

THE FINAL LAP

OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

*It's time to finish
the greatest race
ever begun...*

BY MARCUS BLOOM

**Extended
and revised
5th edition**

THE FINAL LAP OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

It's time to finish the greatest
race ever begun...

By Marcus Bloom

THE FINAL LAP OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

By Marcus Bloom

Copyright @ Good News To All People 2015

Edition 5

Cover Design: German Arenas / www.25group.com

Editors: Michael Morelli
Kevin Wagner
Richard Gunning
JoEllyn Leimola
Hanna Bloom

Photographs by: Hanna Bloom
Marcus Bloom

For more information or order of more copies:

WWW.GNTAP.ORG

All scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New King James Version, copyright©1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

Contents

Foreword by Hanna Bloom	9
Foreword by David Hudson	11
Introduction	13

Part One: Jesus – The Initiator of the Greatest Race

1. He Came to Seek and to Save the Lost.....	21
2. A Fresh Revelation of Jesus Christ.....	33
3. The Great Commission of Jesus	43
4. God chooses Ordinary people.....	53

Part Two: Four fathers of World Evangelization

5. William Carey	75
6. James Hudson Taylor	83
7. Charles Thomas Studd	89
8. Tommy Lee Osborn	97

Part Three: Motivation for Running Your Race

9. We are God’s Saving Lifeboat	107
10. What Motivates Your Action	117
11. Seven reasons YOU are a Soul Winner!	129
12. Jesus in and through You!.....	139

Part Four: The Power of the Gospel

- 13. Seven Powerful Gospel Truths.....155
- 14. Gospel Campaigns in the New Testament171
- 15. Power to Become Christ’s Ambassador.....181

Part Five: Your Race Lies Before You

- 16. See the Unseen and Do the Impossible.....195
- 17. Seven Keys to Successful Gospel Ministry207
- 18. Run Your Race223

APPENDIX: Five Gospel Messages That Work237

FOREWORD

By my wife Hanna Bloom

When Esther is in the king's palace, after she had been chosen by the king to become the future queen, she is faced with a difficult decision. The Jews, her own people, are about to be extinguished and she has a chance to save them. At first she hesitates, her foster father says these words to her: *"Who knows if you have not reached the royal dignity for such a time as this?"* Esther 4:14

You are CHOSEN for such a time as this! Selected to run your race in these last days before our Lord Jesus Christ will return. Chosen to bring other people to the only One who can save them for eternity: Jesus! This is exactly what this book is about, to decide to run your own personal race in *"The Final lap of the Great Commission!"*

As Marcus' wife I can confirm that the content of this book really is part of who Marcus is and what he daily is dreaming, talking and praying for. The content of the book is what really burns in Marcus and what he constantly preaches about. The content of the book is very much what God, in over ten years has taught both Marcus and me in our ministry as Evangelists and Missionaries.

When I read the book, I cried several times, as I was broken for all the lost people across the globe. I think we all need to

be filled with more of God's heart and compassion for the people who do not yet know Jesus. We must do everything we can to go out and spread the word about Him to a lost and dying world. This book clearly shows God's heart and desire to reach out with the saving message to all people. This book also encourages you to believe in yourself, that God needs, can and will use You.

Read Marcus's book with an open heart and let God speak to you and touch your heart with his need and love for lost people around you, and out to the uttermost part of the world. Let's encourage each other to run our personal race in the "Final lap of the Great Commission!"

Your fellow-runner in the final lap

/ Hanna Bloom

FOREWORD

By David R (Buck) Hudson

It has been my great pleasure to have known Marcus and Hanna Bloom for almost ten years. I met them for the first time when they were in their early twenties. It has been a pleasure to see both of them develop in life, character, maturity, and ministry. Passion is a word that describes both of them very well! Passion for the Lord, the lost, the care of their friends, and their family. Passion is a rare commodity in our current post modern world, and many would see passionate people as out of step within our societies and cultures. However the opposite is true, as indifference, and skepticism change to hope, when a passionate Christ filled person, arrives on the scene.

The Evangelist is a minister of hope to the hopeless, shining a beacon from God's lighthouse through his message and life. The Evangelist is a guide who leads the sin-laden and shackled person out of darkness and into Christ's light. A guide that leads the sin laden shackled person out of darkness into Christ's light. A true evangelist has an unquenchable desire for souls and the lost. Not as an aspect of self-ministry ambition, but as a compassionate cry for the unregenerate, diseased, and demon distressed individual.

My friend Marcus is a true evangelist. He lives to serve Christ's compassionate heart for all who need the Savior

King, and longs to see wholeness in Christ, especially to those suffering in spiritual darkness. Passion is a substance of faith blended with Hope. Marcus has an adequate supply of this very thing, as he has learned the source of Joy, inspiration, illumination, and healing. He only lives to serve his Jesus, and introduce all to his gracious king! We need Evangelists to stir and inspire us to this new beginning in our lives. There is also nothing like an Ephesians chapter four equipping evangelist. They have the ability to teach and equip others into reaching the needy, lost and distressed, compassionately leading them into the comforting arms of our Jesus. Marcus not only wants to see the lost born again into the kingdom of God, but he wants to teach all who will listen how to be effective fishers of men's souls.

We need Evangelists to teach us how to be evangelistic! We also need them to teach us why they are passionate for what they are doing. That's why I like Marcus and Hanna, they remind me to fulfill Christ's Great Commission, and inspire me that I can do this very thing!

/ David R (Buck) Hudson

Apostolic leader in Salt & Light International

INTRODUCTION

We live in exciting and historic days; never before has there been such a vast harvest of souls ready to be reaped for the kingdom of heaven. Never before has the Church of Jesus Christ been so strong, well equipped, and ready to take the world for Jesus. These are exciting and historic days because we are the generation that will, if we all do our utmost, finish the Great Commission of Jesus Christ: *“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”* Mark 16:15

Since the Church was born God has only one agenda for His Body – that all nations, tribes, tongues and peoples would hear the good news of Jesus Christ. On God’s agenda there is only one task that he focuses on; to mobilize us to finish the Great Commission. That is the reason this book was written, to communicate to you the great need and importance as well as our possibility to complete the greatest mission ever given to mankind; the mission of reaching our world with the gospel.

God created the human race for one reason, to have fellowship with us and to share His love with us forever. Since the fall of man, humankind has been under the terrible yoke of sin, separated from God and unable to enjoy the great fellowship for which God created him. God is a Holy God. He cannot have anything to do with sin, therefore, He had to make a new way for mankind to once again live in His presence and enjoy His loving fellowship. That way is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came into our world and died for the sins of the whole world.

This is God's love message for every creature, for every tribe and people group. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* ^{John 3:16}

Paul was the early Church's first missionary. He was the first missionary to take the love message, the gospel, to the Gentiles, to the unreached peoples of the world. He set the standard for a new era of world evangelization. Yet hundreds of years later the zeal for preaching the gospel to all the world died out.

It was not until the seventeenth and the eighteenth centuries that once again voices were heard heralding the greatest message of all to the lost people and unreached nations. Voices like Charles Thomas Studd who invested his life in Africa and saw thousands saved; Hudson Taylor who launched evangelism into the heart of China, and William Carey who preached the Gospel in India, seeing hundreds receiving Jesus as their Savior. Their voices once again revived the mission focus of the Church. Once again the body of Christ started to follow God's agenda; to finish the Great Commission.

As the worldwide Pentecostal revival spread like a fire across the earth in the early 20th century, a mission zeal began to burn and come alive in the hearts of men and women. Thousands of missionaries left their comforts and traveled to the unreached mission fields. Great harvests were reaped for heaven. Thousands of new churches were planted. The focus on the Great Commission was now greater than perhaps ever before in the history of the Church.

Still they didn't finish the Great Commission. They didn't finish the race of reaching the whole world with the gospel. Today more than 2.8 billion people have never heard the gospel. More than 6,900 people groups are still unreached and without the gospel. This is what the Final Lap of the Great Commission is all about; to reach all people groups with the gospel and to reap the greatest harvest of souls ever reaped. Jesus said: *"And this Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world, as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."* ^{Matt24:14}

Now is the time, as we are living in the 21st century, to learn from our forefathers, to be inspired by their example, to arise and say, "Now it is our job to finish what they started." That is why this book has been written, to inspire, encourage and challenge you to join the harvesters in reaping the last day's harvest of souls.

You are reading this book because God is calling you to join the army of harvesters who are going throughout the entire world preaching the gospel where Christ is not yet named. God is calling on you to take your place in this exciting historic end-time harvest that will be the greatest harvest of souls in the history of the Church. Jesus has done all He could - now it is our job to do all we can do to obey His last words to us: *"Go into all world and preach the Gospel to every creature."* Mark 16:15

Since the day I was baptized into the Holy Spirit, God has fueled my soul with an unquenchable fire to go into all the world and preach the Good News. God has put a hunger in my heart, for millions of souls to hear the gospel and be saved. God wants to put in your heart as you read this book, this fire and hunger for souls.

In the early beginnings when I travelled with Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke to Nigeria and saw the huge crowds of people receiving salvation, and up until our present gospel ministry, I have had only one goal and vision in my life – to reach as many lost and unreached people as possible with the gospel of Jesus Christ. God wants to give you personal dreams and unique goals in your ministry that will motivate you to do your uttermost to fulfill your heavenly race.

This great mission is burning like a fire in my heart, and now I want to invite you to join me on this glorious road that leads to "Mission Accomplished!" As the Body of Christ, it is our calling and our mission, to go into all the world, to the unreached, to the forgotten, to the untouched peoples. It is time to once again see God's agenda with new fresh eyes.

The heartbeat of God is for souls to be saved, and I pray that this heartbeat will grip you as you read this book. We are up for the last lap in the race to finish the Great Commission. This lap requires all believers to join the effort. To be a Christian is not to belong to a religion, but to be like Christ. All believers in Christ are called to run the race of the Great Commission, and together we can finish the last lap that is now set before us!

No man or woman can finish the job alone. This last lap requires hearts on fire for the gospel. It is our turn to take the baton handed down by our forefathers and run the final lap of this glorious race. You have been given the baton and all of heaven is now looking at you as they cheer your name and shout: "RUN THE RACE! RUN THE RACE!" This last lap will take us into the deep jungles, the dark corners, the forgotten people; the lost sea of humanity – the unreached peoples of the world.

A wise man once said: "No one can do everything, but we can all do something." Whatever gifts, skills, talents, and resources God has given to you, they are great seeds you are called to sow for the salvation of the lost. God has designed you uniquely for a specific purpose, a purpose to use you in His great plan of saving our world. I pray that as you read this book, your part of the Great Commission will become clear, and that you will start to run your race.

The Holy Spirit wants to transform your life and take you from where you are now and launch you into your destiny - your Promised Land. You have a very important role in this last lap of the Great Commission. I challenge you to open your heart and yield to the Holy Spirit and let Him speak to you. Let God show you His thoughts; which are much higher than your own thoughts. Let God direct you into your own lane of the last lap of the Great Commission, that you will run your God-given race.

Let us arise and let us all be infected with the "mission virus" for which there is no cure. A virus, that once it gets into your blood will let you feel the heartbeat of

God for the unreached peoples. Once infected you can never settle for anything else than God's maximum in your life – the salvation of lost and unreached souls.

It is time for a "mission virus" epidemic in the Body of Christ that will launch the greatest army of harvesters across the face of the earth. It is time for you and for me to commit ourselves one hundred percent to God's agenda and use all we have to finish what Jesus once started when He went from village to village preaching the "gospel of the kingdom."

As you continue reading this book, open your heart and pray to God, that He will launch you into the greatest race, the race Jesus gave us to run; the Great Commission. Are you ready to be launched into the final lap of the Great Commission and run until the mission is accomplished?

Part One:

Jesus

*– The Initiator of
the Greatest Race*

Chapter 1

He came to Seek and to Save the Lost

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” Luke 19:10

Jesus has eternally existed in the past. Everything that was created has its beginning in Jesus. Jesus is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. This world was created through Jesus. *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.”* John 1:1-4

EVERYTHING BEGINS WITH JESUS

Everything to do with ministry and serving God also begins with Jesus. Jesus was the first minister who proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of heaven. Jesus is our role model for life and ministry. He is our supreme example. As you look to Jesus His ministry will challenge and inspire you. Look to Jesus and learn to minister as He ministered. Look to Jesus and let His ministry become your ministry.

Jesus had a race to run here on earth and He describes His God-given race, His mission and ministry in the Gospel of Luke: *“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”* ^{Luke 4:18-19}

I wrote this book to inspire and challenge you to run the race God has set before you; to follow in the footsteps of Christ. We need to see Jesus and His ministry with a fresh perspective, in order to see the race God has called us to run. Let us see Jesus Christ of Nazareth with new eyes. He is the Son of God and the Son of Man. He is the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings. He is the Savior of the world. He is the spotless Lamb of God who died for the sin of the world. He is the redeemer of all that has been lost, stolen and destroyed by the devil. *“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”* ^{1 John 3:8}

TWO REASONS JESUS CAME

God sent Jesus, His only Begotten Son into our world for mainly two important reasons. First, He came to save the lost. Second, He came to reveal our mission and show us how to run the race He has set before us.

Jesus entered our world at a time when Israel was waiting for “their Messiah,” their “conquering King;” the One who would overthrow Rome and set up a new kingdom.

As a young man people simply recognized Jesus as the son of Joseph; the carpenter’s son, yet as He matured He knew a time would come when the Spirit of God would launch Him out into the race to rescue and to redeem mankind. At the age of thirty Jesus was baptized in the river Jordan. The Holy Spirit descended upon Him, empowering Him for the race that was set before Him. *“When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove*

upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, 'You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.'" Luke 3:21-22

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Jesus began the greatest race in human history – TO SEEK AND SAVE THE LOST! *"Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."* Mark 1:14-15

A RACE ORDAINED BY GOD THE FATHER

Jesus was sent to seek and to save the lost. He was sent to restore what was lost when sin entered the world through the fall of mankind.

Jesus was sent to the world to begin the greatest race; the race ordained by His Father; the race to bring God's love message of salvation to a lost and dying world; the race that would go to:

- Every Corner of the World
- To Every Tribe
- To Every Nation
- To Every People Group
- And yes, to Every Person

For centuries God's heart broke as He watched His creation live in sin and die in sin; separated from fellowship with Him. In His wisdom God recognized that the only way to bring redemption to a lost world would be to send and to sacrifice "the spotless Lamb." No other sacrifice would do. Only the death of His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, would break the curse of sin and provide a remedy so that people bound by Satan could be set free.

Jesus came to show the world that God is not a distant, proud

and unreachable king sitting in a gold temple in Jerusalem, but rather the Lord God who is a loving, humble servant, who came to save the lost, the unloved, the forgotten, the sick and the oppressed. The King who came to save sinners and to give a sinking humanity hope and peace. *“This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”* ^{1 Tim 1:15}

JESUS’ THREE-FOLD FOCUS

Wherever Jesus encountered people He changed them. He showed them the love of God. He showed them the will and nature of God. He healed the sick and diseased. He lifted up the lowly and restored the brokenhearted. He offered people peace and showed them the way back to God. As He ministered, He gave the hopeless world hope; the broken soul healing; the blind body sight; the sinful man forgiveness, and the demon possessed deliverance. Jesus brought the kingdom of heaven to Earth. He proclaimed over and over again, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

“Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, and healing all kinds of disease among the people.” ^{Matt 4:23}

The ministry of Jesus had three main components:

1. He Taught the Word of God.
2. He Preached the Good News of the Kingdom.
3. He Healed the sick and set captives free.

REDISCOVERY OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

We need to rediscover God's fundamental idea and plan for mankind in order to understand Jesus' ministry and His message about the kingdom of Heaven. Why did God create man and what are God's original thoughts for you and me? If we want to run the final lap of the Great Commission we need to understand why Jesus came to our world and what He wants to do in our world today.

When the Devil deceived mankind to disobey God, sin destroyed the fellowship between God and His creation, and since that time mankind has been separated from all the blessings and benefits of the kingdom of God. In order to bring fallen man back into God's kingdom and reestablish communion with God the Creator; Jesus came to our world. God wanted to colonize earth with His heavenly kingdom; that is why He sent His very own son, Jesus Christ to earth. Jesus came to earth as the first ambassador of the kingdom of heaven.

JESUS IS THE MOST MISUNDERSTOOD PERSON WHO EVER LIVED

Jesus began to preach that the kingdom of heaven is near, and He demonstrated this truth by healing the sick and delivering the captives. The religious leaders of His time misunderstood Christ's message and His miracles. They considered Jesus to be a threat to their authority and position. Sadly, today, Jesus is still misunderstood; in fact He is the most misunderstood person who ever lived. As you ponder these statements below I am sure you'll agree with me that Jesus is the most misunderstood man who ever lived:

- The Buddhists say He was only a wise man.
- The Hindus believe He is one of millions of gods.
- The Muslims believe that Jesus was only a prophet.

- The Agnostics believe that He was a rebel.
- The Atheists believe He is a fantasy figure.
- The Christians believe that He created a religion called Christianity.

The truth is that all of these people are wrong!

Who is the *real* Jesus and what was the purpose of His coming? Was it to die on the cross? Was it to defeat Satan?

Jesus' death and victory on the cross was necessary to open the door for humanity to enter into the kingdom of God! Sin had marred our relationship with God. Jesus carried all of mankind's sin upon Himself on the cross in order to open the way for us enter the kingdom of God. This was Jesus' primary purpose.

Jesus did not come into our world just as a wise man or prophet. He did not come as a rebel. He did not come to be another god or just a fantasy figure, or to create another religion. NO!

Jesus came to Earth to show us God and to open the door to the kingdom of heaven for every person. Jesus came to our world so that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. *"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."*

John 10:9-10

THE MESSAGE OF GOD'S KINGDOM

Jesus' message of the kingdom of heaven is so amazing and life-changing, and there are four pillars which comprise the message of the kingdom of heaven which I want to share with you:

1. **God's Creation** – God created everything good and for the blessing and benefit of mankind. After He made the Heavens and the Earth He made man in His own image and likeness. This means we are precious and valuable, created to walk with and fellowship with God; to live in His presence and enjoy His creation.
2. **Satan's Deception** - The devil deceived Adam and Eve into sin. This broke their fellowship with God. Their sin was passed onto the entire human race, and as a result every person is born into sin and death.
3. **Christ's Atoning Death** - Jesus took our sin, death and punishment upon Himself on the cross. He shed His own Holy Blood for the sins of all mankind.
4. **Our Redemption** - When we believe in Jesus Christ and accept Him as our Lord and Savior we are redeemed and brought back to God; our sins are forgiven and we enter into the kingdom of God. Now we have a new life.

These four pillars are what we often call the Gospel of the kingdom and the Good News of Jesus Christ. These four pillars comprise the Big Picture of God's plan for humanity: Creation, Satan's deception, Christ's atoning death and our redemption. Let us now look at some powerful facts concerning God's kingdom that further paint the Big Picture of God's plan for humanity.

POWERFUL FACTS ABOUT GOD'S KINGDOM

- Every person that accepts Christ as their personal Savior enters the kingdom of God and is united and reconciled with our Heavenly Father.
- Every person who enters the kingdom of God, is saved from sin, death and the devil's terrible grip, and receives the gift of God - eternal life.

- Every person that enters the kingdom of God is reestablished as a child of God and kingdom citizen with full benefits to the kingdom.
- Every person who enters the kingdom of God wins back EVERYTHING that Adam and Eve lost in the fall of man.
- Every person that comes into the kingdom of God receives authority here on Earth as God's steward and Son.

JESUS IS OUR MODEL

Now that we have rediscovered the value and importance of God's kingdom, and the purpose for which Jesus came into the world, we can now focus on Jesus as our model and example for ministry. Our primary task and assignment in this world, no matter who we are, is to follow in the footsteps of Jesus – Jesus the Lord, the Shepherd, the Role Model. The mission of Jesus is now our mission.

Jesus said: *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father."* ^{John 14:12} We are now heaven's ambassadors; we are called to do what He did. That means, whatever your calling, be it a pastor, evangelist, prophet, apostle, teacher, or if you have any other gift such as worship, administration, social care, etc., your primary call is to love and follow Jesus and be as He is in this world.

Jesus Christ came into the world to seek and to save lost souls and to bring them into the kingdom of God. That was the mission of Jesus and this is our mission as well. This is the greatest assignment any man or woman could ever receive from God. This is the race we are called to run, the race we are called to finish, and by God's grace and our commitment it will be finished in our generation!

A FRESH NEW PICTURE OF JESUS

Let us now come along side Jesus for some life-changing adventures and some remarkable moments as He ministers the “good news of the kingdom” with love and power. As we read three unforgettable passages from the Gospels, picture Jesus standing next to you. Watch Jesus walk the dusty roads of life and minister God’s love, life and healing power to hurting people.

You are now standing next to Jesus. There is a large crowd around Him. The sun is beaming down on this hot summer’s day. You are about to meet a man named Zacchaeus.

JESUS COMES TO ZACCHAEUS’ HOUSE

“Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, “He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.” Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” Luke 19:1-10

Jesus saw Zacchaeus, and what did He do? Did He condemn him? NO. Jesus came near him and loved him. He went to his home and dined with him. He brought God’s kingdom to Zacchaeus’ home and into his life.

Zacchaeus was moved by the words of Jesus and this moved his heart. As a result, Zacchaeus was convicted of his sin

and repented. Jesus told him, *“Today salvation has come to this house.”* Zacchaeus had received the miracle of forgiveness. HALLELUJAH!

The day has ended and now a new day has begun. Your journey with Jesus continues. Now you are entering Capernaum with Him and you will witness extraordinary faith and an unexpected miracle.

JESUS FORGIVES AND HEALS THE PARALYTIC MAN

“And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven you.’ And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, ‘Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?’ But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, ‘Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins” —He said to the paralytic, “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!” Mark 2:1-12

In this passage we read about the miracle of healing which the paralyzed man received. However, the most notable miracle he received was FORGIVENESS! Jesus was interested in the man’s salvation, the washing away of his sins, and as a

sign that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins, He demonstrates His power over sickness and disease and healed the paralyzed man.

Jesus came first and foremost for the purpose of forgiving our sins. This passage illustrates that fact very clearly. Yet equally important for us to see is the fact that Jesus did not only come to forgive sin, He came to redeem us back to God. As we enter the kingdom through the forgiveness of our sins all of heaven's blessings and power become ours, including healing for every sickness.

Now let us read my favorite passage in the Bible. Here we find the Gospel and the love of God so gloriously displayed. And in this passage you find Jesus, once again, out among people. You are standing there with Him. Listen to His words of love.

JESUS FORGIVES THE SIN OF AN ADULTEROUS WOMAN

"But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?" This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear. So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where

are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more." Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." ^{John 8:1-12}

Here two themes become crystal clear. The first is that we are all sinners before God. No one is without sin; even if you appear holy on the outside, on the inside (in the heart where sin dwells) we are all guilty before God. The second fact that becomes clear is that Jesus did not come to condemn us, but to save us! He came to give us LIFE by giving HIS LIFE for our sins.

Jesus is the only One without sin, and He had the right to stone this woman, yet He did not. Why? Because He was on His way to the cross. He was on His way TO DIE FOR HER SIN – to carry her sin upon Himself.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." ^{John 3:16} This is the good news of the kingdom. This is the message of the Gospel.

THE RACE HAD ONLY BEGUN

For more than three years Jesus ministered with love and power. Wherever He journeyed people received hope, life, miracles and a new beginning. Then the time came when His race came to an end, not as His disciples wanted or hoped, but instead, Jesus finished His race by dying on a wooden cross as the substitute for sins of the entire human race. He remained focused and faithful; He completed His race and is now seated at the right hand of God the Father in Heaven. Yet the race was not over, it had only just begun...

Chapter 2

A Fresh Revelation of Jesus Christ

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’” John 1:29

John the Baptist announced, “Behold, open your eyes and see the One with feet of clay and divine life!” Yet many who saw Jesus, just saw a man. How do you see Jesus? Who is He to you, personally? Is Jesus just a man of history, or is He the living God come in the flesh?

How often Jesus was misunderstood, even by His true believers and followers. Some saw Him as the Bread-Man and followed Him because He multiplied bread and fishes. Others saw Him as a miracle worker; they wanted their miracle so they could get on with their lives and be free from pain and disease. Religious leaders saw Him as a threat, so they searched for ways to trap Him in His words. In our modern times, many believers simply see Jesus as the one who will fix all their problems and provide all their needs and desires, yet they run from the cross refusing to lay down their lives in order to RUN the race set before them by God, the Final Lap of the Great Commission.

This is my **PASSION**, the completion of the final lap. Jesus invites us to join Him in the privilege of running the Final Lap! Are you ready to run?

We have learned to see that Jesus came as our model for ministry; as the initiator of the great race, and that He is the pacesetter in preaching the Gospel. We have learned that Jesus came to:

- Preach, teach and heal.
- To show us God and to establish the Kingdom of God here, *on earth*.
- To remove our sins, yes, the sins of the whole world, and to give us eternal life.
- To give us *supernatural* life, and He is the reason we are qualified to serve God today.

Oh the wonder of seeing Jesus afresh, of falling in love with Him again and again, of discovering what makes Him truly unique among all other spiritual leaders throughout human history.

JESUS CAME TO EARTH IN THE FLESH - FOUR PILLARS OF TRUTH -

Why is it critically important for us to understand the fact that Jesus Christ was born in flesh? The Spirit of God ministered through the body of Jesus. We also have a body, and since Christ lives in us His desire is to minister by His Holy Spirit through our body. We have a mission on earth. It is a flesh and blood mission. Because our ministry is in flesh and blood, we understand why Jesus came to earth in flesh.

Studying the Scriptures we learn that Jesus was like us, living in a body of flesh and blood. He is the seed of David according to the flesh. He was made in the likeness of sinful flesh, yet He was without sin.

A born again believer has a regenerated spirit. Sin is purged and a *new life* resides within the regenerated person. That life is the life of Jesus Christ empowered by the presence of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we are the vessels that reveal God to the world. The world can *see* us; we are the body in which the Holy Spirit dwells. We are the Body of Christ in action in our world.

