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CHRIST FOR THE NATIONS
THE VOICE MAGAZINE

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CHOOSE TO REST

"REST"—The four letter word is almost obsolete and with it another word, "SABBATH," that is never used anymore. For most people, especially those with young families, their day off is hardly a day of rest; it is filled with chores such as appointments, laundry, grocery shopping, and the list goes on. So, most people return to work after a weekend without actually having a break. Our lives tend to consist of moving from a busier weekend, through a busy week to an even busier weekend.

But rest is God's idea. Yes, we all know that after six days of working and creating the universe, God rested on the seventh day. But, before His Sabbath rest, God also made sure to take time to rest after each busy day of work. As almighty as God is, and as much as He needed to accomplish, He did not try to jumble six days' worth of work into one day. Instead, He chose to be systematic and selective, working on certain projects on particular days. At the end of each day, He would examine His work, and say, "It is good." Really, what He was saying is, "It is enough for today."

Rest is not synonymous to laziness, neither is it anti-productive. Rest is actually your secret weapon. It gives you the power to rejuvenate and reenergize. It can seem selfish to think about resting and taking care of yourself, but your effectiveness is directly tied to your well-being. And too many of us are living life

on the edge . . . the edge of exhaustion, burnout, and even sickness because of one simple thing that seems incredibly difficult to do: REST.

Have you believed the enemy's lie? You know the one... "You're too busy to rest," he whispers in your ear. And with that, you down one more cup of coffee or another Red Bull and you are off to your next task, putting your system on overload. Whether we're ministers or career and business people, we have all been guilty of this. As a mother of two boys, ages 4 and 2, who are very ACTIVE and do not always like to sleep, I understand this tendency. The truth is, you are too busy not to rest. There is so much to do that you must take time to rest so you will be ready for the next task.

For those of us who are extremely busy and burdened, the Master calls, "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30). Jesus has an option for us, a lighter burden, and I chose to take it. Will you rest, in Him? Once you take time to Rest, Refresh and Restore, you will be amazed at what you are capable of doing. So today, choose. Decide to enter into His rest! 🕊

Michelle Ofori-Ansah



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CFN FOUNDATIONAL PILLARS

THE GREAT COMMISSION

• By Dennis Lindsay

MISSIONS



A BRONX FAMILY BIRTHS A BIBLE INSTITUTE

What does it take to birth an overseas Bible institute? It takes the Holy Spirit, someone who is willing to step out of their “boat of comfort,” and one who sees the Cross. Once the Humburg family, born and raised in the Bronx in New York City, saw the Cross, they left their friends and the comforts of home to sail the sea where they founded Glaubenszentrum (Faith Center) in Germany. Sharing about Christ For The Nations Associated Bible schools includes their miracle.

Bob Humburg recalls, “When I was a hopeless alcoholic and about ready to take my own life, I came into my motel room very early one morning and turned on the radio. The first

words I heard were, ‘Do you want a new life?’ The preacher talked about Jesus Christ and the power of the cross to change my life. I had never had a desire to know God, but Sept. 19, 1963, I got down on my knees and invited Jesus to come into my life. The Holy Spirit began a work that changed everything. God put my family and marriage back together. The absence of love in our home was filled with the lovely, the Lord Jesus. Our four children came to the Lord, and we all graduated from Christ For The Nations Institute. I really had no vision for evangelizing the world, but as I sat under the anointed ministry of the Holy Spirit at CFNI, a burden for Germany developed.”

Bob, his wife, Emma and their children Kay, Linnie, Paul and Junie moved

1991—Seven Romanian men left families behind to study at CFNI Dallas. They returned home to start Christ For Romania Bible School.



1993—CFN's Association of Bible Schools is formally established.



ASSOCIATION OF
BIBLE SCHOOLS



to West Germany. They found an old, closed-down, two-story, 45,000 sq. ft. chemical factory in the town of Braunschweig. With CFNI's financial assistance, the building was purchased, and the Bible school began. With a value of 2 million U.S. dollars, it was purchased for just over \$150,000.

IF ADOLF HITLER ONLY KNEW

During the next 12 years, the school grew steadily in the same building where Hitler had stationed his SS troops. There were sandblasted swastikas still visible on the front entrance. Hitler could have never imagined that this building would train evangelists to spread the Gospel. Not only was the Bible Institute training students, but it also had monthly conferences with thousands attending.

Additional space was needed. Bob learned that 45 miles from their present location, the German government was vacating a huge complex it was using to train guards for the West German border.

They wanted 5 million U.S. dollars for the facilities. After prayer and fasting, the Holy Spirit led them to make an offer of \$1.3 million. Later, Bob received a notice from the government that they liked what the school had accomplished; they accepted. The city of Braunschweig paid cash for the old facilities, which became the payment for the new facility in Bad Gandersheim.

You have to see the facilities to understand what God has accomplished. This compound had also been constructed by Hitler in 1935 to train his Nazi soldiers. Hitler was there for the dedication of the facilities in 1936, and his book, *Mein Kampf*, was inserted in the cornerstone of the facility. Once again, he never knew what God was going to do.

Eventually, this still wasn't enough space, so the school purchased additional buildings to house students and guests, and they built a 1,000-seat auditorium. Bob eventually passed the baton to his son-in-law and daughter, Mike and Kay (Humburg)

1994—The International Jamaica Bible School: Montego Bay is dedicated.



1994—CFN Music is established, founded by Kevin Jonas, and begins distributing music throughout the United States.



