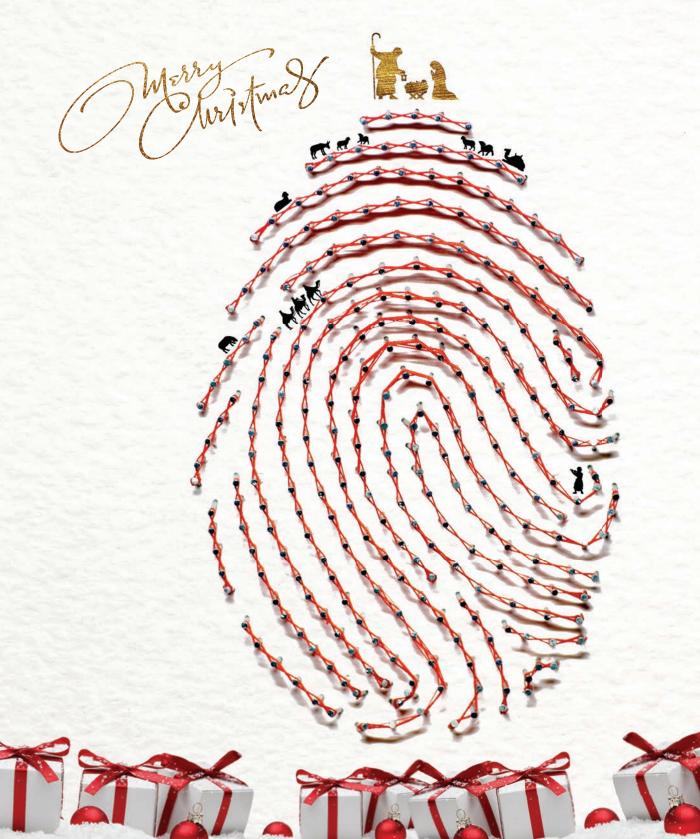
THE VOICE

CHRIST FOR THE NATIONS



THE VOICE FALL 2017 ISSUE #795

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MEET THE VOICE

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Christ For The Nations' mission is to impact humanity with the gospel of Jesus Christ.



COVER DESIGN STORY: He came here knowing His blood would be shed for us. Our identity is revealed through the blood of Jesus.

CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR



Kiplin Batchelor CFN Board Vice Chair Exec. Assistant Alumni Assistant Director CFN Magazine Managing Editor

This issue's cover is a creative design, highlighting the Christmas story by our graphic designer, Mari Satani. The thumbprint artwork with nails represents the sufferings of Christ and the thread represents His blood that paid the price for us to be

forgiven and reconciled to God. We worship a victorious King, Who conquered sin and death, but we must never forget the story began in an unattractive manger, with an unassuming baby, wrapped in unappealing swaddling clothes. The baby never looked like He was worth much, given the setting at birth, but God's fingerprint was on Him. This teaches us that identity and legitimacy as a son has nothing to do with our environment and location, but everything to do with our spiritual relationship with God.

As you celebrate the Christmas season with friends and family, we want you to know that you are loved by God and that His fingerprint is all over you. Rejoice, even if life looks like an unattractive manger scene, because great treasures are often hidden by God in obscure and unattractive places. Isn't it incredibly amazing how one 'manger baby' transformed the world!

On behalf of President Dennis Lindsay and his wife, Ginger, our Editor in Chief, and the CFNI staff and faculty, we wish you our faithful readers a wonderful Christmas. Thank you for being a faithful donor and supporter of the vision and mission of CFNI in 2017. May your home and life be filled with precious blessings, and we pray 2018 will be the beginning of new adventures with God.

Next year CFN will be hosting a few events to highlight and celebrate its 70th anniversary as a global mission's organization with a Bible Institute. We will keep you informed in print and online in the coming weeks, so that you, your family and friends can make plans to be here and celebrate the rich legacy of the Word, Worship and World missions with us. Merry Christmas!

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CALENDAR

THE VOICE FALL 2017 ISSUE #795



(OPTIONAL) ENGLAND EXTENSION TOUR - JUNE 2 - JUNE 7

SIGNS *in* THE HEAVENS

• By Dennis Lindsay

APOCALYPTIC SIGNS

The first Solar Eclipse in 99 years has crossed the entire U.S. continent: vicious hurricanes hammered the south and east; wildfires wiped out the west; earthquake in Mexico; murdering spirit kills in Las Vegas and New York City, chaos continues in world affairs. All of these events just followed the four Blood Moons, two more solar eclipses, and the recent alignment of planets, stars, sun, moon and comet 67 in the constellation Virgo, which hasn't occurred since the beginning of time. What do these signs mean?