The Scripture teaches, *"In him dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily"* Col. 2:9. Christ fulfilled His mission in a body. We are made in the image of God. The body is important to our mission because our body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit. God's image of love, peace, reconciliation, and forgiveness are reflected through His children.

The reasons Jesus came in flesh and succeeded is the guarantee that we will also succeed in the flesh. You are the hope of the world, because Christ lives in you and works through you. Because you are here, the world has hope to be restored through Jesus Christ.

FIRST REASON – JESUS CAME TO SHOW US GOD

Why does the world need to see and hear God? *"God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high"* Heb 1:1-3

Who is this God? What is He like? What does He want? Religion has painted a mean picture of God. They have made God unapproachable, angry, mean, demanding, evil, and ugly. God is none of those things. He is love. Jesus came to show us God and we can only understand Him when we see Jesus.

Jesus is the reality of the Father – tangible, relatable, lovable, believable, knowable. The world is sick and needs healing. The world is dark and needs light. The world is in bondage and needs deliverance. God sent Jesus to our world to reveal himself to us and to speak to us again in a personal way. We are now God’s healing agents telling the world the TRUTH about God!

God wants us to follow Jesus, listen to Jesus and obey Jesus! If you want to hear God, listen to Jesus. If you want to know God and see God, know and see Jesus! Jesus came to show us God! Jesus came to show us the Father. When we see Jesus we see God! Jesus came to give God a face. Jesus came so we could see God and touch God. Let the following Bible verses paint Jesus afresh to your innermost being.

“In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men” John 1:1-4

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” John 1:14

“And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” John 1:16-17

“Jesus said to him, “ I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” John 14:6

“Jesus said to him, “ Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father.’” John 14:9

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John reveal the greatest picture of Jesus. Reading the Gospels we see that Jesus comes from God

and that He is God. We see God in action through His Son. We learn that God is a healer, deliverer, and forgiver of sins. We discover His love and compassion. We watch Him walk with ordinary people, speaking with authority and power over all unclean spirits. Simply, when we see Jesus we see God. Jesus is God in flesh on two legs.

We see Jesus reaching very low to touch people and lift them to a new beginning. Jesus cares, loves, helps, and blesses people. Jesus did not come to condemn but to save people.

We are like Jesus. He was sent, and we are also sent to give people life, forgiveness, healing, restoration and salvation - not condemnation, burdens and religion.

When we come to town we set the ideas of God straight in the minds of people. We teach people the truth about God and present a clear picture of His love by exalting Christ. We come to show people who God is, what He wants and what He can do for them. We are sent as light and salt in the earth. We represent the very character and nature of God to the world.

We show people that God's love is capable of loving those who think they are unlovable and unloved. We bring forgiveness, and teach people how to live the Jesus life.

SECOND REASON - JESUS CAME TO BEAR OUR SIN

When Adam and Eve turned away from God they were separated from Him and placed in a condition of sin. They missed God's mark. This sin condition, to be separated from God, needed a remedy. The only way was for God to send His only begotten Son Jesus to come in flesh and die for mankind.

"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear." Isaiah 59:2

"Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities;

the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” ^{Isaiah 53:4-6}

When John the Baptist saw Jesus he exclaimed prophetically, *“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”* ^{John 1:29}. We preach this same message. Behold the sin bearer, crucified for the sins of the world! We preach Christ as God’s supreme sacrifice, the Lamb of God who died for our sins.

What does it mean that Jesus is the Lamb of God? The Jews understood that sin could only be atoned by the offering of animals, by a blood sacrifice. They recognized their own sinfulness and their need to make continual sacrifices.

The day John the Baptist arrived in history and preached on the banks of the river Jordan he proclaimed, *“Look, the Lamb of God. He is the one who takes away the sin of the world.”* What a powerful statement! What does it mean? No animal sacrifice could ever take away sin, only cover sin.

Jesus didn’t come to cover our sin, but to once and for all FORGIVE AND REMOVE OUR SIN!!! Through His sacrifice as the *“Lamb of God,”* Jesus removes our sin and no other sacrifice is ever needed again. His blood pleased God as the perfect sacrifice for sin.

From the very beginning God made His will clear in the Old Testament when He announced, *“Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sin.”* The scripture also tell us, *“The life is in the blood.”* God demands a blood sacrifice, a life sacrifice, and in His great love He Himself provided His own Son’s precious, innocent, and sin-free blood.

“Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.” ^{1 Peter 3:18}

“Now where there is absolute remission (forgiveness and cancellation of the penalty) of these [sins and lawbreaking], there is no

longer any offering made to atone for sin." ^{Heb 10:18 AMP}

"For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." ^{Matt 26:28}

Jesus paid the ultimate price for our sins. He accomplished this in His own flesh by dying on the cross. What a wonderful and glorious Savior we have! Let us thank Him and praise him forevermore! He alone is worthy to be praised!

THIRD REASON - JESUS CAME TO DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL

Only through his death in flesh and blood, could Jesus destroy the power of the devil. Jesus came to destroy the power of the devil, and to do so he had to come to earth in a body of flesh. Only the death of Jesus on the cross could destroy the power of the devil and the power of death. That is why his coming to earth in a body of flesh was absolutely necessary.

"He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil." ^{1 John 3:8}

"Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil." ^{Heb 2:14}

Jesus did not come to break the stronghold that the Devil had on the human race, but to destroy the power and the works of the Devil. Something broken can be put back together; however, when something is destroyed it can never be put back together. Jesus came to set us free from the power of the enemy, the Devil.

Now we no longer need to fear the devil nor death. We no longer need to be in demonic bondages, because Jesus has broken the power of the devil. We are now saved for eternity. God keeps us and protects us in Jesus Christ. The power of the devil and death is broken and we can now

experience this saving and liberating power of Christ! Only believe, confess and receive salvation and deliverance in Christ Jesus right now. Glory be to God!

When you understand the truth about Christ's victory over the Devil, your prayer life will change! The Devil has no power over you. You are in Christ; you don't need to fight the Devil and struggle with him in prayer. Simply confess your victory in Christ and the Devil will flee.

"And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it." Col 2:13-15

The power of Jesus is in you. Nothing can stand against you, because Jesus destroyed the power of the Devil. You are forgiven, redeemed, saved and connected with God. The Devil is a defeated foe, a liar and deceiver. The Devil has been disarmed. He has a gun, but he has no bullets. When the Devil comes to threaten you and roar at you, laugh at him. He can't bite you because he has no teeth! The Devil is powerless and can only attempt to deceive and lie to you. Have no fear. Go into the domains of darkness and be God's light. You know who we are in Christ. The Devil knows who we are. Stand tall, be bold; preach Christ and announce His victory on the cross!

FOURTH REASON - JESUS CAME IN FLESH TO SHOW US OUR MINISTRY

This truth is amazing. Jesus came to show us our God-given ministry here on earth. Jesus came to show us how to live and how we can reflect God to our world. This is only possible because of what Jesus did for us on the cross and because he ministered God's love, power and word to our world. Because Jesus ministered in the power of the Holy Spirit, we

can also minister. We do it with our eyes fixed on Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

"For those whom He foreknew [of whom He was aware and loved beforehand], He also destined from the beginning [foreordaining them] to be molded into the image of His Son [and share inwardly His likeness], that He might become the firstborn among many brethren." Rom 8:29 AMP

We are destined to become Christ-like and to do the same ministry He did when He walked the earth. How do you become like Christ? By looking to him daily, obeying His word and by allowing the Holy Spirit to mold you into His image. You learn to be a disciple and how to serve God by observing and imitating the life and ministry of Jesus. Look to Him. See Him as your model and example and let the Holy Spirit conform you daily, more and more into the image of Christ. This is your greatest calling.

THE HOLY SPIRIT MAKES CHRIST MINISTRY POSSIBLE!

"So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." John 20:21

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

When God created Adam He breathed his ruach (Hebrew for breath, wind, Spirit) into Adam and God's Spirit-life came into Adam. The moment Adam sinned, God's breath (Spirit) departed and was lost to humankind.

On the day of Pentecost, God again breathed upon humanity! As the Holy Spirit descended upon the 120 in the Upper Room, God breathed His anointing upon them. Now we are as God intended in the beginning. We once again have God's LIFE and BREATH within our spirit. This makes us God's children, partners, messengers, and ambassadors. Now we are empowered and anointed by the Holy Spirit and sent out into our world to be like Christ.

Jesus now lives in you. He never acts without you and me. When we go He goes. When we act, He acts. When we preach He touches the people. We are now the body of Christ. We are called to live like Jesus lived. You can do all things through Christ! You can do all the things Christ did! Jesus lives in you and me, through the Holy Spirit. You are now Christ's Ambassador, sent into the world to do the works of Jesus.

"God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God." ^{2 Cor 5:19-20}

FIVE UNIQUE TRUTHS OF JESUS CHRIST **by T.L. Osborn**

My wife, Hanna and I heard Dr T.L. Osborn speak during a leader's conference in Oslo, Norway in 2004. He shared a message entitled Five Unique Truths of Jesus Christ. I want to pass along these truths to you as a conclusion to this chapter.

TRUTH ONE. Jesus Christ is the one and only spiritual leader and teacher who came back from the dead to give proof of His teaching. After His crucifixion and death Jesus appeared for forty days, proving His teaching was true.

TRUTH TWO. Jesus Christ is the one and only spiritual leader and teacher who performs signs, miracles and wonders to give proof His words are true.

TRUTH THREE. Jesus Christ is the one and only spiritual leader and teacher who is alive in the present. God raised Him from the dead and He is alive today.

TRUTH FOUR. Jesus Christ is the one and only spiritual leader and teacher who shares His divine life with His followers.

TRUTH FIVE. Jesus Christ is the one and only spiritual leader and teacher who is concerned about the now. All religions of the world are concerned about the past and future. Jesus is alive now in the present and He cares for you and does miracles now in the present.

Chapter 3

The Great Commission of Jesus

"I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth." Isaiah 49:6

Jesus ran His race faithfully and focused, proclaiming and demonstrating the kingdom of God. Although He was sent to the lost sheep of Israel, God's ultimate desire was that the whole world would hear the Gospel and be saved.

How could this mission be accomplished when Jesus, the initiator of the race, died after three years of ministry? What was the plan of God? What was God's strategy? How would the race continue to completion? In this chapter we will discover how, and for some, rediscover the Great Commission.

THE MISSION NEEDED MORE PEOPLE

Jesus did not leave His disciples without instructions; He didn't leave them helpless or untrained. Jesus trained them to do the same ministry God had given to Him. Every day Jesus mentored, instructed and helped His disciples grow in

the knowledge of God and in the work of the ministry. Jesus knew that for the kingdom of God to expand to the whole world, He would need many men and women to work to proclaim the Gospel message.

Jesus was the first of many to herald the good news that the kingdom of heaven is “at hand.” God wanted His Son to be the first of many to preach this “Gospel of the kingdom.” God’s plan was to raise an army of anointed Gospel ministers across the entire nation of Israel and then the whole world. An anointed army of Gospel ministers who would continue the same ministry Jesus had begun.

Let us come alongside Jesus and see His heart for lost souls and God’s strategy of multiplying Jesus’ ministry. Look at the Gospel of Matthew chapters nine and ten.

THE COMPASSION OF JESUS

“Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” Matt 9:35-38

Jesus was not seeking fame, popularity, money, riches or a throne in this world. His heartbeat, His passion was souls. Jesus cried out: *“The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.”* From this very cry, God’s plan for saving the world is revealed. From this heart cry of Jesus, God’s strategy for the mission to be accomplished is given to us - a strategy of multiplying the ministry of Jesus!

CALLING AND SENDING OUT THE TWELVE

“And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.”

“These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: ‘Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, The Kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.” Matt 10:1-8

As Jesus ministered to the lost, His heartbeat could be felt by His disciples. Jesus reminded His disciples: all the things you have seen me do, you do also; all the things you have heard me preach and teach, you preach and teach also. Jesus was a team player and He knew that the work of reaching the entire world with the message of the kingdom of God could never be done by Him alone, therefore He called the twelve, then later on seventy-two others, to become preachers of the Gospel. Jesus inspired, trained and sent His disciples to do what He Himself was doing: preaching, teaching and healing.

JESUS NEEDS YOU AND ME

No man or woman could do this work alone, that is why Jesus chose His disciples and that is why Jesus needs you and me today! Jesus called disciples to follow in His footsteps, to learn from Him and to be sent out to proclaim the same good news of the kingdom of heaven. Jesus needs you and

me. Jesus showed us the way to follow in Him in Gospel ministry, and because Jesus succeeded we will also succeed!

T.L. Osborn, the twentieth century pioneer of mass miracle evangelization wrote: "One truth which we have underscored in each nation is the fact that all believers of all nationalities are commissioned by our Lord to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. We have faithfully stressed that God never planned for the whites of Europe or North America to be His exclusive missionary corps. His plan is that each Christian of either sex and of any color or race should go with the gospel to the lost and unreached."

As Jesus was about to leave this earth for the glory of heaven, He wholeheartedly gave us His well-known Great Commission. He handed over the divine baton of proclaiming the Gospel and evangelizing the world to His disciples. This Great Commission was not only for His first disciples, but for all generations after them, until all nations, tribes and peoples hear, and then the end would come.

This was not a great suggestion or a great idea. This was God, our Creator's command and order to all who believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ. This was God's divine instruction and the very last words of our Savior in order that we would make the Great Commission our number one ambition. The Great Commission must be our number one priority in life and ministry. Now is the time to commit yourself wholeheartedly to the mission Christ gave His life for and has entrusted to you and me. Let these quotes from the famous missionary, pastor and evangelist Oswald J. Smith inspire you to become passionate about the Great Commission:

"The supreme task of the Church is the evangelization of the world."

"We talk of the Second Coming; half the world has never heard of the first."

"The mission of the church is missions."

"Any church that is not seriously involved in helping fulfill the Great Commission has forfeited its biblical right to exist."

"No one has the right to hear the gospel twice, while there remains someone who has not heard it once."

"Why should anyone hear the Gospel twice, before everyone has heard it once?"

Now let us hear this Great Commission from Jesus as it is recorded in the four Gospels and also in the Book of Acts. Here we find the outline, which details the race that God is calling us to run. Here we find the very purpose for our lives. Here we find the very essence of our existence. God has created us for a purpose and that purpose is for the world to hear the love message of Jesus Christ, through you and me.

THE GREAT COMMISSION IS GIVEN

"Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." Mark 16:15-18

"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matt 28:18-20

"Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in

His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." Luke 24:46-47

"So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." John 20:21

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

Christ's Great Commission is the foundation on which we stand as the Church of Jesus Christ. As we have seen, the Great Commission began with Jesus preaching the good news and healing the sick, then He passed this mission on to His disciples, and now He passes this mission on to us, the believers in the 21st century.

JESUS'S MINISTRY CONTINUES TODAY!

Let me illustrate this great truth in a very simple but powerful way. Imagine you have your Bible open; you are looking at the Gospels on the left side, and the Book of Acts on the right side. In the Gospels, the ministry of Jesus is recorded by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Here we can follow the great works, miracles and moments as Jesus preached, taught and healed. In the four Gospels, Jesus is doing the works of God, the miracles of God, in the body of a Jew.

Now look to the right at the Book of Acts, the Acts of the Apostles. Jesus continues His work and ministry through His disciples. This same Jesus is now working through the bodies of His disciples. Jesus is the same, the miracles are the same, the power of God is the same, the will and plan of God is the same. Jesus now lives and does His ministry through His disciples. Jesus now lives in you and me and continues His ministry today, through us!

Now I pray you will see this great truth and revelation. There is no end to the Book of Acts! We continue the works recorded in the Book of Acts. Jesus, in and through us, still continues His work and ministry in the 21st century. The same Jesus, the

same miracles, the same power and the same ministry continues today, but through you and me. Hallelujah! *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever!"* ^{Heb 13:8} The will of God to save every soul and to reach every nation is the same!

THE LAST WORDS OF JESUS

The Great Commission is the final instruction Jesus gave to His disciples before He returned to His Father in Heaven. The final words of any man are very important and must be considered carefully. We can build our life and ministry upon the last words of Jesus: *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."* These words constitute the supreme assignment and command from the throne room of heaven to every believer in Jesus Christ.

My wife and I have proclaimed the gospel message to hundreds of thousands of lost souls around the world, and we have made an invaluable discovery, which many before us have made as well – no matter if you win one soul, or a thousand, or tens of thousands of souls, there is no greater joy in this world than to win a soul to Jesus. To follow the footsteps of Christ and continue His ministry by preaching, teaching and healing, and seeing people's lives transformed brings the greatest joy to our lives.

HE DROPPED THE GUN AND FOUND SALVATION!

I can't forget a man who received salvation in a remote village in Kenya as we ministered the Gospel. Arriving in the village, we noticed a drunkard who was sitting with his alcohol bottle in one hand and a gun in the other hand. We discovered later that he had decided to end his life that day. His family had left him; he had no money, no friends, no work, and no purpose in life.

As we proclaimed the good news of the life of Jesus and how He had come to this village to save, heal and deliver and give

peace, the man listened intently. He was just about to take his life, but he heard the voices of Swedish missionaries proclaiming that there is hope, there is a way; there is life in Jesus.

He dropped his gun and his alcohol bottle and started to walk closer and closer to the marketplace where we were preaching. His clothes were torn and dirty and were stinking very badly. He was drunk and walked slowly toward us. We continued to preach the good news. We preached Jesus as the way, the truth and the life. We preached that Jesus can save people and He includes everyone, no matter the sin, failure or problem, Christ is the answer. As the invitation was given to receive salvation in Jesus Christ, the very first person to respond was this drunken man.

He came forward, and as we prayed the prayer of salvation he immediately sobered up and all his sin was washed away. He received life, yes; the abundant life in Christ - eternal life, peace, joy and hope! Hallelujah!!! As he testified throughout the entire village, with tears upon his cheeks, all of heaven was rejoicing together with us, because that very day, salvation came to that man! The entire village believed that this man was a hopeless case, yet they began to praise God and rejoice because of this man's encounter with Jesus. *"With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."* Matt 19:26

To see a lost soul, bound by the evil snares of sin and the devil, being forgiven and washed in the precious blood of Jesus is a joy so profound that nothing in this world can compare. This truth is for you to discover as well. God wants to use you as a fisher of men and populate heaven for Calvary's sake.

FOLLOW THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS

God is calling you today to follow the footsteps of Jesus Christ, your Lord, your Shepherd and your model for your life and ministry. To follow the footsteps of Jesus, to daily live and breathe the Great Commission is the most wonder-

ful commitment you can make with your life. Whether you are willing to become a missionary or not, you can still obey the Great Commission right where you are, right where you live. God wants to use you as a fisher of men, just like He used the first disciples.

You are His disciple, called and chosen to rescue men and women from the evil snares of sin and the Devil. You and I are needed in order for all the world, all the nations, and all peoples to hear the Gospel and receive salvation. Jesus has given us the privilege and honor to follow Him and do the very same works that He did when he lived in our world. Jesus believes in you. Jesus is with you. Jesus will go with you wherever you go. The baton of preaching the gospel is in your hand, now arise and go preach the gospel!

The founder of the Salvation Army, William Booth, said it this way: "You are saved for one reason, to save others."

Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke, well known for his great Gospel Campaigns throughout Africa, has won more than 60 million souls during his life and ministry. He stated: "The gospel is eternal, but we haven't eternity to preach it. We have only as long as we live to reach those who live as long as we live."

T.L. and Daisy Osborn have written words of wisdom concerning the Great Commission. I pray the significance of these words will sink down deep into your heart, until you can say...

"Lord if there is any certain field or area or nation where You want to guide us, show us and we will go. But if You do not, we will choose the best opportunity to reap the greatest harvest, where there are the fewest laborers, and we will be there reaping until You guide us elsewhere."

Chapter 4

God chooses Ordinary people

“I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles, To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house.” Isaiah 42:6-7

This chapter will unfold one of the Bible’s most encouraging truths concerning the call to preach the Gospel. This truth which you are about to discover has literally transformed my life and has given me faith to do the works of Jesus. Jesus says that you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. God wants you to be free to serve Him and free to run your God-given race here on earth.

In fact many believers, Bible school students, and even preachers, pastors and evangelists, struggle with questions like:

- Am I qualified for the ministry?
- Am I good enough to preach the Gospel?
- Am I educated enough and skilled enough to preach?
- Can God really use me to build His eternal kingdom?
- I make mistakes and fail and even sin, can God still use ME?

I believe every minister who desires to fulfil the call of God upon their life, faces these types of questions at time. Throughout the Word of God it is clear that God's servants have always experienced struggles, doubts, fear and at times felt weak and unqualified for the ministry.

No matter who you are, God Himself qualifies you, and He is about to launch you into your destiny. God is not interested in your past, but in your FUTURE! God needs you and wants to use you for great deeds in His kingdom. A passage in the Gospel of Luke illustrates this point, and as you read it, you will find encouragement, hope and faith, and I believe it will launch you into an even greater ministry for the kingdom of God. Let's get ready to run our race.

Jesus called His Apostles to continue His ministry. The very ministry entrusted to Him by His Father. *"Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles: Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; Matthew and Thomas;*

James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot; Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot who also became a traitor.” Luke 6:12-16

WHOM DID JESUS REALLY CHOOSE?

There is something beautiful and hidden here within this passage of Scripture that will be of great importance for you and me. This passage answers the question of who is good enough and who is qualified to preach the Gospel and build God's eternal kingdom.

Before we reveal this hidden truth I want to provoke your thinking by asking you some questions.

Consider the following six questions. Did Jesus choose:

1. The superstars in Israel?
2. The best scholars and most educated people?
3. The top students in the universities?
4. The best public speakers and communicators?
5. The most holy and sin-free people?
6. Religious experts who knew the Law inside and out?

If you answered “NO” to all six questions you are correct and you have passed this little test. Jesus did not choose superstars, top students, religious experts or those who thought they had achieved sinless perfection. NO!

Whom then did Jesus choose? The twelve Jesus choose had faults, made mistakes, sins, and some even demonstrated their bad character and self-centered weaknesses. Others were greedy for money or had a hot temper.

Let's take a close look at each disciple.

PETER – THE BETRAYING DISCIPLE

Peter was a leader and a very passionate disciple. He was the only disciple who walked on water. He stood on the Mount of Transfiguration and followed close to Christ during His trial. Peter was one of Jesus' closest friends and disciples. Was Peter a perfect disciple without fault? No. Peter was the disciple who betrayed and denied the Lord three times before He was crucified:

“Now when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. And a certain servant girl, seeing him as he sat by the fire, looked intently at him and said, “This man was also with Him.” But he denied Him, saying, “Woman, I do not know Him.” And after a little while another saw him and said, “You also are of them.” But Peter said, “Man, I am not!”

Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, “Surely this fellow also was with Him, for he is a Galilean.” But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are saying!” Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” So Peter went out and wept bitterly.” ^{Luke 22:55-62}

THOMAS – THE DOUBTING DISCIPLE

Thomas is known as the “doubting” disciple. He constantly demonstrated his unbelief. What a great disciple Thomas was!?

Can you imagine Jesus having to face the unbelief of Thomas every day? Jesus had Thomas next to His side for three years and Thomas was not the greatest cheerleader. On the contrary, he was disbelieving and had a negative attitude. One example that illustrates this is the very day when Jesus wanted to raise Lazarus from the dead. Observe the response of Thomas.

"Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up." Then His disciples said, 'Lord, if he sleeps he will get well.' However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus said to them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him.' Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with Him.'" John 11:11-16

JAMES AND JOHN – THE VIOLENT DISCIPLES

James and John were two of Jesus' closest disciples and best friends. Were they perfect disciples? They were called the "sons of thunder." They often became violent and aggressive, wanting to pick fights and kill people. They had a very hot temper and easily became angry. They even wanted to kill an entire village:

"Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?" But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of." Luke 9:51-55

JUDAS ISCARIOT – THE GREEDY DISCIPLE

Judas Iscariot is known to all as the disciple who betrayed the Lord Jesus Christ for thirty silver coins. Judas was a greedy man who loved money and riches. Not only did he betray Jesus for thirty silver coins, but Judas often stole money, even from the ministry funds of Jesus!

“But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, who would betray Him, said, “Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, “Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always.” John 12:4-8

Can you imagine that Judas stole money from Jesus? What a terrible sin. Judas was in charge of the ministry finances for Jesus and the disciples, and he often put the money in his own pocket. I wonder what he did with that money? The love for money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in the case of Judas it was his love for money that destroyed his life in the end.

“Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” And they said, “What is that to us? You see to it!” Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.” Matt 27:3-5

WHY DID JESUS CHOOSE THEM?

As Jesus was led to be crucified on the cross all the disciples abandoned Him. Peter, James, John, Thomas, Judas; ALL the disciples left Him. Jesus died naked on the cross, with no disciples standing up for Him. Jesus was left alone. All the disciples had betrayed Him in their hearts and by their actions.

So why did Jesus choose them? Why did He choose a disciple who He knew would betray Him. Why did He choose a disciple who would deny Him? Why did He choose these weak, sinful men? Why? We are about to discover the truth that will greatly impact your life and ministry. **Jesus chose them not because of what they already were, but because of what God would make out of them!**

"For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren." Rom 8:29

"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 Cor 3:18

Jesus chose them because He saw their willing hearts; He saw the potential in them to do great things for God! Jesus did not choose them because they were sin-free or because they had flawless character; Jesus chose them because He saw behind the surface into their hearts. Jesus saw what God could and would make out of them. Just like the potter makes the clay to be shaped in his hands, Jesus knew that God sees our potential and that He could shape and mold each disciple to be conformed to the image of Himself.

"Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make. Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?" says the Lord. "Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel."
Jeremiah 18:3-6

Jesus had great faith in His disciples, knowing one day they would become great men of faith who would storm the very gates of hell preaching the Gospel with signs and wonders following. Jesus knew what God could do in and through the disciple's lives. Jesus not only saw what they were when He chose them, but He saw prophetically what they would become! He foresaw the coming of the mighty Holy Spirit. He foresaw the Spirit infilling the disciples with power.

