything. I didn’t think, ‘Oh that’s all not real.’ I just thought, ‘I guess that’s just not for me.’”

So Chris went back to leading at his conservative youth group. But about six months later, “weird stuff” kept happening. “It’s stuff that wouldn’t be weird now, but it was really weird to me then. Songs were going on longer than they used to, and people would cry during worship. Once, people started repenting of their sins during worship. These things probably should [have been] a normal part of our church-life, but was a new experience to me then.”

Chris started seeking answers. “So I asked my friend, ‘Hey, do you think that your prayer worked? Did the Holy Spirit actually fill me up, even though I didn’t fall over, and now He’s moving in power and the things that I feel?’” The friend affirmed, “That is totally real.” Chris was so excited and amazed by his new experience with the Holy Spirit, that he couldn’t wait to share it with other members of his youth group. So

he invited a group of his friends from church to a Saturday evening charismatic church service. They all started speaking in tongues, shaking and getting filled with the Holy Spirit. “From that, a ‘thing’ started in our church, and it began to make the leadership really uncomfortable.” Eventually, Chris was asked to change his ways or leave the conservative church.

From there, Chris began to “church hop,” until he realized he needed to commit to a fellowship of like-minded believers. He promised himself that he would stay at the next church until the Lord told him to move on. That next move turned out to be to an intercity ministry he found by a providential invitation from Jeff Deyo from the group

Sonic Flood. The invitation came right at a time when Chris was questioning a recording deal that he ultimately decided against. The night of worship actually led to Chris ministering

there over the next three years. That time in his life really solidified a deep heart desire to help with mercy ministries (those helping the needs of people physically), which is something that deeply defines the heart of Chris as a worship leader.

“I thought, this is kingdom stuff, actually giving people clothes and loving on children that don’t have dads, helping orphans and widows. This is what I want to do. So I sold everything I owned (which was basically nothing) and moved down there.” It was during his years in the Nashville innercity ministry that he met his wife Jasmine with whom he now has three children. After the intercity ministry, Chris ended up becoming the worship leader at Jasmine’s home church, Grace Center, in Nashville, TN. He and Jasmine

ministered there for the next 10 years. It was at Grace that he became connected with the ministry of Bill Johnson, and Bill’s son Brian. It was through this relationship that Jesus Culture heard “Your Love Never Fails” and decided to put it on their album. The rest, as they say, is history. Despite the recognition, Chris still sees himself as primarily a worshipper. “If you want me to come do a ‘show,’ it’s not going to be very good. I’m more about what we can do together as a group, us and the people who come to worship together. I think it’s really beautiful and much better than whatever we can do on our own.”

It’s been a long journey, but Chris is very happy with where he is now. “I sometimes sit back and think, ‘Wow, my job is to help people connect to God.’ As a worship leader, I think that’s helping remove the boundaries that separate people from the Lord. Music is a great way to do that. It kind of cuts through the junk of the week and the pressures that are weighing on all of us,” he said.

On reaching your dreams, Chris says, “Follow the Lord and if He’s made a promise to you, or if there is a calling on your life, or even if it’s something you want to do, I think the Lord is into what we want to do. Do it, follow your dreams and be awesome! Take risks and then at the same time, find people that can speak wisdom into your life and kind of temper that. Find the balance; take it slow when you need to. But also keep going after it; don’t worry about your age or anything like that. There are so many stories that don’t fit the mold. Just keep trusting God!” 🕊

## I WANTED THE HOLY SPIRIT SO BADLY



Love Never Fails (2008)



Introducing Chris McClarney (2010)



Defender (2010)

## TOP 5 SONGS OF CHRIS MCCLARNEY

1. Your Love Never Fails
2. Blow Mighty Breath of God
3. I Need You More
4. From The Inside Out
5. Your Love Is Everything

For more about Chris McClarney or his upcoming album, visit [ChrisMcClarney.com](http://ChrisMcClarney.com).





# Classic Worship For All time

By Brandt Tilley

3



## Hungry (Falling on My Knees)

Recorded during a worship revival in the United Kingdom, Kathryn Scott's "Hungry (Falling on My Knees)" set a new standard for minimalistic/grass-roots worship songs. "Hungry" is a powerful anthem declaring our sole need for Him. With an acoustic base and forward vocals, it offers a warm and intimate worship experience. Simply put, "Hungry" is a transformational song that transcends the ebb and flow of modern worship.

4



## How Great is our God

"How Great is Our God," written by Chris Tomlin, has become an icon of the modern worship chorus; perfectly balanced between contemporary rhythms and traditional hymn-like melodies. Based on Psalm 104, "How Great Is Our God" asks that in everything, in splendor and in power, from the Godhead through eternity, how great is our God?