SIGNS AREN'T NEW

The signs God has provided for us are like how a pitcher and catcher communicate in baseball. If the pitcher doesn't understand the meaning of the signs shown to him, chaos can occur. **If a Christian doesn't know and understand** the meaning of the signs of the times, they will also not be aware of the coming events that cause fear, anxiety and terror.

THE DAYS OF NOAH

Jesus said, "As it was ..." Before the flood of Noah's day there was violence, wars, eating and drinking and marriages (Matthew 24:36-39). Noah faced the same circumstances that Christians face today. In Noah's day, people didn't believe a flood was coming, and today, people don't believe Jesus is coming back—soon! In 2 Peter 2:5, Noah is described as a "preacher of righteousness." The Bible reveals that God is about to wrap up history. However, there will be a great revival that will occur before He visibly returns.

ARE WE READY?

Are we aware of the signs? Or are we preoccupied, distracted

and entangled with the affairs of this life? Followers of Jesus must take notice, "Soldiers don't get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them" (2 Timothy 2:4). Let us not be so involved with the cares of this world that we are unaware of the signs God is giving us of His soon return.

THE GOOD NEWS: GREAT REVIVAL IS COMING

Revival and the infilling of the Spirit are not just for holy living alone, but also for empowered evangelism. The good news is the Gospel will be proclaimed "... To every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" (Revelations 14:6, 7). Let's do our part—understand the signs and be ready!

AWAKEN THE DAWN + RISE UP

• By Melanie Pineros

HE WOMEN'S MARCH at our nation's capital in January stirred up many liberal issues in our nation. Along with 500,000 women were scores of witches who plotted evil, cursing our Commander-in-Chief and his Cabinet. So in response to a rapidly advancing unrighteous women's movement, on October 9, Lou Engle, Cindy Jacobs, and thousands of God-fearing women, united in Washington, D.C., on the National Mall to cry out to God and to "Rise Up" among those who would be catalysts for the soon-coming, mighty move of God across our land. Can a nation be saved in a day? Yes, when women pray! Lou Engle said, "Once again, women must birth a sweeping new Jesus movement, rising up in the nation as great evangelists and spiritual mothers to turn us back to God ... Esthers and Deborahs."

This is exactly what happened when thousands of voices began to pray and intercede. In the preceding days, outreaches were launched all over the city—and there were many salvations, as one food truck server led 52 people to Jesus, blind eyes were opened—physically and spiritually—and many experienced the love of God and the power of reconciliation.

Reconciliation is defined in *Strong's Concordance* as, "A restoration to favor; to properly, decisively change, as when two parties reconcile when coming (changing) to the same position." In a day where America is arguably the most divided it has been since the Civil War era, thousands of women and men answered the call to the capital grounds to contend for righteousness and the souls of this generation—and the generations to come.

America answered the call to the National Mall for a new Jesus Movement. Lou Engle, Alveda King and Cindy Jacobs





 24 hour prayer and worship on the National Mall.
58 tents. 50 states.
One voice.

God can transform a nation with hearts that are ready for change.



Melanie Pineros Executive Assistant to CFN President and CEO, CFNI alumna; Bachelor of Arts, Clemson University.

As both men and women gathered Monday at 8:00 AM, the morning began with a powerful series of prophetic acts of reconciliation.

On this Columbus Day—a day painfully reminding our nation's First Peoples of the ravages that marked their history with hundreds of years of pain and suffering, largely ignored, forgiveness was heartbrokenly asked for by white sisters, and received with tears of joy by American Indians.

To heal a divided land, a nation must go back to deal with its roots.

More foundation-shifting reconciliations were to follow, including those between blacks and whites, latinos and blacks and whites, and fathers and daughters.

The day continued with a moral outcry against abortion, and intercession for President Trump and our legislative and judicial branches of government. This day and the days preceding were not about who was gathered around the microphone on a platform, but about gathering the Body of Christ in one accord, and proclaiming with one voice the love and life of Jesus into our land.

Something shifted, to the glory of God, in the nation's capital that weekend, October 6-9. The Church must continue to rise up with fervency and intercede for America—"Yes, a nation can be saved in a day."