CHOSEN TO BE CHRIST AMBASSADORS

After three years of teaching and training His disciples and walking with them through many trials and difficult days, as well as many victories and triumphs, Jesus left them and gave them the Great Commission. Jesus then sent them the promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit, to empower and equip them with the same power He himself had.

On the day of Pentecost, the power and the fire of the Holy Spirit transformed every single disciple. They became the soul winners and the ministers of the Gospel Jesus had already foreseen. All their weaknesses and failures were forgiven and forgotten. The Holy Spirit sanctified them and empowered them for the same ministry Jesus had, and even for greater works. The Holy Spirit transformed them and made them Christlike.

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.” ^{John 14:12}

Peter became the great evangelist who stood up and preached on the day of Pentecost and three thousand souls received salvation! Peter became a pillar of the first century church and he witnessed great miracles in His ministry as he boldly preached the Gospel of Christ.

Thomas, the doubter, became a great missionary to India according to church history, and He preached the Gospel to many thousands seeing great signs and wonders. He planted churches in unreached India and was known as a great man of faith.

All of the disciples became CHRIST’S AMBASSADORS ministering in the same power, anointing and authority as Jesus had. Jesus had chosen simple and ordinary fishermen and tax collectors and made them God’s ambassadors of the kingdom of heaven!

CHOSEN TO SUFFER WITH CHRIST

We need to touch on another important aspect concerning the calling of God. We are not only called to preach the Gospel but also to suffer with Christ. Many people believe that to follow Christ is a walk on a red carpet and life is filled with glory, joy and victory every day.

It is true that Jesus is with us every day and we always triumph with Him, however let us look at the lives of the first apostles once more. They were chosen, called and anointed to do the works of Christ but also to suffer with Him. This is an honor and privilege for us. We must not see our cross and our suffering as a stumbling block but as a stepping stone for the advancement of God's kingdom.

In Foxe's Book of Martyrs, published in 1599, John Foxe recorded each of the apostle's legendary stories as they became martyrs for the Lord. These are powerful and inspiring accounts of simple and ordinary men like Andrew and James who preached all of their lives until death awaited them.

ANDREW PREACHED IN THE HEART OF ROME

Andrew, Peter's brother, preached to the Scythians, Sogdians, and the Sacae in Sebastopolis, Ethiopia, in the year A. D. 80. He was crucified by Aegeas, the governor of the Edessenens, and was buried in Patrae, in Archaia. Bernard and St. Cyprian mention the confession and martyrdom of this blessed apostle. Partly from them and partly from other reliable writers, we gather the following material. When Andrew, through his diligent preaching had brought many to the faith in Christ, Aegeas the governor asked permission of the Roman Senate to force all Christians to sacrifice and honor the Roman idols.

Andrew decided to resist Aegeas. He explained that a judge of men should first know and worship his Judge in heaven. While worshipping the true God, Andrew said, he should banish all false gods and blind idols from his mind. Furious at Andrew, Aegeas demanded to know if he was the man who had recently overthrown the temple of the gods and persuaded men to become Christians—a ‘superstitious sect’ that had recently been declared illegal by the Romans.

Andrew replied that the rulers of Rome didn’t understand the truth. The Son of God, who came into the world for man’s sake, taught that the Roman gods were devils and enemies of mankind, teaching men to offend God, and causing Him to turn away from them. By serving the devil, men fall into all kinds of wickedness, Andrew said, and after they die, nothing but their evil deeds are remembered. The proconsul ordered Andrew not to preach these things anymore or he would face a speedy crucifixion. Whereupon, Andrew replied, *“I would not have preached the honor and glory of the cross if I feared the death of the cross.”* He was condemned to be crucified for teaching a new sect and taking away the religion of the Roman gods.

Andrew, going toward the place of execution and seeing the cross waiting for him, never changed his expression. Neither did he fail in his speech. His body fainted not, nor did his reason fail him, as often happens to men about to die. He said, *“Oh cross, most welcome and longed for! With a willing mind, joyfully and desirously, I come to you, being the scholar of Him who did hang on you, because I have always been your lover and yearn to embrace you.”*

JAMES PREACHED IN THE HEART OF JERUSALEM

Because of his holy life, James was called “The Just” and “The safeguard of the people.” Considered a just and perfect man, James governed the church with the apostles. He did not drink wine or any strong drink; he ate no meat and never

shaved his head. When he entered the temple he would fall on his knees and ask for remission for the people. He did this so often that his knees lost their sense of feeling and became hardened, like the knees of a camel.

He prayed so much that when he was martyred, the early Church could feel the effects of his missed prayers. When many of their leaders had been converted, the Jews, Scribes, and Pharisees began to fear that soon all the people would decide to follow Jesus. They met with James, saying, "We beg you to restrain the people, for they believe Jesus as though He were Christ. Persuade those who come to Passover to think correctly about Christ, because they will all listen to you. Stand on top of the temple so you can be heard by everyone."

During Passover, the Scribes and Pharisees put James on top of the temple, calling out to him, "*You just man, whom we all ought to obey, the people are going astray after Jesus, who was crucified.*" And James answered, "*Why do you ask me of Jesus, the Son of Man? He sits on the right hand of the Most High and shall come in the clouds of heaven.*" Hearing this, many in the crowd were persuaded and glorified God, crying, "*Hosannah to the Son of David!*" Then the scribes and Pharisees realized they had done the wrong thing by allowing James to testify of Christ. They cried out, "Oh, this just man is seduced, too!" Then went up and threw James off the Temple.

But James wasn't killed by the fall. He turned, fell on his knees, and called, "*O Lord God, Father, I beg You to forgive them, for they know not what they do!*" They decided to stone James, but a priest said to them, "*Wait! What are you doing? The just man is praying for you!*" But one of the men there took the instrument he used to beat cloth and hit James on the head, killing him, and they buried him where he fell. James was a true witness for Christ to the Jews and the Gentiles.

Can you imagine being present and seeing the passion of these first Apostles? They would not stop preaching even if it meant martyrdom. The foundation for the Christian faith

is a revolutionary testimony. The Apostles lived their lives completely for eternity, because Christ had changed their lives. They were chosen to be Christ Ambassadors and to suffer with Christ.

TODAY GOD CHOOSES YOU!

What is God saying to you today as you read this book? He is saying the same words that Jesus said when He called His first disciples: *“Then Jesus said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.’”* Mark 1:17

Jesus is speaking to you today. Jesus is calling you today. Jesus is not looking at all your sins, mistakes, failures or disappointment. Jesus loves you and He forgives you. Jesus heals all your wounds, all your scars, and restores you totally in spirit, soul and body! Jesus says to you today: *“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”* Matt 11:28-30

Today God chooses you! Today God is looking into your heart and saying: “I choose you!” Jesus wants you and needs you. Leave your past behind and look forward to the great plan, missions and adventures that lie ahead. Do what Paul did; he let go of his past and looked ahead. *“One thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”* Phil 3:13-14

Maybe you feel like a zero. In fact we are all zeros without Jesus! But with Jesus we are more than a zero. Jesus is number one, the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings, and next to Him you are a number 10! With Jesus you are the head and not the tail. With Jesus you are an overcomer, a victor and not a loser! With Jesus YOU can do ALL things! Jesus will take you from a zero to a hero! HALLELUJAH!

JESUS CALLED ME AND CHANGED ME!

When Jesus called me as a twenty-year old man I was filled with weaknesses, failures, mistakes, shyness and sinful behavior. Both of my parents grew up in poor farming families. They took care of cattle and cultivated wheat and potato fields. There are no ministers in my family. I knew of no pastor or preacher who could help me. I had no contacts who wanted to help me. I had very little money in my pocket. I had very little Bible knowledge and didn't know anything about preaching the Gospel.

Humanly speaking my situation looked impossible, BUT THANKS BE TO GOD, JESUS SAID TO ME: *"With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."* ^{Matt 19:26}

Jesus called me, put the dream in my heart to preach His Gospel and then filled me with the Holy Spirit. He sent me to Kensington Temple Bible College in London and later out to the mission field in Africa where evangelist Reinhard Bonnke invited me to be part of two of His gospel crusades. Watching Bonnke preach and learning from him marked my life in a profound way. Step by step, God changed my life and deposited a great dream in my heart. A dream to win millions of souls and to be part of the end time church that will finish the Great Commission!

God changed the picture of myself, of Him and of the future for my life. I began to see myself as God's ambassador. I began to see myself as an evangelist with a calling to the nations. I began preaching and traveling from nation to nation, and praise be to God, the Gospel works! I started to see souls getting saved by the thousands, blind eyes opening, deaf ears opening, the paralyzed walking, and the demon possessed set free. Jesus did wonderful miracles through me! Simple and ordinary me!

With Jesus you are a hero and a champion. With Jesus you can do all things; you can preach, teach and heal! You can

do all that Jesus did and even greater works! With God all things are possible and if you cry out from your heart for Him to use you and send you out, He will do it! God has not changed and He is no respecter of persons. All God is looking for is your willing heart. Open your heart for Him and surrender all your life today. When you do, God will take you on an incredible journey of faith and He will make you a "fisher of men".

THE APPEAL OF SCOTTISH MISSIONARY ALEXANDER DUFF

Dr. Alexander Duff, that great veteran missionary to India, returned to Scotland to die, and as he stood before the general assembly he made his appeal for more harvest workers, but there was no response.

In the midst of his appeal he fainted and was carried off the platform. The doctor bent over him and examined his heart. Presently, he opened his eyes. "Where am I?" he cried. "Where am I?"

"Lie still," said the doctor. "You have had a heart attack. Lie still."

"But," exclaimed Dr. Duff, "I haven't finished my appeal. Take me back. Take me back. I must finish my appeal."

"Lie still," said the doctor again. "You will go back at the peril of your life."

But, in spite of the protests of the physician, the old warrior struggled to his feet, and with the doctor on one side and the moderator of the assembly of the other side, he again mounted the steps of the pulpit, and, as he did so, the entire assembly rose to give him honor. Then, when they were seated, he continued his appeal.

And this is what he said: "When Queen Victoria calls for volunteers for India, hundreds of young men respond; but, when King Jesus calls, no one goes."

Again he spoke: "Very well," he concluded, "then, aged though I am, I'll go back to India. I can lie down on the banks of the Ganges river and I can die and thereby I can let the people of India know that there was one man in Scotland who loved them enough to give his life for them."

In a moment, young men all over the assembly sprang to their feet, crying, "I'll go! I'll go!"

And after the old white-haired warrior had been laid to rest, these young men, having graduated, found their way to dark and unreachable India, there to labor as his substitutes for the Lord Jesus Christ.

TODAY GOD CHOOSES YOU AS HIS MESSENGER!

My friend, will you go? Has God spoken to you? Have you heard His call? Will you not answer, "Lord, here am I, send me"? You have no excuse to refuse. Jesus needs you. The harvest of lost souls needs you. God is not looking at your mistakes. God is only looking at your willing heart.

Say YES to Jesus TODAY! Say yes to His call and take action today as His ambassador! God is choosing YOU today, an ordinary person who loves Jesus. Wherever you are right now, call upon the name of Jesus!

Cry out your heart's desire to GO, to SERVE Him and to PREACH His Gospel! Now is the time to surrender and commit your life to the great harvest that must be reaped. Cry out to God, from earth to heaven, cry out! Let all of heaven hear you cry out your desire to be His messenger. God hears your cry, and He will answer you!

Now that you have committed your life to spreading the Gospel, GO! Don't wait for God to tell you where to go, what city or village to preach in, what country or town, just begin to go and the Lord will lead you. You are God's choice. You are God's ambassador. Go and run your race.

Part Two:

*Four Fathers
of World
Evangelization*

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: *"Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."* ^{Isaiah 6:8}

This calling to missions gripped Isaiah thousands of years ago. He became a messenger to a lost world. When Jesus came into our world he was "God's messenger" to a lost and dying world. The Great Commission, which we discussed in the previous chapters has been given to us by Jesus and has since gripped thousands of the Lord's messengers. In this section of the book you will read about some great role models in world evangelization.

Jesus is our greatest model in our lives and ministry. Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith. Jesus is the beginning and the end of our faith and our calling to the mission field. Jesus shows us an example, of being a messenger of God, that we are called to follow. Jesus is our primer and greatest model when it comes to the evangelization of the world.

All the life of Jesus breathed the heart of God; His passion and will to save, heal, deliver and restore lost and hurting people. The mission of Jesus was to bring the kingdom of God to us. The last thing he did before he left the earth, as we talked about in the last chapter, was to give us the Great Commission. The last words of Jesus and the message to all believers, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations."* ^{Mt 28:19}

What Jesus started to do in "a body of a Jew" two thousands years ago, He continued to do through His first disciples. The first Apostles that we read about in the Book of Acts continued the ministry of Jesus and obeyed the Great Commission. The first disciples show us yet another example to follow.

The same mission that Jesus Himself conducted on earth, His disciples continued doing; they preached that the kingdom of heaven is at hand, they taught about the kingdom of God, healed the sick and set the captives free. The first disciples continued running the race that Jesus started, that the gospel would be preached to all people, to the uttermost parts of the earth.

This amazing race, the Great Commission, has been run ever since from generation to generation, by hundreds of thousands of committed believers. When we study the history of the church, old revivals and about mission pioneers, there are many exciting and inspiring stories and testimonies to know about.

Generation after generation God has gripped new workers for the harvest who have given their lives to God and they have run their race as Christ's ambassadors to a lost world. Thousands of missionaries have given their lives at the front-line of the battlefield. Thousands of unreached villages, tribes and people groups have been reached with the saving message of Jesus.

If we look back at the last 2000 years of church history, it's not an amusing reading, repeatedly the believers lost focus on their mission that had been given by the Master Jesus. Our enemy has time and again succeeded to distract the disciples of Jesus that they have lost their focus in the mission. Our mission to reach the world with the good news became of little importance and sometimes was totally forgotten.

The Great Commission is and always has been the most important focus for followers of Jesus Christ. During the latest two hundred years there has been a great awakening and refocus on the Great Commission. God raised up many men and women who have done a marvelous job for the kingdom of God when it comes to the evangelization of the world.

There are hundreds of different men and women that I could mention when it comes to fantastic examples of heroism and pioneer spirit. Out of all these heroes, pioneers and missionaries, there are four different missionaries that God has used for the world's evangelization that I call, "Fathers of the world's evangelization."

Let's take a closer look at these four evangelists and heroes: William Carey, Hudson Taylor, Charles Thomas Studd and Tommy Lee Osborn.

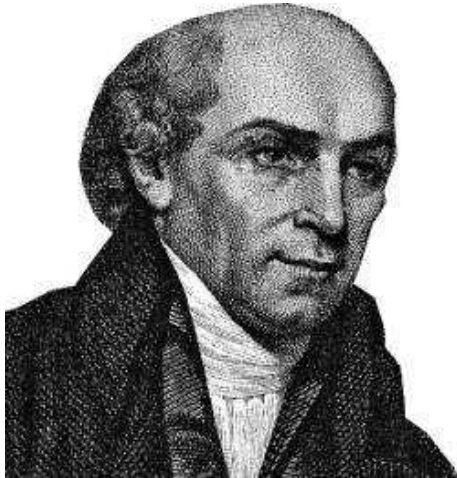
William Carey, Hudson Taylor and C.T. Studd were three fathers of the world's evangelization that now are in heaven and I have only read about them in books. Nonetheless their lives are a great source of inspiration and a challenge for us still today. All three of them were pioneers and fruit bearing evangelists to the unreached people of the world.

Tommy Lee Osborn, more known as T.L. Osborn is also in heaven as he passed away in 2013. T.L. was an evangelist and father to modern-day campaign evangelism. He preached the gospel to millions of lost people. Hanna and I have been very inspired and encouraged by T.L. Osborn in a personal way. Before Hanna and I moved to India 2004 as missionaries and launched our organization Good News To All People we attended a conference he led in Oslo, Norway. Later on we also had the privilege to meet T.L. Osborn in person. His testimony, heart and Jesus focus have touched our hearts deeply and impacted our lives greatly.

These four role models all have, in their unique way, inspired and challenged me to run my race preaching the gospel to all the world. Now let their life stories inspire you too. Say to God when you read about their lives: *"Here am I, send me too Lord!"*

Chapter 5

William Carey



Missionary and evangelist to India

1761-1834

*"William Carey was the beginning of the end time
World Evangelization."*

William Carey was a shoemaker by trade. But he was also a very gifted linguist and a missionary of God's grace to the unreached peoples. Carey was one of God's heroes in history in terms of his commitment to world evangelization. He defied his time and the resistance to think of other nations, and concentrated all his life to break through with the gospel to India's vast country.

One of his contemporary writers, F. Deal Ville Walker, wrote of Carey: "Carey has developed a unique plan for the accomplishment of the Great Commission which there is none alike ever made. His strong emphasis of the lack of evangelistic work among the world's unreached people groups affects everyone who reads it. His challenge for all believers to take steps to evangelize the world will never leave you until you take action."

Another writer wrote of him: "Looking at William Carey's life as a whole, it is not too much to say that he was the greatest and most prominent Christian missionary sent out to the unreached peoples of modern times. He is truly a father of evangelism to the unreached peoples of modern times."

THE BEGINNING OF A MISSIONARY'S LIFE

Carey was born in a small cottage in Paulerspury, a small village in England, the 17th of August 1761. When William was eighteen years old he made the commitment to "follow Christ" and to "... go into the world." He became a member of the church in Hackleton where he became an apprentice to a shoemaker.

It was there he married Dorothy in 1781 and it was in Hackleton he began to take five mile walks to Olney in his quest for more spiritual truths. William was hungry

for more of God and Olney was a stronghold of dedicated Baptists, the group that Carey joined after his baptism, October 5, 1783.

Two years later he moved with his wife to Moulton to become a schoolteacher and a year later he became pastor of the little Baptist church there. It was in Moulton where the call to the mission field touched Carey's heart. He recalls: "My attention to the mission assignment was awakened when I was in Moulton, and there read about the last voyage Captain Cook did. For many Cook's travel book was an exciting tale of adventure, but for me it was a revelation of the human need of a savior!"

William decided to prepare in every way he knew and he started to read every book that had anything to say about the mission assignment of Christ. His reading, together with his language studies, prepared Carey for the world beyond England. At the age of twenty Carey mastered Latin, Greek, Hebrew and Italian. His passion for languages, God would use in a fantastic way for the coming mission work in India.

THE GREAT NEED FOR THE GOSPEL TOUCHES WILLIAM

The more he read and studied, the more convinced he became that the peoples of the world need Christ. He read and made notes on the Great Commission. He also made a large globe of leather, for him to be able to see all the countries of the world, and especially India where his heart more and more was drawn to.

One day in the stillness in his shoemaker shop, not in a missionary conference, Carey heard God speak to his heart: "If it is the duty of all men to believe the gospel

to be saved ... then it is the duty of those who have been entrusted with the gospel to make it known among all peoples." Carey answered God with tears in his voice: "Here am I, send me!"

To surrender was one thing – but going to the mission field was a different matter. There were no missionary organizations ready to send missionaries; there was hardly any interest at all in the mission field beyond the comforts of Christianity in England. This was Williams's situation and reality. Would he give up even before he had begun, or would he trust in God? When Carey took up this topic for discussion at a pastors' meeting, the cold response hit him in the face: "Young man, sit down: when God pleases to save the heathen, he will do it without your or my help." This was a heavy punch in the face of a passionate William, who had promised God that he would devote his life to the mission field.

Carey was a man who never gave up when he was fully convinced in his heart about something. Little after Carey wrote his famous essay on how we should reach the unreached peoples with the gospel: "An Inquiry Into the Obligations of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens". In this masterpiece of the mission assignment, Carey wrote about how we need to evangelize all peoples. He surveyed the entire known world, its countries, size, population and religions, and he talked about how we concretely and practically can reach the world for Christ in our generation.

Carey preached and fought to carry out his inner convictions that we must finish the Great Commission. He had decided not to compromise with what God had called him to. India was the country that God called

Carey to and he gave everything, all his life, on this mission, expecting God's help through every trial. His most famous statement that he lived by was, "Expect great things from God and attempt great things for God."

AN UNQUENCHABLE FIRE FOR MISSIONS

It was in 1793 that Carey first went to India. His first wife was not willing to go with him - so Carey was getting ready to leave without his family. But he came back twice from the port before departure, gripped in his heart, to persuade her to follow. In the end, his wife Dorothy and his children followed with him, after many moments of tears and dedication afresh to complete the assignment of the Lord's call to India.

The first seven years in India were very tough for Carey. He did not see anyone accept Jesus as their Savior. He suffered from distress, poverty and disease. His wife had deteriorated physically and mentally. But by the grace of God - and through the power of the Word - Carey continued and conquered all adversity! He said: "It is worth investing our lives to do everything in our power to promote the spread of Christ's kingdom." This was a common statement of Carey when he worked his way through the tough pioneer land of India, despite all obstacles, setbacks and contradictions.

Carey saw the urgent need to translate the Bible in an Indian language, so he devoted most of his time to translation work. After many years of work a tragic accident happened, when without warning the entire printing press and Carey's translation work went up in flames. Many years of hard work had become ashes. In this great trial, many would have given up, but Carey, immediately started again from scratch. This was Car-

ey's determination – the mission work must be done, no matter the cost, no matter the tears and no matter the obstacles.

Soon he had translated parts of the Bible into 34 Indian languages, with six complete translations of the Bible. Carey's translation work of the Bible was a huge accomplishment that would have an incredible importance to the future of missionary work in India's vast country.

Carey stressed the need for indigenous churches with indigenous leaders. He believed that the Scriptures in the people's own language and with appropriate training, would help the native believers to take over and manage their own congregations. He also saw the great need of female missionaries, especially in India where native women would be kept out of sight in a male-dominated world.

CAREY IS CALLED THE FATHER OF MODERN MISSION

Carey was the father of modern world mission, not only because of his remarkable translation work of the Bible but also for his revolutionary ideas about how the Great Commission would be and could be accomplished together with the indigenous believers and churches. As a result of Carey's work, countless believers became missionaries who went into action, and several other missionary organizations were established. Missionaries reached out with the gospel to many of the darkest regions of the earth.

On his deathbed, Carey exclaimed to his dear missionary friend Alexander Duff: "Dr. Duff, you have talked

about Dr. Carey: When I'm gone, say nothing about Dr. Carey; speak about Dr. Carey's Savior."

When Carey died at the age of 73 in 1834, he had seen the Bible translated and printed into forty languages, he had been a university professor and he had founded a university built on God's Word in Serampore. He had seen India open their doors to evangelistic mission, he had contributed to the prohibition of burning widows to death at the funeral of their dead men, and he had seen hundreds of Indians receive salvation in Christ.

During his missionary service in India Carey had trained and sent out 30 missionaries and 40 native teachers. He had founded 45 mission stations, and about 600 new believers belonged to the churches he had founded. He was also the source of the formation of the Baptist Missionary Society, through which the gospel of Christ came to thousands of people in different parts of the world. Without exaggeration one can say that Carey was the beginning of current worldwide evangelism, reaching the unreached peoples in the remote regions, where the gospel never before had been preached.

Chapter 6

James Hudson Taylor



Pioneer Missionary to China's inland

1832-1905

"Hudson Taylor led the largest missionary movement the world had ever seen."

Hudson Taylor accomplished more than any other missionary before his time, speaking of the impact he had on so many lost people. He founded the China Inland Mission, which at his death in 1905, had 205 mission stations with 849 missionaries and 125,000 Chinese believers as a result of his ministry. This was great fruit from a passionate missionary who lived in prayer and faith to the last breath.

GOD'S CALL TO CHINA

James Hudson Taylor was born in Barnsley, England on May 21, 1832. He had the privilege of being born in a home where his mother and father feared God. His father's faith and his mother's prayers molded him as a young boy. Even before his birth, his parents entrusted him to God and asked him to be a missionary to China. Although they did not say anything to Hudson, it was not long until he had reached this country.

Shortly after he became born again, young Taylor began to feel a great dissatisfaction with his spiritual condition. His "first love" and zeal for souls had cooled and he had no victory over sin. He did not doubt his salvation, but he was convinced from his knowledge of the Bible and the lives of other prominent Christians, that there was a deeper level of God to experience.

"I remember," he says, "how I poured out my soul before God. Again and again I confessed my gratitude to him who had done everything for me ... I asked him to give me a part in his harvest field, I needed to give out the love and gratitude that I had to Him. I remember that moment so well when I put myself, my life, yes, my everything on the altar. I knew then that God was near me and saw my heart's desire."

Having made this great surrender, Hudson was now ready to hear the voice and call of his Lord: "Who will go for me to China?" And Taylor said, "*Here am I, send me.*" Right away he began to prepare for life as a pioneer in a strange land. He

exercised and prepared his fitness and health to be able to cope with the tough mission life. He changed his soft feather bed with a hard mattress to be ready for all conditions. Every week, he gave out leaflets and held evangelistic meetings in a cottage. Using a copy of Luke's Gospel in Chinese, he began studying the Chinese language.

FAITH AND PRAYER TAKES HUDSON TO CHINA

Since he had put everything on the altar of God, Taylor said, "God and God only is my hope and I need no other." His faith in the power of prayer grew steadily as he trusted the Lord through many difficulties, struggles and contradictions. God always came through and made a miraculous way for Taylor.

Following medical studies in London, he was accepted as a missionary of the Chinese Evangelistic Community and sailed September 19, 1853 to China. After a stormy voyage, and after the ship on two occasions was on the verge of collapse, Taylor reached Shanghai six months later, March 1, 1854.

At last he was in China! He was not there for his own pleasure, but as Christ's ambassador. He immediately began studying the Chinese language in depth, which he had made some progress in England and during the long trip to China. Taylor desired more than all to become a successful soul-winner. When he saw the Chinese people's idolatry and lost condition, he was more and more broken and overwhelmed for their eternal salvation. This distress was to be the start of his launch of evangelism into the inland of China.

HUDSON'S SECRET FOR SUCCESS: FAITH AND PRAYER

Hudson Taylor put all his faith on Jesus' words: "*If you ask anything in my name, I will do it.*" ^{Joh 14:14} He believed that Jesus taught that our heavenly Father had no shortage of re-

sources, and that if we ask, in childlike trust, all of our needs will be met. This childlike faith and trusting attitude of his prayers became Taylor's most important key for making God's dream become a reality.