Chance (CFNI Dallas graduates), who presently minister throughout Europe. They later passed the torch on to a team led by Marcus Germann. We visited the school this summer for its 40th anniversary celebration. The current directors and Mike and Kay Chance spoke to the alumni and audience. During the Night of Worship, 1,000 young people worshipped the Lord. The story continues as these graduates have started Bible schools in other countries and continents.

The Pillar of Missions was established to help fulfill the last words of Jesus before He ascended to Heaven, "... go and make followers of me in all the nations of the world ..." (Matthew 28:19, 20) and these "towers" will not come down because the "gates of hell" cannot dislodge them (Matthew 18:16).

CHANGES AT CFNI AFTER MY DAD'S PASSING

From the beginning of CFN's ministry in 1948, its monthly magazine reported on supernatural signs and wonders that were being manifested through evangelists who were taking the message of the Gospel to the nations. This publication still exists today and is being sent around the world. Soon after the inception of the magazine, dad began writing books on faith and the power of Jesus' name—sending them around the world to missionaries and pastors. Dad's books and manuals are still sent out by the tens of thousands.

THE TWO TOWERS OF CFNI DALLAS AND GERMANY

The original ministry in Germany was founded on the same basic foundational pillars my dad and mom built Christ For The Nations upon. They are The Word, Faith, The Supernatural, Worship, Prayer, Training, Israel, Giving, Integrity, Relationships, Legacy and Missions.



1995—Courts of Praise—150 apartments—is purchased for \$10.

1997—CFNI's first annual Worship Conference is held. It was coordinated and hosted by Arlene Friesen, chair of the music department.



In the late 1950s, Dad and Mom answered the call from missionaries and native pastors to assist them in completing the roofs on their churches. We've continued this with over 12,700 completions in 116 Nations.

When Christ For The Nations Institute was birthed in 1970, my dad's vision wasn't for just another Bible school. He wanted a unique, short-term, charismatic center for learning, with an emphasis on world evangelism and fulfilling Christ's Great Commission with signs and wonders following. Then, the Lord suddenly took my dad to Heaven, and subsequently the Christ For The Nations Board asked Mom to be the president. My wife, Ginger, and I had been working with Youth With A Mission (YWAM) in Europe. We returned home to work alongside Mom. Because of YWAM's missions training, we'd learned why outreach ministry changes one's Christian witness.

WHY SHORT-TERM OUTREACHES ARE ESSENTIAL

I have learned that a Christian needs more than just head knowledge of the Word of God to be an effective, growing witness for Christ. One

also needs life experiences. Even though I was raised in a godly, Christian home and attended a godly, charismatic church, all whom supported missions, I never caught the heart of missions until I went on a short-term outreach. It was my coach at Southern California College, where I was attending, that took me on my first outreach. It was a life-changing experience.

I tell our students, "If you came to CFNI for a good Christian education or for a steppingstone to something else, but fail to catch the vision of the Great Commission by not experiencing an outreach, you will miss an opportunity of a lifetime." After Ginger and I took the first CFNI summer outreach to Mexico, along with eight students, that outreach became a permanent fixture in the Institute's annual summer program.

Since that first outreach to Mexico, more than 345 outreaches to over 85 nations have been sent out from CFNI. CFNI's purpose is to train students for the work of the ministry and to send them out into the world to fulfill the Great Commission. Christ For The Nations is more than our name. It has always been and will continue to be our mission! ➡

1998—CFNI's Spanish school, Instituto Christo Para Las Naciones, is established.



2000—The Alumni Fellowship opened its arms to non-alumni, and the name was changed to Christ For The Nations Fellowship of Ministers and Churches (CFN FMC).





OUR STAND FOR ISRAEL

This article is an excerpt from The Voice of Healing April 1969.

CFNI Founder Gordon Lindsay laid out a case for why Christians should support Israel. Coming just two years after the Six Day War, this was a controversial stand at that time.

We are rerunning this article as we are at another crucial time in Israel's history, when she is standing against foes determined to destroy her. With Iran growing ever closer to having nuclear weapons, it is more important than ever that we stand with Israel.

Our support has remained unwavering. Here our founder explains why.

• **By Gordon Lindsay**

It has been said that although many Christians of America believe that Israel's return to her homeland is a fulfillment of Bible prophecy, few if any, will take a strong public stand for her. Christ For The Nations (formerly called The Voice of Healing), which came into existence the very year (1948) Israel became a nation, has always stood for the Jews' right to their historic homeland, and we have often stated that America must also take that stand.

God said that He would bless those who blessed Israel and curse those who cursed Israel (Genesis 12:1-3). Witness how the tide turned in favor of Great Britain in World War I when Lord Balfour made his famous declaration, promising Palestine to the Jews for their homeland. In contrast, notice what happened to her when she went back on her promise in 1939. World War II came upon Britain, and afterward the liquidation of her vast empire.

Should America fail in her obligation as a Christian nation to stand with Israel, deliverance will arise from another quarter; but from precedents set before, we can expect a national disaster, similar to that which happened to Britain.

Above all it is the duty of all Christians to pray for Israel. As the Psalmist has said, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee" (Psalm 122:6). One of the main purposes of this article is to encourage Christians to pray for the Jews. The fulfillment of God's purposes for this age is closely related to Israel's discovering and accepting the Messiah.

The reason Israel is in her historic homeland today is that it is God's time. It was not always God's time. The Roman Emperor Julian the Apostate (A.D. 316-363) thought to disprove the prophecy that, "Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (Luke 21:24). He set at once to work to restore Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. What was the result? *The New Standard Encyclopedia*, Vol. XVI, page 509 says, "His (Julian's) attempt to rebuild the temple at Jerusalem was intended to falsify the prophecies of Christianity . . . the balls of flame which brought the work to a standstill were accepted as evidence of the interposition of heaven." We see there was a time, apparently, when it was not God's will for the Jews to return to Jerusalem. At last the times of the Gentiles are

drawing to a close, and Israel has returned to her land as God had promised by the prophets.