CFNI ALUMNUS ROBERT NEWSOM

YOUR STEPS ARE ORDERED BY GOD!

Ginger Lindsay meets with CFNI alumnus Robert Newsom.

• By Kiplin Batchelor



obert Newsom is a CFNI grad and one of the most passionate Christians you will At an age when most

ever meet. At an age when most people retire, Robert, at 65 years old, is doing just the opposite. This native Texan gave his heart to Jesus at 12 years old in a Methodist church and grew with a deep love for God. One day as a teen he had a supernatural encounter in his church. He spoke in tongues and it was quite the shocker for the small church, but he never quit. He had read in the book of Acts about signs and wonders and it transformed his life. Robert and his wife, Robbie of 46 years, recently started a ministry in his hometown of Sulphur Springs, Texas, where God has been transforming lives. A few months after they started the home Bible study, the crowd kept on getting larger and larger until they ran out of space. Eventually Robert and a core team started One Accord Ministries in 2016 through Christ For The Nations' FMC, where Robert had received his ministerial license after graduating from CFNI.

A few years ago when Robert retired from being the County Judge for over 20 years, attending school was nowhere on his mind. He simply wanted to travel and do missions as he had done before in the Philippines and Ethiopia, but God spoke to him about enrolling at CFNI. Though it was not on his radar, he gladly said, "Yes," to the God Who had led him to law school in the early 70's when he was a dairy farmer. **Without any legal experience, Robert had studied and passed**

GOD'S PLANS ARE SO MUCH GREATER THAN OUR OWN.

the LSAT exam for entry to Law school simply because God

told him to do it. After getting accepted by Texas A & M, he sold his house and farm and relocated to Fort Worth where he lived in a mobile home and studied law. Thirty plus years later in his 60s, here he was studying again, but this time at CFNI with a bunch of passionate young people. The age difference didn't bother him at all. He was just grateful to be learning and to be in the will of God with such a diverse student body. For him, "To be among the students, was really transforming." If that weren't enough, Robert signed up for CFNI's Kids For The Nations (KFN) summer camp, and served the kids ministry. He recalls it as one of his most treasured times on campus.

Robert is one of CFNI's faithful supporters. Although he lives almost two hours away, He has been coming to CFNI's Night Of Worship for many years and has brought friends and families to experience God's presence at CFNI. He and his ministry also support CFNI's annual Envision Banquet to raise funds for scholarship students. **Not only** that, he has offered to pay one year's tuition in full to all nine of his grandchildren who wish to study at CFNI. One has already taken up his offer and is currently enrolled here. This alumnus is truly one of a kind!

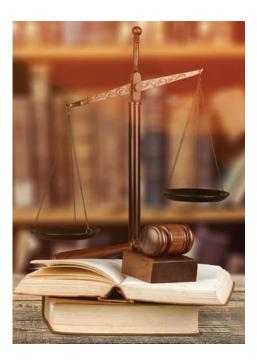
Besides being passionate and humble, Robert is very unassuming. It is difficult to imagine him as a DA or a Judge in a courtroom, trying thousands of cases over a long career, but he **did just that.** When he graduated from CFNI, God took him out of retirement to be a County Judge again where he currently works while doing ministry to the prisoners. There is one case in particular that stands out among all of his legal cases. He prosecuted a case in which the defendant was sentenced to life imprisonment—100 years to be exact.

Twenty years after the sentencing, Robert visited Roanoke Community Church in 2016, and Ron Atkins, the convict whom he had prosecuted at the jury trial in 1986 was present. He became a Christian and was released on parole. While in the church sharing his incredible testimony, the ex-convict recognized Judge Newsom in the pew. Someone who knew both of them connected them, and both the Judge and the exconvict remembered each other. They hugged and embraced one another. Judge Newsom was so happy with what God had done that He invited Ron to minister in Sulphur Springs to share his amazing story of redemption from 20 years in prison; 13 of which were spent in solitary confinement. They

are now friends and continue to co-minister every now and again. Through all his journeys, Robert concludes that, "God's plans are so much greater than our own." Judge Newsom is a beautiful testimony of obedience to God's voice. We are proud of this CFNI grad and what he is doing for Jesus!

Let's hear your story with Jesus. Email us at magazinetestimony@cfni.org

HE WAS JUST GRATEFUL TO BE LEARNING AND TO BE IN THE WILL OF GOD WITH SUCH A DIVERSE STUDENT BODY.