"God's work done God's way will never lack God's supply" became one of Hudson's best-known statements. Jesus said, *"Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him."* ^{Matt 6:8} *"Ask and you shall receive ..."* ^{Matt 7:7} Was it that simple? Hudson took the words of Jesus seriously and staked all on that promise. When Taylor needed provision and laborers, he prayed in Jesus' name, and he expected that the need would be met. God always answered, sooner or later.

After some years in China, Taylor had to go home to England because of his critical health. He was bedridden for several months. As he lay on his bed occupied in thought and prayer, he heard the rising cry from China's millions of millions of people who were without Christ.

In his room there were always two things on his desk: the open Bible with the Great Commission *"Go into all the world and make disciples of all nations ..."* and the map of China with its urgent cry of *"Come and help us."*

When Taylor's health improved, he was encouraged by Mr. Lewis, his pastor and editor of the Baptist journal, to write a series of articles about *"China's spiritual needs."* Every sentence Hudson wrote was permeated by the need of prayer and more workers for China's lost people. *"They are perishing,"* he wrote, *"one thousand every hour, one million every month."*

On this occasion, when he was still in England, Hudson got the conviction that he should ask for two new missionaries to each of the eleven unreached provinces and two for Tibet, a total of twenty-four new missionaries. The burden now hit Hudson- how could he support so many new missionaries? This was a great faith challenge to Taylor, but he prayed and believed God.

OBEDIENCE TO GOD MEANT EVERYTHING TO HUDSON

Eventually he received clarity as to how he would go about it and he exclaimed: "If we obey the Lord, the responsibility rests with him, not with us." At once he wrote in his Bible: "On June 25, 1865, I asked for twenty-four new workers willing to go to China." This date marks the birthday of the China Inland Mission Hudson started. This mission was to be mightily used by God to reach the unreached Chinese in China's remote regions where no gospel had been preached before.

One day, when Hudson was on an evangelistic trip within China, he began a conversation with an old man, named Dz-ing, who said: "What should I do with my sins? Our scholars say that we are to worship idols and live only on vegetables. I lie on my bed and think of my sins. I sit alone during the day and think of my sins. I am seventy-two years old and I do not know much about tomorrow. Can you tell me what can be done about my sins?" Tenderly, Taylor began to tell the old story of Jesus Christ and about his love, and he led the old man to the Savior.

Taylor could hear several hundred million Chinese echoing the old man's cry: "What can be done about my sins?" He spent many hours in fervent prayer for more laborers into the harvest. In his Bible, he wrote: "I ask God for a hundred new native evangelists and missionaries to break into the unreached provinces and to preach Jesus Christ."

THE FOCUS WAS CHINA'S LOST MILLIONS

When Taylor once again returned to England, he was powerfully used by God to speak about China's lost people. He urged that more workers would dedicate their lives as missionaries to China's lost people. Taylor challenged the Christians in England to break new fields of unreached land in

China. Many gave their lives as missionaries after they heard Taylor's appeal. But still, there were large areas of unreached fields and almost a million lost souls per missionary who worked in China. These burdens were constantly in Taylor's thoughts and prayers.

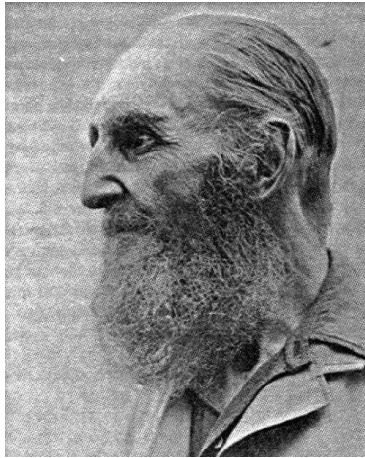
Arriving in China again, Taylor found many opponents, "but he rejoiced in the glad tidings of many new souls saved and how the Holy Spirit was poured out in several areas. Taylor now gave a publication entitled "The Entire Creation". He urged Christians and all missionaries: To reach the world with the gospel is not one man's project, but a divine command that must be adopted with the utmost seriousness by all who belong to Jesus Christ.

He began to ask God in prayer for one thousand new missionaries in China and with this prayer, he lived the rest of his life. Hundreds of workers gave their lives as missionaries with Taylor, all for the sake of reaching the unreached Chinese people. Since Christ had won a great victory, Taylor realized the unlimited resources belonging to those who believe and pray. Taylor said: "In exchange for our little lives that we give him, he will provide us with himself and the whole kingdom of heaven as our inheritance."

When Taylor died, 849 missionaries worked to reach China's lost millions. More than 120,000 Chinese people had accepted Jesus as their Savior and many new churches had been planted in previously unreached areas. Taylor's contribution to China bears much fruit even today, as many millions have come to believe in Christ to this day.

Chapter 7

Charles Thomas Studd



Pioneer missionary to the heart of Africa

1860 - 1931

*“Charles Thomas Studd took the gospel
into the heart of Africa”*

Charles Thomas Studd was a totally committed servant of Christ who faithfully served his Savior all his life in three major mission fields: China, India and Africa. The writer Alfred Buxton concludes in a very strong and compelling manner the person C.T. Studd and his life as a frontline missionary:

“C.T.’s life stands as an unshakable testimony to all future generations that it is worth losing everything this world can offer and stake everything on the kingdom of God and the Great Commission. His life will be an eternal rebuke to easygoing and lukewarm Christianity, and he has shown what it means to follow Christ without counting the cost and without looking back.”

As a soldier of the cross, C. T. is remembered for “his courage in the mission field’s front line, his determination to never give up, his belief that he was in God’s will, his faith that God would take him through all his trials, and his willingness to risk all for Christ.”

C.T. IS SAVED AND BEGINS TO BURN FOR JESUS

Charles Thomas Studd was born in England in 1860, and he was one of three sons of a wealthy Edward Studd. Edward Studd had created an unusually large fortune in India and had returned to England to spend it. After he had accepted Jesus as his Savior during a DL Moody campaign in England in 1877, Edward Studd became deeply concerned about his three sons’ spiritual condition. He prayed for them and saw all three accept Jesus as their Savior before his death two years later.

C.T. was saved in 1878 when he was 18 years old. It happened after a visiting preacher in his home saw C.T. play cricket, and after that asked him, “Are you Christian?”

C.T.'s reply was not convincing enough, so the preacher took C.T. aside and spoke to him about the way of salvation, God's gift of eternal life obtained through faith in Christ. C.T. testifies about what happened next:

"I went down on my knees and I said 'thanks for salvation' to God and at that moment an indescribable joy and peace filled my soul. I knew then that I was 'born again'." His two brothers received Jesus the same day!

C.T. continues to talk about what happened after this event: "I discovered something that superseded all I had ever experienced in my life, becoming a Lord's laborer. I began to testify and persuade my friends to read the gospel of Jesus Christ. I spoke to them one by one about their souls' salvation. I cannot say enough what a great joy it gave me to bring the first soul to salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ. I have tasted almost all the pleasures that this world can give, but those pleasures were nothing compared to the joy of seeing a person get saved in front of my very eyes."

C.T. BECOMES A MISSIONARY IN CHINA

The Lord continued to work in his life, and led C.T. to go as a missionary to China. C.T. tried in a letter to comfort his mother who was worried about her son: "Dear Mother, I pray that God will show you that there is such a privilege to give up her child for God's service, so that lost sinners who have never heard of the name Jesus can be saved from eternal damnation. "

C.T. was one of the first who offered himself to work under Hudson Taylor and his missionary work in China's inland, and in February 1885 he sailed to China. He and the other missionaries immediately began learning the language and to further identify with the citizens wore Chinese clothes and ate with them.

When C.T. was in China he waited 25 years and then he would, based on his father's decision, inherit a large sum of money. By reading the word of God and much prayer, C.T. felt himself led to give his entire fortune to Christ! He was assigned to God, and knew that the Word of God and His kingdom was the safest treasure on earth.

A BURNING HEART FOR THE EVANGELIZATION OF THE WORLD

Before C.T. knew the exact amount of his enormous inheritance, he sent £ 5000 to the evangelist DL Moody, £ 5,000 to the missionary George Mueller, an additional £ 4000 to other missionary work and £ 1,000 for orphans, and a further £ 15 000 in support of other preachers. Within months, he discovered the exact amount of his inheritance and he then gave away thousands of additional pounds. He only kept 3400 pounds in his own possession, which is approximately \$115, 000 converted to today's value.

Three years after arriving in China, C. T. married with a young Irish missionary, Priscilla Livingstone Stewart. Just before the wedding, he showed his bride, the remaining money from his inheritance. She then looked at C. T. and said, "Charlie, what did the Lord tell the rich young man that he should do?" "Sell everything and give to the poor." C.T. replied, "We must be serious about our faith before our wedding." They then gave away everything to the Lord's work to put their trust in God completely.

C.T. and Priscilla served the Lord together in the inland of China through many dangers and trials. Not until the year 1894, after ten years in China, were they forced when C.T.s' health deteriorated to return to England. They then gave away all their possessions to the Chinese Inland Mission.

NOTHING STOPS C.T. FROM GOING TO THE HEART OF AFRICA

C.T. Studd began his missionary service in China, and then worked in India for six years where he led a growing congregation, and then it was time to focus completely on reaching the heart of Africa.

C.T. refused to be stopped by anyone or anything. Without money, with poor health and stopped by the doctor, with the denial of support from a committee of businessmen who first promised support, but urged by God to go once again, C.T. risked everything to obey God.

As a young man he had sacrificed his career when he was a world champion in cricket and a very successful player. In China, he had sacrificed his fortune. Now he chose to sacrifice his life. His response to the denying group of businessmen was, "Gentlemen, God has called me to go, I will go and my steps will be a blazing trail. Although my grave might just become a launching pad for young men to follow, I will go."

In 1910, C.T. left his wife and four daughters in England and sailed away, opposed to the doctor's advice, to reach the heart of Africa with the Gospel. God had spoken to C. T. before his trip to Africa: "This trip is not just for Congo and Sudan, but for all of the unreached world." He discovered that beyond Sudan was Congo, and there were a large number of people without the gospel. He decided that there, right in the heart of Africa, he would start a crusade for the spread of the gospel.

Studd returned home to England and prepared the launch of his crusade into the heart of Africa. His wife stood by his side, but her health was not good enough to accompany

him, but he brought his friend, Alfred Brixton. They traveled together to the Congo through Kenya and Uganda, escorted by the carrier and, where possible, rode horses.

C.T. BUILDS A MISSION STATION IN CONGO

A mission base was established in Nala in the north of Congo, in the middle of an area, where soldiers ten years earlier had been killed and eaten by the native cannibals. Despite the language barrier, many received salvation in Jesus Christ, but C.T.s' bad heart condition made it necessary for him to return home to England to rest.

His wife had not been lazy during his absence, but had organized the new work, and together they opened a headquarters south of London, with a plea to the body of Christ for help to reach the unreached in Africa.

C.T. BECOMES A STRONG VOICE FOR MISSIONS

In a newspaper article Studd wrote that "Christ's call was not to save the righteous but lost sinners on the way to hell, taking them from the devil's claws and pulling them from the jaws of hell, to recruit and train them for Jesus, and turning them into God's army of armed soldiers of Christ. This can only be accomplished by burning, uncompromising, Holy Spirit filled Jesus believers, with selfless sacrifice and heroism in the foremost trenches on the front line."

C.T. demanded and expected of all missionaries and employees total devotion to the Lord and Jesus' mission assignment, and he was always an example for others to follow. When he went to Congo in 1916, he went along with eight new missionaries, including his daughter Edith, who were all prepared to be "living heroes for Christ."

THOUSANDS SAVED AND INDIGENOUS LEADERS RAISED UP

The remainder of his time C.T. was based in Nala and later also in Ibambi. The work flourished, and thousands received Jesus as their Savior and were baptized. More mission stations were established and more workers were raised up from the indigenous believers. He was happy to see how the Africans became strong leaders in their churches, while others became evangelists and went out with the gospel to new villages.

C.T. pressed himself to the utmost to overcome his physical weakness (illness, losing of most of his teeth and several heart attacks), but he endured all as a good soldier for the Lord Jesus Christ! He had a burning zeal to win souls while there was time. His dedication that Africa would be saved was so strong that he and his work was described back in England as "the craziest mission work."

THE WORK SPREADS TO OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD

In 1922 C.T. expanded his missionary work to new mission fields in other parts of the world; South America, Central and West Africa, and took the new name *World Evangelism Crusade*.

After a twelve-year long separation Mrs. Studd visited her husband in the Congo for two weeks. This was the last time they were together before her death. Then many African believers realized the sacrifice that their spiritual father and leader had paid to give them the gospel.

During his last two years C.T.s' health deteriorated quickly, he got high fever and multiple heart attacks.

On the last Sunday C.T. lived, he held a five hour long meeting, the following Thursday he died.

C.T.'S LAST WORDS SPEAK TO US TODAY

“Forward ever, backward never! Some want to live within the sound of the church bell. I want to run a rescue shop one yard from hell” was one of C.T. Studd’s famous sayings, which he lived and breathed every day of his life. In a letter home shortly before he died, C.T. looked back on his life:

“Now that I approach my departure from this world, I have a few things to rejoice about, and these are:

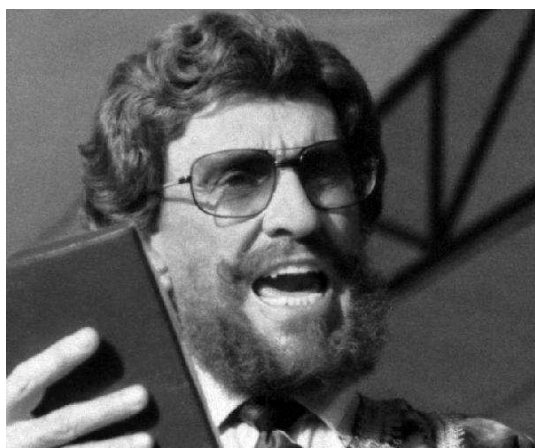
The first is when God called me to China and I went in spite of opposition from all my loved ones.

The second is that I was happy to do what Christ asked the young rich man to do.

The third is that, touched by God’s call, I went alone to the heart of Africa, and gave my life to this work of salvation, which was not only for Africa but for all of the unreached world. My only joy is that when God has given me a job to do, I have not refused it.”

Chapter 8

Tommy Lee Osborn



Campaign evangelist for
the unreached peoples

1923 - 2013

“Tommy Lee Osborn was the first evangelist of modern time who went to the open fields, in non-Christian nations, to proclaim Christ with signs and wonders following.”

Dr. T. L. Osborn was a world-missionary campaign evangelist, statesman, teacher, author, writer, linguist, designer, pianist and administrator. He is best known for his mass-miracle meetings to millions of people in unchristian nations. Together with his wife and evangelist, Dr. Daisy Washburn Osborn, he preached the gospel to millions of unreached peoples in over 90 nations in over a half of a century.

They preached daily to crowds of people, usually between 20,000 - 300,000 in one meeting. God confirmed his Word with many amazing miracles, as a testimony that Jesus lives among the nations, and many different religions.

Dr. Osborn was the first evangelist since the book of Acts that went to the open fields and parks, in non-Christian nations, to proclaim Christ and pray for miracles as proof that he is alive. This model has now become common. T.L. made several, at that time unique, documentary films about the miracles that took place, which have been translated into 70 languages and shown in thousands of towns and villages in 115 nations. Millions have been allowed to see and hear the gospel through these films.

T.L. Osborn had a big heart for the national indigenous evangelists. He started the National Missionary Assistance program, which has sponsored more than 30,000 indigenous men and women as full-time missionaries to the unreached tribes and villages. More than 150,000 new churches have been planted and have become self-supporting through this outreach program.

As author of several books, T.L. Osborn has stimulated the present global miracle-evangelism movement and put the focus on soul-winning in many countries. His classic, "Healing the Sick," has been a bestseller since 1951, and over one million copies have been printed in English only. Several of Dr. Osborn's books "Soul Winning", "God's Love Plan", "The Good Life" and "The Message That Works" have become textbooks in Bible schools around the world and are considered

by many pastors and leaders to be their main source of inspiration and reference materials.

BORN ON A POOR FARM WITH TWELVE SIBLINGS

T.L. Osborn was born December 23rd, 1923, and grew up on a small farm in the state of Oklahoma, USA. T.L. was one of thirteen children. His family was poor and was throughout his childhood struggling financially, especially during the depression in the thirties.

T.L. received Jesus as his personal Savior when he was 13 years old, after his older brother took him to a small church in Mannford, Oklahoma. His family became good friends with Evangelist Oral Roberts, who led a small church in Sand Springs, Oklahoma, in the mid 1930s. T.L. started helping Oral with his evangelistic meetings. Oral did the preaching, and T. L. took care of most things around it; he played the accordion and led the music during the meetings.

CALLED TO THE MISSION FIELD WHEN HE MILKED COWS

When T.L. was 15 years old the presence of God came upon him while he was out milking the cows. He began to cry and knelt to pray and asked God what was happening. God told him that he was called to be an evangelist to the world. He began to laugh and cry at the same time, he did not understand then what was happening, but this was the moment when God's mission call first grabbed hold of T.L.

T.L. dropped out of school after completing eighth grade in 1939 and began traveling with Evangelist E.M. Dillard, who held evangelical meetings. Osborn helped to take care of youths in the evenings. He traveled with Dillard for two and a half years and had extensive training in the evangelistic ministry.

It was during his travels with Dillard that T.L. in 1941 met his wife Daisy. The love between them hit them strongly and they were married in Los Banos, California, on Easter Sunday 1942. He was 18 and she was 17 years at the time. Their first three years of marriage they served God as pastors and traveling evangelists, primarily in California, Oklahoma and Oregon.

THE FIRST MISSION TRIP WAS A FAILURE

T.L. and Daisy carried a mission call and their first mission field was India. In 1945, they left their homeland for the first time, and they also handed over a growing congregation that they were pastors of. The young couple was 21 and 20 years old when they invested their all in their burning mission call to India.

The time in India was not at all as they had planned, as they failed to convince the Indians that the Bible was the Word of God. They could not prove that Jesus was the Son of God. T.L. and Daisy felt like a failure and their courage was struck down. No one wanted to accept Jesus as their Savior, and after nine months of hard work, they had not seen any miracles. Therefore, they decided to go home to America again.

When they returned home they took over the pastorate of a congregation in Oregon and there they tried to recover from their failure in India. They knew they needed more of God's power. They read biographies, books and sermons, and searched for answers in the Word of God. They asked for more power in their ministry. They were desperate for an encounter with God and for a powerful ministry.

T.L.'S ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS CHANGED EVERYTHING

One evening they visited a revival meeting where a woman named Hattie Hammond preached on the theme, "If you ever see Jesus you will never again be the same." T.L. and

Daisy were deeply moved by this message, and they longed after a meeting with Jesus. They went home from the meeting with a great hunger and prayed late into the night, longing for Jesus.

Early the next morning at six o'clock T.L. woke as Jesus stood before him. He was completely speechless, and his whole being was affected by the glory that came from his Lord. Tears ran from his eyes as he lay there before the Lord. He saw Jesus with His very own eyes, a vision and a meeting that changed him forever.

He understood now that the Lord loved him and had a plan for his life. Old ideas about success and ministry in the kingdom of God fell away and from that moment T.L. only longed after one thing: the glory of Jesus.

God was not finished with T.L. yet. He had heard their cry after seeing Jesus do miracles in their ministry. In November 1947 evangelists William Branham, Jack Moore and Gordon Lindsay held meetings in the Portland Civic Auditorium. Daisy attended one meeting without her husband because T.L. was in the midst of another series of meetings. She told T.L. about the miracles that took place and she knew then that her husband had to attend.

T.L. SAW JESUS DO MIRACLES THROUGH A MAN OF GOD

The miracles that took place in Branham's meetings were dramatic. Deaf received their hearing after the evangelist had put his fingers in the deaf ears, and commanded the deaf spirit to leave. T.L. had never seen God's healing power so close and so evident. T.L. and Daisy were stunned to see Jesus' healing power so real. They now had seen Jesus work miracles through a servant of God. They had a new vision of the love of Jesus and the revelation that *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever."* ^{Heb 13:8}

T.L. saw in Branham a humble man who believed in God's Word and who simply did what Jesus asked him to do. T.L. began to cry when he saw what Jesus did. The blind saw, the deaf heard and the lame walked. While he saw Jesus do these miracles, he could hear God's voice say to him: "You can also do it." Once again God shook T.L. and Daisy in the depth of their being.

T.L. SAW JESUS IN THE WORD OF GOD WITH NEW EYES

After these two life-changing experiences with Jesus, T.L. and Daisy began reading the Bible with new eyes. They read about the miracles Jesus did. They read how Jesus gave the disciples power and authority to heal the sick and to cast out demons. They saw Jesus with new eyes in the Bible and faith was born in their hearts that they could do what Jesus did and what other disciples had done.

T.L. fasted from all food and water for three days, and sought God's presence, and longed for his presence. During this prayer and fasting period, the Lord spoke to him and said: "Just as I was with other servants, I will be with you. Wherever you go, my power will be present. No demon or sickness can stand against you when you preach my gospel. "

T.L. SAW JESUS DO MIRACLES THROUGH HIMSELF

T.L. and Daisy began to hold their own healing meetings in the church where they were pastors. Immediately they began to see healings and miracles. The first miracle they saw was a woman who had been badly injured in a car accident and could barely walk with crutches. She experienced God's power and began to walk normally. She was completely healed and gave testimony that she had heard an angelic choir who sang praises to God and in that moment she had been healed.

THE FIRE TOOK THEM TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

The mission flame burned again in T.L. and now that they saw healing miracles in their ministry, they knew that this was the answer for reaching the lost in foreign countries. Between 1950 and 1964 T.L. and Daisy traveled worldwide and had great crusades in 40 countries. The meetings T.L. and Daisy conducted over the world were some of the largest ever held, often there were tens and even hundreds of thousands of people present and many thousands accepted salvation in Jesus Christ.

MIRACLES PROVE THAT JESUS IS ALIVE

Wherever T.L. and Daisy went and preached they witnessed miracles, signs and wonders as proof that Jesus is alive today. Often people saw Jesus in open visions during their campaigns. In a meeting in Thailand over 100 people saw Jesus walk through the crowds.

Their mission has continued for decades, but their focus has never changed. Their focus has always been the unreached, the forgotten peoples who have never heard. Wherever they went, they preached, and lifted up Jesus, used the authority they had over evil spirits and diseases and they have seen thousands of miracles as a proof that Jesus is alive today.

T.L.'s focus on Jesus and His love for everyone in the world, has taken him to over 90 nations and millions of people, and is an example for us to follow. His life and ministry is a great inspiration and encouragement to all believers that Jesus is alive and wants to use ordinary people today.

Part Three:

Motivation for Running Your Race

Chapter 9

We are God's saving lifeboat

“Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.” ^{2 Cor. 5:20}

In his letter to the Corinthian church Paul states: “We are ambassadors for Christ.” Yes, we truly are Christ ambassadors involved in a rescue mission to bring the saving message of hope and love to every person –rescuing those that are “sinking” under the weight of sin.

Let me remind you of the urgency to run the race and preach the Gospel among the nations. $\neg\neg$ All have sinned, and without Christ they are on their way to endless suffering, absent from the presence of God in an eternity of torments in hell. The Gospel is God's saving lifeline, and we the church of Jesus Christ are God's saving lifeboat. We have a mission to rescue those that are drowning in the sea of sin.

A TRUE STORY THAT SPEAKS TODAY

On that fateful night of April 14, 1912 there were 2,235 souls crowded aboard the Titanic. The frigid, dark sea was calm, like a plate glass mirror beneath the star covered heavens. It was an hour before midnight on that windless and moonless night. While the band played beneath the decks in the first class lounge, and while the night watchmen paced the bridge high above, the greatest tragedy in the history of seafaring silently awaited them in the icy midnight waters of the North Atlantic.

Survivors recalled a gentle shake that briefly shook the 900-foot long vessel, and no one gave it a second thought, except for the occupants on the bridge, who in the split seconds before the collision saw the towering iceberg ahead, floating in their unlighted pathway. The helmsmen changed direction to miss the iceberg, but they would have been better off to have struck the iceberg head-on.

Three-fourths of the iceberg lay unseen beneath the calm ocean surface. As the Titanic turned, the starboard side of the bow brushed up against the iceberg opening up a quarter of an inch wide wound more than 300 feet along the side of the vessel. Like a giant can opener the iceberg knifed-open the side of the iron structure. The damage was just enough to cause the metal plates to buckle so that six watertight compartments began taking in seawater.

So scientifically had this great sailing ship been constructed, with 16 watertight compartments in a 1/6 mile-long structure, that the Captain had made a pre-voyage boast, **“Not even God himself could sink her.”** The builders had calculated that even if four of the compartments should burst, the ship would still float! But on that starry night six of the compartments exploded and began to suck in cold water from the North Atlantic! The “unsinkable ship” was mortally wounded and in two hours she was gone. Commander

Lightoller, one of the few crewmembers who survived the tragedy, described the moment the Titanic sank. "Of the 2,235 occupants, 1,522 met their death in those dark waters including most of the men, most of the third class, most of the crew, and the entire band. Only 713 people were rescued."

AT THIS VERY MOMENT PEOPLE ARE SINKING

Just like the great ship Titanic sank, **never to rise again**, millions in our world are sinking into the abyss of hell – **where there is no return**. The Word of God tells us in Romans chapter 3:23 "*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*" And in chapter 5:12 we read: "*Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.*"

All people have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. "*There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside.*" ^{Rom 3:10-12} Sin has spread to all men, and through sin, death has spread to all. This is a terrifying truth, but still it is the Word of God and it is the truth. Every person is born a sinner, and people without Christ are "sinking" under the weight of their sin into the lost sea of hell. This grieves my heart, and I can hear the "great cloud of witnesses" shouting to us: "**Run, run the race set before you!**"

More than seven billion people live in our world today. Unless each person receives salvation through Jesus Christ, they will perish. Statistics tell us that of the world's seven billion people approximately two billion are confessing believers in Christ, while five billion have not confessed Jesus as their Lord and Savior. This means that approximately five billion people are right now, this very second, sinking into eternity without salvation. Ponder that fact for a moment - five billion souls at this moment perishing into the abyss of "forever lost," separated from God, their heavenly Father and Creator. **This fact must grip us.** This fact must motivate us to take action as God's

rescue workers. We are God's saving lifeboat sent out to throw out the miracle lifeline - Jesus Christ.

THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY WE CAN BE SAVED

As the great ship Titanic was sinking, there was only one way to be rescued that cold night. The only way to be rescued from drowning was to get on one of the rescue boats. The rescue boats were the only lifeline available. The same is true for our lost world! There is only ONE WAY by which we can and must be saved. That way is Jesus Christ!

"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

"If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Rom 10:9

Jesus Christ is the one lifeline given to us by our heavenly Father. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. He alone died on the cross shedding His own precious blood for the salvation of all. Only Jesus can save us because only Jesus died for us. No money, no church program, no pastor, no evangelist, no church building nor any religious activity or human effort can save. God has decided that the only way for people sinking under the weight of sin, under the cold waters, which steal the last breath from a drowning person, is to believe in His Son Jesus Christ.

People all over the world diligently search for God through various religious practices, rituals and sacrifices but none of these will ever reach God. The reason is simple. God is a Holy God and He will not have any relationship with sin or dead religion. God showed us the Way by which we can and must be saved. Christ came into our world and paid the price for our sin. Jesus made a way for us all to come to God

the Father and receive salvation and eternal life! This is the "good news" of the Gospel. Hallelujah!

GOD NEEDS MORE RESCUE BOATS

The builders of the Titanic believed that she was unsinkable; consequently they did not believe it was necessary to have the required number of lifeboats for all the passengers. There were too few lifeboats for the almost three thousand people on board the Titanic. Today many believers in the Body of Christ have a similar attitude. They think: "I'm not called. There are missionaries doing the task of reaching the lost. God hasn't called me to the mission field. I'm not needed."

Those who think this way are making the same fundamental mistake that the builders of the Titanic made, namely, "*more life boats are not needed because no harm will come to the people.*" However, the truth is, God desires that each and every member of His body would understand that millions will sink into the abyss of hell unless they can climb into a life boat, and YOU are that life boat! You are God's saving lifeboat.

Do you hear God calling you right now? He is calling you to be a rescue boat in His kingdom. People are sinking and need rescue. There are too few workers today doing the work of throwing out the lifeline and pulling people into the rescue boat.

THE RESCUE MISSION HAS BEEN GIVEN

After the iceberg struck the Titanic the rescue signal was given. Panic hit the people and the rescue workers were overloaded with the burden to save as many as possible. Seven hundred and thirteen people were rescued that night and more than fifteen hundred people died in the freezing cold waters.

What can we learn from this tragic event? We can learn that the rescue mission has been given! The signal to rescue perishing souls has been given. We have no time to wait. We have no time to argue and fight one another. We have to fo-

cus one hundred percent on the mission given to us directly from our Captain, the Lord Jesus Christ. *“And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”* Mark 16:15-16

Urgency is implicit in this command. This is a rescue operation. People are sinking. People are perishing. Some are aware of it, some are totally blind to this fact, but one day everyone will face eternity. Eternity is knocking on every person’s door!

Jesus called us to preach the Gospel to every creature. Jesus called us to throw out the lifeline to all people giving them the opportunity to receive salvation. This is the rescue mission, which has been given to us. This is the race that God has set before us. *“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”* Matt 24:14

THE MISSION IS CRYSTAL CLEAR

Every mission needs a direction. As the Titanic was sinking, the mission and the course were clear, rescue every person and bring them safely to the shores of America. The same is true for us in our mission, **PREACH THE GOSPEL TO EVERY PERSON AND ALL PEOPLE GROUPS!** To accomplish this task we must go where the Gospel has not yet been preached. Paul said it this way: *“I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man’s foundation.”* Rom 15:20

Let us not become sidetracked or lose our focus. Let us stay the course God has given us! Whatever your gift, skill, anointing, job, profession or ambition, your purpose in life is to use everything you have to spread the Gospel to all the world. There is no other direction and no other mission for the Body of Christ. We must obey the Commission of Jesus until we have successfully run the final lap and completed the race set before us.

ALL MEN ARE NEEDED ON DECK

Not every person on the Titanic engaged in the rescue mission as the ship was sinking, but if they would have, many more would have been saved. Many passengers were panicked, shocked, and some remained selfish and concerned only for their own lives.

Jesus is calling for more witnesses; witnesses with hands to touch, feet to go, mouths to preach, eyes to see the harvest, and more believers to throw out the rescue line to perishing souls. He needs workers in this mission. Jesus is calling on you and me to join Him in the most important rescue operation, to run the greatest race the world has known – the preaching of the Gospel to the very ends of the earth!

Remember that in the Gospel of Matthew Jesus emphasized the need for “all men” to become rescue workers: “Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, *“The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”*

Matt 9:35-38

Jesus fulfilled His ministry of love, forgiveness, healing and salvation and ultimately died on the cross. He now looks to you and to me to do all we can to finish the final lap of the Great Commission. This last lap will take the Gospel to every people group in our world. You are needed. You are called. You are important. This rescue mission needs all men and all women on deck. No one is excluded. No one is worthless. You are God's VIP! AMEN!

QUOTES TO INSPIRE OUR PART IN GOD'S RESCUE MISSION

"If sinners will be damned, at least let them leap to hell over our bodies. And if they perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees, imploring them to stay. If hell must be filled, at least let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go there unwarned and unprayed for." - **Charles Spurgeon**

"Not called!' did you say? 'Not heard the call,' I think you should say. Put your ear down to the Bible, and hear Him bid you go and pull sinners out of the fire of sin. Put your ear down to the burdened, agonized heart of humanity, and listen to its pitiful wail for help. Go stand by the gates of hell, and hear the damned entreat you to go to their father's house and bid their brothers and sisters and servants and masters not to come there. Then look Christ in the face - whose mercy you have professed to obey -- and tell Him whether you will join heart and soul and body and circumstances in the march to publish His mercy to the world." - **William Booth**

"Oh my friends, we are loaded with countless church activities, while the real work of the church, that of evangelizing and winning the lost, is almost entirely neglected." - **Oswald J. Smith**

"You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in this work. And go not only to those that need you, but to those that need you most... It is not your business to preach so many times, and to take care of this or that society; but to save as many souls as you can; to bring as many sinners as you possibly can to repentance." - **John Wesley**

THREE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN THE GREAT COMMISSION

The famous pastor, evangelist and missionary Oswald J. Smith said that the Great Commission consists of three components: PRAYING, GIVING and GOING.

1. PRAYING

First, we have the KNEE missionaries, those who pray for the harvest and for the workers. These are the intercessors who are missionaries on their knees. To pray is the beginning of all Gospel ministry. When we pray; mountains are moved, passion for souls is rekindled and compassion for the lost is gained.

2. GIVING

Second, we have the HAND missionaries, those who give financially to support the Gospel work. They are the ones holding the rope and supplying the necessary funds to operate the rescue mission. When we give; we send the Gospel to the lost and the unreached as we enable willing missionaries to go.

3. GOING

Third, we have the FOOT missionaries, those who go with the Gospel message to the lost. They stand on their feet and take action and preach the message of salvation. They represent Christ as His mouthpiece preaching the Gospel and giving lost humanity the only message that can save them.

A powerful statement from Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke fittingly sums up this chapter. **“Nobody can evangelize the world alone. We all have gifts to contribute: money, talents, time or ourselves. Only the total contribution of all of us can accomplish the Great Commission. Together is the only way it can be done.”**

Amen!

Chapter 10

What motivates Your Action?

“He said to them, “Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth.” Mark 1:38

In the previous chapter we discovered a great truth, that God has called you, an “ordinary” person into His “extraordinary” ministry of preaching the gospel and rescuing lost people. To know that you are chosen, called and “hand-picked” by your heavenly Father, motivates you to take action as Christ’s ambassador.

When we look at Jesus we can see that He always was “on the go” to reach more people, more villages, and more cities with the “good news of the kingdom.” Have you ever wondered what was motivating Jesus to go on and never give up? What was the driving force in Jesus’ life and ministry?

To answer this question there are two important words, two vital concepts that you need to understand: Response and Action: Response to the “Great Commission” and your part in taking Action as His ambassador. Completing the final lap

depends on these two words: response and action. This was Jesus' ministry in a nutshell; he responded and took action!

Your response and your action will decide how this final lap will be run. YOU have to Respond and take Action. We cannot sit and wait. We have to arise and go! When everything is said and done, it is your response to God's calling and your action as His ambassador that really matters. We can study, learn and become more wise and more educated, but without response and action it is all in vain.

As we will talk about these two words and these two priorities of the "Great Commission", I pray that the Holy Spirit will put a strong desire and urge in you, to respond and take action. You have to individually respond to Christ's Commission – no one else can respond for you. You have to take action as His ambassadors. All of heaven is watching you and waiting for you to respond and take action.

The time for sitting and doing nothing is over. The time for waiting is over; the TIME for ACTION is NOW! Jesus is calling on you; how will you respond? How will you take action? Decide right now to respond and take action!

RESPONSE TO THE GREAT COMMISSION!

What does RESPONSE mean? What does response to Christ's "Great Commission" mean? Maybe you have never thought about this question before. I want you to reflect on this question and think about this Bible verse: *"When [Jesus] saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd."* ^{Matt 9:36}

Jesus was moved with compassion for the people. Jesus was gripped in His heart for the lost state of humanity. Jesus was grieved in His heart at the pitiful condition of the human race. What Jesus saw motivated His response and action - Jesus was always hungry for more people to come into the kingdom of God.

If we want to fully grasp the meaning of what response to Christ's "Great Commission" means for us today, we will need to ponder eight powerful statements. Individually, each statement is sufficient to cause us to respond, and together, these statements leave us with no excuse but to respond to our Lord and Savior!

Response to Christ "Great Commission" means simply:

1. To FEEL what Jesus felt.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will enable you to FEEL what Jesus felt when He walked the dusty roads of life, ministering to people.

2. To SEE what Jesus saw.

Pray that you will be able to SEE the people as Jesus saw them, with eyes of love and with a heart of compassion.

3. To UNDERSTAND His mission.

Pray that you will UNDERSTAND the mission Jesus had in our world, a mission to bring the "kingdom of heaven" to earth.

4. To VALUE what Jesus paid so much to redeem.

Pray that you will VALUE the great price Jesus paid on the cross when He redeemed back to God the Father all that was lost.

5. To REALIZE how much He believes in you and me.

Pray that you will REALIZE how much He believes in you, as His ambassador, His representative, His mouth, His feet and His hands!

6. To KNOW your place and part in the mission.

Pray that you will KNOW your place and part in the mission of bringing the gospel to the ends of the earth.

7. To **ACCEPT** your role as His ambassador.

Pray and decide to **ACCEPT** your role as His ambassador. Choose this day, that wherever you go, you will be His ambassador.

8. To **COMPREHEND** that if we don't go, God can't go.

Pray that you will **COMPREHEND** that if you don't go, God can't go. The "Great Commission" lies in your hands. It depends on your response.

YOU ARE GOD'S CHOSEN AMBASSADOR

"Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us; we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God." ² Cor 5:20

You are God's ambassador; His representative here on earth! You are His mouth, His hands, His feet and His interpreter to the lost! Christ only has you and me to minister His love, power and "good news" to our hurting world.

His calling requires response. You cannot stay in the grey zone and not react. Jesus calls you today, and you have to respond. You cannot sit still and do nothing. Your response to His calling will effect the eternity of all the people you are about to touch and share the gospel with.

You have to reject Christ and His calling or you have to say YES to His calling and respond. Response to His calling is real faith! Faith is not to know the Bible from cover to cover. Faith is to hear the Word of God, the voice of Jesus, the call of Christ and respond! This is faith! Faith is obeying God's Word and Christ's command because His words say to us: "We are ambassadors for Christ."

Not... "We will be ambassadors someday!" Not... "We will be ambassadors when we have more faith!" Not... "We will be ambassadors when we get enough Bible knowledge!" Not... "We will be – NO! WE ARE HIS AMBASSADORS NOW!"

We respond because He calls. He calls because He needs us!

Jesus has finished His work here on earth, now He calls us to finish our work. Jesus calls you to be a harvester in the world's fields of lost souls. Jesus calls you because He needs you. He needs you to preach the saving gospel message - the "good news" of the kingdom of heaven.

ACTION AS HIS AMBASSADORS

The word ACTION is a great word. Action means movement. It means doing something with that which has been entrusted to us.

God is a God of action. Jesus, when He lived in our world, demonstrated what "action as God's representative" meant wherever He went. Now it is time for you and me to take action as His delegates!

Think about this question for a moment: What happens when we realize how much God believes in us?

When you realize how much He believes in you, then you will take action! Everything hangs on our action. We must do something with our faith and love. Our faith is useless unless we take action and use it to spread the gospel. Faith without action is a dead faith. It is time for gospel action! It is time to start to move and get going for Jesus and His Great Commission!

FIVE FACTS THAT MOTIVATE ACTION

1. GOD'S PLAN – and how it depends on us

The gospel is committed to our trust. God is waiting on us to give the gospel to every creature in the whole world. God will not send the angels to finish the Great Commission. He will only use you and me to preach the gospel. God's plan depends on us. God's plan of saving the world is connected to our obedience in preaching the gospel.

The millions of lost and unreached people in this land will be lost and go to hell if we don't tell them God's good news of salvation. God needs you! God will never send the angels to win any nation for heaven – No, God has decided to choose us! God's plan for saving the lost in our world depends upon you and me. We need to take action because God's plan depends on our action.

2. GOD'S LOVE – a passion to give life to the dying

Paul, the first missionary to the unreached Gentiles was driven and motivated by God's love for lost people. *"For the love of Christ compels us."* ^{2 Cor 5:14}

The love of God is so strong, so great, so deep, so wide and so high; there is no possible way to comprehend the measure of God's love for one single person.

It was love for the world that caused God to send His only begotten Son into our world. It was the love of God in Jesus that motivated Him to die on the cross. It was the love of God that motivated the early church, in the face of persecution, to preach the gospel to all mankind.

To truly experience the love of God through an encounter with the Holy Spirit is perhaps the greatest "motivating" factor for us to take action as His ambassadors.

3. GOD'S MESSAGE – Good News for our hurting world

When you discover the message God has commissioned us to preach, then you will be motivated. God's message is good news; God's news for the lost. It's good news for the sick, because for them it is healing. It's good news for the bound, because for them it is deliverance. It's good news for the sinful, because for them it is forgiveness and righteousness.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek." ^{Rom 1:16} The gospel is the power of God

to salvation, healing and deliverance for everyone who believes. Preach the gospel and the gospel happens, the Gospel will work miracles when it is spoken. God's message works miracles for everyone who hears it, believes it and receives it. God's message motivates us to take action!

The good news meets humanity's deepest needs and longings. Live with two visions in your life. Live first with the vision of the abundance, love, power, life and the blessings of Jesus. Then live with the vision of the starving lost and dying world. We have to take the abundance of Jesus and give it to the poor and lost. These two visions, if you live by them, will motivate you to take action. We have Good News to our sick and hurting world!

4. GOD'S REDEMPTION – It is for all people and nations

When Jesus cried out on the cross "IT IS FINISHED," He declared that redemption is available for all mankind. The blood of Jesus washes us clean, no matter who we are, no matter our background, or color we have on our skin.

God's redemption is for all people: for every tribe, tongue and nation. It is for the rich and for the poor. It is for presidents, prime ministers and kings. It is for the beggars, the alcoholics, the lepers and for the outcasts of society. God's redemption for all people alive on our planet through the blood of Jesus is such a powerful truth that motivates us to take action.

If you could see the heart and mind of God, you would see His view of people – He loves everyone the same! He has sacrificed His Son Jesus for each and every one! God's redemption is complete and finished. There is nothing more we can do or need to do. When we grasp this fact, we will be motivated to take action and to proclaim the message of redemption through the blood of Jesus to all peoples in our world!

5. GOD'S PARTNERSHIP – He is with you everywhere

In the Gospels we see Jesus, who was in the body of a Jew doing the works of God among lost and hurting people. In the book of Acts we see how Jesus lived in the believer and continued to do the same miracle works through believers. Today Jesus lives in you and me, and He continues the same work as He did in Bible days. God is in partnership with you and me today! This motivates us to take action. If He is with us, who can be against us?

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.” John 14:12

Jesus speaks faith into your heart. YOU can do the same works and EVEN GREATER works than Jesus Christ! Jesus believes in you. He is your partner and works with you! When you believe in Him you can do His works and even greater works.

“And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.” Mark 16:20

“I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matt 28:20

Jesus will go with you and work through you. When you go, Jesus will go with you, wherever you go. When you preach the gospel, Jesus will confirm the Word with signs and wonders. Isn't that wonderful! You can be bold. You can be free. You can take action today because God is in partnership with you.

Jesus will never leave you nor forsake you. He has promised to always be with you and to go with you. Therefore, arise and take ACTION! Choose your destination and GO. Pick your country and GO! Pick your villages and GO! You can hold your own village gospel campaign. You can plant your own church. Yes, you can plant more churches if you

already have planted one church. You can preach the gospel and when you do, the gospel WILL happen!

Jesus is waiting on your RESPONSE and your ACTION. Arise and run your race. Together we can run the final lap of the Great Commission and finish what Jesus began to do.

HOW I RESPONDED AND TOOK ACTION

I received Jesus as my Savior as a sixteen-year old boy in a small Pentecostal church in Sweden. I was later baptized in the ocean on the west coast of Sweden during a mission's conference as an eighteen-year old young man. I had decided to respond and to follow Christ with all of my heart. I wanted to follow Christ in every way I could. I read the gospels about Jesus and I became more and more inspired by Him and His ministry. I read the book of Acts and my hunger for more of God grew and grew.

Two years passed and I was baptized in the Holy Spirit and fire after a period of intense longing after Jesus' promise in the book of Acts 1:8: *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

I received the gift of speaking in tongues and prophesying. That day I was baptized into the Holy Spirit, and God's fire came into my life. I cried and with tears rolling down my cheeks I surrendered my life totally to the will and plan of God. God took me, a shy, weak, and timid young man and made me into a bold lion. I started to boldly testify and witness that Jesus saves and that He can do miracles today. God put His calling in me to be a soul-winner - an evangelist to the ends of the earth. A dream was born in my heart. A dream that one day I would serve God and preach His gospel to the ends of the earth.

I want to take you back to some milestones that I can remember as I look back on the beginning of my ministry, and explain to you how God's calling captured me.

A VISION OF HELL BROKE MY HEART FOR THE LOST

One of the most profound moments that I experienced with God in my early years of ministry was when God showed me a vision of hell and how masses of people were lost in the flames.

God showed me in this vision how an innumerable number of people were tormented in the flames of hell. In my spirit, I could hear their cries. I could feel their pain. I cried intensively for two hours and felt the burden and compassion of God's heart for the millions of lost people scattered throughout the earth.

This experience marked me for life. It broke my heart and changed my life forever. I was not the same Marcus from this moment. I had decided, as long as I live, I will be a soul-winner. I will be a fisher of men.

A year after this experience I began attending Kensington Temple Bible College in London. Over 100 nationalities were present in the Bible college every day for prayer, worship and Bible teaching. It was such a great environment for me to grow in God and to experience the wider body of Christ that is spread all over the world. There I joined the evangelism team and preached on the streets of London. The calling of an evangelist in me was activated and a new era in my life begun.

The very first time I ministered among people on the streets, I was asked by the team leader to preach. That night as I testified of Jesus Christ, one soul received salvation in Jesus Christ! One person gave his life to Jesus and was saved! HALLELUJAH! That was a milestone for me. That was a beginning for me.

REINHARD BONNKE IMPARTS EVANGELISTIC ZEAL

It was during my year in London that I came to hear about Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke. My African prayer friends all told me that I must go once to a Reinhard meeting. I joined

his campaign in the spring of 2001 in Belfast, Northern Ireland for four days and helped in the counseling team and as an intercessor.

Reinhard preached with such compassion and fire, in a way that I had never heard anyone preach before. As I was sitting in the chair on the second row, I almost fell off the chair as I leaned forward to hear him preach with such hunger. I said to myself, "I have to meet Reinhard and go with him to one of his campaigns to Africa".

In November of 2001, I traveled with him to Nigeria and I witnessed a huge harvest of 2.5 million people receiving salvation in one week. I could hardly believe it was real, but praise be to God, with God all things are possible! As Reinhard preached, I watched him closely and was impressed and inspired by the simplicity and yet powerful preaching of the gospel.

I cried like a little boy in my hotel room in Nigeria, and I cried from the depths of my heart . . .

"Lord, there is nothing else I want to do with my life than preach the gospel to the unreached and lost people, just like Bonnke".

THE MINISTRY TAKES OFF

The following year I married God's gift to me, my lovely wife and helper Hanna. We had the same cry in our hearts to give everything for Jesus. No price was too high to pay for us; the harvest had to be reaped. We prayed, fasted and cried out to God. We were desperate. We responded and were ready to take action.

God answered our cry by sending us to India as missionaries. We lived and worked there preaching in villages, house churches and small and big campaigns. During our time in India we saw, by the grace of God, 10,000 people receive Jesus as their Savior and we witnessed a total of one thousand healing miracles. We saw blind eyes open, deaf ears open, crippled walk, tumors vanish and demon possessed set free. All glory to Jesus Christ who is alive today!

Our fire and vision were deepened. God showed us the blueprint for our ministry and the strategy we now follow both in Africa and Asia, where we combine gospel campaigns with fire conferences in places where no such event has ever been held. Since the beginning of our ministry until today, 2015, we have had the privilege of leading more than 500,000 people to Christ. We give all glory to Jesus Christ. He alone is worthy to be praised!

We are now on the run, focusing on winning our first million souls to the kingdom of heaven. This is our dream, our ministry, our passion and our life: Reaping the harvest of souls and lighting Holy Ghost fires in national evangelists and church planters. Praise the Lord!

This is our beginning. This is our story, how we RESPONDED and took ACTION.

Now it is your turn to respond and to take action for Jesus!

Go and remember, as you GO, He will GO with you!

Chapter 11

Seven reasons YOU are a Soul Winner!

“Then Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” Mark 1:17

Once you have been saved, what does God really want with your life? What does it really mean to be a follower of Jesus Christ?

The answer is simply: Jesus wants to make us fishers of men: soul winners!

“Biblical Christianity is Christ, living today in and through ordinary human persons like you and like me,” renowned evangelist T.L. Osborn remarked.

This is a wonderful statement! Ponder it for a moment. Jesus Christ is Alive! Today! In YOU, and His ministry operates through YOU! Jesus ministers today through you and me - we are His hands, His feet, His eyes, and His mouth. We are God’s ministers, through whom He wants to reach a lost and dying world.

Christ's number one desire for you, after you are saved, is to make you a soul winner. Never forget, you are called, you are chosen, and you are God's VIP. You are destined to do the same works and even greater works than Jesus Christ.

What works has God called you to do? The work of preaching the Gospel to the ends of the earth! The works of being a witness of Christ to all mankind: *"You will be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."* Acts 1:8

There are seven fundamental reasons why you are called to be a soul winner. Let each of these reasons inspire and challenge you to become a fruitful soul winner!

#1 – JESUS WAS A SOUL WINNER

Since Jesus Christ came "to seek and to save that which was lost," Luke 19:10 a Christian, is to be first and foremost a winner of souls – a fisher of men.

We are soul winners because that is what Jesus was. Jesus was a winner, not a loser, and the way He was a winner in His life, was to defeat the enemy by winning souls from his grip and bringing them into the kingdom of God. *"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance. That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."*¹ Tim 1:15

Did Jesus only save the "good people" or the so-called "holy and righteous"? In fact, there is no one who is holy or righteous in God's eyes, unless they have received the righteousness of Christ. No, Jesus came to save sinners, even the worst sinners, to give them eternal life.

The truth is that we are all sinners before God and we all need salvation. Jesus focused His life and ministry, not on the already righteous but the sinners. Jesus was a soul-winner and He wanted to save all sinners. *"For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."*^{Matt 9:13}

Jesus saved the sinful tax collector Matthew. Jesus saved the paralytic man who made his way to Him through the roof. Jesus saved the demon possessed man with a "legion" of demons. Jesus set him free and sent the demons away into the swine restoring the man to his full strength and to his senses.

Jesus saved the adulterous woman who had been sinning with many men. Jesus did not condemn her like the Pharisees, instead He forgave her sins. Jesus saved the Samaritan woman at the well. She had been committing adultery with five men. The forgiveness and "saving power" flowed through the life and ministry of Jesus. Wherever Jesus came in contact with people bound by sin, He always offered forgiveness.

Jesus saved Zacchaeus, the short man who had been cheating people. Zacchaeus received salvation and "the fruit of his repentance" was his evident heart change, demonstrated by his willingness to pay back everything he had stolen. As He was about to die, Jesus even saved the thief on the cross. His entire ministry was dedicated to soul winning!

Once you were lost, and then the greatest miracle of all happened to you, Jesus saved YOU! When Jesus came into your life, He forgave all your sins. He washed you clean. He gave you eternal life and peace with God. You are a soul winner because Jesus was a soul winner!

#2 – THE HARVEST IS SO GREAT

"When He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then he said to his disciples. The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few." Matt 9:36-37

The second reason we are called to be soul-winners is because the harvest is so great. Today more than seven billion people live in our world. According to some statistics approximately two billion are believers in Jesus Christ. If this is true that means that more than five billion people are still lost and need to receive salvation.

Try to comprehend this fact, that five billion people are lost and without salvation. There is a GREAT harvest indeed. Since Christ was moved with compassion when He saw the multitudes and since we are like Christ, we also should be moved with compassion for those who are perishing.

