



CHRIST FOR THE NATIONS

The Voice

MARDI GRAS INVASION

GOD'S IRRESISTIBLE LOVE ON THE
STREETS OF NEW ORLEANS

WHY ISRAEL'S
SALVATION MATTERS

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The Voice

THE GIFT OF REST

Hamster wheel. Treadmill. Daily grind. Rat race. Sweat equity. Elbow grease. The English language has more expressions than you can count on one hand to describe the labor of a people who are the weariest on the earth. We so fear failure that we push and prod, sweat and labor, scowling at anyone who gets in between us and our checklist.

Well, as a “doer” of sorts by nature, I get it. High energy, competition, sucking the marrow out of life . . . who has time to say no? I’ve often thought nothing of adding more and more spinning plates to my whirling collection.

I once was the workhorse poster child. Until all of my plates collided and crashed, shattering my hope, joy and peace in the process. I was overweight, disheveled, short-tempered. The effects of stress and sleep deprivation were numerous and real. But from that collapsed-on-the-floor in a pool of frustrated tears cry, the Lord began to give me a better understanding about rest — both physical and spiritual—from a biblical view.

A big foundational key about God’s view on rest can be found right there in Genesis.

“God called the light ‘day,’ and the darkness he called ‘night.’ And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day” (Genesis 1:5, NIV).

Do you see that? “There was evening, and then there was morning.” In today’s world we typically consider our days as sun rise to sun rise. We do, do, do. Then, rest is our last priority.

However, in the ancient Jewish tradition the day runs from sundown to sundown. The idea, God’s plan, was to rest, then rise to do the work. Rest becomes the source and foundation for the work rather than merely recovery from it. Assimilating this distinction is the foundation for connecting with God through rest.

Pastor and author Eugene Peterson describes this ancient rest-first cycle: “This Hebrew evening/morning sequence conditions us to the rhythms of grace. We go to sleep, and God begins his work . . . We wake and are called to participate in God’s creative action. We respond in faith, in work. But always grace is previous. Grace is primary. We wake into a world we didn’t make, into a salvation we didn’t earn. Evening: God begins, without our help, His creative day. Morning: God calls us to enjoy and share and develop the work He initiated.”

As you develop a theology of physical sleep, it will help you see your nights and rest as set apart and holy. In fact, it helps you understand that it is He who lays you down for the gracious gift of rest. Which is, of course, a picture of the continual rest He has for your soul, which comes as we grasp that He is ever working on our behalf. The idea of resting

first is a beautiful Old Testament picture of a New Testament Savior who gives a rest to our soul that should be the place from which we do any and everything.

Jesus doesn’t say, “Come to Me, all you who are perfect and sinless.” Just the opposite. “Come to Me all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.”

When we go to Him first, He provides a rest that punctuates our days and allows us to bring our burdens onto Him. A rest that permeates all we do, all we say yes or no to. When we make the foundation of all we do a place of trust and rest, we can still find plenty to do, but we will actually find more joy, peace and purpose in all that we put our hands to each day. No more grinding and toiling, but more of the fulfillment He designed us to gain from what He gives us to do to His glory each day. No more, no less.

So I urge you friends, drink in His grace to let your soul rest. Let grace breathe through every pore of your being today. No more performance for God, no more clamoring after God. You can rest now! Let Him give you spiritual rest for your journey as you make physical rest a picture and daily reminder of His everlasting grace for you! Remember, He goes before you! 🏡

In His Rest,
Kelly

STUDENT

6-8

TO THE JEW FIRST

Dennis Lindsay explains why Israel's salvation matters in understanding God's plan for the world.

10-12

IMPACT THE WORLD IN OUR GENERATION

You have a unique purpose. **Dr. Billy Wilson** shows you how to fulfill that purpose and change your world.

14-15

THINK YOUR 9-5 DOESN'T MATTER?

Learn how to make a difference for God on the job.

16-20

MARDI GRAS INVASION

CFNI students brought the power, presence and love of God to the streets at Mardi Gras.

22-23

YES, YOUR FRIENDSHIP CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Read one real-life story about a life transformed by friendship.

24-25

SETTING CAPTIVES FREE

Discover five keys the enemy uses to gain access to your kids.

28-30

WAITING AND TRUST

Ginger Lindsay's testimony encourages us to trust God even when we don't always understand Him.

32

WRESTING WITH FAITH AND DOUBT

Win the war on doubt by building your faith through the Word.

DEPARTMENT DEPARTMENT

Testimony: Seeking and Saving the Lost.....Pg. 26

Tips: TV Watching Alternatives.....Pg. 33

Books: *Giants, Fallen Angels and the Return of the Nephilim*.....Pg. 34-35

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CFN FOUNDATIONAL PILLARS

— WORLD EVANGELISM, TO THE JEW FIRST —

• By Dennis Lindsay

ISRAEL



WHY IS CFN SO BLESSED?

Just before he made his final journey to be with the Lord, Dr. Eric Belcher, one of Christ For The Nations' most outstanding leaders, told our current CFNI Director, John Hollar, "CFNI has never been blessed because of our director. Directors come and go, but the blessing on this ministry remains... for one reason... CFN has always blessed and supported Israel. As long as CFN blesses Israel, God will bless CFN."

One of the 12 foundation pillars of Christ For The Nations is Israel. Our family has always stood with Israel. Dad shouted for joy when he heard the radio report in 1948: "Israel is now a nation." Mom was known as a mother of Israel. My sister has given her life, family and ministry to the nation for over 45 years. Our family has taken around 50 CFN tours to the nation of Israel. Why? Because we believe Israel is the center, the focal point—geographically, politically and spiritually—of God's master plan for eternity. Without an understanding of God's plan for Israel, one will not be able to understand God's plan for the world.

We fly both the American and Israel flag side by side on our Headquarters building. In our Christian Conference Center, our three banquet rooms are named in honor of Israel: Jerusalem Hall, Shalom Hall and King David Hall. Each year, we have Bless Israel Day at our Institute, and at the end of each school year, we pray for the Israel Outreach first. Israel will continue to have a key part in this ministry.

GOD'S MASTER PLAN

God has a strategy for world evangelism. According to Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, evangelism is to the Jew first and then to the Gentiles (meaning the nations). Satan will always attempt to spoil God's strategy. He understands God's plan. He would like to separate the Jew and the Gentile and take Israel completely out of the picture.

We know that much of the world is against Israel. The nightly world news reports with extreme bias against Israel. While nations are killing thousands and even hundreds of thousands through genocide, the media often ignores it. However, whenever Israel retaliates

1966—Gordon and Freda Lindsay purchase a bankrupt night club, rename it the Christian Center, and begin to hold regular seminars and evangelistic meetings.



1967—The Voice of Healing Ministry grows into a worldwide missionary organization; the name changes to Christ For The Nations. Freda handles most of the business affairs.



1967—Gordon and Freda Lindsay lead the first Israel Tour. Since then, CFN has led approximately 50 tours.





against terrorist attacks to defend herself and civilians are accidentally killed—even one—the report is that Israel is the evil aggressor. These events are blown out of proportion, with the implication that Israel is the cause of all the Arab unrest—after all, if Israel gives the Palestinians their own land, “it will create peace.”

Of course the bigger picture is oil. Africa's genocides are not a threat to world oil production; Israel and Arab confrontations are. However, the real issue is spiritual, and that affects eternity. Satan understands that as soon as Israel acknowledges her Messiah, there will be a great revival and a worldwide harvest will take place. The Messiah will return and for Satan it will be all over.

THE JEWISH PEOPLE ARE THE KEY TO THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

Satan continues his efforts to isolate and ravage the Jewish state in hopes of preventing the Jewish people from returning to their land and participating in bringing the Messiah back to Earth in His Second Coming. Satan's shock was to learn that his seductive crusade in arranging for the crucifixion of Christ only opened the way for the salvation of both the Jew and Gentile. Now Satan's battle plan continues in hopes of thwarting Christ's Second Coming from fulfilling this great event. Satan knows that when Christ comes back again, He will march straight to the Temple Mount and claim ownership.

People from every nation will come and worship the Messiah, because this is where God proclaimed His home forever.