IS THE CHURCH EQUIPPING YOU FOR MARKETPLACE MINISTRY?

By Dr. David Robinson, Executive Leadership Coach

If the Church, not the institution, but the ecclesia—the called out ones—is to fulfill her mandate "*possess the gates of her enemy and those who hate them*" (Genesis 22:17 and 24:60) so she can complete her mission, "*make disciples of all nations*" (Matthew 28:19), I believe the following adjustments must take place.

Our ministry philosophy must change from traditional to biblical. Terms such as clergy, laity, part-time, full-time, called versus uncalled, secular and bi-vocational have all contributed to the inability of the Church to disciple entire nations. God never intended for these divisions and distinctions to exist, especially in light of His desire for the priesthood of all believers as described in Exodus 19:6, 1 Peter 2:9 and Revelation 1:6.

His desire has always been a Divine partnership for Kingdom expansion, which is made clear in Ephesians. Ephesians 4:1 declares all Christians are called to full-time service as New Testament priests, regardless of where that service takes place. Church leaders are given clear instructions—they must equip their marketplace ministers for the "work of the ministry," not just in the church building, but more so in the marketplace where God has called them.

CHURCH LEADERS ARE GIVEN CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS—THEY MUST EQUIP THEIR MARKETPLACE MINISTERS FOR THE "WORK OF THE MINISTRY."

Our ministry mindset must change from church planting to Kingdom expansion. True church planting is always a by-product of Kingdom expansion in the three entities that form the marketplace and control every nation. They are:

- Businesses that create wealth
- Governments that pass laws to maintain order

• Educational institutions that determine the values and philosophies that business people and government leaders use every day.

Church leaders must teach, develop and send fulltime marketplace ministers into these ripe harvest fields with a Kingdom mindset. They must infiltrate with a Divine call, be elevated by Divine favor, and eventually, dominate these controlling entities via their influence as salt and light. Then church leaders have the responsibility to conserve the results of these marketplace ministry efforts.

Our ministry leadership model in every local congregation must include all five ministry gifts mentioned in Ephesians 4. Then one anointed leader provides the opportunity for the other four to operate in a spirit of cooperation, not competition. Excellence must prevail in the teaching, training and execution of these gifts in an atmosphere of love and faith. Many claim the title and office, but the impact of their gift leaves a lot to be desired.

Leadership is not about authority to command, but a passion to serve (Mark 10:45). Great leadership is about influence, not command and control. What you cannot accomplish through relationship and influence will never happen through appointed, elected or positional leadership.



The leadership team must know how to provide strategic leadership, not just management functions. Pastor (the



gift) by definition is a manager. The pastoral gift shepherds and cares for the flock. However, someone must know how to create a compelling vision for the future, and that requires a different gift. All management problems are simply indications of previous leadership failures, i.e., the BP oil spill, closed churches and defeated leaders. Only apostolic leadership can address those issues effectively.

If the marketplace is our parish, and if we are commanded to send full-time gospel ministers there to possess the "gates of influence" to make disciples of all nations, then we must understand we cannot manage our way to that goal. The Church must develop strategic leaders who know how to disciple the faithful while developing spirit-empowered marketplace leaders in every generation for business, government and education. Church leaders must seize the moment and inspire those they lead to fulfill these once-in-a-generation opportunities.

THE WORLD IS ALWAYS ONE GENERATION AWAY FROM BEING EVANGELIZED AND DISCIPLED, BUT ONLY WHEN THAT GENERATION SEES THE MARKETPLACE AS THEIR PARISH AND DOES NOT CONFINE THEIR MINISTRY EFFORTS WITHIN THE WALLS OF A LOCAL CHURCH FACILITY.

As Jesus commanded Lazarus to be loosed from his grave clothes, Ephesians 4:11 ministers must loose their Ephesians 4:1 marketplace ministers from the traditions that have long hindered marketplace influence, world evangelism and the ability to disciple nations.



Dr. David Robinson has a Bachelor of Applied Theology from Logos Christian College, Master of Organizational Leadership from Southern Seminary, and a PhD in Organizational Leadership from Logos University. He serves on the Board of Regents for Logos University and is an Adjunct Professor in the area of leadership. He is a Certified Trainer for "The Five Languages of Appreciation for the Workplace" by Gary Chapman and Paul White. He has authored four books and publishes a monthly e-Leadership article, currently read by 40,000+ people in over 30 nations. You can follow him on Twitter and Facebook.



HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF

CFNI STAFF AND STUDENTS HELPING THE VICTIMS

• By Rod Brewer and James Reed

Leeland Mooring was a special visitor at CFNI during chapel in early September. To our surprise, his parents, Pastors Todd and Cyndy Mooring, were also present. They had come for a short reprieve from the devastation they had just escaped from in Houston, Texas. As they began to share about the tragedy that had unfolded there because of Hurricane Harvey, CFNI felt compelled to help their church, Celebration of Life Church in Baytown, Houston. This was an opportunity for us to be actively involved in the humanitarian effort.

Scripture challenges us that faith and works should work hand in hand. So, as we continued to worship in chapel, we decided to take up an offering for Celebration of Life Church. They had many families from their church and community who needed help. Our students and staff gave \$3,500 in that offering, which was designated to feed, clothe and shelter those who were left without any hope after that storm which devastated the region. We also decided to cancel all classes the following Thursday and Friday for anyone volunteering to go and offer assistance—250 volunteered to go to Houston and lead a relief effort with Celebration of Life Church, as well as with numerous other organizations.

Here are some of the great reports we heard when they returned.



Team #1—Celebration of Life Church, Baytown, Texas

We helped clean up 10 homes, a business and a church. We gave a week's supply of food to over 700 families and unloaded and organized over 13 trucks worth of merchandise. Ministering the Gospel on the streets we had 3 salvations. We also prayed and prophesied over many during our time in Baytown. *Rod Brewer* food. We helped move furniture, demolish moldy walls and rip up carpet in flooded homes. It was hard work, but it was fun to laugh as we hauled things out of destroyed homes. Later our leader, Chris, told us that people were saying there was something different about us because although we worked really hard, we always had a smile on our faces." *Sara Forrest*





Team #2—Tower of Refuge

"We had the opportunity to go to my hometown, Rosenberg, Texas, which is 30 minutes south of Houston. I lived there for 12 years before coming to CFNI three years ago. I didn't know what to expect, but what I saw hurt my heart. I have never in my entire life seen the water get that high and do that much damage. Our team was able to get 5 homes cleaned out and prepped for restoration. We unloaded truckloads of food and supplies and distributed them to those in need." CeeJae Cantue

Team #3—Eagle Heights Fellowship

"It was amazing to see how grateful the staff of the shelter and all the people we helped were. On the first day of our trip, right after we arrived, we got to work, helping the staff at the shelter unload a truck full of "A couple of days before the Houston trip I had fractured my foot and was not able to walk on it at all. I was on crutches and in a splint. I almost emailed my team saying I could no longer go, but I knew God wanted me there. Then Tuesday morning came, and I was angry with God, trying to worship and just being unhappy because I knew He wanted me in Houston, but my foot was broken! Then a girl came up and prayed for me-immediately I could walk without my crutches. It felt like water was moving through my foot. Then that night at TNE someone came up to me and just told me they saw me walking without my splint; God wanted to heal me. A whole group of people began to pray for meagain—immediately my foot was HEALED! I could walk without the splint! I went to the doctor on Wednesday; he was

astonished because the fractured bone was healed! The next day we left for Houston, and God poured His Spirit out on our whole team. The leader of the church said that he saw something about our team that was different, that we were bringing hope to people by just being there. I knew that because God healed a broken foot in three days that He surely could heal Houston, and that's exactly what happened. The people of the shelter were smiling, the families whose houses were destroyed were praying with us almost in tears from the love they had received from God through us! The devil couldn't stop Houston from experiencing the love of Christ!" *Caitlin Goodyear*

Team #4—Houston, Texas

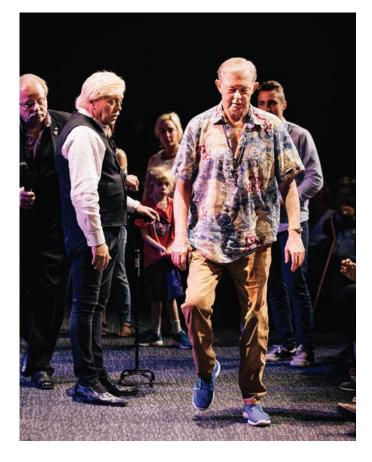
We took 55 students and staff into the heart of Houston to serve alongside "Know The Cause" and "The Forgotten People," whose goal was to serve 100 homes in 10 days. We helped them assist over 40 homes as they began to rebuild from the damage. One particularly touching experience occurred when we met a man who told us to throw all of his things out. He told us "These are just things; what matters is that I still have my life." We also assisted in the cleanup of a couple who graduated from CFNI and served alongside the Lindsay's overseas. It was amazing to see the next generation of CFNI students helping a previous generation of graduates. Wanderson Franco