According to the Joshua Project, out of these more than 7 billion people alive today approximately 3 billion have never ever heard the Gospel! In our world there are about 16,000 different people groups. Out of these, around 7,000 are counted as unreached or least reached. These 7,000 people groups have no church strong enough to evangelize their own people group. Clearly this is an immense and wonderful harvest of peoples to REACH AND REAP for the glory of heaven.

The harvest of souls is so great, and there are unlimited opportunities to win souls that we never need to fight one another in the work of winning souls. Because the harvest is so great, we can all take our share and reap. You are a soul winner because the harvest is so great!

#3 – THE LABORERS ARE SO FEW

“Then he said to his disciples. The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few.” Matt 9:37

The third reason we are soul-winners is because the laborers who actually preach the gospel and win lost souls are so few. When Jesus began His ministry He alone did the work of evangelism. Then He called the twelve to help Him and later seventy-two others. Before He left the earth He recruited His followers into the work of “fishing men.”

Because the workers who actually do the work of soul winning are so few, Jesus needs more workers. While ninety percent of the world’s gospel ministers are preaching to a Christian population, the other ten percent of preachers are desperately trying to meet the spiritual needs of our planet’s population of five billion people who are lost and unreached.

"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, here am I; send me." Isa 6:8

Can you hear the voice of God calling for more workers today? God in heaven is calling, "Whom shall I send?" Can you hear the voice of God calling YOU? The harvest needs you. The harvest will be lost forever if you don't go and do your job. Your race is so important, because if you don't run, no one else can run for you. Your race can only be run by you. You are a soul winner because the laborers are so few!

#4 – THE GREAT COMMISSION

The last instruction Jesus commanded and authorized His followers to do before he returned to the Father was: *"Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."* Mark 16:15

The fourth reason we are soul winners is because of Christ's Great Commission. This Commission is for all believers. These are the last words Jesus spoke. This is THE greatest assignment for us to do, to continue saving souls, just like Jesus.

The Great Commission is not an idea or suggestion that we maybe should consider if we really want to be spiritual. The Great Commission is HEAVEN'S COMMAND AND OUR ASSIGNMENT! No other order is given to us from our king for us to carry out, but the Great Commission. The Great Commission is King Jesus' final message to us as the body of Christ.

Christ offers us this noble opportunity to join Him in His quest for souls. He has called, commissioned and equipped us and we cannot fail. For every Christian this is a privilege, a calling, and this is our purpose and ministry. The Great Commission is not the great burden for every believer, but the great possibility for every believer: a great possibility to be a soul winner and do the very same works as Jesus did!

Every follower of Christ has His authority to go and share the Gospel with as many people as he or she can possibly

reach. This is not just for the evangelists or pastors only, but for EVERY believer in Jesus Christ.

The call has already been given. The opportunities are plentiful. The need is urgent. Success is assured. No waiting is needed – heaven’s green lights are blinking – GO!

The Great Commission constitutes the final words of Jesus. Until we have finished the last lap of the race we have no reason to slow down. You are a soul winner because of the Great Commission!

#5 – THE UNFULFILLED PROPHECIES CONCERNING CHRIST’S RETURN

“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” Rev 7:9-10

The fifth reason we are soul winners is because the prophecies of Christ’s return are yet unfulfilled. Christ cannot come back until all nations, tribes, peoples and tongues have heard and received the gospel.

The signs of the end times can be seen clearly today: wars and rumors of a new great world war, incredible tension in the Middle East, famine, plagues, and blood red moons. Another significant sign of the ends times is the rapid globalilzation where we move towards a one world government, one world religion and one world military, which all is a preparation of the coming Anti Christ. However of all signs and prophecies concerning the end times here comes the most important one:

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.” Matt 24:14

Over a third of the tongues of our world have not yet heard the gospel. If Christ came today, thousands of people groups and tongues would not be able to cry out in worship: "Salvation to our God and unto the Lamb."

We are soul winners, because we need to be part of fulfilling the prophecies concerning the return of Christ and the end of times. The gospel must be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations. The Greek word for "nations" here is "ethnos," which means people.

God in heaven wants every tribe, every village and every people group to hear His good news. Before the end will come the good news of Jesus Christ must be preached as a witness, with signs and wonders, to all people groups. You are a soul winner because of the unfilled prophecies concerning Christ's return!

6 – THE LOST ARE GOING TO HELL

"Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." Rev 20:11-15

God here speaks about the reason that we should share His message of salvation with others – so that the people will not go to hell. There is only one way for a person to be saved for eternity, and that is to say YES to Jesus. And, when they do, their name will be written in the Lamb's Book of Life. *"And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."* Rev 20:15

Without Christ, millions are sinking into the lost sea of hell. This fact calls for our action. This truth calls us to be soul winners. The lost are going into the fires of hell, and this reason alone is enough for us to want to be soul winners.

LESTER SUMRALL'S VISION OF HELL

The missionary, evangelist and apostle Lester Sumrall had an encounter with God, which illustrates well the reality of hell and the necessity for our action.

One day he was lifted up in a vision above the road of life. He saw multitudes, men and women of various nationalities walking on the road of life. He was intrigued by this vision, but he didn't realize what laid at the end of that road of life.

Suddenly, the Spirit of God took him to the end of the road. All the people were so preoccupied walking down the road that they didn't realize what was at the end ... a cliff.

Lester looked down into the abyss and saw the flames of hell reaching up to seize the people as they staggered off life's last step into eternity.

In that moment, God spoke to him and said, "They're your responsibility. They're going to hell because of you." Then God quoted out of Ezekiel three and said, "If you don't warn the heathen of his ungodly deeds, and he dies in his iniquities, his blood will be required at your hands." At that moment Lester Sumrall looked down and he saw the blood of the nations running through his fingers.

Remember the clear teaching of Paul the Apostle: *"Preaching the good news is not something I can boast about. I am compelled by God to do it. How terrible for me if I didn't preach the good news!"* ^{1 Cor 9:16}

We don't preach the gospel out of selfish ambition or to become rich or popular. We preach the gospel with love and out of love for lost people who are at this moment on their way to hell. Our only motive for preaching the gospel is that

we want them to be saved for all eternity. You are soul winners because the lost are going to hell!

#7 – WHAT YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED

“For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient – in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.” Rom 15:18-19

Paul dared not to speak of things that Christ had not accomplished in him. Paul’s message always included his personal testimony of what he had experienced Jesus do in and through his life.

Paul had encountered the living Savior on the road to Damascus. His encounter with Jesus transformed his life and as a result, he could do nothing but proclaim the everlasting gospel. *“When he had greeted them, he told in detail those things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord.” Acts 21:19-20*

Hanna and I have witnessed the salvation of hundreds of thousands of precious people. We have seen with our own eyes, thousands of miracles, proof that the gospel works and Jesus is alive today. Of everything we have experienced, the greatest experience is what Jesus did in my own life. He saved me, washed me clean, sanctified me and made me pure and holy. Praise be to God! Then the Holy Spirit baptized me into His power and fire.

God is alive in me; He speaks to me and comforts me. He is my shepherd, my provider, my helper, yes, my very best friend! I am a soul winner because I have experience Jesus Christ! He is real! He is alive!

What have you experienced with Christ? How has He ministered to you personally? Have you experienced miracles in your life? This is your testimony, your experience with the living God. This is what you can tell others about. You are His witness!

Chapter 12

Jesus in and through YOU!

“To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Col. 1:27

God’s kingdom here on earth can briefly be described as the King of the Kingdom of God, Jesus Christ, living in our hearts and working through our lives. That means that Jesus’ ministry continues today through YOU! Jesus Christ now lives in you! Jesus ministers to people today through you and me - we are His hands, His feet, His eyes and His mouth. We are God’s ministers today, through whom He desires to reach this lost and dying world.

The question I would like to ask you to ponder is this: **What makes the Christian faith more than a religion or a philosophy?**

The answer is a fantastic discovery... Jesus continues His ministry today, through you and me! This truth must sink DEEPLY into your heart. Jesus is not dead, He is alive! Jesus’ ministry is not over, it continues today, through you and me!

This truth makes our faith more than a religion and more than a philosophy!

A POWERFUL PICTURE OF JESUS - IN AND THROUGH YOU

I shared with you in a previous chapter an illustration concerning the Gospels and the Book of Acts. I now want to take a deeper look at this illustration, which will open your eyes to see something wonderful. Take out your Bible and first look at the end of John's Gospel, and then turn to the beginning of the Book of Acts.

Here we have something very interesting. Here is the end of Jesus' ministry in his Jewish body, and we have the beginning of Jesus' ministry in His disciples' bodies. After His death and resurrection He lives and continues His ministry through His disciples. The same Jesus now lives in and through His disciples. The same miracles take place. The same power and anointing is at work. The same mission that God the Father gave to Jesus He gives to us NOW!

In the Gospels, Jesus did miracles through a Jew's body. In the Book of Acts, Jesus continues to do the same miracles, but through the believers' bodies. God's will and plan to save sinners is the same. God's will to heal the sick is the same. Jesus is the same. The Holy Spirit is the same. The presence of God is the same. The miracles are the same. The only difference is the bodies through which Jesus operates.

The Book of Acts is a continuation of Jesus' ministry through His disciples' bodies. The Apostles continued to do all that they had seen Jesus do; He preached, taught, healed the sick and set the captives free. Now, Jesus continued the same ministry, but through the disciples' bodies!

You are a believer. You are a part of the Book of Acts because the Book of Acts has no end. In the last verses in the Book of Acts, in the 28th chapter, we discover how Paul was busy

preaching and teaching the Gospel of the Kingdom. There is no end to the Book of Acts, no final greeting or ending. Each generation that has lived after the first church has written new chapters to the Book of Acts. Think about this – you are the chapter that now must be written.

Smith Wigglesworth, the famous English Evangelist from the 20th century who raised some 20 people from dead and had a great faith and healing ministry, said: “The Book of Acts was written because the Apostles acted!”

In heaven one day we will be able to read hundreds of new amazing chapters of the Book of Acts. Because we serve Jesus Christ wholeheartedly and because we take action we will write new chapters in the Book of Acts! I look forward to reading the chapter that you write.

Jesus’ miracle ministry continues today, through you and me. We continue what Jesus began. God believes in you and He thinks you can do it! You need to give God your body, your life, so that He can do what He wants to do through your life.

FOLLOW JESUS AND LET HIM MAKE YOU A FISHER OF MEN

“Then Jesus said to them, follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” Mark 1:17

Jesus calls us to follow Him so he can make us fishers of people. To be a true disciple of Jesus Christ is to follow Him and allow Him to teach you how to be a fisher of people.

What does it mean to follow someone? It means you want to become like the one you follow. As you follow Jesus you will become more and more like Him. As you become more like Jesus, you become more and more passionate about soul winning, which is the very heartbeat of Christ.

Discipleship is founded upon following Jesus! Jesus wants us to be in a process where we become more and more like

Him, where we eventually will become passionate and effective fishers of men.

To learn a trade you start by following someone; looking up to someone and learning from someone who is seasoned in that profession. If you want to become a skilled carpenter, you start as an apprentice and learn from an experienced carpenter. This is the principle of discipleship – you become like the one you follow.

The Holy Spirit is your helper and He wants to transform you and make you more like Jesus. The Holy Spirit is God here on earth and it is through the Holy Spirit that Jesus works in and through you today. Spend time with the Holy Spirit and let Him lead you, shape you and make you a competent and effective soul winner.

Where you are today as a disciple of Jesus and soul winner is not God's final destination for you. Jesus wants to shape you into a man/woman who is skilled and gifted in soul winning. Jesus wants to take you further, deeper and broaden your horizons. Take new steps with Jesus. Look to Jesus and follow Him; listen to His voice and let Him grow in your life. He lives in you and He wants to shine through you!

Where you are today is not where Jesus wants you to stay. God is always on the move and He wants to move in your life. Jesus is our example, our model and our master. Jesus is calling you in this moment to learn from Him and to be inspired by His example to be a soul winner and win the lost for the kingdom of heaven.

THE SECRET OF HOW TO BECOME AN EFFECTIVE SOUL WINNER

Paul speaks of a secret to all fruit-bearing ministries, and this is especially true of soul winning. This secret is within us and we can read about this in Colossians chapter 1 verse 24 - 27:

*"I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory."*

The secret is within you, Jesus Christ, the hope of glory! Jesus is alive in you! Jesus lives in you and wants to work through you! This may sound too simple to you, but if this truth comes alive in you it will transform you. Jesus is the same yesterday and today; He now lives in and through you. Christ in you is the secret that Paul is talking about. Christ in and through you is the secret that will make you an effective soul winner. Let Christ live through you and let His love and power touch other people through your life – that is the secret.

In one of our many mission trips Hanna and I were in India and held a Fire Conference for leaders, pastors and evangelists. I had prepared a message for these spiritually hungry leaders and felt a great expectation of what God would do. When I stood to my feet to start teaching I could not look at my notes because the Holy Spirit led me strongly to talk about another subject that He wanted to pass onto these leaders.

In the coming pages I will pass on to you what the Holy Spirit inspired me to share this very day in India. This teaching came to me so fresh and anointed directly from heaven and I pray that you will be mightily blessed, inspired to become a winner of souls for the kingdom of heaven.

God wants to empower you to run your race with strength, fruitfulness and anointing in this final lap of the Great Commission. God wants to reveal to you His plan for your life to work through your life just like He did with Jesus and His first disciples.

What I now want to share with you is the revelation that God gave me during this leadership conference in India.

God gave me seven simple yet unforgettable steps we can use in soul winning. These seven steps will help you become an effective soul winner, no matter who you are. Everything I am about to share comes from Paul's statement we have just read; "Christ in you". Jesus wants to work through you, through your body and touch lost, wounded, sinful and broken people.

How can you and I become effective soul winners? Can all become soul winners or is it just for some special gifted evangelists? How can we allow Jesus to work through us?

The answer to these questions is as simple as this: Everyone can be a soul winner and these seven amazing steps will help you to become a very effective soul winner. I am convinced that Jesus will make you a fisher of men, and these seven steps will be of great encouragement, inspiration and practical help for you.

SEVEN STEPS TO EFFECTIVE SOUL WINING

There are seven steps which I will connect to seven body parts to help you remember and apply these lessons.

STEP 1

YOUR KNEES - PRAY FOR THE LOST

The first thing we all need is a prayer life. Prayer is the beginning of all discipleship and all soul winning. Your knees represent the prayers you pray. To bend your knees and pray and pour out your heart before God is the beginning of all soul winning. Everything God does in our world begins with our prayers. All revivals, miracles, harvests of souls and breakthroughs in the Kingdom of God begin with prayer.

God wants us to pray for our unsaved friends, family members, neighbors, our city and our country. Pray that the Holy Spirit will convict them and that they will repent of their sins. Pray that they will see Jesus. Pray that they will experi-

ence salvation in Jesus Christ. The first step you and I must take is prayer for the lost.

"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." ^{1 Tim 2:1-4}

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints — and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel." ^{Eph 6:18-19}

STEP 2

YOUR FEET – GO TO THE LOST

When we pray, mountains are moved, people's hearts change, hindrances are removed, a shifting and changing takes place in people's minds. When we pray and seek God's face, He speaks to us and gives us dreams, visions and ideas for action.

Prayer connects us with the Spirit of God filling us and empowering us for action. The Holy Spirit leads and gives us ideas, courage, faith and a willingness to act is born. *"And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness."* ^{Acts 4:31}

Prayer moves us to ACTION! When you pray, God will put someone in your mind that needs His love. Go where the Lord leads you. After Jesus had prayed one day He went to Samaria (John's Gospel chapter 4), and at the well He met a Samaritan woman.

Jesus prayed daily to His Father in Heaven and Jesus was always listening to His Father for direction and ideas. This

day the Heavenly Father guided Jesus to the well in Samaria. God in heaven knew that there would be a woman there who needed the “living water.”

This second step is so crucial for us if we want to be soul winners: if we don’t go, God can’t go. Jesus can only work through us if we give Him the opportunity to touch the lost when we go to them. When you take one step toward a lost and needy person, God will take one step and be right there to touch them.

“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.” Acts 8:4

“And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.” Mark 16:20

STEP 3

YOUR EYES – SEE THE PERSON

When you meet people for the first time, simply see them; see that person’s heart, their need, their wound and pain. When you meet a person God wants you to minister to, see them – don’t ignore them.

Look through the surface and see them with Gods eyes. See them as they really are. God will give you eyes to see people as He sees them. Sometimes we see but we do not see what God sees – human hearts – separated from His love and salvation. Allow the Holy Spirit to open your eyes.

Here is a story about David Wilkerson, a well-known American Pastor who now is in heaven, which will illustrate my point. In the beginning of his ministry he felt discouraged and com-*passionless*. His wife told him to go out onto the streets of New York and see the needy people, see the homeless, see the prostitutes and drug addicts. When David saw the wounded and lost people on the street he was broken

and God gave him love to minister to them. When he saw the people, God gave him a desire to help them and bring the Gospel to them.

When Jesus came to the Samaritan woman, He saw the woman; He saw into her heart and He saw that she was an adulteress who had five husbands and the man that she was with at that time was not her husband. Yet Jesus didn't use this knowledge to condemn her. Jesus saw that she needed the living water and not just well water to quench her thirst.

Since we are to be God's instrument, we need to ask the Holy Spirit to open our eyes so we can see like Jesus sees people. To see people with God's eyes will make you compassionate, sensitive and precise when you share the Gospel and you will be effective.

"But when He (Jesus) saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd" Matt 9:36

STEP 4

YOUR HEART – LOVE THE PERSON

When Jesus saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them. When Jesus saw the Samaritan woman He felt compassion for her. When the adulteress woman came to Jesus with the condemning Pharisees ready to stone her, Jesus felt compassion for her. Jesus was driven by love and compassion for all the people He met and ministered to. Allow His love to flow from His heart into your heart and then outward to the person you want to reach.

What was the driving force in the first missionary in the book of Acts, Paul? He says it clearly: *"For the love of Christ compels us..."* 2 Cor 5:14

To be a disciple of Jesus and a soul winner means to love God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength and all

your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. To be a disciple is to love Jesus and love people. *“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said to him, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”* ^{Matt 22:36-39}

Love is the foundation for all ministry in the Kingdom of God, and in particular for soul winning. Genuine love for God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and for the lost is the driving force and the heartbeat of soul winning.

It was love that motivated God the Father to send His Only Begotten Son Jesus to our world, to die for our sins on the cross. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”* ^{John 3:16}

Jesus lives in your heart, and from your heart God’s love flows to touch lost and hurting people. Jesus lives in your heart and Jesus wants to let His love fill you daily so His love will flow through you and touch the people around you. Let your daily prayer be: “Father in heaven fill me with your love for people.” Let Jesus fill you with His love so you can love people as He does.

STEP 5

YOUR EARS – LISTEN TO THE PERSON AND TO GOD

When Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well He felt compassion for her. Jesus didn’t just see her outside, but her innermost pain and need. Jesus heard the Holy Spirit’s voice whispering secrets about the woman that she had had five men and how the man she now has is not her husband. Jesus listened not only to the woman’s voice, but also to His Father’s voice. This is such an important step in effective soul winning – to listen.

When we meet people and want to reach them with the love of God, and the testimony of the Gospel, we need to listen to the person and to God simultaneously. When a person is talking to you, don't just listen to their words, but also to what is behind their words.

When someone talks to you she or he reveals their heart and what their real need is. Maybe they do not say it out loud, but you can feel and hear the pain, the sorrow, and the problem behind their words. As they speak listen to the whisper of the Holy Spirit. This is what Jesus did when He met the woman at the well.

Listen for the person's pain, sorrow, need, problems, and longing that is in their heart. This will give you a wide open door for you to enter and minister God's love, God's Word and the Holy Spirit's anointing.

While listening to the person, listen to the whispers of the Holy Spirit. Keep your spiritual ears open for God's guidance and revelation. God wants you to operate in His spiritual gifts: the Gift of Prophecy, Word of Knowledge and Word of Wisdom.

Jesus demonstrated this truth and could minister effectively to the woman at the well with the "living water" that she craved. Jesus saw through the woman's appearance and listened to his Heavenly Father.

"But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice." John 10:2-4

STEP 6

YOUR MOUTH – SPEAK THE GOOD NEWS

When you meet a person you want to reach with the Gospel, it is your mouth God wants to use! When you see the person, have compassion and listen to them and to the

voice of God, then it is important that you use your mouth to speak about Jesus.

God has given you a great tool in soul winning, your mouth! You can talk about God, His great love, miracles, answered prayers, and the life He gives you as a believer. Minister to the person you want to reach by telling and testifying about what Jesus has done for you, in your life and for them when He died on the cross. Speak the Good News about Jesus.

I want to share with you an amazing truth about the importance of speaking the Word of God that Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke shared with me many years ago.

He shared with me from the first three verses of the Bible. He explained how God created heaven and earth by simply speaking words.

Before God spoke, the Earth was void without form, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the water. The Spirit of God was waiting for God to speak His word. Immediately when God spoke, miracles began to happen. When God said, *“Let there be light!”*, Jesus and the Holy Spirit kicked into action and made the spoken word happen and created the light.

Reinhard said that the same principle applies to us today as Christ’s ambassadors. When we speak the Word of God the Holy Spirit creates life, salvation, peace, miracles and touches the people we minister to. The Holy Spirit is waiting for us to speak, and when we speak God’s Word, the Gospel, He shows up and touches the person with God’s love, power and anointing.

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, let there be light; and there was light.” ^{1 Gen 1:1-3}

“And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen” ^{Mark 16:20}

STEP 7

YOUR HANDS – LAY THEM ON THE PERSON

The final step in effective soul winning comes after you have spoken the Good News and shared of Christ's great love. After you have ministered to the person by speaking the Gospel they are ready to encounter Jesus and receive the touch of God to salvation, healing, deliverance and baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Throughout the New Testament we read how Jesus, Peter, Paul and many others put their hands on the sick, the captive, the lost, the new believers and in doing so "released" the power and anointing of God into their lives, and they were healed, delivered, baptized in the Holy Spirit and sometimes they received prophecies from God the Father.

The laying on of hands is biblical and it is one way that God uses when He wants to touch people in need. Your hands are important in soul winning because you can use them to minister to hurting people.

When a person wants to give his or her life to Christ it is a wonderful privilege to lay hands on them and bless them, pray for them and lead them in the prayer of salvation. After they have received Christ into their hearts they need to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and then it is a good thing to lay hands on them and pray. Many times when we minister to people, there is someone sick who needs healing and the laying on of hands in many cases, is an effective way to minister God's healing power.

To lay your hands on the person you minister to is a point of contact for God's power and anointing to touch the person. To touch people with your hands is to let the hands of Jesus touch the person. Your hands are the hands of Jesus. Be open to the Holy Spirit and let Him use you as He desires.

Many times when I am ministering to people, God leads me to lay my hands on them. Often they are healed, filled with

the Holy Spirit or delivered from bondage. The key here is to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and let God use your whole body - your whole life. Let Christ in you be BIG and release Him to the person you are ministering to by laying your hands on that person in need.

"And these signs will follow those who believe... they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." Mark 16:17-18

"And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied." Acts 19:6

"And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people." Acts 5:12

LET JESUS WORK THROUGH YOU!

God wants to work through you! Let your whole body, your soul, your mind, your heart and the gifts of the Holy Spirit be engaged in your ministry as you win souls. I trust that as you apply the seven steps I just shared, you will become more and more effective as a fisher of people!

1. Use your knees and PRAY.
2. Use your feet and GO.
3. Use your eyes and SEE.
4. Use your heart and FEEL.
5. Use your ears and LISTEN.
6. Use your mouth and TALK.
7. Use your hands and LAY THEM ON THE PEOPLE!

Part Four:

The Power of the Gospel

Chapter 13

Seven Powerful Gospel truths

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.” Rom 1:16

Our mission is to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and also to be filled with a passion and love for the message. As we run the final lap of the Great Commission a fresh revelation of the significance of the Gospel will inspire us and give us strength to complete the race.

There are seven powerful Gospel truths that express the significance of the message we proclaim. They have guided my presentation of the Gospel, impacted my life, and blessed my ministry in many ways. These truths serve as an important guide for preachers and ministers. I discovered them in T.L. Osborn’s book, *The Message that Works*. I consider this book to be one of the finest books ever written in relation to understanding the revelation of the Gospel message.

There are SEVEN truths in the Word of God that reveal the POWER of the Gospel and the seven-fold redemptive blessings of the Gospel.

GOD'S REDEMPTIVE PLAN – THE GOSPEL!

In the Old Testament we find the seven redemptive names of God. These seven names reveal God's will to redeem fallen humanity and include God's perfect provision for every human need.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ brings a TOTAL restoration to ALL that was destroyed in humanity through the fall and the entrance of sin. Through Jesus' atoning death on the cross God provides redemption for us in a seven-fold way, meeting our seven most important needs.

GOSPEL TRUTH #1 – JESUS IS OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Our need for Righteousness

From the beginning God created mankind to be holy and righteous. God's original plan was that we would be holy, just as He is holy. In the Garden mankind fell and the divine dignity which Adam and Eve were created with was destroyed.

As a consequence of Adam and Eve's fall, sin and death spread to all mankind, making us all unrighteousness. *"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned."* Rom 5:12

Sin-consciousness destroys faith in God, in the Scripture, in others and most of all, in one's self. People can become snared by negativism and nourish a sense of spiritual inferiority, consequently they search for someone else to pray for them because of their own sense of indignity before God. In their vain search to find peace, people try church attendance, compassionate deeds, self-punishment, prayers, fasting, confessions, good works, and abstention from pleasures and bad habits,

including pilgrimages, self-denial, and other forms of self-inflicted punishment.

However, this search never ends because every human person is made to walk with God and to fellowship with Him, like Adam and Eve did in the Garden of Eden. We are created in the image of God and in His likeness. We were created to share His nature, His righteousness, and to express His dignity. When sin entered the human race, righteousness was forfeited and the human species has been lost and confused.

God sent his Son Jesus Christ to remove our sin, give us the gift of righteousness and restore our divine dignity and holiness. *"Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous."* Rom 5:18-19

Our Provision for Righteousness

God has provided for our restoration. We can regain the personal relationship with Him that was canceled when Adam and Eve disobeyed His Word. The price has been paid for the restoration of our own human dignity. The message of the Gospel is that God has charged our sins to Christ's account, and has now credited His righteousness to our account. Consequently, we can stand in God's presence with all the legal rights of a Royal Family Member—a child of God.