The nations of the world, including Israel, are moving swiftly toward Armageddon. Jeremiah the prophet, speaking of the event in Jeremiah 30:7 said, "Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it." Israel has had to fight for her life against enemies on every side. Eventually, her courage and her own strength will not be enough.

We at Christ For The Nations have stood for Israel from the beginning. Since 1948, many articles have appeared in our magazine concerning Israel's return to her historic homeland as a fulfillment of prophecy. Our position for Israel has always been clear, and readers throughout the past 20 years are well aware of our stand. We are now reaffirming our stand for the Jews. 🕊



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Ginger Lindsay on a prophetic
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RETURNING TO THE

FIELD

— Rod and Celeste Groomer

• **By GeoBound**



“Attempt something so big that unless God intervenes, it is bound to fail.”

—Rod and Celeste Groomer’s mission statement.

Dr. Rod and Celeste Groomer met at Christ For The Nations as students in 1984. Upon graduation in 1985, they married and together pursued the call of God on their lives. Over the past 30 years, they raised a family and served the Lord as pastors and missionaries. In 2000, the Lord brought them back to Christ For The Nations to serve as part of the ministry, eventually serving as Director (Rod) and Assistant Director (Celeste) of the International Ministries. Having watched their children graduate from CFNI, along with countless other missions graduates they were privileged to teach and impart to, they are returning to the mission field themselves with new vision and great excitement.

Rod and Celeste will be partnering with CFNI to plant satellite campuses among First Nations people across America. Believing that this is a strategic time for Native Americans to receive Bible training in their own communities, they desire to give their full attention, energy and time to this 2016 ministry endeavor. They are simply responding, once again, to the mission calling that stirs their hearts to make Christ known to the “least of these.”

For the past five years, the Lord has placed the Native Americans of the United States specifically on their hearts, and He has directed each step that they are now taking. The plight of hopelessness and the lack of discipleship and Bible training among the next generation of Native American leaders compelled them

to design an “out of the box” training that will incorporate videotaped classes from CFNI faculty, live streamed classes and on-site teachers to comprise a school that has CFNI Holy Spirit-empowered DNA in it! It is the Groomer’s desire to see the light of the Gospel and Spirit-led Bible training arise through a Native American Initiative across reservations throughout the United States.

There are 565 federally recognized Native American tribes in America. That’s a very big mission field, with an unlimited amount of potential—literally a sleeping giant that has only now begun to awaken. Their plans are big because the potential is enormous!

In this new season, God is calling this couple to leave what is comfortable and secure to embrace something much bigger than them. The Groomer’s mission statement is: Attempt something so big that unless God intervenes, it is bound to fail. They understand that the harvest is overflowing and the Lord of the Harvest is looking for those who will refuse the security and comforts of life in order to embrace a new move of the Holy Spirit to reach “them” for Him. 📺

If you would like to know more about the Native American Initiative partnership that Christ For The Nations has with Rod and Celeste Groomer, go to www.geobound.org. For information about receiving training to go on the mission field, go to cfni.org/explore-majors-courses.



CHRISTIANS MUST VOTE

• By Dennis Lindsay

IT IS A CRITICAL TIME IN AMERICA. Religious liberties are being threatened. Defenseless babies are killed for the crime of being unborn. The reality of gender differences is ignored, and even mentioning that fact is called hate speech. We are still struggling to regain the enormous financial losses from end of the last decade.

America is at a crossroads. Fortunately, we have an opportunity to make our voices heard. We are currently in the middle of a presidential election, and it is so vital that all Christians be informed and involved. We cannot vote according to tradition; we must vote our conscience. There are several candidates running this year that embrace the same biblical values that we do at CFNI, but we must take time to learn what they stand for and how their values impact their decisions. Here, one candidate, Ted Cruz, explains the importance of religious liberty.

“This nation we love is unique in the annals of the history of the world. We are a nation that was founded by men and women fleeing religious oppression; fleeing kings and monarchs that would try to oppress them, that would tell them who you may worship and who you may not. And men and women fled from all over the world to

come to the New World to seek out a land where every one of us could worship the Lord God Almighty with all of our hearts, minds and souls, free of the government getting in the way.

As the Declaration of Independence put it so powerfully, ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal and that they are endowed,’ not by a king, not by a queen, not even by a president. They are ‘endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights and among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.’ With those words, this nation sprung into existence. There is a reason why in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the very first protection in the very First Amendment is the Freedom of Religion. If we cannot worship God, if we cannot live according to our faith, then all other liberties fade away. Never have the threats been greater to religious liberty than they are right here and now today.”

In order to learn more about all the presidential candidates and make an informed, godly decision, go to Christianvoterguide.com and take time to research the people who are running for one of the most important offices in the world. **YOUR VOTE COUNTS.** 🇺🇸



REGISTER NOW CFNI.ORG/CAMPUSDAYS

The Truth Set Her



• By **Julene Fleurmond**

The Gospel is powerful and stirs the hearts of people to experience the love of Christ no matter their background or upbringing. Nancy Wojtowicz was a devoted Mormon for many years before her eyes were opened to the truth of Jesus Christ. Now an alumna of CFNI and a teacher in the CFNI Preschool, Nancy's testimony shows the power of God to change a life.