V O H C HIGHLIGHTS

VOHC 2017 WAS A BLESSING! WE EXPERIENCED THE PRESENCE AND POWER OF THE LORD IN A VERY SPECIAL AND INTIMATE WAY.

NO MORE PAIN IN JESUS' NAME!

• By Annessa Myricks

or four years I've battled against fibromyalgia, arthritis in my feet, multi-level scoliosis and Lupis. Each year brought new symptoms, including, but not limited to, cysts, chronic fatigue, painful flares of psoriasis and the declining protection of my immune system, which caused me to be sick all of the time. The pain would be so excruciating that I couldn't get out of bed, couldn't bend my knees, walk, or open my hands enough to take notes in class. Thankfully, my brother is there to take notes for me.

I had expressed my doubts for the manifestation of my healing to a friend, not knowing what God had in store. I had missed a day of school because the pain was unbearable, but my roommate convinced me to go to the Voice of Healing Conference which was the last class of the day.

While I was there, the speaker commenced to praying for everyone—but me—adding to my frustration with God.



Crying, waiting in pain, Annessa will soon receive God's healing power throughout her body.

Even though the speaker prayed a prayer for the healing of insomnia, which I also struggled with, my soul was not satisfied. The next day, Friday, the Voice of Healing Conference was in full effect—no regular classes were in session. And once again, the evidence of my healing was not yet released, BUT GOD!

Once again, I went up to the front, but the speaker passed me over. I stood there, nervous, frustrated, defeated, and unsure of what was to come. At that moment, I was pushed forward, right as the speaker was handing over the mic. He looked at me and said, "You've had your eyes on me all night." He then asked me, "What do you desire?" I told him I wanted to be healed. Then he said, "Give me a hug." He preceded to ask, "What do you feel?" For the first time—in a long time—I felt nothing. NO PAIN! No pain at all! Glory to God! Thank You, Jesus!

VOICE OF HEALING CONFERENCE 2018 REGISTRATION

Thank you for being a part of VOHC 2017. See you at VOHC 2018 with Heidi Baker, Nathan Morris and Todd White on Sept. 12-15. REGISTER AT: CFNI.ORG/VOHC2018

HEALED FROM EBOLA

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD!

• By Ayelen Sata

hands of radical groups.

met Jesus at 4 years old in Sunday school. At 11, I decided to follow Christ and was baptized. At the age of 16, I was ordained as a pastor. Soon, I began to preach around the world. I wanted to go to places no one else wanted to go. So the Lord sent me to unreached communities where church persecution, kidnapping, killing, and destruction were taking place at the

People from all over Africa would gather in Nigeria to experience the power of God. It was here that I began to experience headaches, stomachaches, fever, and constant dizziness. It affected my ability to walk or even move my fingers. I was diagnosed with Ebola and told, "You're going to die!" I went back to Argentina where I was hospitalized and because I was contagious, I was quarantined. The President knew about me, and I was told even Pope Francisco was 'praying for the Argentine missionary.' All national and Hispanic media (TV, radio stations) were waiting outside the hospital to report my death.

Every five hours they ran blood tests, which eventually made it difficult to find veins to draw from, so they took blood from other parts. Overwhelmed with the risk of drawing "contagious" blood, no one wanted to do it. Unable to go to the restroom, unable to eat, physically depleted, and emotionally isolated, I realized the only thing I could do was trust in the Lord.