WHY GOD CHOSE ISRAEL TO BE HIS PEOPLE

It is clear in both the Old and New Testaments that the nation of Israel and its Jewish citizens are chosen by God to be His people forever. The Bible says, “The LORD did not set His affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath He swore to your forefathers that He brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh, King of Egypt” (Deuteronomy 7:7-9, NIV).

The tiny nation of Israel has survived three millennia of religious conflicts, horrific attempts at ethnic cleansing, and continual, insufferable persecution. This little piece of land is dwarfed by huge continents: Africa, Europe and the Near East. Israel is about 150 miles long and 75 miles wide, yet it is the focus of world news, as well as biblical prophecy. God's hand is upon this real estate. If a tiny nation of slaves can become a powerful nation, then everyone will know that God is the reason for their success. He is the true God. The Jewish people are not more important than the rest of mankind. What we are saying is that God has a plan in history and the Church needs to understand this truth.

1969 — Ground-breaking ceremony for the headquarters building.



1969 — The headquarters building is dedicated.



1970 — Gordon starts a Bible school; Christ For The Nations Institute begins with its first group of 50 students.



GOD'S ORDER FOR WORLD EVANGELISM

God has an order for everything—creation, building the Ark in Noah's day, building the Ark of the Covenant, animal sacrifices, constructing the Temple of Solomon and world evangelism! We often hear this verse quoted, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes . . ." However, the second half is usually omitted: "first for the Jew, then for the Gentile" (Romans 1:16, 17, NIV).

In God's plan for world revival, Israel is a type of first fruits. If we give the first part of our finances to God, then the rest of our finances are blessed. If we give the first part of our efforts in evangelism to the Jews, then the rest of our efforts will be blessed. Whatever we do for world missions needs to be an effort to win the Jewish people to their Messiah.

ANGELS ON OUR CAMPUS

While walking across the CFNI campus, an international student had an open vision. He saw angels everywhere. He spoke with them and found they were here because of our love for Israel.

Paul shares God's plan of evangelism in Romans. Jesus followed this order. He said, "I've been sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." He took the Gospel to the Jew first. Everywhere Paul went, he took the Gospel to the Jew first.

IT IS GOD'S COMMAND TO BRING THE GOSPEL TO THE JEWS

Satan has no problem with Christians visiting and supporting Israel, as long as it doesn't involve evangelism. "You don't have to tell the Jews about Jesus because they will be saved

in the end." There are popular Bible teachers who have books on this subject. Yes, Israel will be saved, but it will not happen apart from Jesus and His army of witnesses. They must accept Jesus. He told them they would see Him no more until they said, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord" (Matthew 22:39).

GOD WILL BLESS THOSE WHO BLESS ISRAEL

"I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Genesis 12:3). The time will come when only true Christians will remain faithful in their support of Israel. Christians must be united to support Jewish believers and evangelize Israel. God is looking for Christians who will regularly pray, to remove the veil from their eyes so they'll turn to their Messiah. Israel began with a miracle, has been preserved with miracle after miracle, and is going to end with a miracle. The bottom line is: "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee" (Psalm 122:6, ASV). 🕊



A good resource about God's plan for Israel is the book *To The Jew First* by Ari Sorko-Ram. For more information or to order this book, go to maozisrael.org.

1973 — April 1, Gordon dies on his 25th anniversary as President of the ministry at the celebration/dedication of the new Institute Building.



1974 — CFN pays off the Headquarters Building, the Institute's parking lot and a 10-year mortgage in only two years. Freda hosts seven banquets in seven major cities in support of Israel. Student enrollment almost doubles.



1974 — Dennis Lindsay leads the first CFN outreach to Mexico. CFNI produces its first worship recording.



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IMPACT THE WORLD IN OUR GENERATION



• By Michelle Ofori-Ansah

***"You are unique in all the world.
Just as you are the only one with your unique fingerprint,
you have a unique purpose you were born to do."***

Dr. Wilson, President of Oral Roberts University, spoke to the students at Christ For The Nations Institute, telling them that they were created to make a difference and impact the world. "You are unique in all the world. Just as you are the only one with your unique fingerprint, you have a unique purpose you were born to do." This purpose is what we were created for, a dream bigger than ourselves.

Even if we recognize this unique mission, calling and purpose, we often don't know how to take our destiny from possibility to reality. Acts 13:36 says, "When David had served God's purpose in his own generation he fell asleep." How do we get from where we are to fulfilling our purpose and truly impacting the world?

■ UNLIKELY CANDIDATES

Wilson has good news for those who feel they cannot possibly be the best choice for accomplishing God's purpose. God is fond of using unlikely candidates, such as Dr. Wilson himself. He shares his background of coming from a broken home and small town with few prospects for greatness. From that humble beginning, God brought Wilson to a place of prominence as president of a Christian university and head of a global ministry.

This is a pattern seen throughout the Bible. Listing the various unlikely instruments for God's purpose, Wilson describes Moses, the great deliverer who couldn't talk, and Gideon the fearful, whom God called a mighty man of valor. "Daniel was an exiled slave who would see visions that would change the world. Esther was an orphaned girl who would step forward at just the right moment to save her people. Mary from Nazareth was a backward girl, a nobody from nowhere, going nowhere it seems, until God visits her with an angel and she changes the world," shared Wilson.

One of the most unlikely people used by God, Saul of Tarsus, was an active persecutor and murderer of Christians. The journey Saul of Tarsus made from chief persecutor of Christians to the world-changer Apostle Paul contains four truths that will help you make a lasting impact on your world.

■ PURPOSE

The first thing that is necessary in order to truly have impact is to determine your purpose. Apostle Paul's purpose is found in Acts 9:15. "But the Lord said to Ananias, 'Go, this man is my chosen instrument to proclaim My name to the Gentiles and their kings, and to the people of Israel.'" It wasn't until Saul surrendered to Christ on the road to Damascus that he discovered his purpose. So the first step is complete surrender to Christ.

Wilson explained, "Your purpose is found in Christ. You may not discern it, you may not understand it, but when you surrender to Him, you are carried away in the purpose of God. And then He is given the liberty to make you into what He intended for you to be."

■ PERSISTENCE

The second requirement to fulfilling your purpose is persistence. You must be determined and get tough in order to do what God is calling you to do. Apostle Paul had an extremely high level of persistence. Second Corinthians 11 describes the tortures, beatings, imprisonments and near-death experiences he had. Yet he remains able to say, in 2 Corinthians 12:10, "That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

Wilson shared, "This is what I like to call spiritual savvy – when things get tough, the spiritually savvy don't quit but rather they find a way to get the job done. Now the truth is, on the way to my purpose I have felt like quitting 1,000 times." The difference between persistence and quitting is often simply not letting go of what God has said. Wilson continued, "Don't quit, don't give up, don't back off, don't run from the fight. Stand firm, keep going, move through it, and God will help you do what He's called you to do."

*"At the end of the day will you have done
what God designed you to do?"*

■ PREPARATION

The third requirement for accomplishing all God has for you is preparation. Many people skip this step or shortchange it, thinking that their calling means that they don't need to take time to learn, grow and prepare for their purpose. But Apostle Paul knew the importance of preparation. Acts 22:3 states, "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city (Jerusalem). I studied under Gamaliel and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today."


Wilson explained the importance of this statement by describing Gamaliel. He was the most influential Jewish man of his time and led a school that believed in studying not only the Hebrew scriptures but also the Greek and Roman culture of that time, enabling them to defend the scriptures in their current cultural context. "When God was looking for someone that would defend the Gospel before Caesar for the first time, and when He was looking for someone who would stand on Mars' Hill across from the Parthenon, and defend the Gospel at the highest places of learning and Greek culture, He did not choose Peter the fisherman. When God was looking for someone to impact society at the highest levels, He found someone who was prepared and who knew what he was talking about."

According to Wilson, the level of influence you have is dependent on your preparation. Moving from a bachelor's degree to a master's degree and then a doctorate didn't increase his anointing, but it did increase the number of people who listened to him. "My degrees opened doors to me that could not open any other way. In the same way, Paul, who was to stand before kings and power-brokers, needed to be fully prepared."