Nancy was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, a fifth generation Mormon from a very devout family. There were few Christian churches where she lived, and Nancy had no idea what they believed. "I was taught that they were deceived and we, as Mormons, had the only truth," Nancy recalls. During college Nancy met her husband John. He had not been raised a Mormon, but Nancy says one of the most attractive qualities in John was his heart to share his faith with others. After marrying, they were blessed with two beautiful daughters and moved to Denver, Colorado. At that same time, a new Mormon temple was opening in the area, which Nancy and John found exciting. Normally the only people who are allowed to enter the temple are Mormons who have been proven devout

through a detailed interview process (a few of the requirements are that they must not smoke, drink or commit adultery, and they must pay their tithe and fasting offerings). When a new temple is built, there is an open house that gives members an opportunity to evangelize their non-Mormon friends by inviting them to tour the temple.

Nancy and John took a couple from work on the tour. As they left the temple, they were met by a group of people carrying signs and handing out books. This was a regular occurrence, and Nancy and other Mormons believed it was proof they were being persecuted since they had the only true gospel. This time, however, it was different. After Nancy's husband read the book he was given, his eyes were opened to the deception of Mormonism. He had believed, as all Mormons do, that the *Book of Mormon* was the only true word of God. Mormons believe the Bible has been changed and tampered with in translation, and so is not authoritative—only the *Book of Mormon*, by Joseph Smith, is completely accurate. The book that changed his mind showed how Joseph Smith had changed the words and meaning in that book as his concept of God changed.

“Nancy, we have been lied to!” John said. At the time, Nancy thought he was crazy. John immediately began looking for a Christian pastor to teach him the truth, connecting with a Lutheran pastor who came to their house to teach him the Bible. Nancy didn’t even want the pastor in her house because she was afraid of him. She’d been taught that anyone who took money as compensation for preaching was hired by Satan. But John was adamant about the changes that he felt were necessary, including their children not attending the Mormon church. After they had a huge argument about this, Nancy left the house to get counsel from her Mormon bishop. His response surprised her. He told her to simply love her husband in spite of how she felt. Many of their friends from the Mormon church found out that her husband John had renounced Mormonism, and offered to help her get away from him by taking her and the children to a different state or back to her parents. Nancy was surprised by the suggestion, and based on the advice from the bishop, she told them that would not be necessary.

Nancy decided to listen to the Christian pastor out of respect for her husband. As the pastor taught the truth about the Bible, the lies she’d been taught as a Mormon came to light. For the first time Nancy understood what the Bible really said. What she didn’t know at the time was that the group of people that had given her husband the book about Mormonism was praying for her family. Over several months of meeting with the Lutheran pastor every week, the Lord gradually softened her heart. Her husband would leave Christian music on in the house and at first she would always turn it off . . . but she eventually started enjoying it, even feeling it minister to her spirit.

At the same time, Nancy was in charge of leading the music for the Mormon services, but after several weeks she could hardly even walk into the Mormon church and couldn’t wait to leave. Finally, things came to a head. A Mormon minister called John to discuss the situation. John proceeded to share the truth about Jesus Christ dying for our salvation and the reality of having a personal relationship with Him. The minister declared this was enough for John to be excommunicated from the Mormon church. “This was the final piece that helped me understand that

salvation is a free gift, not something to earn or do. Jesus had paid the price and did it all,” Nancy shares. And hearing the Mormon minister emphatically reject this truth severed her last tie to the Mormon faith.

Nancy accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior, and she felt relief, joy and freedom like never before. “I felt like a new person!” she says. She and her family began attending a Lutheran church regularly, and she began to study and read the Bible for the first time. They also attended meetings with the group Ex-Mormons and Christians United for Jesus, and after a year began teaching and ministering to various Christian churches all over Colorado. They shared their testimonies and explained the differences between Mormonism and Christianity, teaching people how to share their faith with Mormons.

Twenty-four years after she became a Christian, the Lord called Nancy, now a widow, to CFNI. “I believe I was like a puzzle with a lot of missing pieces,” she says. “God brought me here to complete the puzzle, and root me deeply in His love and His word.” She shares that new foundations were formed in her life through completing the Children’s and Family Major and the New Testament Church Leadership Major. “I now know my identity in Christ. I know what it means to be a daughter of the King. I know I am loved for who I am, not what I can do.” As a preschool teacher in the CFNI Preschool, she shares this gospel of God’s grace and love with the next generation. 🌱

For more information about how to reach Mormons for Jesus, go to cfnthevoice.com/reachingthemormons.



THE SUN NEVER SETS ON THE CFNI

EL SALVADOR

Escuela Apostolica Ministerial Cristo a las Naciones was founded in 1992 by Drs. Ricardo and Reina Salazar. The vision of this school is to be a breeding ground for new leaders and pastors, which are then sent to other countries and provinces to open extensions.



CFNI International Ministries
34 Associated Bible Schools in 23 countries

*"There is nowhere else that you are impacting students who will impact the world in a more compact, concise way than you can do here at CFNI. **Then the sun will never set on the impact you will have on the world** because these students will minister all around the world."*

— Pastor Mike Hayes,
Senior Pastor of Covenant Church in Carrollton, Texas

CFNI ASSOCIATED BIBLE SCHOOLS

Imagine that you are an international student who experienced great teaching at a Bible school like CFNI and wanted to carry the experience with you—to let others in your country have the same God-encounters you did. Not everyone can come

to the U.S. for Bible school training like CFNI in Dallas. It is just not possible for this one school to accommodate all of the people who need Bible training in order to bring the light of the Gospel to their nations. But our alumni are filling this need

FAMILY

BELARUS

Starting in 1994, CFNI Belarus is now the largest Bible school in the country. Belarus was once part of the Soviet Union and many consider CFNB the first step toward having a Christian University in the former Soviet Union.