I remembered all the miracles I had seen throughout my life. So I prayed to God once again, "Lord, I surrender to you. You can take away everything, but don't take your presence away from me." In that moment, the Lord took me to a

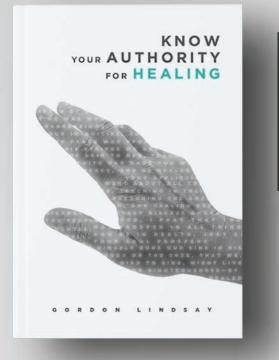




CFNI student Ayelen Sata

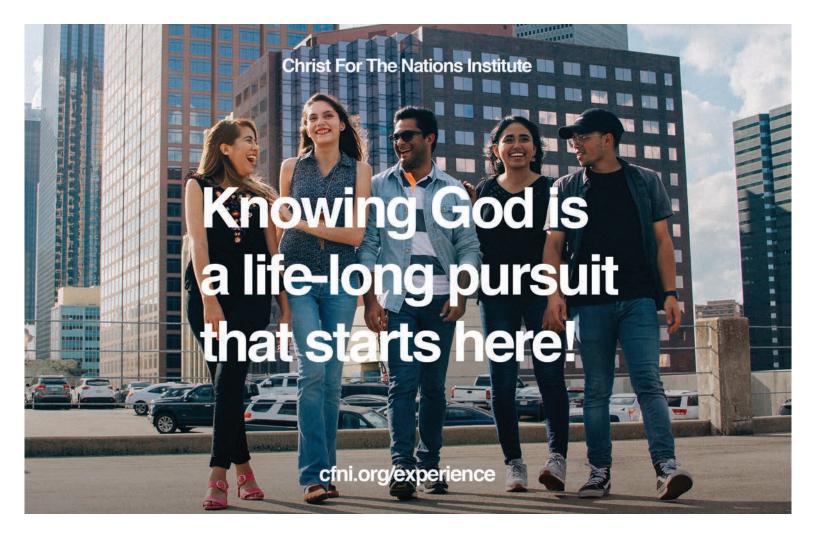
place of complete surrender. I heard a voice say, "Don't give up; Rise up!" New medical tests were run. By the fourth day, the test results came back negative. All the symptoms disappeared—my fever subsided—I no longer had Ebola. Jesus set me free from that fatal illness. I have seen with my own eyes that nothing is impossible for God.

Since I had become 'national and international news,' I used the media exposure to testify of the power of Jesus Christ to heal and set people free and to share about the love of the Father. I then went back to Africa and other nations to minister the Word of God. Many years later, I felt led to further my education and study at Christ For The Nations Institute. My experience here has been both a transformational and an appointed time in my life. GET YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT NOW!



GORDON LINDSAY'S BOOK IS AVAILABLE AS A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR ANY DONATION TO CFN OF \$40 OR MORE.

Sickness is not God trying to teach you something. God sent the Holy Spirit to be our guide. When you know your authority, you will take dominion over every infirmity and call forth your healing in Jesus' name!





• By Tania Palombino : CFNI Student

I used to cry every morning during praise and worship before my first hour class at Christ For Nations Institute, where I study. There were so many things I wanted to say to God, but could not find the words. Surrounded by hundreds of other students in worship, I still felt alone. A stranger to everyone, including myself. My heart was overwhelmed with the desire to know Him more, but I didn't know how because of the brokenness that defined my soul.

My story began in Brazil. My parents never knew Jesus. My earliest memories are full of verbal and physical abuse from my father. My earliest emotions—rejection and deprivation. But my grandma loved God, and showed me a picture of a Father, Who loved me. She planted a seed in me; unfortunately, it would be years before I would bloom.

As a teenager, I ran away from home and started working to support myself. Desperate to find love, but ignorant to what that was, I began a relationship that ended in pregnancy and abandonment. I lost my baby in the seventh month of pregnancy. Again, I was alone, lost, and empty. I had no reason to live.

I decided to run away from Brazil and start a new life in Europe. But even though my surroundings changed, the hurt had not. I met someone and got married. I quickly realized this charming man was not who I thought he was. When the marriage died, so did my hopes of a relationship built on love and trust. Without any family or true friends in Europe, I was introduced to a life of prostitution and drugs—prostitution to keep me alive and drugs to kill the pain.

I moved to many different countries in Europe. The situations were unbelievably degrading, and the horrors, unspeakable. I constantly contemplated suicide. It seemed like the only way out. Years later, I moved to London. I ascended to the position of high-end escort, entertaining very wealthy clients. For someone who had experienced such poverty as a child, I thought my life was a success—and by the world's standards, it was. But in my heart I was still that little girl who needed a father's love, whose grandmother had prayed over and had introduced to Jesus. Thank God His Word does not return void.