■ POWER

Finally, Wilson declared the most important thing you need in order to see God's purposes fulfilled in your life is power. "Paul, with all of his learning and all that he had been equipped to do, with all of the brilliance that we see reflected in the New Testament, did not depend on that alone but on the Holy Spirit."

In order to access this power, you have to spend time in the presence of God, allowing His sanctification process to knock off all your rough edges. That time in the presence, on the altar of God, is what will sustain you and ensure you accomplish God's plan for your life. "If you're going to make a difference, get all the education and all the knowledge you can get, for whatever God has called you into, whatever field of study He's called you to pursue. But when you are fully prepared, make sure to be fully full of the Spirit of God!"

The road to truly radical impact requires all of the above: a knowledge of purpose found in surrender to Christ, persistence so that you will never give up, preparation so that you have the knowledge needed to fulfill your purpose, and finally the power of the Holy Spirit. Wilson had one final thing to share. "No one in the world can do what God has in mind for you to do. The real question is, at the end of the day, will you have done what God designed you to do?" 

Dr. Billy Wilson is the fourth president of Oral Roberts University. He has also fostered unique global partnerships as co-chair of the Global Council of Empowered21—an initiative launched at ORU that brings together ministry leaders, scholars and next-generation voices from the Spirit-empowered movement.



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KINGDOM INFLUENCE IN THE

MAD RKE

• By Will Ford

My father once told me the story of a man who went to Nelson Rockefeller to make a business offer. Rockefeller decided not to take the deal, but as a consolation, he offered to allow the gentleman the opportunity of walking with him on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. When Rockefeller walked on the floor of the exchange, everyone took notice of the person walking with him. Rockefeller lent the credibility of his trustworthy and powerful name to this man; as a result, people who would not listen to him before were suddenly willing to hear what he had to offer. Rockefeller added importance and weight to this man, who was now able to find investors for a multi-million dollar deal.

Proverbs 22:1 says, “A good name is more desirable than great riches.” The reason being that a credible reputation carries “weight.”

► THE WEIGHT OF GOD’S GLORY

One definition of weight is the sense of someone who conveys importance just by their presence. When someone influential walks into a room, people take notice.

The primary Hebrew word for glory in the Old Testament is *kabod*, which means “weighty presence.” When Solomon dedicated the Temple, we see that the glory of God fell and the priests could not stand in order to minister (see 2 Chronicles 5:14). The priests fell to the ground, coming under the literal weight of God’s presence. *Kabod* was carried by those who had weight or importance. As they made decisions for their culture, their decisive words had weight because of their fellowship with God. The weight of His glory empowered their authority, and God released His influence

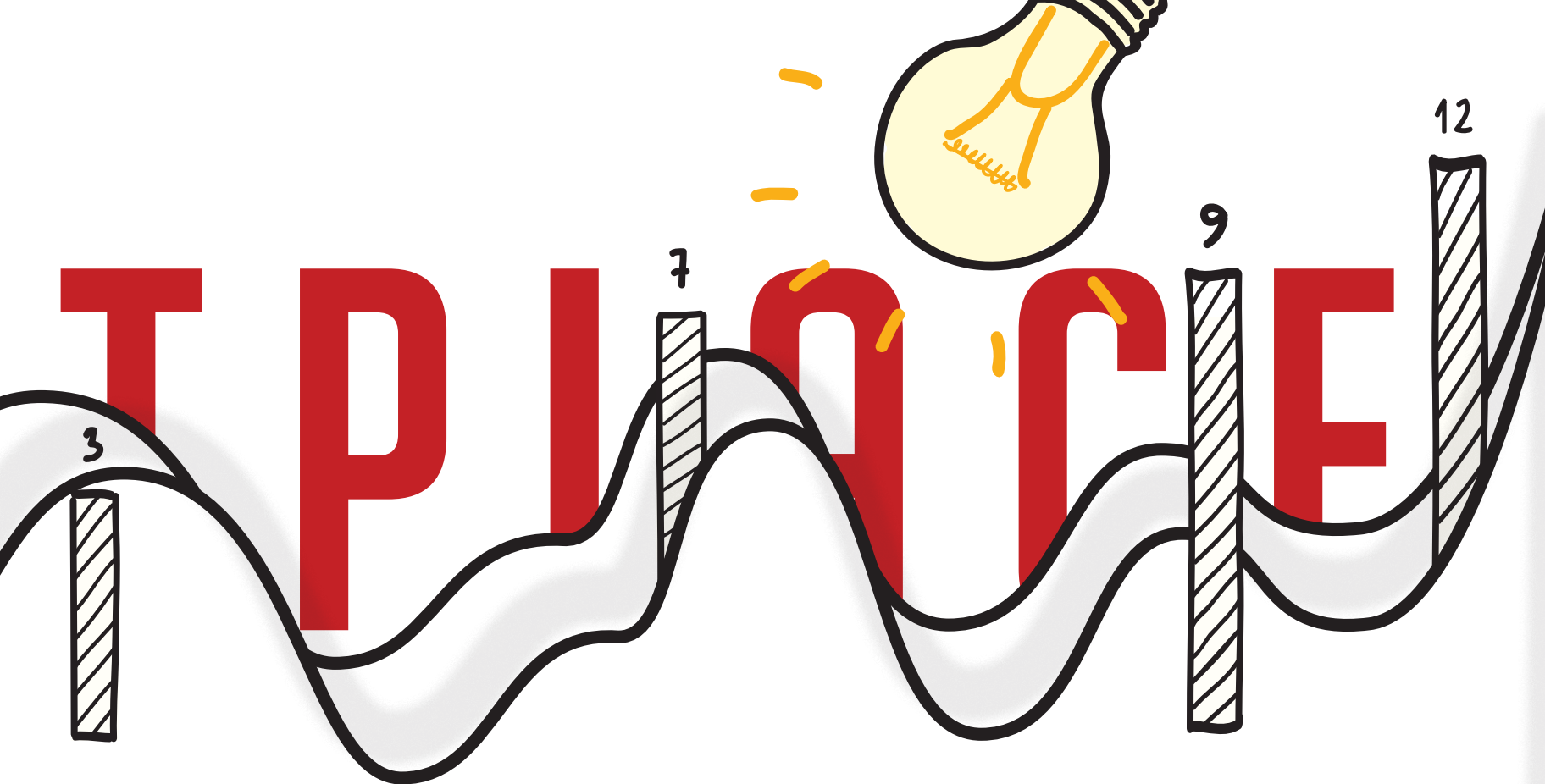
through them to advance His Kingdom. With His glory, God bestowed upon them His importance.

► WE CAN CARRY HIS GLORY

In the book of Acts, we learn that we are to be partakers to a degree of the same glory. According to Acts 1 and 2, 120 disciples spent 10 days in obedient fellowship with God in prayer. Much like their 120 priestly forerunners in 2 Chronicles 5:12–14, when the glory of God fell in the Upper Room, these “priests” had a hard time standing up as well. As a result of their intimate fellowship with Christ, when they used Jesus’ name, He backed them up. You see, it is one thing to walk with a Rockefeller, but it is another thing altogether to walk with the Rock of Ages.

Not only could everyone recognize that these believers had been with Jesus by their words, they also saw that He still walked with them through the person of the Holy Spirit. Jesus’ followers had the influence of heaven because He gave them the credibility of His name. This was possible because they had an intimate relationship with Christ.

As Christ’s followers walked into the room, so to speak, the whole atmosphere changed. People recognized their importance to God as He worked with the believers, performing signs, miracles and wonders. Lost people understood their importance to the Lord through the disciples’ message of Christ’s love for them. The weight of His glory produced incredible results. They spoke and ministered in great power and authority, and people received what they had to say. On the Day of Pentecost, about 3,000 souls were added to the church (see Acts 2:41).



Paul was by no means a spiritual gunslinger, but he definitely threw his weight around in the right places. He did not throw his weight or influence around earthly men first; he initiated it first in the heavenly places through prayer. He was known there because he walked with God. From the example of Paul and the other disciples, we learn a powerful truth regarding the weight of Jesus' name and our relationship with Him. It is simply this: When your name is written in heaven, Jesus gives you His glorious name to write history on earth.