JAPAN

Christ For the Nations Japan was established by CFNI graduates Charles and Dianne Gyurko in 1985. In 1994, CFNJ was accepted as CFNI's first Associate Bible School. They have translated some of Gordon Lindsay's books into Japanese and are giving them away.



GERMANY

Founded in 1975, Glaubenszentrum just celebrated its 40th year anniversary, and it is only getting stronger. It has a discipleship training school, a school of ministry, a school of worship and a school of missions. See Dennis Lindsay's article on page 6 for more information.



► FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO CFN.ORG/MAP

with the help of our Association of Bible Schools (ABS) ministry, now in over 23 nations.

Our ABS students, staff and faculty are pioneers in evangelism, church planting, worship and music ministry, children's and teen ministry, and more.

They are truly vibrant and powerful expressions of the Christ For The Nations DNA. While carrying the CFNI name and staying true to our vision of taking the Gospel to the world, each Bible school is unique and offers academic and practical training programs as determined by its national context and culture.



THE WONDERS OF GOD'S CREATION

• By Dennis Lindsay

*"Oh Lord, how numerous are your works.
In wisdom you have made them all: the earth is full of your riches."
—Psalm 104:24*

Have you ever watched a flock of flying birds suddenly make a swooping turn in perfect unison together? It is amazing to see that not just some of them, but every single one of them instantly changes direction and flies in a different direction. Scientists think mankind knows something about communication and navigation. Yet, birds have a far greater superiority and know precisely, even at a split second in time, when to change direction and continue their flight plan.

Even more amazing is that every year birds migrate to some distant place and then return to their annual breeding ground and same nest, arriving on a given day. Think also of the millions of other marvels of creation that surround us. Did each of these creatures happen by chance? Or is there a Master Designer of the entire universe and all that is therein?

According to the unsubstantiated theory of evolutionism, sometime in the past, between 15 to 30 billion years ago, all the matter in the universe was concentrated into one very compact place in some unknown location, and it was much tinier than the period at the end of this sentence. Amazingly, and for some unknown reason, this tiny dot exploded. As a result of this assumed explosion, billions of galaxies formed, and eventually planets—the Earth, life, trees, flowers, fish, birds, animals and human beings in all of their complexity evolved for no reason or purpose whatsoever, the result of unintelligent accidents.

In other words, every life form that eventually appeared on Earth seemingly evolved by mindless, random chances over millions of years. Many forms of life "just happened" to evolve with the ability to reproduce. Then, there were some life forms that "just happened" to evolve with the ability to walk along vertical walls and ceilings of wood, concrete and glass. Other life forms were gifted by "nature" to shine and glow in the dark. Amazingly, the spider by some quirk of "nature" was given the ability to make silk, which pound-for-pound is stronger than steel.



Another creature was gifted with the amazing ability to make a 90 degree turn in under 50 milliseconds, while flying in a straight line. Think about it. We are to believe that all of these remarkable abilities came into existence by random chance over millions and billions of years. We are expected to believe that there was no mind, intelligence or designer involved. This fantasy has nothing to do with science; instead, it is pure fiction.

Samuel Morse, who invented the telegraph system and Morse code, sent the very first telegraph from Washington, D. C. to Baltimore, Maryland, on May 24, 1844. His message consisted of a brief quotation from Numbers 23:23: "What hath God wrought!" (fashioned, formed, created). Mr. Morse boldly testified to what everyone truly understands, whether they admit it or not—design demands a designer. Morse's code and the telegraph system reflect design and a designer who was Samuel Morse. Obviously, the Supreme Designer, Who created Mr. Morse and every part of his invention, is the Creator of the universe. "For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God"

(Hebrews 3:4). The advancements of modern technology are truly marvelous. However, the complexity and intricacy of God's creation is infinitely far more incredible and marvelous.

The Bible speaks that nature itself testifies that nothing happens by chance. Instead, all of creation reveals the Creator and testifies to His intelligent, creative hand. I have written a book in two volumes, *Nature Speaks of Intelligent Design: God's Wonders of Creation*, that explains in detail how God has created amazing and marvelous creatures, and it reveals how they could not have just evolved by accident. The truth of this evidence is presented simply by nature—there is a Creator.

As you look closely at the uniqueness and intricacies of each creature that is highlighted in these volumes, you will observe the wonders of God's creation and how mankind has benefited from them. Scientists have even replicated many of the intelligent principles, which they discovered were originally programmed in nature, such as fuel efficiency, airport security, military technology and aerodynamics.

God's Creation

As you read these two volumes, you will see how everything fits into God's perfect plan and how much He loves His creation. It was God's wedding present to Adam and Eve and for their descendants to enjoy. Here are just a few things the Bible has to say about God's creation:

"The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; the world and all its fullness, You have founded them. The north and the south, You have created them" (Psalm 89:11, 12).

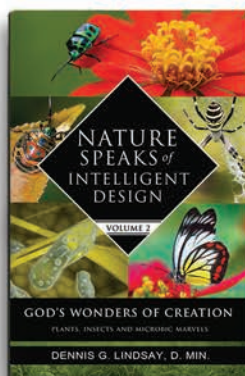
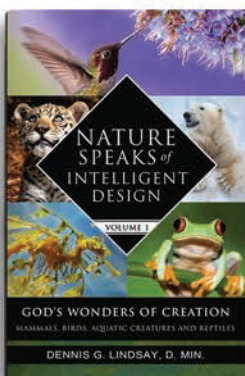
You have set in place, what is man that You are mindful of him, the son of man that You care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of Your hands; You put everything under his feet: all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!" (Psalm 8:3-9).