In the Old Testament, God reveals Himself as Jehovah Tsidkenu, *"The Lord our Righteousness."* *"In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS."* Jer 23:6

In the New Testament, Jesus bore our sin on the cross and now He imparts the gift of righteousness to all who receive Him. *"For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ."* Rom 5:17

PRAY this prayer: “Thank You, Jesus for the gift of righteousness. On the cross, you took my sin and my unrighteousness. Now I believe in You. Now I receive your righteousness. Amen.”

GOSPEL TRUTH #2 – JESUS IS OUR PEACE

Our need for Peace

In every country and people group, lost humanity is on the search for peace with “God.” Millions search for peace without any success. All humans need peace with God, peace with one another and peace with themselves. Without communion with God their Creator, there can never be peace.

People may seek to remove fears and insecurity with education, philosophy, religion, pleasures, entertainment and sensuality. But without communion with God, there can never be peace. The search will never end. Wars, family breakdowns, violence, insane acts of brutality, hatred, abuse and murder are all due to the lack of peace with God in the human heart. Disease, tension, emotional conflict, bitterness, shame, physical deterioration and suffering are rooted in our lack of peace with God.

Harmony and peace with God is the only cure that can take away the chaos and conflict that reigns in the human spirit. Peace and harmony are part of God’s nature. He created man and woman to share His divine Life and His immeasurable love. But sin entered the human race. Its evil seed produced violence, unrest, rebellion, fear, hatred and death.

The Bible meaning of peace in both Hebrew and Greek is to be well, happy, healthy, prosperous, restful, safe, whole, secure, quiet, **and at one again with God.** This is the glorious and harmonious state of being that He wants you and me to enjoy.

Our Provision for Peace

God, who loved us so much that He was not willing that any should perish, made a way for us to be ransomed from the

slavery of Satan and restored to the position for which He created us, so that His peace could once again reign in our hearts. He sacrificed His only Begotten Son Jesus who took upon Himself our sins and our transgressions.

Whenever people embrace Christ as their Lord and Savior, He actually comes into their lives. His peace becomes their peace. His Life becomes theirs. The Prince of Peace reigns inside them and they are restored to Him. Jesus becomes their Lord.

In the Old Testament, God reveals Himself as Jehovah Shalom, *"The Lord is Peace."* *"Then the LORD said to him, "Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die." So Gideon built an altar there to the LORD, and called it The-LORD-Is-Peace."* ^{Jdg 6:23-24}

In the New Testament, Jesus bore our inner chaos and conflicts on the cross and provided His peace to all who receive Him. *"For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross."* ^{Col 1:19-20}

Jesus said: *"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you...so let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."* ^{Jn.14:27}

Paul said: *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* ^{Rom.5:1}

PRAY this prayer: "Thank You, Jesus for Your Peace. On the cross, you took all my inner chaos and conflicts. Now I believe in You. You are the Prince of Peace. Now I receive your peace. Amen."

GOSPEL TRUTH #3 – JESUS IS OUR SHEPHERD

Our need for Guidance

You and I were created to know God, to fit into His divine plan and to accomplish His will here on earth. We are created to hear His voice and to know His guidance. Like the orbit of

the stars or the rhythm of the seasons, God's plan for each life is to be synchronized with His, to be beautiful and fruitful.

After Adam and Eve disobeyed God and sin dominated their lives, they lost contact with God and His guidance. We all need direction in life to avoid deception, delusion, failure and betrayal. Unfortunately, the greatest pitfalls in life can never be avoided if you don't have God's guidance and His direction in life.

People have lost their direction because of sin in fallen human nature. Rebellion against God opened the way for Satan to suppress people, misguiding them with all that is deceptive, crafty and illusory. Being separated from God by sin, confusion and delusion have replaced His divine leadership and direction.

Throughout history humankind has been on a search for divine instruction and direction. In the Western world the "New Age" movement is leading millions astray, straight into the deceptive arms of the Devil. In many third world countries, witchcraft and occultism deceive countless multitudes, leading them into darkness.

Our Provision for Guidance

Praise God, He has made a way for us to know the voice and guidance of the true Shepherd, Jesus Christ! Even when all looks hopeless and you face difficult decisions, Jesus promises to guide and direct you along the right path.

The Enemy no longer has the right to confuse, deceive and misguide us. Once we give Christ our lives, the Deceiver no longer has the right to mislead us. Our Shepherd takes control. We no longer need to be vulnerable to the enemy's delusions. Jesus died to tear down the wall of separation between us and God. Now we are restored to Him. We know The Way. We follow our Shepherd. Our signals are refocused.

In the Old Testament, God reveals Himself as Jehovah Raah, *"The Lord is My Shepherd."* *"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall*

not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake." ^{Psalms 23:1-3}

Since Jesus bore our deception and disillusion on the cross He can give all who receive Him guidance. *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."* ^{John 10:27}

PRAY this prayer: "Thank You Jesus for Your Guidance. On the cross, you took all deception and disillusion. Now I believe in You. You are my Shepherd. I can now hear your voice. Now I receive your direction, every day of my life. Amen."

GOSPEL TRUTH #4- JESUS IS OUR HEALER

Our need for Healing

You may be in need of physical health, assaulted by an incurable illness. Many people think it is normal to live subject to disease and suffering, and never question the source of this menacing dilemma. Pain, disease, weakness and sickness destroy our bodies. Sickness entered our world as a consequence of sin through the fall of man.

Many assume that God may be using sickness for some mysterious purpose in their lives. Or they may think that it can teach them some lesson in patience, humility, endurance or submission. God provides physical health for you so that you can be at your best for Him, for others and for yourself. You need good health to realize accomplishments, to enjoy life to its full and to fulfill your calling as an Ambassador of Christ.

God created Adam and Eve perfect, physically, mentally, spiritually, and He placed them in the Garden of Eden amidst His abundance. They were not sick or harmed by disease. God's plan for those whom He created in His own image and likeness never included disease and infirmity. His will is to show you The way back to the paradise enjoyed before Adam and Eve sinned. His plan for humanity has never changed. He wills His best for all who believe in His love for them, and that included healing.

Adam and Eve disobeyed the Lord, and were consequently banished from the paradise that He created for them. From that day, the beautiful people whom God created in His own image and likeness began to die. Satan dominated Adam and Eve and their descendants demonstrated the sad results of doubting God's Word. The process of death continues today. With every sin committed, something dies in the one who sins.

Sickness is the work of Satan. Healing is the work of God. God is a good God who wants His creation to be well. Satan is a bad devil who wants to destroy God's creation, including our body. God's will is for all to be made whole. God's will for you is that you shall live in health and that you shall minister healing to all you meet. Healing is the will of God for all people. This is one of the great truths of the gospel.

Our Provision for Healing

Throughout the ministry of Jesus He healed the sick. Jesus healed all who were sick. Jesus is the Lord your healer. Through His death on the cross, healing is available for you and for all who need healing today. When Jesus Christ died on the cross, the Bible says that He bore our physical diseases in the same way that He bore our sins and our iniquities. Believe in the finished work of Christ for your healing and receive your miracle today.

In the Old Testament, God reveals Himself as Jehovah Rapha, *"The Lord our Healer."* *"If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you."* ^{Ex 15:26}

In the New Testament, Jesus bore all our sicknesses and diseases on the cross and has made provision for our healing. *"When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: 'He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses.'"* ^{Matt 8:16-17}

PRAY this prayer: "Thank You Jesus for Your healing. On the cross, you took all my sicknesses and pains. Now I believe in You. You are my Healer. I now receive healing to my body. Thank You, Jesus. Amen."

GOSPEL TRUTH #5 – JESUS IS OUR PROVIDER

Our need for Material Substance

When God created Adam and Eve, He placed them in a world of material abundance. He commanded the waters and the ground to bring forth abundantly. After creating all living creatures for the land, fowls for the air and fishes for the sea, He blessed them saying, be fruitful and multiply. And God saw that it was good. Then He placed Adam and Eve in the midst of this garden of bounty, to dress it and to keep it.

Humanity has struggled since the fall of Adam and Eve to recover what was lost. Satan's deceived Adam and Eve to sin against God. Their disobedience resulted in their being separated from His presence, exiled from His rich garden of abundance. God said unto Adam: *"Cursed is the ground for your sake; in sorrow shall you eat of it all the days of your life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to you;... in the sweat of your face shall you eat bread, until you return to the ground."* Gen.3:17-19

Now you can understand the reason for poverty and material lack, and why God made a way for you to be reconciled to Him so that you can recover the material blessings He originally planned for you. The lack of material substance hinders and keeps humanity in poverty in the midst of a world of abundance. Poverty is the work of the devil. It is not God's will that anyone should suffer in poverty. When God created the world He wanted us to enjoy the beautiful world He had created, a world of abundance and provision for all of our material needs.

Some people say that God wants me to be poor because Job in the Bible suffered in poverty. Job's suffering was the work of

Satan. God allowed Job to suffer for a period of time to prove that Job would not turn his back on God. Later God restored everything to Job and he prospered and was wealthy in all things.

God's will is for us all to have all our needs met so we can be a blessing to others. God doesn't want you to be a dollar millionaire and swim in a lake of gold coins for your own selfish desires. God wants you to have enough provision for you and your family so that you can be a blessing to other people in need.

Our Provision for Material Substance

Prosperity means in its simplest form; to have enough provision for your daily needs and for the needs of your God-given assignment. *"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."* ^{Phil 4:19}

The only reason we can inherit God's material blessings and be certain that He shall supply all of our needs is that Jesus Christ redeemed us from sin and its consequences, part of which is poverty. Since God created this world of abundance for His children, it is His will that we enjoy it. So bring your material and financial needs to the Lord who promises to supply all your need. He will do it even if He must perform a material miracle like feeding the multitude or turning water into wine or causing the cruse of oil to flow or the meal not to cease. His miraculous power is not limited to spiritual wonders. He performs physical and material miracles too.

In the Old Testament, God reveals Himself as Jehovah Jireh, *"The Lord our Provider."* *"And Abraham said, 'My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.'"* ^{Gen 22:8}

In the New Testament, Jesus bore all our poverty on the cross and can now give all who receive Him prosperity. *"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich."* ^{2 Cor 8:9}

PRAY this prayer: "Thank You Jesus for Your provision. On the cross, you took all my poverty and lack. Now I believe in You. You are my provider. I now receive your provision for my daily needs and for my God given assignment. Thank You, Jesus. Amen."

GOSPEL TRUTH #6 – JESUS BRINGS GOD'S PRESENCE

Our need for God's Presence

The universal need among human persons is to know God in a personal way, to be at peace with Him and to have fellowship with Him, to share His life and love and to know that He is present in their lives. Whether you have thought about it or not, this craving is in everyone. It is born in you because you are the offspring of God, created in His image and likeness. It is as normal for people to share life with God as it is for fish to swim in water or for birds to fly in the sky.

Without God people are lonely. They need someone they can love and trust. They search for purpose and meaning in life. They need someone to believe in and someone who believes in them, someone they can share with, who will not betray or accuse or judge them. They need to be loved and trusted. They are the offspring of God who is Love. Companionship is basic to human need.

Separation from God brings loneliness, despair and hopelessness in our lives and our world. When we are separated from God we suffer from emptiness and a terrifying feeling of being far away from God's presence. Some doctors have said that one of the greatest sicknesses in the Western world is the sickness of "loneliness." There is loneliness that no friend, family or brother ever can fill. You are the temple of the Holy Spirit created to enjoy God's presence. The loneliness that people suffer from can only be filled by God Himself.

In fact, we all need a friend who sticks closer than a brother and I have good news... *"There is a friend who sticks closer than*

a brother." ^{Prov 18:24} His name is Jesus Christ and when He comes into your life, He brings God's presence into your life!

When the Gospel is preached, God's presence is released and fills everyone who opens their hearts for Jesus. We see this happen in our Gospel campaigns all the time. People who receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior often testify how God's presence fills them.

Many people who come to our meetings bound by evil spirits are set free and filled with the presence of God's Holy Spirit. When the light of the Gospel, Jesus, moves into a person's life, ALL the darkness must depart.

Our Provision for God's Presence

For thousands of years no one could return to the Holy Presence of God in the Garden of Eden. The abundant life that flourished there was no longer accessible. Outside the garden, the earth was cursed under the feet of those precious people whom God had created in His own image. In the fullness of time, God began His final plan to bring us back into His holy presence. He sent Jesus Christ in order to reveal God in the flesh, and to illustrate, in a human body, the life that He planned for us to be able to experience.

In the Old Testament, God reveals Himself as Jehovah Shammah, *"The Lord who is present."* *"All the way around shall be eighty-four thousand cubits; and the name of the city from that day shall be: THE LORD IS THERE."* ^{Eze 48:35}

In the New Testament, Jesus bore all our loneliness and emptiness on the cross and now gives all who receive Him God's presence. Through the blood of Jesus Christ we are brought near to God and can live in His presence. *"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."* ^{Eph 2:13}

"Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God." ^{1 Cor 6:19}

PRAY this prayer: "Thank You Jesus for God's presence. On the cross, You took all my emptiness and loneliness. Now I believe in You. You bring God's presence into my life. I now receive God's presence through the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, fill me now. Thank You, Jesus. Amen."

GOSPEL TRUTH #7 – JESUS IS OUR VICTORY

Our need for Victory

We were created to be winners. Failure is not God's will. He never wants you or me to bow to the demon of defeat. Insecurity, uncertainty, failure and fruitlessness are not what God planned for us. He does not propose mediocrity. His plan is that we be linked with Him as winners — as victors. A perpetual conflict is waged around us. Evil supplants good. Disease affects our health. Lust plots to overthrow love. Failure obstructs success. Humanity is caught in the crossfire of life's battles for achievement.

Atheism, cynicism and unbelief take the place of faith. Mistrust and dishonesty eat like termites at the foundations of life. Every man and woman needs a source from which to draw strength to win in life's struggle. Satan whispers discouraging and destructive thoughts suggesting that God is not concerned about them, that He is perhaps punishing them with failure or defeat because of pride or some other negative tendency. He disturbs their nights, accusing them of shortcomings.

The Deceiver has never changed his strategy of temptation and demoralization. His goal is always to cause people to doubt God's promises in the same way that he influenced Adam and Eve to question what God said to them. Satan twists the Word of God and preys on human emotions in times of stress. He is relentless in his campaign to destroy faith in God. If he can accomplish that, he knows that people will usually renounce faith in others, and consequently, abandon faith in themselves.

Misery, depression, poverty and failure become the disastrous harvest of this broken confidence. Defeat, intimidation, fear

and discouragement hold the human soul from succeeding and achieving the victories God has planned for one's life. So many dreams and visions are barely birthed before the devil sends all kinds of opposition and tries to kill – what God wanted to bring forth. *"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy, I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."* ^{John 10:10}

The devil wants you to be a loser in life, but God wants you to be a winner in life! God sent Jesus to give you an abundant life! HALLELUJAH! God wants you to succeed in life. He wants you to be fruitful in your life and ministry. God wants you to live and enjoy victory every day!

You are born to be a winner, a fruitful tree, and a successful minister of the gospel. *"He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper."* ^{Psalms 1:3}

Our Provision for Victory

You were created for triumph and for victory — to win in life. Adam and Eve forfeited victorious living when they dishonored and disobeyed God's Word in the Garden of Eden.

Peter said, your enemy, the devil, walks about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8) Satan has no power to devour believers, nor is he able to devour at will. He can only devour those who believe his lies because they do not know the victory that Christ accomplished on their behalf and in their name. They are uninformed so they naively accept Satan's lies as fact. James said, Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

In other words, instead of bowing to his lying suggestions, believers speak in his face, the facts of the Gospel, acting on them, and the result is that Satan flees. That is resisting the devil with God's Word in your testimony (Rev.12:11), and it puts the enemy to flight. That is acting on the victory that Christ won on your behalf and in your name.

In the Old Testament, God reveals Himself as Jehovah Nissi, *"The Lord our banner."* *"And Moses built an altar and called its name, The-LORD-Is-My-Banner."* ^{Ex 17:15}

In the New Testament, Jesus bore all our defeats on the cross and can now give all who receive Him victory. Jesus destroyed all the works of the devil and delivered us from darkness by triumphing over principalities and powers.

"Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it." ^{Col 2:15}

"He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love." ^{Col 1:13}

"For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil." ^{1John 3:8}

PRAY this prayer: "Thank You Jesus for Your victory. On the cross, you took all my defeats, mistakes and failures. Now I believe in You. You bring God's victory into my life. Thank you that I am the head and not the tail. Thank you that I am successful and fruitful, because of your victory on the cross for me. Thank You, Jesus. Amen."

Chapter 14

Gospel Campaigns in the New Testament

“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.” Acts 8:5-6

I want to begin this chapter with two important quotes from Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke. He wrote, “If you take the truth of Jesus and preach it with the power of the Spirit, you are using God’s formula. Such a formula produces results. When the Holy Spirit and gospel preaching come together, there is an explosion of power.” And, “We must preach the gospel in the power of the Spirit, with signs and wonders following. Then Jesus will step out of the Bible into modern life.”

There are many ways to preach the Gospel. The Holy Spirit is creative and uses different means to spread the Gospel to the world. There are those who passionately preach the Gospel through television, radio, internet, books, magazines, tracks, and one-to-one evangelism, etc. None of these methods are wrong, only different ways to communicate the same mes-

sage. I strongly believe that we need to respect and value all methods to spread the Gospel to a lost and dying world. All methods that work and bear fruit and win souls should be appreciated and esteemed.

This book emphasizes the ministry of an evangelist and the focus of preaching the Gospel face-to-face to people and many times to crowds of people. As we just read, Philip preached in Samaria and the whole city heard the Gospel. Can you imagine a whole city hearing the Gospel at the same time? To me as an Evangelist that is a most amazing scenario; when many thousands, yes even tens of thousands come to hear the Gospel in one place at the same time.

I encourage you to believe that God is calling you to preach the Gospel to hundreds, yes, thousands, maybe even tens of thousands of people at the same time! I believe a fire is burning in you, to win many thousands of souls for Jesus. That is the reason you are reading this book. I believe YOU can preach the Gospel to an entire village or city, leading thousands to salvation in Jesus Christ. Let this chapter be like a springboard for you, pushing you forward in your life and ministry, right there where you are in the country where you live. If Philip could preach to thousands of people in the city of Samaria, why not believe that you can do it too?

What many people have failed to see in the Word of God is that open-air evangelism was a common way the early church spread the Gospel. I will now take you on an exciting study of the method that I personally love more than all evangelistic methods, open-air gospel campaigns. Let your faith arise and your vision become new as you see some of the most remarkable victories for God's kingdom in the Word of God.

AN INSPIRING STUDY OF THE WORD OF GOD'S WORD

As an evangelist studying the Word of God, I find I have a special love for the ministry of Christ, the evangelistic work of the first disciples, and of course, Paul's great missionary

journeys. I love to see Jesus and the first disciples preaching the Gospel to many thousands of people, seeing whole villages and cities receive the kingdom of God.

I once attended a conference in Norway taught by the great pioneer of miracle campaigns, T.L. Osborn. He made a very interesting statement. He remarked that someone should excerpt everything in the New Testament that pertains to: 1) the redemption of Christ, 2) the blood of Jesus, and 3) the forgiveness of sins, and then make a book out of it.

This chapter is constructed upon that idea, as well as the evangelistic miracle campaigns that can be found throughout the New Testament. Let us once again see Jesus and His ministry with a fresh perspective. Jesus is our model and our great example in evangelism, especially when it comes to mass evangelism. Many people have missed this fact: that Jesus often preached to thousands of people at the same time. This method of reaching people with the Gospel was not only for Jesus in Bible days, it is a very powerful method we must use today in order for the Gospel to have great breakthrough in our world.

JESUS' PRIMARY MISSION

What was the primary task and mission of Jesus Christ here on earth? To die on the cross? To pay for mankind's sin? To defeat the devil? The answer is no. That was not the primary mission of Jesus. Jesus' primary task was not merely to die for mankind's sin. If that had been His primary task He would have just died. If Jesus' primary task was to defeat the Devil He would have done it immediately and then returned to heaven.

The primary mission of Jesus was to bring the kingdom of heaven to earth. His mission was to take the heavenly kingdom to mankind. *"Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.'"* ^{Mark}
^{1:14} His death on the cross was not the goal; it was a necessary

step in order to cleanse us from sin and to open the door for us to enter into the kingdom of heaven. The death on the Cross and the resurrection of Christ opened the way for us to come into the kingdom.

JESUS PREACHED OPEN AIR GOSPEL CAMPAIGNS

Jesus went from village to village preaching that the “The kingdom of God now has come near.” Jesus’ heart was burning with a passion, not only to save a few sinners or to heal a few sick people, but that all of Israel would hear the message of the Gospel of the kingdom. Often as Jesus preached, thousands gathered to hear and to receive His message. Jesus preached in what we today often call, Gospel campaigns. Gospel campaigns are still a part of God’s plan to expand His kingdom and to bring salvation to mankind today in the 21st century.

As the Church, the Body of Christ, we must recognize and embrace all of God’s methods to reach our lost and dying world. One of these methods is through Gospel campaigns. In fact, Gospel campaigns can be found throughout the four Gospels, the Book of Acts, and much of the New Testament.

WHAT IS A BIBLICAL GOSPEL CAMPAIGN?

Gospel campaigns are also referred to as Gospel crusades, Gospel festivals, etc. A Gospel campaign is an event where large crowds are gathered in an open field to hear the good news preached; to receive forgiveness of sins, physical healing and deliverance from evil spirits. It is simply an evangelistic outreach that aims to present the good news of Jesus Christ to as many unsaved people as possible.

In this study we will explore biblical Gospel campaigns, how they function, and God’s plan for evangelists to be His vessels to reach the lost masses. We will explore this concept beginning with the Gospel of Matthew and ending with the

Book of Acts. This study will provide you with a greater understanding and feel for Gospel campaigns.

For emphasis I want to underscore the fact that even though all campaigns are unique and have some differences, there are certain common fundamentals that can be found in every campaign. There are three scriptural requirements in every Gospel campaign.

1. Small or large crowds are gathered to hear the Gospel.
2. The Gospel is proclaimed.
3. Lost souls are saved and miracles take place.

In my study I have discovered nearly twenty unique Gospel campaigns in the New Testament. From this list I have chosen eleven campaigns that clearly show the incredible impact of biblical open-air Gospel campaigns.

THE GOSPEL CAMPAIGNS OF JESUS

"And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. Great multitudes followed Him from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan." Matt 4:23–25, Luke 6:17-19

"Jesus departed from there, skirted the Sea of Galilee, and went up on the mountain and sat down there. Then great multitudes came to Him, having with them the lame, blind, mute, maimed, and many others; and they laid them down at Jesus' feet, and He healed them. So the multitude marveled when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel." Matt 15:29-31

"At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. And the whole

city was gathered together at the door. Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him."

Mark 1:32-34, Luke 4:38-41

"But Jesus withdrew with His disciples to the sea. And a great multitude from Galilee followed Him, and from Judea and Jerusalem and Idumea and beyond the Jordan; and those from Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude, when they heard how many things He was doing, came to Him. So He told His disciples that a small boat should be kept ready for Him because of the multitude, lest they should crush Him. For He healed many, so that as many as had afflictions pressed about Him to touch Him. And the unclean spirits, whenever they saw Him, fell down before Him and cried out, saying, "You are the Son of God." Mark 3:7-11

"And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all." Luke 6:17-19, Matt 4:23-25

"And the apostles, when they had returned, told Him all that they had done. Then He took them and went aside privately into a deserted place belonging to the city called Bethsaida. But when the multitudes knew it, they followed Him; and He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who had need of healing." Luke 9:10-11, John 6:1-2

THE GOSPEL CAMPAIGN OF PETER

"Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd... 'People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know. But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him. But God released him from the horrors of

death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip... God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God's right hand... "So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah...'

Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter replied, 'Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, and to your children, and even to the Gentiles - all who have been called by the Lord our God.' Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, 'Save yourselves from this crooked generation!' Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day - about 3,000 in all."

Acts 2:14-41

THE GOSPEL CAMPAIGNS OF THE APOSTLES

"The apostles were performing many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers were meeting regularly at the Temple in the area known as Solomon's Colonnade. But no one else dared to join them, even though all the people had high regard for them. Yet more and more people believed and were brought to the Lord—crowds of both men and women. As a result of the apostles' work, sick people were brought out into the streets on beds and mats so that Peter's shadow might fall across some of them as he went by. Crowds came from the villages around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those possessed by evil spirits, and they were all healed." Acts 5:12-16

THE GOSPEL CAMPAIGN OF PHILIP

"But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went. Philip, for example, went to the city of Samaria and told the people there about the Messiah.

Crowds listened intently to Philip because they were eager to hear his message and see the miraculous signs he did. Many evil spirits were cast out, screaming as they left their victims. And many who had been paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city.” Acts 8:4-8

THE GOSPEL CAMPAIGN OF BELIEVERS

“Meanwhile, the believers who had been scattered during the persecution after Stephen’s death traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch of Syria. They preached the word of God, but only to Jews. However, some of the believers who went to Antioch from Cyprus and Cyrene began preaching to the Gentiles about the Lord Jesus. The power of the Lord was with them, and a large number of these Gentiles believed and turned to the Lord.” Acts 11:19-21

THE GOSPEL CAMPAIGN OF PAUL

“The following week almost the entire city turned out to hear them preach the word of the Lord. But when some of the Jews saw the crowds, they were jealous; so they slandered Paul and argued against whatever he said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and declared, it was necessary that we first preach the word of God to you Jews. But since you have rejected it and judged yourselves unworthy of eternal life, we will offer it to the Gentiles. For the Lord gave us this command when he said, ‘I have made you a light to the Gentiles, to bring salvation to the farthest corners of the earth.’ When the Gentiles heard this, they were very glad and thanked the Lord for his message; and all who were chosen for eternal life became believers. So the Lord’s message spread throughout that region.” Acts 13:44-49

I have no doubt that these eleven Gospel campaigns were recorded in Scripture for our example to follow, because God wants us to continue preaching the Gospel in open-air campaigns. As we have followed Jesus, Peter, Philip and Paul through their Gospel campaigns, we can truly see that the Gospel is too powerful and too great to be hidden and to be shared with only to a few people.