The apostles' intimate fellowship with God resulted in His glory being released through them. Cities and entire regions were changed because the weight of God's influence empowered the believers' Kingdom message.

► **TODAY'S MISSION FIELD:
BRINGING GLORY TO THE WORKPLACE**

Just as God used those early disciples to transform the world, He wants to use His disciples today to transform the workplace.

My friend Falma Rufus is an awesome woman of faith and prayer whom God has used powerfully in the workplace as an intercessor. She was working in a corporate office when God began speaking to her about her co-workers. Falma started going to work early every day to pray for them, anointing their chairs as she did so. On occasion she fasted for them as well.

Doors began opening for Falma to share God's love with her co-workers. People shared their life circumstances with her. Some came to her office for prayer for physical ailments

and were healed. Before long Falma's office had developed a reputation that she was not even aware of. She would come back from meetings or from lunch and find people sitting in her chair. She finally asked one of her co-workers what was going on. Her co-worker replied, "Oh, I thought you knew. People call your chair the 'healing chair.' We come into your office because there's a presence here."

The weight of Christ's influence changed the atmosphere of Falma's work group. Believers and unbelievers alike were drawn to her office, and many lives were saved, healed and changed because of her relationship with God. God also blessed the work of their hands, as Falma's group was among the top performers in their company. And because Falma proved herself to be a woman of integrity, God also gave her influence in company decisions. Her superiors held her in high regard, and Falma's words had substance because she walked into work with the Rock of Ages.

When you go to work, does the atmosphere change when you walk into the room?

If you wholly set yourself apart and abandon yourself to God, He will use you—as a carrier of His glory—to change the atmosphere of your home, neighborhood, workplace and region. When you fellowship with God in worship, fasting and prayer, people will begin to look around and say, "Who just walked into the room?" Then you can introduce them to the influential Person you are walking with: Jesus. 📺

Do you feel called to bring Christ into the marketplace? Go to cfni.org to learn more about CFNI's Marketplace Leadership Major.



Mardi Gras Invasion

• By Maddy Hunt

As Mardi Gras 2015 got underway, 31 CFNI students packed into vans to travel from Dallas to New Orleans to join with Scott Hinkle Outreach Ministries for an evangelistic invasion to proclaim the love of Jesus in the midst of the 1.4 million people who participate in Mardi Gras. Their mission? Proclaim that only Jesus can provide satisfaction for the void in thirsty hearts.

Mike McMenemy, Director of Human Resources at Christ For The Nations and outreach leader, described the impact. "Divine appointments and prayer huddles were constantly occurring wherever the feet of those with the Good News tread. These young world-changers have a lifetime ahead of them to implement what they learned at Mardi Gras. The world will be a much better place because of that."

According to Scott Hinkle, Mardi Gras is a strategic place for street evangelism. "Most people coming to Mardi Gras are either running from something or searching for something and this puts them in a great position to hear the Gospel and often be receptive." Holding signs with messages such as, *No hate, no judgment, just love* and *Bring your sin to the altar and drop it like it's hot*, student evangelists walked around the French Quarter for up to eight hours each day.

One CFNI student, Silver Garza, was able to pray with 16 people in a single day to receive the Gospel. "I never knew what was going to happen down there day to day; some were angry, some were running, most were hurting, and God knew exactly who was open and ready," he said. "One guy was visibly torn up by the Gospel. He was crying and he wouldn't say much in front of everyone, but I could tell it wasn't just a prayer and a hope—it was a legitimate conversion of his whole being."

Nathaniel Riegel believes that he experienced the true compassion of Jesus as the team ministered. One day he noticed a young man in the crowd who was obviously intoxicated. Nate approached him and simply said, "Man, has anyone just told you how much Jesus loves you?" At first the young man started getting angry, and then he broke down crying. An ex-Marine, he shared how he had experienced his friend being killed by a roadside bomb. Nate held him for several minutes as he wept. "He wouldn't leave us. He followed us around for the next two hours." Regardless of the young man's intoxication, he was met by the love of God.

Healing and wholeness was a goal of these student evangelists, and they were met time and again with powerful testimonies

of emotional and physical healing. On the last day of Mardi Gras, these student evangelists spotted a homeless man named Jose who had been wheelchair-bound for eight months. CFNI students Daniela Fuchslocher and Nicholas Jones asked to pray with him, and laid hands on his feet. In pain and with his leg covered in scars from being struck by a truck and subsequent surgeries, Jose needed a touch from God. After prayer, he stood up and said, "I'm completely healed!" He started walking, smiling and weeping. "God healed me!" he shouted. When Nicholas asked if he wanted to walk to a nearby pole to test his healing, Jose insisted on walking an extra block to the river—praising God the entire way.

These are just a few of the testimonies of lives touched, healings (physical, emotional and spiritual) and salvations that the Mardi Gras outreach team experienced. Conduits of God's power, they were amazed again and again at how God met them at every point of faith. So, what would compel Bible school students to raise their own money and take time out of their schedules to travel to New Orleans just to spend eight hours a day talking to (sometimes drunken) strangers? Titius McLaughlin, CFNI student evangelist, states, "The people that we met at Mardi Gras are usually the kind of people that aren't going to be found in church and aren't going to be caught any other way. It's our job as fishers of men to go to the fish, not just expect them to swim up our tiny little church stream. We have to find them where they're at—find the fishing holes."

Titius continued, "The depth of your conviction is going to determine the depth of your impact. So how much you actually believe the gospel is going to determine how much you go evangelize." These students put action to their beliefs, bringing glory to God and plundering hell. Hundreds of people were prayed for individually for salvation, recommitment of their life to Christ, baptism of the Holy Spirit, healing and other needs. The lives these students touched, the healings they saw, and the Good News that was shared will forever impact eternity.

Scott Hinkle Outreach Ministries has been traveling to New Orleans to minister during Mardi Gras for 34 years. For more information visit scotthinkle.org. Scott Hinkle is a CFNI alumnus and is the Director of the new 3rd Year School of Evangelism major. For more information about evangelism, go to cfni.org.



What is Mardi Gras?

"Mardi Gras is one of the greatest moral embarrassments of the United States of America. More than 1 million people come to New Orleans to get crazy, drunk, naked, weird and insane," says Scott Hinkle, leader of the Mardi Gras Invasion Outreach. This extreme level of sinful behavior provided a unique ministry opportunity for our students.

MARDI GRAS

Mardi Gras means "Fat Tuesday" in French, and it is most famously celebrated in New Orleans, Louisiana. It occurs on the day before Ash Wednesday when Lent begins, providing revelers one last opportunity to party before giving something up for Lent.

Attendance averages 1.4 million and participants include locals and people from all over the world who come to be part of this self-indulgent and hedonistic experience. While Mardi Gras is technically on a Tuesday (an official holiday in New Orleans), the festivities start the Friday before, so most people come and stay for the 4-5 days leading up to Mardi Gras itself.



BEADS

Alcohol is a big part of Mardi Gras and in the French Quarter, women are encouraged to lift their shirts to the revelers in exchange for beads or other trinkets.



MASKS

Many Mardi Gras attendees wear masks and costumes, becoming someone else for the duration of the festival.

Revelers hide behind their masks that enable them to commit wickedness their natural shame wouldn't allow. The lie they have bought into is that their sin-filled pleasure has no consequence. However, the masks only hide the emptiness and despair that gets stronger when the masks come off.





RELIGION

New Orleans location on a major waterway made it a hub for trade of all kinds, especially slave trading. Given its French roots, Catholicism was the main religion in New Orleans, but slavery brought Africans and their religious practices (voodoo) into the life of New Orleans. Voodoo has been part of Africa's culture for many years and its emphasis on spiritism, animism and shamanism was given a thin veneer of Catholicism (making some spirits' names the same as Catholic saints for instance) and this mix became Louisiana Voodoo.



ARCHITECTURE

New Orleans is known for its impressive architecture. While much of the original French architecture is gone due to the fire that spread in the 1700's during Spanish rule, most of the buildings that survived are Creole, a mix of French and Spanish. However, almost every type of architecture can be found in New Orleans.