The advancements of modern technology are truly marvelous. However, the complexity and intricacy of God's creation is infinitely far more incredible and marvelous.

"O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom have You made them all; the earth is full of Your creatures. Here is the sea, great and wide, which teems with creatures innumerable, living things both small and great" (Psalm 104:24, 25).

"When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which

The Word is very clear about presenting the truth about how and where all things were created. God created nature, so why wouldn't it point back to its very own Creator? Let the evidence we witness every day in the splendor before us continue to be a powerful reminder of Who God is and the magnitude of His love for each one of us. 🍃



Dennis Lindsay

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THE BATTLE BETWEEN FAITH AND COMMON SENSE



• By Dr. Jim Mackey



I have always viewed faith and unbelief as a contrast between believing God and not believing God. But I have recently had to change my theological position.

Now, I see it more as a conflict between faith and common sense. The historical pattern of the way God leads His people is a challenge to human logic and reasoning, more than a simple “Do I believe God or not?” question.

The reality is that unbelief is birthed out of a violation of my offended common sense. When God

brought the Israelites out of Egypt, He could have led them in a variety of directions, but He purposely chose to lead them into a dead end. The impassable Red Sea was in front and the unconquerable armies of Pharaoh were behind. That is not the way I would do it. After 400 years of cruel slavery, it just makes sense to lead these beaten-down people the easiest and quickest way to the Promise Land. After all, they needed a break. This is the voice of my human sympathies and the common sense approach to solving problems. Simply put: common sense is not faith, and faith is not common sense. They flatly contradict each other.

Dead ends may be the only place where common sense can be conquered, and faith can become a genuine personal possession. They may be the only place where God can teach us a new way to approach life. My sustaining grace is in knowing that He led me there. I wasn't rebellious or stubborn; I was following. Making camp at the Red Sea, in the will of God, where there is no place to go and nowhere to turn, is part of the plan and purpose of God to bring about the conquering of both my common sense AND the defeat of my enemies ... neither of which I would have gained without this wilderness experience.

COMMON SENSE IS NOT FAITH,
AND FAITH IS NOT COMMON
SENSE. THEY FLATLY CONTRADICT
EACH OTHER.

Where did God defeat Israel's enemies? In the place of their dead end, their perplexity, their utter hopelessness, and where common sense had to bow before Divine wisdom in trusting faith. It's pretty exciting to hear the voice of God in the pristine moment of some "mountain top" experience, when things are crystal clear, and obedience comes easy. But it's not so exciting when you have to walk out that Divine word and run head-on into the hard cold facts of life: opposition, conflict, struggle, pain, grief, loss, lack. It's not so easy when my common sense tries to dominate, and even challenge the way God is leading me!

God is more concerned about the stability of my long-term faith than my short-term relief. Faith must be tested. Just that: tested, not destroyed! Generally speaking, faith is turned into an active and personal possession through conflict rather than ease.

GOD IS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT
THE STABILITY OF MY LONG-TERM
FAITH THAN MY SHORT-TERM
RELIEF. FAITH MUST BE TESTED.

Usually, faith grows by dealing with obstinate people, not kind ones, by dealing with sickness, not health and by dealing with lack, not sufficiency.

However, when common sense submits to God's leading, when I embrace the way He has chosen for me, rather than the way I would choose if I were in control of my life, God is glorified and I can sing what Israel sang on the other side of the Red Sea: "I will sing unto the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea" (Exodus 15:1). Where were Israel's enemies overthrown? At a dead end—in the place where the sovereign God purposely led them—that is where God violated their common sense. When you find yourself thinking, "This is love? This is God's favor? This is God's blessing? All I wanted to do was follow Him!" that is the perfect place to, "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). As you take time to listen to God's voice instead of your common sense, your faith will rise and your enemies will be defeated. 🏹

Dr. Jim Mackey is the Founder and President of Shepherd Springs Ministries, an international service ministry to the family of ministers. He also served as an adjunct professor at CFNI for many years. He has been happily married to Lynette for 45 years and has three children and 10 grandchildren.



● By Tati Martínez

Veintitrés años de cristiana, y ¿cómo había sido posible que no me diera cuenta del valor que Dios le ha dado a la vida? ¿Cómo era posible que no me parara a favor de ella? Una tristeza, sí, y sé que muchos están en la condición que yo me encontraba. Nunca imaginé que mi mundo cambiaría después de leer un libro que expone los efectos negativos del humanismo en la sociedad. ¿Humanismo? Ni siquiera entendía el concepto, ni la gravedad de esta corriente ideológica, hasta que su significado comenzó a retumbar en mi mente y corazón: “Sistema o modo de pensar que se centra en el razonamiento humano.”

En el huerto del Edén, Dios le dio a Adán una instrucción: “Puedes comer de todos los árboles del huerto, excepto de uno. Si lo haces, morirás” (Génesis 2:17-18). Más adelante, vemos cómo Satanás tienta a Eva. “¿Con qué Dios ha dicho: No comas de todo árbol del huerto?” cuestionó la serpiente. Dios no dijo eso, dijo que podían comer de todos a excepción de uno. Eva es manipulada con el siguiente concepto: “Eva, tú no vas a morir; si tú comes de este fruto, serás como Dios.” Aquí surge un concepto del humanismo, ser como Dios, tomar decisiones por encima de las de él.

Fue ahí donde las piezas comenzaron a tener sentido; te preguntarás: ¿qué tiene que ver esto con el tema de la vida? ¡Todo! Tratar de ser como Dios y usar nuestro propio razonamiento es peligroso.