One day, a friend invited me to a church. She had started visiting and just wanted company. It wasn't long until she accepted Jesus—and quit prostituting herself. Suddenly, death no longer seemed like the only way out.

At a church camp in the summer of 2012, I decided to surrender my heart and lifestyle to Jesus. God delivered me from the destruction of the enemy. I found the courage to walk away from the lies of luxury that had entrapped and deceived me. I not only found a reason to live, but I found life itself. I moved back to Brazil for a short time to visit my family. Then I relocated to New York City, where I found new friends and a good church. It didn't take long for me to see that God was calling me, but I worried about my past—until I realized what the enemy intends for destruction, God will use for good.

I knew that going to Bible School was my next step, so I went online to search. Once again, God showed me the way. CFNI alumna, Ana Paula Bessa, popped up on my screen and spoke about her time at CFNI. I knew immediately the search was over.

I KNOW MY GOD WILL HEAL YOU, BECAUSE HE HEALED ME. I KNOW MY GOD WILL GIVE YOU A VOICE, BECAUSE HE HELPED ME FIND MINE.

Through the praise and worship services at CFNI, I was healed of brokenness. He gave me a new identity as His daughter. Now, I want to share His love and truth with other women. When I saw His beauty rise from my ashes, I didn't know how to respond except through tears of love and gratitude. I didn't have the words then, but He has helped me to find them now. So I tell you today—I know my God will heal you, because He healed me. I know my God will give you a voice, because He helped me find mine.

TO SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY WITH US PLEASE EMAIL THE CFN VOICE MAGAZINE AT MAGAZINETESTIMONY@CFNI.ORG



GOD'S COMMANDS

• By Golan Lindsay

od never gave us 5 suggestions in His Kingdom. Instead, He gave us commands. Most of us today don't like this word. Why? It depicts an action that seems demanding—requiring something from us that we don't want to do. However, if you have read the Word for any length of time, you will have come to understand that God's commands are not there to bully or hinder us. They are there to protect and strengthen us against sinful ways. God's commands are 'ROOTED IN LOVE.'

Jesus is love, and when we follow God's commands, we will look like His Son, Jesus. This is what He has called us to do and be ... Christlike. Each of us should have a goal to resemble Jesus in every phase and every area of our lives, whether it's at home or in the workplace. When things are happening to us, if we don't treat each other right, we won't treat our fellow employees at our workplace right either.

We know that we, in and of ourselves, aren't perfect, but when we spend time with God and in His Word, He transforms us. The great thing about this is when we are transformed—changed—by allowing the Holy Spirit to minister to us, we are them empowered to "love our neighbor as ourselves." God never asks us to do something that He has not already equipped us to be able to do.

Here are some of His Kingdom commands, life-changing words that allow Him to be seen in us. As you celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas season, take some time to read and reflect on my list of encouragements below. Check your heart to see how you view God's commands and whether you are applying them in your life. Let us agree to not accept anything less.

I wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas!

"Wisdom from above is first of all PURE. It is also PEACE LOVING. GENTLE at all times, WILLING TO YIELD TO OTHERS. It is full of MERCY... GOOD DEEDS. It shows NO FAVORITISM. It is always SINCERE. And those who are PEACEMAKERS will plant seeds of PEACE and reap a harvest of RIGHTEOUSNESS" (James 3:17, 18, NLT).

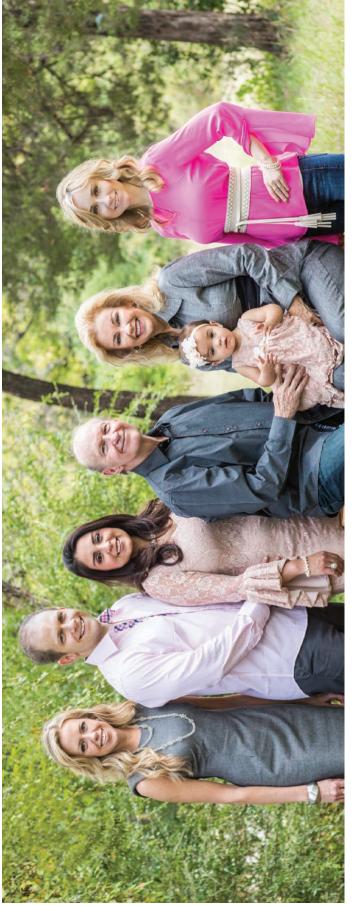


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