NEW ORLEANS OUTREACH

New Orleans is a beautiful city that has a dark side, with its Mardi Gras celebrations and voodoo spirituality. As our outreach team invaded Mardi Gras to bring light to its darkness, we had an opportunity to see why people love it and be inspired to pray for God's people to reclaim this gorgeous city.



PRAY FOR NEW ORLEANS



Church of the King, pastored by CFNI alum Steve Robinson (pictured), in Mandeville, LA is one church with a vision to reach the people of New Orleans with the love of Christ. Visit ChurchOfTheKing.com for information.

SPIRITUAL OUTLOOK

Syncretism or mixing Christianity / Catholicism with Voodoo is a big part of the spiritual landscape.

THE MAIN ISSUES ARE:

- Voodoo practices
- Sex Trafficking (huge at Mardi Gras)
- Gambling
- Lasciviousness and Uncleaness
- Syncretism (mixing Christianity / Catholicism with Voodoo)
- Mardi Gras-inspired hedonism and debauchery

PRAYER POINTS

There is much that happens in New Orleans out of sight, buried in the darkness.

PRAY THAT:

- The light of the true Gospel message would be preached and for the renouncement of witchcraft and rebellion that is commonly mixed in with Christianity.
- All would repent and that we would see the city become a conduit of God's glory around the earth.
- The Lord of the harvest will raise up laborers with hearts to reclaim this city for God.



Get a heart for New Orleans by appreciating its finer fare.

A Taste of New Orleans

Known world-wide for its culinary delights, take a taste of the city by preparing crawfish etouffée, a classic Cajun main dish, in the comfort of your own home. Serve over hot cooked rice with buttered toast for a hearty meal.

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup butter or margarine
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 celery ribs, chopped
- 1 medium-size green bell pepper, chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 large shallot, chopped
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 to 1 teaspoon ground red pepper
- 1 (14 1/2-ounce) can chicken broth
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh chives
- 2 pounds cooked, peeled crawfish tails*
- Hot cooked rice
- Garnishes: chopped fresh chives
- Ground red pepper



Preparation

Melt butter in a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add onion and next 4 ingredients; sauté 5 minutes or until tender. Add flour, salt, and red pepper; cook, stirring constantly, until caramel colored (about 10 minutes). Add next 3 ingredients; cook, stirring constantly, 5 minutes or until thick and bubbly. Stir in crawfish; cook 5 minutes or until thoroughly heated. Serve with rice. Garnish, if desired.

*2 pounds frozen cooked crawfish tails, thawed and drained, may be substituted for fresh crawfish.

Courtesy All Recipes.com



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Does Friendship Evangelism Really Work?

• By Michelle Ofori-Ansah

Does friendship evangelism work? Most of us have heard the term *friendship evangelism*, but our understanding of it is vague at best. Somehow we are supposed to become friends with an unbeliever and then lead them in the sinner's prayer, but doesn't the Bible say not to be friends with unbelievers? This last question stems from the passage about *marriage*, not friendship, which states not to be yoked together with unbelievers. Confusion abounds regarding this issue, yet it can be one of the most powerful tools to reach people with the Gospel. Jacob McConaughy, a CFNI alumnus, is evidence of the possibility of using friendship to evangelize.

Jacob grew up attending church and Catholic school, giving him a solid foundation in Bible knowledge. However, by his junior year, he was no longer

interested in being a Catholic. "I felt a lot of anger, and I decided I would never go to the Catholic Church again, but I don't think I had anything against God." Even though he didn't equate God with the Catholic Church, he was completely unaware of a church experience outside of Catholicism. Yet, he is now saved, Spirit-filled, sold-out and called to be a worship leader—a journey that was sparked and cultivated by friendship evangelism.

Jacob didn't realize at the time that his friendship with Maranatha Townsend was being used by God to bring him to Christ. "Whether it was friendship evangelism or not was irrelevant to me; Maranatha just offered me genuine friendship." They have been friends for over 10 years now. The way Maranatha lived her relationship with God slowly transformed Jacob's head knowledge about God into a heart

relationship with his Savior—a journey that took six years.

Maranatha grew up the daughter of pastors. Her vibrant spiritual life began at an early age, and she felt that her compassion for others would take her to the mission field as an evangelist. Maranatha met Jacob when they were both in high school, working at a sandwich shop. Their group of friends connected, and they spent more and more time together. From Jacob's perspective, "We truly became friends; she didn't have a hidden agenda." But while Maranatha agreed that their friendship was genuine, she did have another, spiritual agenda. "There is awareness in my walk with the Lord. When I first get to know people, my first job is to question internally, 'Do they know about God? Do they love God?' And the way I would approach these

issues is to simply ask them what they believe.” As Jacob remembers, “She asked a lot of questions about Catholicism and my beliefs, but I never felt judged or condemned; she just genuinely wanted to know about my life.”

Their group became closer, and their friendship deepened as high school ended. Maranatha had invited them to attend her church youth group, which was full of Spirit-filled, on-fire youth. That youth group gave Jacob his first exposure to a different approach to Christianity, and he began attending regularly, eventually sparking questions and deep discussions about God. Maranatha shares, “We have been friends for 10 years. It takes time; it’s not just a 3-step process. We started friends as a group, but he became like my family. There are still boundaries for girl/guy relationships, but our friendship was just very genuine. If anything had crossed over that boundary, it wouldn’t have been as effective.”

Maranatha knew that her role as Jacob’s friend meant that she needed to connect him with other people that would help him grow spiritually. This became especially important as Maranatha left for CFNI. According to Jacob, “I became connected to their youth/worship pastor. Even though I wasn’t saved, I was on the youth worship team.” It was during this time that God spoke to Maranatha regarding Jacob’s calling. “I felt very strongly that he was supposed to come to CFNI, and I began to see the call of God on his life as a worship leader.” She prayed for him and stayed in contact, only to see Jacob start to drift farther from God.

“This season was my craziest ever. I flaked out on the church I was helping lead worship at; I was partying all the time. And still Maranatha never judged me, even when I would call and tell her the latest stupid or crazy thing I did.” During his farthest moment from God, he still attended church. His store manager (one of his partying partners) took him to another church, and Jacob found himself connected again, back on a worship team, doing

good things and surrounded by good people. But he hadn’t had his moment of surrender yet.

It was while on an hour and a half drive, listening to worship music that Jacob finally gave his life to Christ. “I broke down. I said, ‘I want everything Lord, I want You in my life! I am done with this lifestyle.’ It was a declaration. I said it out loud.” Maranatha remembers, “He called me right after. He was in tears, and said he had this awesome, powerful encounter with God. He said, ‘It’s for real now. I am done with everything. I completely gave my life to God.’”

About a year later, Jacob received the gift of the Holy Spirit when he and his friends (including Maranatha) held a prayer meeting in his apartment. His faith went to new levels after this; he became a youth leader, went on missions trips and continued to lead worship. He then felt God directing him to CFNI, confirming what God had spoken to Maranatha. However, he couldn’t afford tuition and so put that dream aside. While he was on missions in Haiti, he received a call from CFNI offering him a full scholarship—a very rare thing

evangelism. According to Maranatha, “Every relationship is divine. Be intentional about real friendship, because that is what opens people’s lives.” Jacob shares, “Don’t be phony! Maranatha was real. A lot of people say, ‘I am going to become friends with this person so I can win them to Christ,’ but that wasn’t Maranatha. The proof is that we are still friends now, four years later.”

Jacob continues, “Don’t just be friends with your Christian bubble. If your faith is secure, you can reach out like Jesus did, Who was friends with everybody.”

Maranatha agrees, “There is such a fear that you can’t be friends with non-Christians, because they are going to pull you down. I was pretty guarded with my friendship with Jacob and his friends. They never heard me cuss; I was never in a compromising situation. But it is when you come along side someone, living life with them, then you can say, ‘Let’s pray about this,’ and when an answer comes that is a testimony that prayer works.”

Maranatha has one final thought for the person attempting to follow the leading of

YOU HAVE INFLUENCE IN OTHER PEOPLE’S LIVES WHETHER YOU REALIZE IT OR NOT.