5



## How He Loves

"How He Loves" was written out of a time of painful loss that fueled a wonder at God's amazing love for us. John Mark McMillan penned the song after hearing his friend say that he would "give his life" for God's people, and then tragically dying that night. This anthem of God's love for us through any circumstance enflamed a young generation of worshipers, and has since become a guiding light for people everywhere seeking hope.

1



## Shout To the Lord

Taken from Psalm 96, "Shout To the Lord" is sung by an estimated 25 to 30 million churchgoers every week. Darlene Zschech's powerful anthem helped establish Hillsong as a global leader for the Church and changed the face of modern of worship. Intimate lyrics combined with powerful declarations of God's power and majesty make "Shout To the Lord" one of the greatest Christian songs!

2



## Heart of Worship (When the Music Fades)

Matt Redman's "Heart of Worship (When the Music Fades)" depicts worship as being something more than a song. Finding wholeness by simply offering oneself in worship is the motif of this song. Matt Redman wrote this song from a desire to put performance aside with a mission to reach the heart of God. "Heart of Worship" is a bare-bones, go after God song, and is a must have.

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# Parents: Armed and Loaded with Prayer

By Dutch Sheets

When George McCluskey married and started a family, he decided to invest one hour a day in prayer, because he wanted his kids to follow Christ. After a time, he expanded his prayers to include his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Every day between 11:00 A.M. and noon, he prayed for the next three generations.

As the years went by, his two daughters committed their lives to Christ and married men who went into full-time ministry. The two couples produced four girls and one boy. Each of the girls married a minister, and the boy became a pastor.

The first two children born to this generation were both boys. Upon graduation from high school, the two cousins chose the same college and became roommates. During their sophomore year, one boy decided to go into the ministry. The other didn't. He undoubtedly felt some pressure to continue the family legacy, but he chose instead to pursue his interest in psychology. He earned his doctorate and eventually wrote books for parents that became bestsellers. He started a radio program heard on more than a thousand stations each day. The man's name—James Dobson.

Talk about the power of prayer! The next time you're blessed by Focus on the Family or one of Dr. Dobson's books, thank God for a generational watchman, George McCluskey. Many kids aren't as blessed with praying fathers.

At a 1994 Promise Keepers' conference in Denton, Texas, Pastor James Ryle told his story:

When he was two-years-old, his father

was sent to prison. When he was seven, authorities placed him in an orphanage. At 19, he had a car wreck that killed a friend. He sold drugs to raise money for his legal fee, and the law caught up to him. He was arrested, charged with a felony and sent to prison.

While in prison James accepted Christ, and after he served his time, he eventually went into the ministry. Years later he sought out his father to reconcile with him. When they got together, the conversation turned to prison life.

James' father asked, "Which prison were you in?"

James told him, and his father was taken aback. "I helped build that prison," he said. He had been a welder who went from place to place building penitentiaries.

Pastor Ryle concluded, "I was in the prison my father built."

Indeed! In more ways than one.

These are amazing stories, powerfully contrasting two possibilities. We can either build prisons for our children or through prayer build fruitful lives that bless others.

## ALL HE CAN DO IS PRAY

The same stories could be told by millions around the world. Change the names, a detail here and there, but the bottom lines are the same: success or failure, life or death, fruitfulness or barrenness, bondage or freedom—results that are largely determined by the influence of righteous or unrighteous parents. Never underestimate the power of a praying parent!







## Prayers and Prodigals

As we think about the importance of watching and interceding for individuals, most of us probably think immediately of our families, as well we should. Our personal gardens, as our opening stories reveal, are where we must begin. Quin Sherrer has taught much on the subject of praying for family members. In her book *Good Night, Lord*, she relates an occasion of interceding for her son:

"I clearly remember a day when the Lord spoke to me about my teenage son, Keith, as I walked the beach. Deeply concerned about his spiritual condition, I felt he was drifting further and further from the Lord. My only recourse was prayer. I realized that as a parent, I had made so many mistakes. So I asked the Lord to forgive me.

"That afternoon, as I walked alone, I proclaimed aloud Scriptures tucked away in my heart. 'The seed of the righteous shall be delivered,' I shouted into the wind 'Because of Jesus' blood I am righteous and my children are my seed and they shall be delivered,' I paraphrased. 'All my children shall be taught of the Lord, and great will be their peace,' I paraphrased again (see Proverbs 11:21; Isaiah 54:13, KJV).

"Over and over, I repeated scriptural promises God had given me for my children. I desperately needed an answer for my son. After more than an hour of this, I reached down and picked up a small brown shell being tossed about by the waves. 'Trust me to polish and perfect your son,' the Lord seemed to whisper to my spirit as I turned the shell over in my hand.

"I took my shell home, cleaned it and set it where I could see it whenever I cooked. 'Lord, You promised,' I would say some days as I cradled it in my palm. Even

after Keith left for college and I saw little change, I thanked God for His word that He and He alone would perfect my son whom I loved so very much.