El tema del aborto ha polarizado la opinión mundial en dos bandos: un grupo que se apoya en la enseñanza humanista de que el hombre es la medida de todas las cosas, y dice que la mujer tiene el derecho a la libre elección. Y del otro lado tenemos a los que se apoyan en las invariables enseñanzas de las Sagradas Escrituras, y que acepta y enseña que sólo Dios tiene el derecho de quitar la vida.

Desde ese punto de vista humanista, todo es lícito, nada es inmoral; la vida y sus repercusiones son relativas. Hoy día no se dice que el aborto es un asesinato; es simplemente una “interrupción del embarazo.” Estas fueron algunas de las muchas cosas que abrieron mis ojos ante la horrible realidad de lo que es el aborto.

UNA TERRIBLE REALIDAD

Únicamente en los Estados Unidos ha habido casi 60 millones de abortos. En 2010, leí un artículo que decía: “Más de 1,500 clínicas de aborto han cerrado sus puertas a razón de la oración afuera de ellas.”

Fue en ese momento que me di cuenta que nosotros, la iglesia, no sólo podemos, sino que debemos hacer algo por la vida. Doy clases en la escuela de español de Cristo para las Naciones en Dallas, Texas, y como directora del ministerio de Ya Basta, hablé con los estudiantes de la importancia de involucrarnos en el tema. Habíamos ido por seis años a orar afuera de una clínica de esta ciudad; en 2015, se cerró. Pero, nuestra tarea no termina; ahora vamos a otra que practica abortos hasta los seis meses de embarazo.

Además, anualmente participamos en la “Marcha por la Vida,” en el entendido de que definitivamente es un cumplimiento de nuestro deber como creyentes: “Libra a los que son llevados a la muerte” (Proverbios 24:11).

Es por ello que Cristo para las Naciones moviliza a cientos de estudiantes para que participen en esta marcha. Ellos han entendido que no sólo es caminar con letreros, sino también interceder y orar. Las oraciones llegan a los oídos de Dios, y habrá respuestas. 🙏

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LEAVING A LEGACY

• By Paul McDermott, CFNI General Counsel

“A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children, but the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous” (Proverbs 13:22).

Inheritance typically refers to material possessions such as real estate, personal property or something with monetary or sentimental value. However, as believers, we know that the most important inheritance we can give to the next generation is spiritual. The type of legacy we hope to pass on is our saving faith and an example of a life lived for God.


God has woven CFNI into the fabric of my family heritage. My father-in-law graduated from CFNI in 2000. I sat in the audience at his graduation, listening to Freda Lindsay, Co-Founder of CFNI, encourage the crowd to sow financial seed so that CFNI could continue its work of training ministers to reach the nations. I’m glad people gave and continued to give because 10 years later, I was privileged to attend and graduate

from CFNI. In the coming years, I will encourage my children to attend CFNI. My desire is to pass the CFNI spiritual DNA to the next generation, including my children and grandchildren.

I hope and pray that CFNI continues to fulfill its mission of training world-changers for generations to come. One important way that we can all ensure it does this is by including CFNI in our estate planning documents. In addition to regular giving to CFNI, you can also include a specific gift to CFNI in your will or trust. Whether you use an Internet-based document assembly program or have an attorney draft your will, be sure to include a gift to CFNI.

The main inheritance I leave my children is the legacy of teaching them to live for God by faith. The secondary part of the inheritance I leave to my children and grandchildren is financial and includes doing my part to insure CFNI is well funded for future generations.

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Before making any changes, please consult with your attorney and/or tax professional first since the legal consequences and tax implications vary for each person.

and I will punish anyone who hurts them.¹¹ They will have their own ruler again.¹² He will not be a foreigner. And I will invite him to be a priest at my altars, and he shall approach me, for who would dare to come uninvited?¹³ And you shall be my people and I will be your God.

¹⁴ Suddenly the devastating whirlwind of the Lord roars with fury; it shall burst upon the heads of the wicked.¹⁵ The Lord will not call off the fierceness of his wrath until it has finished all the terrible destruction he has planned. Later on¹⁶ you will understand what I am telling you.

31 AT THAT TIME, says the Lord, all the families of Israel shall recognize me as the Lord; they shall act like my people.² I will care for them as I did those who escaped from Egypt, to whom I showed my mercies in the wilderness, when ³ I sought for rest.⁴ For long ago the Lord had sought for rest.⁵ For long ago the Lord had sought for rest.⁶ I have loved you, O my people, with an everlasting love, with loving-kindness I have drawn you to me.⁷ I will rebuild your nation, O virgin of ⁸ You will again be happy and dance merrily with the timbrels.⁹ Again you will plant your vineyards upon the mountains of Samaria and eat from your own gardens there.

The day shall come when watchmen on the hills of Ephraim will call out and say, "Arise, and let us go up to ¹⁰ the Lord our God." For the Lord says, Sing with joy for all that I will do for ¹¹ the great-joy of the nations! Shout out with praise and joy: "The Lord has saved his people, the remnant of ¹² For I will bring them from the north and from earth's farthest ends, not forgetting their blind and lame, young mothers with their little ones, those ready to give birth. It will be a great company who comes.¹³ Tears of joy shall stream down their faces, and I will lead them home with great care. They shall walk beside the quiet streams and not stumble. For I am a Father to ¹⁴ and Ephraim is my oldest child.

¹⁵ Listen to this message from the Lord,

¹⁶ This verse probably refers to the restoration after the Babylonian captivity (the rulers of the Medianians were priests as well as kings) as well as to the final restoration under Christ. ¹⁷ Literally, "to the end of days." ¹⁸ Symbolic mother of the northern tribes, who were taken away by the Assyrians in 722 BC. ¹⁹ Literally, "for your work shall be rewarded."