BE INTENTIONAL ABOUT THE IMPRESSIONS YOU ARE GIVING OFF.

for an American to receive. Now a graduate of CFNI, Jacob is taking what was imparted to him here and through the life-changing friendship with Maranatha back to his hometown to serve his family and lead worship for a home church movement.

Jacob’s journey to salvation only took six years—not too much of an investment for God but far longer than a typical street ministry. His story provides some keys that can help ensure the success of friendship

the Holy Spirit into friendship evangelism. “You have influence in other people’s lives whether you realize it or not. Be intentional about the impressions you are giving off. Do they even know that you know God? Have you asked them about how they feel about God? Then, ask God what He wants to do in this situation.” This intentionality, the desire to reach out, influence and truly love unbelievers will have life-changing impact affecting them, their families, friends and people around them. 🙏



SETTING CAPTIVES FREE

MINISTERING DELIVERANCE FOR
CHILDREN AND ADULTS

• By Belinda Elliott

B

lenda Aycock never planned to have a ministry helping others break strongholds in their lives and walk in freedom. At one point, she wanted to study to become a lawyer, but God had other plans for her.

The married mother of two was raised as a Southern Baptist and was very involved serving at her church. She had accepted Christ at age 9 and was a devoted Christian. However, she says she never really grasped the power of the Holy Spirit working in her life until her son experienced a supernatural healing.

Three months before his high school graduation, he was diagnosed with Type I Diabetes. For the next year, Aycock experienced fear and anxiety over his condition. While in a Bible study about believing God, she decided to pursue God for more in her life—including her son's healing.

One year after he was diagnosed, he and his father were visiting Kenya. On their last day there, her son experienced emotional healing through prayer ministry. He struggled to understand all that happened to him that day and asked a couple of women on the trip to explain it. That's when Aycock and her family were introduced to the teachings of Henry Malone in his book, *Shadow Boxing*.

She soon began teaching other women principles of deliverance and walking in freedom. As they saw strongholds in their lives demolished, they would often mention to her that they noticed the same patterns of bondage in their children's lives. After more mothers began to ask her to minister to their children, Aycock asked the Lord to give her simple tools to help the children understand the principles she taught. This led to her creating a DVD of her teaching, *For the Sake of 1 Times the World*.

Though her ministry focuses on deliverance for children, the principles she teaches applies to everyone. To minister to children, adults must first understand and apply these principles in their own lives. As they do, and they experience freedom, others will begin to come to them for ministry.

"We're like a lighthouse to people," she explains. "They don't know what it is at times. They may not be able to call it the anointing, but they are drawn to us. You don't have to go out and find people who are hurting. You're like a magnet and they start coming to you."

That is why it is important for Christians to understand the ministry of deliverance and be empowered to walk in it. A crucial starting point for ministering deliverance is identifying the ways the enemy gains access to our lives, she says.

"The enemy does not hang around with you all the time," she explains. "He doesn't have the ability to be all places at all times—only the Holy Spirit does—but he roams and seeks whom he may devour. He is looking for someone who is weak emotionally, physically or financially. The battle is so much in the mind."

There are five primary ways the enemy gains access to us.

- ➔ **Disobedience**—Christians need to understand and teach their children that delayed obedience is disobedience. Children will learn the spiritual concept of obedience easier if obedience is modeled for them in the home, Aycock says.
- ➔ **Inner Vows and Judgments**—This principle applies more to adults, Aycock says, when Christians make declarative statements about their lives using words like "always" or "never." One might say, "I'll always be single." This could go against plans the Holy Spirit has for them to marry, because they have closed themselves off to it.
- ➔ **Emotional Trauma**—Aycock estimates that 60-70 percent of the children she ministers to have experienced emotional trauma. This could be anything from not making the soccer team or not getting invited to a party to abuse, divorce or a death in the family. "A negative circumstance that leaves you with a negative mindset is a trauma."
- ➔ **Curses**—Christians must understand the power of their tongues, Aycock explains. "A curse is anything that doesn't encourage you or make you feel good," she tells children. "Life and death is in the power of the tongue." Often, people take the identity or label that was given to them at some point in their childhood—labels like "stupid," "ugly" or "fat."

"It's identity theft," Aycock says. "We need to teach children not to let this stick on them. I teach them in the name of Jesus to destroy the power of words." God's power is also available to break generational curses like alcoholism or suicide. "The Word of God tells us in the name of Jesus you have the authority to break every curse and call forth blessings," she explains.

- ➔ **Unforgiveness**—A key to unlocking unforgiveness is giving Jesus the pain you experienced when someone hurt you. Christians often find themselves needing to forgive people for the same offense over and over because they haven't dealt with the pain of the experience. "Pain is the enemy's playground," Aycock says. "If you want to take authority over it and regain the dominion, we must give Jesus the pain."

Whether ministering to children or adults, Christians must remember no one is too young to be used by God. "There is no junior Holy Spirit," she says. "God is raising up a generation that is willing to listen. You've got to be equipped for such a time as this." 🛡️

Aycock's teachings are available for free through her church's website freedomfellowship.us and can also be seen on YouTube. Interested in more teaching about healing and deliverance? Go to cfn.org/voh and register for the Voice of Healing Conference.

"THE BATTLE IS SO MUCH IN THE MIND"

Keys to Ministering to Children

- **Make sure children feel safe.** Ministry can occur at the child's home, church, or somewhere they are familiar with. It's also a good idea to have someone ministering alongside you who the child knows and is comfortable with.
- **Use play to get children to talk about issues that are bothering them.** "Give them some play dough or a piece of paper and some crayons, and while they are doodling or playing, we're just talking and you're listening because out from the heart speaks the tongue," Aycock explains.
- **Deal with only the issues that are exposed.** Much like going to a doctor for a specific pain or illness, ministry should focus only on the one or two things the child mentions. There is no need to "dig deeper" for more areas of concern. These will come up at future times, and the child will be more equipped to deal with them.

SEEKING AND SAVING *the* LOST

THE TESTIMONY OF A WORLD CHANGER

• By Michelle Ofori-Ansah

This summer, David Rozier, a CFNI student, traveled throughout the United States on the *Vans Warped Tour*. This tour is a secular festival of alternative, punk and rock music. There were many opportunities to minister as they met drug addicts, Hindus, homosexuals and the hurting of every type. But David's favorite story is of a young man (we will call him John), a volunteer firefighter, who ran up to him. "Are you a Christian?" he asked David. When David replied yes, he asked, "Can you pray for me?"

John told David that he had seen things that scarred him as a firefighter, and he needed prayer. David prayed for him, for the peace of God to fill him, and John started sobbing. "What's going on? What's happening right now?" David asked, sensing there was more to the story than John had shared.

While shaking and with tears streaming down his face, John began to explain that since he had been in middle school, he had been caught up in witchcraft and the occult. He had been involved in a cult with whom he had done blood sacrifices and had been tormented by demons day and night. He couldn't get away from them; they controlled his life.

David began to share the gospel with John. "You don't have to be enslaved to the demonic powers any longer. The blood of Jesus can set you free; there is freedom in Christ." David continued, "Jesus is calling you to Himself—He isn't holding any of your witchcraft past against you."

At that moment, John grabbed onto David and said, "I want to know Jesus." David had him pray, repent and express his need for Jesus. He led John in a prayer of renunciation, of

witchcraft and everything that he had tied himself to so that he could now be in relationship with Jesus. Afterward, David explained the need for the Holy Spirit. "It isn't enough to get rid of the demonic. You need to fill yourself with the power of the Holy Spirit."

David describes what happened next. "The Holy Spirit filled him right then. He was crying, and they weren't tears of bitterness and fear any longer. He cried because he felt the love of the Father toward His son—no longer was he an enemy!"

Reflecting on his experience, David has a challenge for us. "Luke 19:10 says, 'The Son of Man came to seek and save that which was lost.' It's time for us to stop waiting for the lost to come to us and for us to go to them!" 🙏





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DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



Ginger Lindsay on *Waiting and Trust*

• By Belinda Elliott

Christ For The Nations Chief Operating Officer Ginger Lindsay has some experience waiting on the Lord. After serving overseas in various countries through Youth With A Mission, Lindsay and her husband Dennis, who serves as president and CEO of CFN, felt God leading them to return stateside—a move that left Lindsay feeling discouraged.