"Our prayer battle ended one night when Keith called to ask his father and me to forgive him; we asked him to forgive us, too. He had started his pilgrimage back to the Lord. After college and a short career in graphic arts, he enrolled in Bible school.

"Not long ago, Keith finished seven years of service with the Youth With A Mission organization (YWAM)... Today he's a godly husband to a wonderful wife and the father of two young daughters. My 'promise shell' still sits in my kitchen, testimony to a prayer answer God gave me so many years ago. That promise shell is also a watchman shell, for that is the watchman anointing!"


Quin also shares prayer steps she uses in being a watchman for her children:

- Be specific;
- Pray Scripture passages aloud;
- Write down your prayers;
- Pray in accordance with God's will;
- Pray for your children's future.

In another of her books, *The Spiritual Warrior's Prayer Guide*, she and Ruthanne Garlock give biblical examples of how to do this by offering the following scriptural prayers:

- That Jesus Christ be formed in our children (see Galatians 4:19);
- That our children—the seed of the righteous—will be delivered from the evil one (see Proverbs 11:21, KJV; Matthew 6:13);

- That our children will be taught of the Lord and their peace will be great (see Isaiah 54:13);
- That they will train themselves to discern good from evil and have a good conscience toward God (see Hebrews 5:14; 1 Peter 3:21);
- That God's laws will be in their minds and on their hearts (see Hebrews 8:10);
- That they will choose companions who are wise—not fools, nor sexually immoral, nor drunkards, nor idolaters, nor slanderers, nor swindlers (see Proverbs 13:20; 1 Corinthians 5:11);
- That they will remain sexually pure and keep themselves only for their spouse, asking God for His grace to keep such a commitment (see Ephesians 5:3,31-33);
- That they will honor their parents (see Ephesians 6:1-3).

My fellow watchman, most of us will never be called to lay our lives down in a literal sense. But every believer is called to a life of prayer. In fact, we are called to be our brothers *keeper*—yes, the word is watchman. How much more should we keep "watch" for our own children whom the Lord has entrusted to us? I encourage you to pick up the serpent-killing mantle God is offering. Use it daily! 

*This article is an excerpt from **Watchman Prayer: Keeping the Enemy out While Protecting your Family, Home, and Community** by Dutch Sheets. For more by Dutch Sheets, visit [DutchSheets.org](http://DutchSheets.org).*



# Saving the *Broken Pieces*

By Gabriel Zamora

The Golestan Palace in Tehran, Iran, has one of the most beautiful entrances of any palace in the world. When entering the royal palace, the dome ceilings, walls and columns all flash like diamonds with multifaceted reflections from beautiful mosaic work.

When the palace was planned in the 15th century, the architects sent an order to Paris for sheets of mirrors to cover the entrance walls. They were so excited when the mirrors finally arrived, but when they opened the crates, to their horror, all the mirrors had been broken during transportation.

Nothing was left but worthless, broken pieces. They were going to throw them all away, until one young apprentice had an idea. He wanted to try to put the pieces back together just to see how it would look. Amazingly, the architect then ordered all of the broken pieces collected, then smashed them into tiny pieces and glued them to the walls to become a mosaic of silvery, shimmering, mirrored bits of glass.

The result is an enormous distortion in reflections, and it sparkles with a diamond-like rainbow of colors. The truth is that the mirrors became far more beautiful and useful broken than when they were whole.

We all were broken; and yet, one man, Christ Jesus, knew we were still valuable. He was first broken, so we could be more beautiful and useful!

Encourage yourself today in the Lord and know that through God Almighty you can be made into a masterpiece even if you do not believe it's possible.

God is in the restoration business, and He is able to take the brokenness that we sometimes feel and turn it into a glorious work of art (Isaiah 64:8).

Life, from relationship issues, financial strains, health concerns and more, can sometimes take a toll on us. We all go through times where we feel broken. But, as we seek the Lord, he puts us back together again to shine for him. We become His light, a diamond shining in a dying world ... a beacon on a hill.

In your times of doubt, I say to you what Isaiah said, *"Arise, shine, for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you"* (60:1).

**"Arise,  
shine, for your  
light has come!  
And the glory of the  
Lord has risen  
upon you."**

You were broken to become beautiful! It's possible to turn your scars into stars. It's possible to be better because of the brokenness. Never underestimate God's power to repair and restore.

Bring your broken pieces to the feet of Jesus and watch the Master Architect turn your brokenness into beauty. The things you thought wouldn't shine in your life can shine brightly! The things that once seemed broken and worthless in your life become the keys to the doors in front of you. It's time to go and shine. You are His reflection!

***"But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand"*** (Isaiah 64:8). 🕯



## COURAGEOUS FAITH

*...The righteous are bold as a lion*  
Proverbs 28:1

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