"I will rebuild your nation,"

you nations of the world, and publish it abroad: The Lord who scattered his people will gather them back together again and watch over them as a shepherd does his flock.¹¹ He will save ¹² from those who are too strong for them!¹³ They shall come home and sing songs of joy upon the hills of ¹⁴ and shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord—the good crops, the wheat and the wine and the oil, and the healthy flocks and herds. Their life shall be like a watered garden, and all their sorrows shall be gone.¹⁵ The young girls will dance for joy, and men folk—old and young—will take their part in all the fun; for I will turn their mourning into joy and I will comfort them and make them rejoice, for their captivity with all its sorrows will be behind them.¹⁶ I will feast the priests with the abundance of offerings brought to them at the Temple; I will satisfy my people with my bounty, says the Lord.

¹⁷ The Lord spoke to me again, saying: In Ramah there is bitter weeping, Rachel¹⁸ is weeping for her children and she cannot be comforted, for they are gone.¹⁹ But the Lord says: Don't cry any longer, for I have heard your prayers²⁰ and you will see them again; they will come back to you from the distant land of the enemy.²¹ There is hope for your future, says the Lord, and your children will come again to their own land.

²² I have heard Ephraim's groans: "You have punished me greatly, but I needed it all, as a calf must be trained for the yoke. Turn me again to you and restore me, for you alone are the Lord, my God."²³ I turned away from God but I was sorry afterward. I kicked myself for my stupidity. I was thoroughly ashamed of all I did in younger days.²⁴

²⁵ And the Lord replies: Ephraim is still my son, my darling child. I had to punish him, but I still love him. I long for him and surely will have mercy on him.

²⁶ As you travel into exile, set up road signs pointing back to ²⁷ Mark your pathway well. For you shall return again.

"I will make a new covenant"

O virgin ¹ to your cities here.² How long will you vacillate, O wayward daughter? For the Lord will cause something new and different to happen—³ shall seek him.

⁴ The Lord of Hosts, the God of ⁵ says: When I bring them back again they shall say in Judah and her cities, "The Lord bless you, O center of righteousness, O holy hill!"⁶ And city dwellers and farmers and shepherds alike shall live together in peace and happiness.⁷ For I have given rest to the weary and joy to all the sorrowing.

(Then Jeremiah awakened, "Such sleep is very sweet!" he said.)

⁸ The Lord says: The time will come when I will greatly increase the population and multiply the number of cattle here in ⁹ In the past I painstakingly destroyed the nation but now I will carefully build it up.¹⁰ The people shall no longer quote this proverb—"Children pay for their fathers' sins."¹¹ For everyone shall die for his own sins—the person eating sour grapes is the one whose teeth are set on edge.

¹² The day will come, says the Lord, when I will make a new contract with the people of ¹³ and ¹⁴ It won't be like the one I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a contract they broke, forcing me to reject them,¹⁵ says the Lord.

¹⁶ But this is the new contract I will make with them: I will inscribe my laws upon their hearts¹⁷ so that they shall want to honor me¹⁸ then they shall truly be my people and I will be their God.¹⁹ At that time I will no longer be necessary to admonish one another to know the Lord. For everyone, both great and small, shall really know me then, says the Lord, and I will forgive and forget their sins.

²⁰ The Lord who gives us sunlight in the daytime and the moon and stars to light the night, and who stirs the sea to make the rising waves—his name is Lord of

Hosts—says this:
²¹ I am as likely to reject my people ²² as I am to do away with these laws of nature!²³ Not until the heavens can be measured and the foundations of the earth forever for their sins!

²⁴ For the time is coming, says the Lord, when all ²⁵ shall be rebuilt for the Lord, from the Tower of Hananel at the northeast corner,²⁶ to the Corner Gate at the northwest,²⁷ and from the Hill of Gareb at the southwest,²⁸ across to Goah on the southeast.²⁹ And the entire city including the graveyard and ash dump in the valley shall be holy to the Lord, and so shall all the fields out to the brook of Kidron, and side of the city, it shall never again be captured or destroyed.

³⁰ The following message came to Jeremiah from the Lord in the tenth year of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah (which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign).³¹ At this time Jeremiah was imprisoned in the dungeon beneath³² the palace, while the Babylonian army was besieging ³³ King Zedekiah had put him there for continuing to prophesy that the city would be conquered by the king of Babylon, and that King Zedekiah would be caught and taken as a prisoner before the king of Babylon for trial and sentencing.

³⁴ He shall take you to Babylon and imprison you there for many years until you die. Why fight the facts? You can't win! Surrender now!" Jeremiah had told him again and again.

³⁵ Then this message from the Lord came to Jeremiah: Your cousin Hanamel (son of Shallum) will soon arrive to ask you to buy the farm he owns in Anathoth, for by law you have a chance to buy before it is offered to anyone else.³⁶ So Hanamel came, as the Lord had said he would, and

literally, "a woman shall court a suitor," or, "a woman shall encompass a man." ² Literally, "The Lord who gives us sunlight in the daytime and the moon and stars to light the night, and who stirs the sea to make the rising waves—his name is Lord of Hosts." ³ Some versions read, "a covenant." ⁴ Literally, "to the end of days." ⁵ In Jeremiah 17:1 there is a implied. ⁶ Literally, "in the court."

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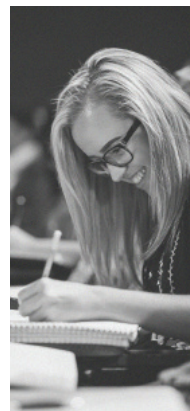
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