“This was an interesting time for me because I had just been pulled out of a life of witnessing, evangelism and serving people and was brought here to start a family. I felt like I had lost my ministry to the world,” Lindsay says.

She was gripped by feelings of despondency until God spoke to her in the middle of her new circumstances. “He said, ‘Yes, you do have a ministry. You don’t have a ministry to the world like you did before, but I have changed your seasons and now your ministry is to your family. Focus on that because that is what I have called you to now,’” she recalls.

The Lord showed her that, even as people pulled her in different directions, God’s primary calling on her life for that season was to minister to her family. God promised He’d be just as faithful to her as she focused on this new mission as He was to her in her previous ministry. “When He told me that, I felt so much better,” Lindsay says. “I threw myself into the new season of ministry. When your family is growing up, make them your season. That season goes by too fast.”

As Lindsay and her husband started their new family, she began to experience a frustrating health issue. “I was expecting the birth of my first baby at the time when, for

no apparent reason, my healthy body suddenly developed this rash around my mouth,” Lindsay recalls.

The eczema-like skin condition persisted through each of her pregnancies, eventually covering her entire face when she had her third child. Though she tried treatments provided by her doctor, they only helped temporarily. Lindsay recalls feeling invisible for years while enduring this painful hardship.

For a moment, she says, it crossed her mind to feel sorry for herself. After all, she had been in ministry for God, having gone over to Europe, living in tents and out of backpacks, ministering day and night wherever God provided an opportunity. After sacrificing for Jesus on the other side of the world, surely God could have spared her this painful indignity. Instead, she decided to turn the issue over to God—something she wishes she had done when the problem first started.

Lindsay fasted one meal a day and sought God’s will for her health. She was desperate to hear from Him. She repented for not coming to God with this issue sooner and longed for Him to receive the glory for healing her face, rather than giving credit to a dermatologist. She says she believes God was waiting for her to become dependent on Him.

“I fasted and sought the Lord each night until I fell asleep for two weeks,” she recalls. After that, several faculty members met to pray with her. During the prayer, it was revealed that the issue was being caused by a hormone imbalance. With that word of knowledge and prayer for healing, Lindsay knew that her healing was on the way!

"Come out, come out of your grave clothes. Take them off and start living life."

She didn't see a change for several weeks, but she continued to stand in faith for the healing and rejoiced, knowing that God had healed her already. One key component she encourages is a continual standing firm on the Word of God. During her trial, Lindsay would quote verses as the Lord brought them to her remembrance, such as 1 John 5:14, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."

After three months, the rash began to recede the same way it had come until it finally disappeared. After being miserable for nine years, God had heard her cry and healed her.

Lindsay relates this story from her life to the story of Lazarus found in John 11. Lazarus had died even though his sisters, Mary and Martha, had reached out to Jesus in an attempt to save their brother. Jesus didn't rescue Lazarus from experiencing sickness and death, and He didn't prevent Mary and Martha from experiencing great sorrow. When Martha confronted Christ about this, He responded, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

"What is the glory of God?" Lindsay asks. "It's all His goodness, His excellency, the manifestation of God's most excellent things. It's all His goodness in your life. You may have had a lot of terrible things that have happened to you in your life, but God still has other things, other ingredients that He wants to put in your life."

Christians often wonder why God doesn't spare them from the difficulties of life. "Maybe God has something more in mind than our immediate relief or happiness," she says.

God wants us to trust Him even when we don't understand His plans for us. "According to Lazarus' story, He does love us when we have to wait for an

answer," Lindsay adds. "I wonder how often He weeps over us because of our unbelief when He just wants us to trust Him?"

She sees the story of Lazarus as a poignant image of how God wants to provide healing in our lives. When God commanded Lazarus to come out of the grave, he did. However, he was still wrapped tightly in strips of linen that were used as grave clothes at the time.

"Many of you have come out of the grave," Lindsay says. "You were born again—but you still have your grave clothes on. Your grave clothes of doom and gloom, of a critical attitude and unforgiveness, bad habits, fear, doubt, unbelief. You're all wrapped up in your grave clothes and God says, 'Come out, come out of your grave clothes. Take them off and start living life.'" 🕊



Ginger Lindsay is the Chief Operation Officer of Christ For The Nations. She and her husband, Dennis Lindsay, President of CFN, provide the vision and direction for this global ministry.

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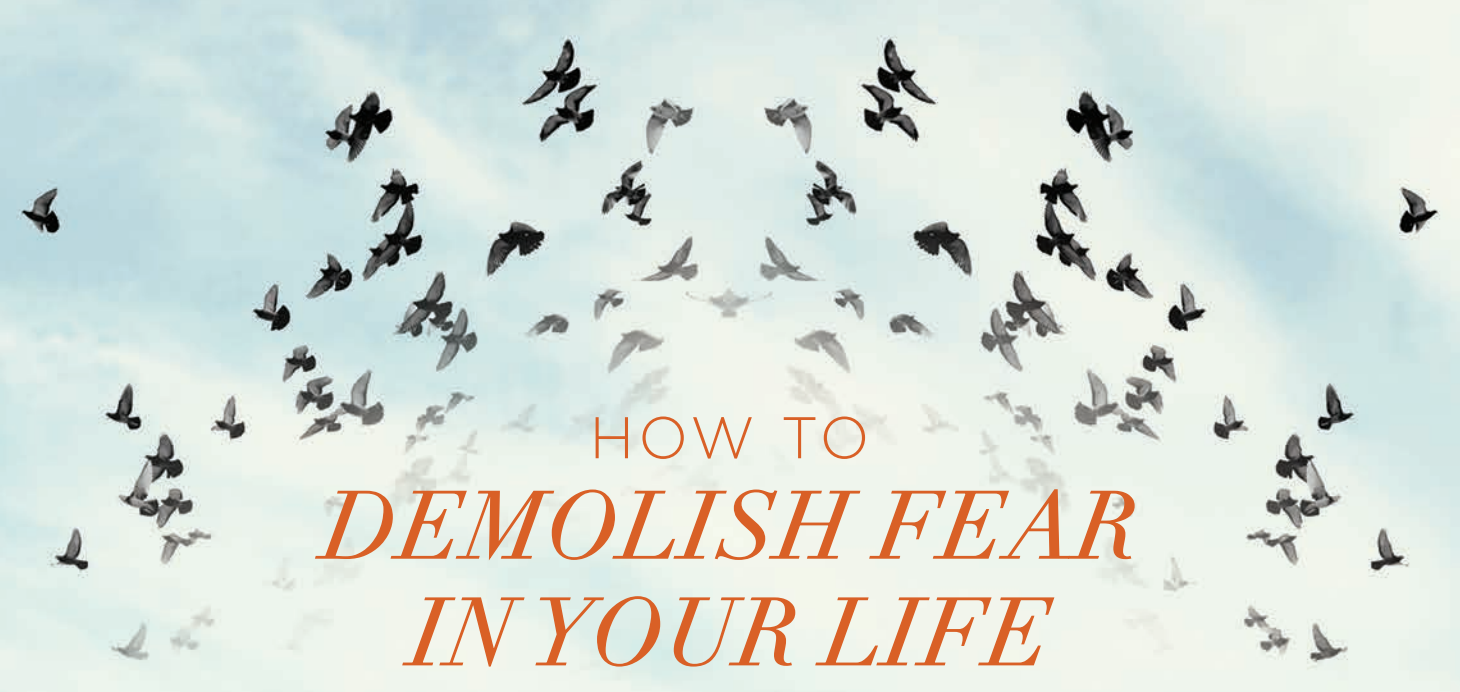
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HOW TO *DEMOLISH FEAR* *IN YOUR LIFE*

• By Gabby Heusser

In my journey to become free of fear, God began to teach me that to be really free and to continue to live free forever would mean that His Word could not be only in my heart, but it had to come out of my mouth too. Mind you, I went to an amazing Bible college that taught us these things. But something new happens when your very sanity depends on the reality of His Word in your life.

One Scripture that God really used to teach me about speaking His Word is Mark 11:23-24, which says, "For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."

He began to teach me about the life-giving, mountain-moving power of speaking His words—His words and not my usual "I feel afraid" or "I can't" or anything else I was so used to saying. I was not even aware of how much I did that. He began to show me that this was part of the reason I was so defeated all the time. I lived my life and based my choices on however I felt and whatever thought dropped into my head.

The Holy Spirit began to teach me to declare what my Father was declaring over my life. Second Timothy 1:7 was a huge truth that helped set me free. It says, "For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and love and self-control." Those words, mixed with my faith, began to ignite an explosion of freedom on the inside of me. And the outside.

I could actually see the effects of His Word mixing with my faith, and it was so encouraging to me! To realize that life-

sucking, victory-stealing fear did not come from God was gigantic for me. I was waking up to the reality of who God said I am in His Word and was learning to believe what the Holy Spirit was teaching more every day.

Little by little, I saw victory. For the first time I started to believe not only what came out of His mouth, but what was coming out of mine. How refreshing! It was as if the Holy Spirit was blowing His fresh wind over my dry and broken soul. He will do it for you too. All you have to do is believe His words over your feelings and past experiences. His Word changes everything.

Sometimes we get the idea that when we truly realize that Jesus has set us free from fear, all of it will just disappear from our lives. I wish! Even though we are free from its ruling power, we do not always get to escape the feeling of it. We still have to press past the feeling of fear to do what God is asking us to do. Here again, Satan wants to trap, demean and degrade us if we feel it. Listen, when we really know who we are and who God is, we are just going to have to do some things while yet afraid. This is courage, my friend! 🕊

Excerpt from *In His Footsteps*, by Gabby Heusser (Creation House). Gabby Heusser is passionate about communicating the love and healing power of Jesus through her teaching, writing, mentoring and praying with others. She loves sharing Christ with those who do not know Him and to see them experience His presence in a tangible way. Gabby is a graduate of Christ For The Nations Institute and lives in Salem, Oregon with her husband Andy and two daughters, Sarah and Emily.



TRADING YOUR REMOTE

5

ALTERNATIVES TO WATCHING TELEVISION AT NIGHT

• By Jennie Bogart



1

GAME NIGHT |

If you have children, this becomes even more fun. Take turns choosing what game to play. Perhaps you can even come up with a prize for the winner, raising the stakes of this fun-filled night. If you don't have children, invite your neighbors!

2

AWAKEN YOUR CREATIVE SIDE |

If you're a writer or enjoy reading, try writing poems or short stories and share them with your family. If you love art, try painting! You don't have to be Pablo Picasso. Use your hands, get messy. If you have a wall full of Pinterest ideas but haven't gotten around to actually doing any—start now!



3

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES |

Ride a bike if you have one. Research parks in your area and explore all of the things they have to offer. Try things you haven't tried before such as rock climbing to find out what interests you most. Invite your friends or your small group to join you.

4

CATCH-UP |

As you think of friends and family you need to catch up with throughout the week, write their names down. Make time at night to call or Skype those you haven't talked to in a while. If you have a big group of friends or a big family, try to choose a time when you can all connect at the same time—like a conference call via phone or group Skype call (now free!).

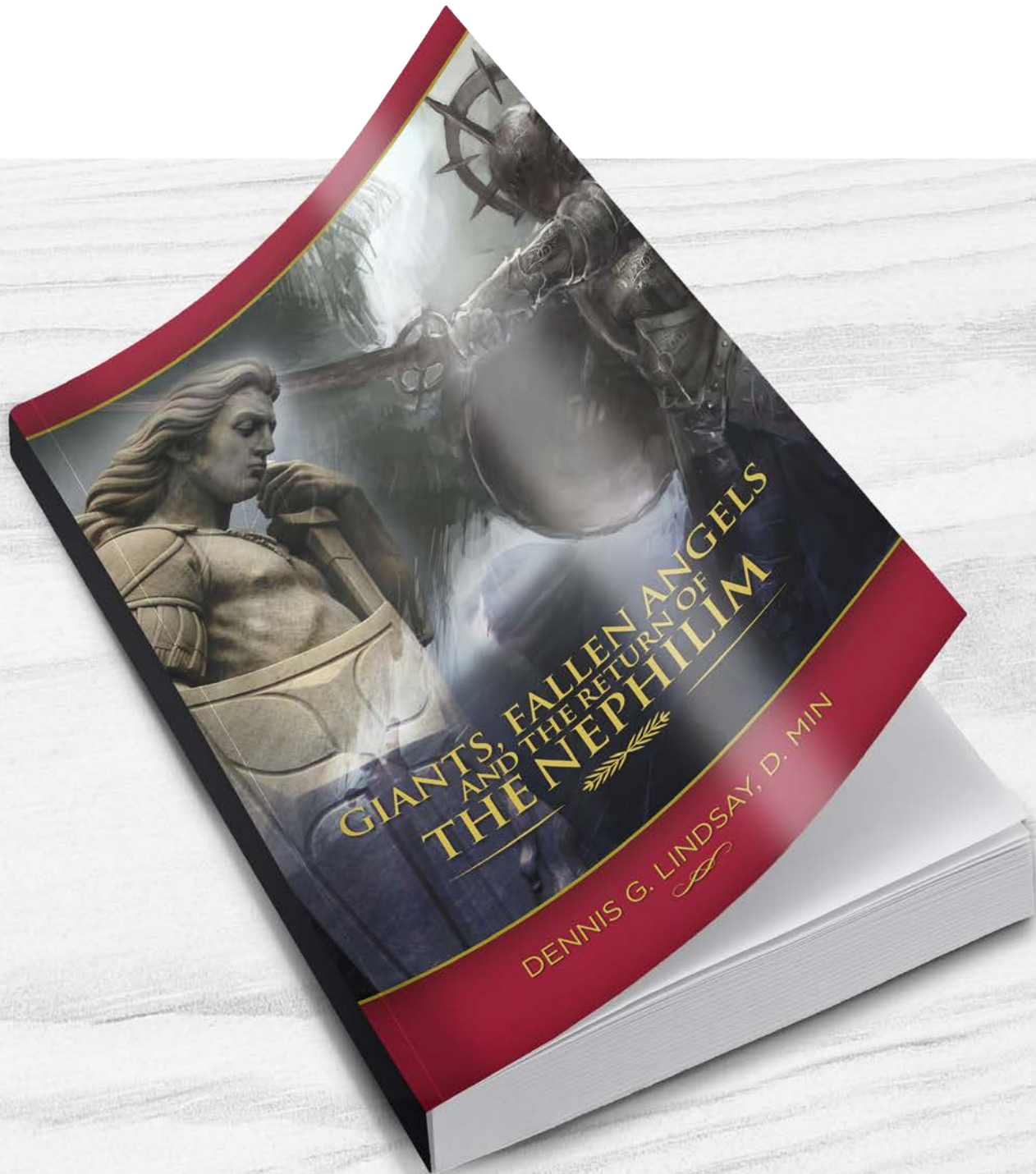


5

LIVING ROOM WORSHIP |

If you have musical gifts, lead your own worship night. If not, you can put on some worship music and pray and worship as a family. This is also a great thing to invite your neighbors to, especially if they are a little wary of attending a church service with you. It may make them feel a little more comfortable with the idea of "church."

UNLOCK THE MYSTERY



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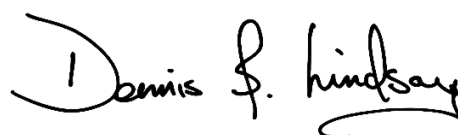
"GIANTS, FALLEN ANGELS AND THE RETURN OF THE NEPHILIM"

I am so excited to share with you my passion for writing, and I also want to share with you another passion, a love for Israel. When I sensed the need for a prayer room on our campus, the Holy Spirit inspired me to name it Front Lines Israel Prayer Room and design it with a Jewish influence.

As we raised funds for this, I knew I wanted to sow my latest book into this project. So, for every \$50 donation, you will receive my Giants book and your whole donation supports the prayer room.

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Be part of this prayer room project and get a copy of my book, and know that your donation will be doubled. Thank you for your encouragement!



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