AN ARMY OF EVANGELISTS PREACHING IN GOSPEL CAMPAIGNS

I believe God in heaven wants to unleash an army of Evangelists that will preach the Gospel in hundreds, and even thousands of campaigns in every nation and people group of the world before the end will come. Jesus and the apostles left us an example to follow. The baton is passed to you and me now. It is now time for us to arise and finish the race Jesus began. God is calling an army of Evangelists in this last hour to do what Jesus did; to do what Peter, Philip and Paul did as they preached to entire cities and great crowds of people.

Can you imagine God raising up thousands of Holy Ghost anointed fire-filled Evangelists going through every nation, tribe and people group in our world preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ in open-air Gospel campaigns? I can imagine that! I dream about that hour! I believe it will happen! With God all things are possible! Jesus believes it is possible: *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father."* ^{John 14:12}

Habakkuk prophesied that knowledge of Jesus Christ would fill the whole earth: *"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."* ^{Hab 2:14}

Joel prophesied that all people would experience the Spirit of God in the last days and that all who call on the name of Jesus would be saved: *"And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh... And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."* ^{Acts 2:17, 21}

Jesus prophesied that the Gospel would be preached to every people group before the end: *"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."* ^{Matt 24:14}

John prophesied that one day a great multitude from every nation would be in heaven: *“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”* Rev 7:9-10

To close this chapter I want to end where I began and remind you of the words of Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke, a man who has led more than 60 million souls to Christ utilizing the same method of open-air Gospel campaigns that Jesus and the early Church utilized.

“If you take the truth of Jesus and preach it with the power of the Spirit, you are using God’s formula. Such a formula produces results. When the Holy Spirit and gospel preaching come together, there is an explosion of power.” And, *“We must preach the gospel in the power of the Spirit, with signs and wonders following. Then Jesus will step out of the Bible into modern life.”*

Chapter 15

Power to become Christ's Ambassador

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

Our mandate is first and foremost to bring the Gospel to the ends of the world. No matter what your gift, calling, anointing or background, you are called, chosen, needed and commissioned by our Lord Jesus Christ to be His ambassador. You are Christ's messenger, His preacher and His witness to a lost and dying world. In this chapter we will discover the great truth of the Holy Spirit, His power, anointing, and fire that will enable you to actually become the Ambassador of the Gospel God planned for you to be.

THE POWER AND FIRE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Before Jesus began His ministry He was clothed with the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit. God intends for you to have the same enduement of power

and anointing that Jesus Himself ministered with. God wants to send you to the lost and unreached people, *but not in your own strength and power*. He wants to fill you, empower you, and clothe you with His power, the power of the Holy Spirit. God wants to send you to the villages and cities that have never before heard the Gospel. **For this job you need God's POWER!**

Every evangelist and every Gospel worker desiring to do the works of Jesus Christ and run the final lap of the Great Commission needs the power of the Holy Spirit in three ways:

1. Power within himself, to be able to do the work for which he has been called.
2. Power upon the message, that the words he speaks will be full of Holy Spirit power and truth.
3. Power upon the listener that they would be receptive to hear the words spoken through the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus called us to be witnesses, but He didn't just throw us into the midst of the lost without assistance. The Holy Spirit, the Comforter, has come to empower us to preach the Gospel, anoint us to proclaim the love of Christ and the remission of sins. Without the Holy Spirit's power, our words would be ineffective. Our words would lack the spark that ignites the embers of faith within the hearts of those seeking forgiveness. We must have the power of the Holy Spirit to be effective. We dare not go forth without it.

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that **by the power of the Holy Spirit** you may abound in hope... by the power of signs and wonders, **by the***

power of the Spirit of God - so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ." Rom 15:13,19

MY ENCOUNTER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT CHANGED MY LIFE

Now let me share my own testimony of how God baptized me into the Holy Spirit and fire; an experience that literally transformed my life. I was twenty years old and on my way to begin my studies in engineering at the university. I ambitiously finished high school both in Sweden and the USA with top grades. I was determined to become a successful engineer who would develop new technical solutions and become a rich man. That was my "human dream".

I had planned my life without including God, but what I didn't know was that everything was about to change, literally, in "one night". My mother is a woman of God. She continually prayed and encouraged me to follow God. One day she gave me a book; it was a biography of a marine who spent his life and money drinking alcohol and living a dirty life. One day he had an encounter with the power of God.

He not only got saved and forgiven from all his sins; he was set free from demonic powers and baptized into the Holy Spirit. He received the calling to preach the Gospel. ALL this happened in one encounter with the Holy Spirit! HALLELUJAH!

His marriage was restored and his life radically changed. He went from the darkest pit into a glorious ministry for Jesus Christ - seeing thousands receive salvation and healing! At the end of his biography he said something that touched me so deeply: "If God can take

me, a wreck, and restore me, anoint and empower me, and use me for His ministry, then he can take anybody.”

With this book in my hand, I took my bicycle and went to my pastor and told him that I needed to have an encounter with the Holy Spirit, RIGHT NOW! I was so hungry, I was desperate! I didn't want anything else. I wanted the real power of God to transform my life. Yes I was already saved and I belonged to Jesus. I was baptized in water and followed Jesus in every way I knew, but I had not received the glorious gift of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

As I walked into my pastor's living room he could see my hunger. He told me to sit on the couch and just relax in the presence of God. As he prayed and laid his hands on me, I felt as though a lightning bolt of God's Holy fire hit my head. My whole body started to vibrate with God's power and a surge of God's tangible presence went through my whole being. From my mouth a river of heavenly languages burst forth in words unknown to me, but not to God. I cried with joy. Tears came from my eyes as the presence of the Holy Spirit filled me from top to toe.

That night I couldn't sleep, I only wanted to pray in this new heavenly language of tongues and commune with the Holy Spirit. His presence and glory filled me, and His power was upon me. I could feel Him, hear His voice and sense His power like I never had before. I truly encountered Him. My life was not the same. I was a new person. His fire burned in my heart and now many years later it burns stronger than ever. HALLELUJAH!!!
Glory to God and thank you Holy Spirit!

THE CALLING AND THE POWER

From the day I encountered the Holy Spirit, a burning desire, a heavenly dream was placed in my heart, to preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Both the calling of God and His empowering through the Holy Spirit are necessary for success in ministry. Let us read what Jesus said to His disciples about the calling and the power of the Holy Spirit:

"Then He said to them, 'Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.'"

Luke 24:46-49

Jesus called His disciples to preach the Gospel to all nations, but before He sent them out to preach He instructed them to wait for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. You must have both the calling and the power of the Holy Spirit or you will fail. You can never obey God's call on your life and run your race in your own power. Jesus calls you and He also provides power for you to be His ambassador!

THE POWER COMES FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

How does the power come to us? God's Spirit brings God's power! *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."* Acts 1:8 You will receive power when you receive

God's Holy Spirit. Begin to thirst and hunger for God's Holy Spirit and He will fill you! This is exactly what I did before I encountered the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a gentleman and is waiting for your invitation. Invite Him right now. You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you! You shall be His witnesses, and preach His Gospel to the ends of the earth! The power is for the mission, the race that is set before you to preach the Gospel and do the works of Jesus!

JESUS WAS EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Consider Jesus and how He as the Son of God began His ministry. He was baptized by John and then the Holy Spirit descended upon Him. He received power from the Holy Spirit. Jesus did nothing before He was anointed with the Holy Spirit.

"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed." Luke 4:18

God's Holy Spirit was upon Jesus. Jesus could do the mighty works of God because God's power was upon Him. The first thing Jesus said before he began His ministry was: *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me..."* Jesus needed the Holy Spirit's empowerment for the mission God had sent Him to accomplish.

If Jesus needed the Holy Spirit's power, how much more do we need God's power today as His ministers? You and I can do nothing, without the Holy Spirit. The anointing and power of God's Holy Spirit was THE KEY for Jesus' ministry and it is THE KEY for our min-

istries. TODAY if you are hungry, God will clothe you with HIS POWER and you will be able to do the works of God like Jesus!

THE FIRE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS FOR ALL PEOPLE

A question many people struggle with is if the Holy Spirit and His power are for all people or just for some special chosen people? The answer becomes very clear from this passage of scripture:

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy.” Acts 2:17-18

This is such a wonderful scripture! All flesh, all people, shall receive the Holy Spirit! Hallelujah! God wants to give YOU his Holy Spirit – His power to be his witness to lost people! The Holy Spirit is for you! God’s power is here today to enable and help you to do the works of God! God doesn’t provide empowerment for a few special people, but ALL people! God wants to empower YOU with His power.

ALL DISCIPLES RECEIVED THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

The birth of the Church and the first thrust of evangelism through “ordinary” believers came as a result of the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a

sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:1-4

Can you imagine that day, when a “rushing mighty wind” filled the whole house and “tongues as of fire” came upon all believers? I tell you the truth, with or without spectacular manifestation, God’s fire still falls upon ALL who hunger and thirst for the Holy Spirit. God has not changed and the Holy Spirit’s fire is still available for all who hunger and thirst!

On the day of Pentecost, the 120 in the upper room received the Holy Spirit and were filled with God’s power. This was the birth of the Church; Jesus doing His work through the believers. The immediate result of the infilling of the Holy Spirit was the beautiful sound of the “heavenly language”, tongues. The Holy Spirit gave the disciples the new heavenly prayer language and POWER to become witnesses of Jesus. AMEN.

THERE IS A FLAME FOR YOUR HEAD

TODAY the Holy Spirit is here to give you your own FLAME! There is a flame for every head! There is a flame for you today. God is not a respecter of persons; all He needs is a pure and hungry heart. God in heaven wants you to have your very own flame of the Holy Ghost power and fire.

The Holy Spirit’s fire power is the key to our preaching and our ministries. On the day of Pentecost, after the Holy Spirit had empowered the disciples, Peter preached and 3,000 were saved! Sometime later, Philip

the evangelist preached and the whole city in Samaria heard the Gospel and saw great miracles take place as God's power was released. We are called to be "fire men" and "fire women"! The world is hungry for the Gospel, preached in the POWER of the Holy Spirit, and demonstrated with God's miracles!

Following Pentecost, the disciples were empowered and emboldened as never before. They took the Gospel to the world and the world was changed. For example, Peter and Philip stood boldly declaring the Gospel with power and anointing. Thousands were saved and miracles took place. Why? Not because of who they were, but because of the power and presence of the Holy Spirit upon Peter and Philip as well as upon the words they preached. This was the power of Pentecost then! It is still the power of Pentecost today!

THE PURPOSE OF THE FIRE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Many people miss the whole purpose of the Holy Spirit. Some think the Holy Spirit is a thing that makes us feel good as Christians. Wrong. Others think the Holy Spirit is here to make us happy and clappy so we can dance, jump and sometimes roll on the floor. Wrong again. The REAL purpose of Pentecost and the Holy Spirit's power upon our lives is to get us going as Christ's ambassadors, preaching the Gospel! The reason God empowers us with His Holy Spirit is for us to continue to do the same works Jesus did, and even greater works.

God works with workers and goes with goers! God is waiting on you and your actions. The Holy Spirit is with you, the anointing and the fire is upon you, for one purpose, that you will be His witness to the ends of the

earth. Reinhard Bonnke said: “The proper purpose of Pentecost is to get the wheels rolling for God in every church, thereby transporting the Gospel across the face of the whole earth.”

Talent, ability, natural gifts, experience, human wisdom and education are no substitute for the power of the Holy Spirit. Evangelists and Gospel preachers must pray and fast and seek the Lord until the Holy Spirit is operative in their lives. Education, talents, wisdom and gifts are not unimportant. Learn and improve your God given skills, as much as possible, BUT without the Holy Spirit you are powerless. Remember that the Devil doesn't respect your education or human wisdom. He respects the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the blood of Jesus and the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

OPEN YOUR HEART AND PRAY FOR YOUR FLAME

Thank God for His calling on your life! Praise Him right now and worship Him. Praise His holy name and thank Him for his love and grace. Thank Him that He has chosen you and called you with a holy calling to go out into all the world and preach the Gospel.

Thank God for His power and fire to fill you with the Holy Spirit. Ask God right now to empower you for the calling He has given you! Take a moment right now and make your heart an altar. Open your heart to the Holy Spirit, allow Him to baptize you in His power and fire. Receive your flame, your empowerment, God's anointing for you!

Cry out to God! Cry out with a desperate and hungry heart! God looks to your hunger and your thirst. The Holy Spirit will fill you from top to toe and empower

you with the power and the fire that rested upon Jesus. This is your day of empowerment in order that you can run your race! Today God will anoint you, empower you and baptize you into the Holy Spirit and give you, your very own flame of fire! HALLELUJAH!!!

Part Five:

*Your Race Lies
Before You*

Chapter 16

See the Unseen and Do the Impossible

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.” Eph 3:20

Jesus has done all that He could do to save the world by dying on the cross and giving us His example to follow in teaching, preaching and healing. Now it is our job to do all that we can do. We need to commit our whole life, our whole heart, to the assignment and mission God has set before us – to finish the Great Commission.

The baton is handed over to you and me. We have to finish the race that Jesus began. Jesus started the race 2000 years ago and then He gave His disciples the mission to continue to run. They handed over the baton to the generation after them, and now the baton is given to you and to me. We are God’s rescue-workers, called, anointed and sent out to plunder hell and populate heaven! There is no higher purpose in this world than to be God’s rescue-worker, a harvester of lost souls. Let us focus our lives, ministries and all our strength on souls, souls, souls. This is the prime task of every believer.

MAXIMIZE YOUR CALLING AND LIFE FOR GOD

There is not a more wonderful place to be than in the center of God's will. God has a unique plan for your life. Even before you were born, God planned your life and prepared great things for you to do for the extension of His kingdom. *"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."* ^{Is 55:9}

He imparted gifts in you and other qualities that you need to fulfill the plans He has for you! I encourage you and challenge you right now, to lift up your eyes and see what you can accomplish for God. I want you to stretch yourself and see beyond what is possible, to see beyond limitations and hindrances. Let God be big in you, don't limit Him.

Together with God, everything becomes possible for you. The key is: "Together with God." Jesus knew and applied this key in His ministry. *"So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, **but only what he sees the Father doing.** For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all that He Himself is doing. And greater works than these will He show Him, so that you may marvel... **I can of Myself do nothing.** As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me."* ^{John 5:19,20, 30}

We are destined to maximize our lives for God and bear much fruit for God's kingdom. I believe we can choose if we want to bear thirty, sixty or hundredfold fruit. Jesus believes you can bear hundredfold fruit. *"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit"* ^{John 15:16}

GOD WANTS TO GIVE YOU A VISION

"Where there is no prophetic vision, the people perish." ^{Prov 29:18}
The number one reason most people don't succeed or don't

accomplish great things is simply because they don't know what they want out of life. They don't know where they are going. We have to know where we are going. Our vision and our goals must be clear.

All great accomplishments for God always begin with a vision, a dream of what we can do. God gives us vision freely, when we seek His face and ask for His thoughts for our lives and ministry. We need to know what God wants us to do, so we can see how far we can go. You were designed to be unique and to fulfill a particular purpose.

The world we live in continually bombards us with negative messages that pull us away from God and His plan for our lives. However, when God gives you vision it is to show you His photograph of your future! God shows you a prophetic vision of your destined future that gives you FAITH and FOCUS in your ministry. You will not run to the left or right, but you will run straight, following God's divine instruction and thoughts for your life.

People who do great things for God are motivated by a dream that is bigger than themselves. They have something that constantly keeps them going forward. It's out of their reach, and yet they believe that if they work hard and apply faith, and pray and obey God's voice and leading, they will someday hold that dream in their hands.

God wants us to dream dreams so that we can see further than what our physical eyes can see. The well-known healing evangelist Oral Roberts titled one of his books: See the Invisible. Do the Impossible. When we see into the invisible through a vision or a dream from God, we will also do the impossible! HALLELUJAH!

God has no limits except those we put on Him through thinking and believing only small things. Jesus says: *"He who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do."* ^{John 14:12} We have the same Holy Spirit, the same power, the same authority as Jesus when He walked on earth. We have

the same possibilities as Jesus Christ had when he walked on this earth; the same Heavenly Father and the same resources. Picture yourself doing the same miracles as Jesus, and helping people just like Jesus, and then picture even greater things.

I want us to be inspired by five of the best quotes from the late pastor Myles Munroe, who was a visionary who always dreamed for greater things:

- “If you have hope for the future you have true riches; no matter how much you have in your account.”
- “The poorest person in the world is the person without a dream.”
- “Purpose is when you know and understand what you were born to accomplish. Vision is when you see it in your mind and begin to imagine it.”
- “A true leader does not measure his success by comparing himself to others but by evaluating how he is fulfilling his own purpose and vision.”
- “The greatest tragedy in life is not death, but life without a purpose.”

DECIDE TO FOLLOW GOD’S DREAM

Research shows that most people only use 10% of their potential. I believe that discovering and following a God-given dream we can also unlock the rest of that 90% of our potential and use it to build the kingdom of God.

You and I need to stretch ourselves and begin think like we have never thought before, and do what we have never done before. Then we will also see what we have never seen before. Decide to follow God’s dream in your heart. Obey God’s vision for your life - it will come to pass, but you must believe it and decide to follow that vision with all your heart, all your strength and all your mind.

"Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come." Hab 2:2-3

START FOLLOWING GOD'S DREAM TODAY

Peter needed to step out on the water to walk on it. He saw Jesus, he heard the voice of Jesus, but it was not until he took action that he actually walked on the water.

I challenge you to start doing something according to your dream, TODAY! Don't wait until tomorrow. What can you do today to move toward your dream? Write a letter, make a phone call, visit a new village or visit someone in need. Pray that God will give you creative ideas and act today.

There are so many wonderful believers that I meet that really have a heart for the Lord, but they are always waiting for the Lord. I know there is a time for everything, but it is sad when you see people in their seventies and eighties that are still waiting on the Lord to show them their purpose in life. I believe that when you step out on the water, in obedience to God's vision for your life, He will lead you step by step, but you and I have to make the decision to go.

Dare to face new challenges. Even when you face problems, see them as opportunities to grow. The only one who can stop you from fulfilling your dream is you. There will always be people around you who will discourage you or tell you that you cannot accomplish your dream, but you can choose to not listen to the destructive voices and only listen to what God is saying to you and to do what His Word says about you.

ENDURE UNTIL THE DREAM IS FULFILLED

When you see what God has planned for you and when you let Him speak to your heart, you won't be satisfied with anything less than the fulfillment of His dream. You will be ready to give up everything for the dream to be accom-

plished. There will be times when you will want to give up and quit, when you want to leave the dream God has given you. IT IS AT THESE MOMENTS that you are just about to break through.

Don't give up, don't quit. When the going gets tough, the tough get going. Go through and you will live God's dream for your life. When a woman is pregnant, she has a seed growing in her womb for nine months. This time is often filled with pain, but when the baby is born, all the pain is forgotten. The same is true with your dream. You have to birth it with pain. There is no other way, but through it all, God is with you!

JOSEPH FULFILLED GOD'S DREAM THROUGH PAIN

Think about Joseph in the book of Genesis for a moment. God showed Joseph a dream that literally changed his life in a radical way. *"Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more. So he said to them, 'Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf.'*" Gen 37:5-7

After receiving God's vision, Joseph's circumstances deteriorated. He experienced tough times, heartache and pain. He was betrayed by his own brothers, sold as a slave and put in prison for many years; however, he was totally innocent of any crimes or wrongdoing.

I don't think any of us would like to change places with him. But, I believe that his dream kept him going through both slavery and imprisonment. He knew that God had planned something better for him. God's dream burned in his heart day and night and carried him through all the days of pain and heartache.

Many years later the dream came to pass! All that God had shown him came to pass! HALLELUJAH! God's dream be-

came Joseph's life, and through His life Joseph was used by God to save an entire nation from starvation. He never quit. He never lost focus on the dream, and through it all, God was with him and fulfilled the dream!

See Joseph's life is an inspiration and a lesson for you today. God wants to give you a dream so that you can follow it until it comes to pass.

WHAT IS POSSIBLE? WHAT IS IMPOSSIBLE?

"With God ALL things are possible." Matt 19:26

What is possible for you and me? What can God do in and through our lives? One thing is true; with God all things are possible. You and I have to connect with God's vision and faithfully obey it and follow it, then we will see it come to pass.

We have to determine to maximize our lives, talents and efforts so that we will see the greatest harvest of souls possible! God is calling us to BELIEVE FOR GREATER THINGS! Who sets the limits for what God can do in our lives and in our nations? God? Your church? Your pastor? Your family? NO, you set the limits! You decide how much God can and will do through your life!

Evangelist T.L. Osborn was asked how he accomplished so much in his life and ministry. Here is what T.L. replied: "Since our youth, we have dreamed of ways to witness for Christ. Those dreams became visions. Visions inspired us to prayer. Faith put action to those prayers. Soon those dreams became living, pulsating realities."

DREAM WITH GOD

Dream with God. Yes, you can dream dreams together with God. God wants to give you His vision and His dream. These will unfold to you the unseen prophetic photograph of His destined future for your life. This is what the prophet Joel said about the Holy Spirit and how He wants to give us His dreams and visions:

“But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams.’” Acts 2:16-17

The Holy Spirit has come, not only to give us power to be Christ’s ambassadors, but He also wants to give us God’s visions and dreams. God wants to give us His dreams for our lives, our cities, our nations and for the whole world.

Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke, known for his commitment to see a “blood washed Africa” had a powerful encounter with the Holy Spirit while working as a missionary in the early stages of his ministry. He saw very little fruit. He longed for more, but had no idea how it ever would happen or if it could be possible for Africa to be saved.

For four consecutive nights, the Holy Spirit gave Reinhard a dream where he clearly could see the entire continent of Africa being washed in the blood of Jesus Christ. He could see how millions of souls were saved by the power of the blood of Jesus Christ. In this dream he could hear God’s voice saying: “AFRICA SHALL BE SAVED!”

This dream totally changed the life and ministry of Reinhard. He could now clearly see God’s dream for his life and for Africa. God opened Reinhard’s eyes for what is possible for God and with God. Faith arose in his heart, faith which led to action, which led to a life-long Gospel ministry, which has seen more than 60 million souls won for the kingdom of heaven! Hallelujah!

A similar experience happened to me as I was on my knees and hungrily cried out to God from the depths of my heart for months. The Holy Spirit’s fire and power transformed my life and God showed me two visions. This happened when I was 20 years old.

The first vision I have already shared in this book, the vision of how countless people are lost in the eternal flames of hell. This vision forever changed my life, my focus and my desire, to be a soul-winner and to preach the only message by which we can be saved--the good news of Jesus Christ.

The second vision God gave me, is the vision of the Great Commission being fulfilled in our time and how all nations, people groups, tongues, villages and cities will be reached with the powerful Gospel message. This second vision burns in my heart day and night.

God's vision is for the entire world - every village in the world, every person in the world, will hear the good news of His Only Begotten Son Jesus Christ, and then will the end come. AMEN!

NOW IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO DREAM!

- See your neighborhood saved by the blood of Jesus.
- See your village saved by the blood of Jesus.
- See your city saved by the blood of Jesus.
- See your state saved by the blood of Jesus.
- See your nation saved by the blood of Jesus.
- See your continent saved by the blood of Jesus.
- See the whole world saved by the blood of Jesus.
- See yourself in the midst of your God-given calling and purpose.
- See yourself preaching, teaching, healing, just like Jesus Christ.
- See yourself possessing the unreached lands with the Gospel.

- See yourself casting out demons, healing the sick, planting churches, reaching lost and unreached with the message of salvation.
- See yourself like Joshua and Caleb, who took the promised land with full faith in God.
- See yourself as God's chosen ambassador, called, anointed and sent to finish the final lap of the Great Commission!

Dream with God. Dream God's dreams. Give birth to God's vision for your life. Do like Abraham and look into the heavens and see God's vision, God's prophetic photograph of your future. Believe in the vision. Act upon the vision. Never give up, and God's vision will become a reality in your life. AMEN!

TWELVE PRINCIPLES FOR FULFILLING YOUR DREAM

By Dr Myles Munroe

As a conclusion to this chapter I want to share twelve principles which Dr Myles Munroe lived by. In addition, he taught leaders around the world to follow these principles and show them how to see their God-given dreams come to pass. Let these principles become your principles and let them inspire, encourage, challenge and help you fulfill your vision to finish your race in the final lap of the Great Commission.

1. **Be directed by a clear vision.** To fulfill your vision you must have a clear guiding purpose for your life. Your vision is a clear conception of something that is not yet reality, but which can exist. It is a strong image of a preferable future.
2. **Know your potential for fulfilling your vision.** When you discover your dream, you will also discover your ability to fulfill it. Whatever God calls for, He provides for. Whatever He requires, He enables us to do. The abil-

ity to accomplish your vision is manifested when you say yes to your dream and obey God.

3. **Develop a concrete plan for your vision.** *"To man belong the plans of the heart."* ^{Prov 16:1} A vision becomes a plan when it is captured, fleshed out, and written down. Your dream is worth writing down. If God gave it to you, it deserves to be done. Your plan will enable you to fulfill your destiny.
4. **Possess the passion of vision.** *"For the people worked with all their heart."* ^{Neh 4:6} Passion means that no matter how tough things are, what you believe is bigger than what you see. A person of passion is always eager to fulfill His vision. Passion keeps you focused on your vision.
5. **Develop the faith of vision.** Sight is a function of the eyes, while vision is a function of the heart. God gave us vision so we would not have to live by what we see. You don't need to be big to think great thoughts. You need to think great thoughts to become big. That is the faith of vision.
6. **Understand the process of vision.** *"In the heart a man plans His course, but the Lord determines His steps."* ^{Prov 16:9} The process of vision develops our character and produces responsibility in us. The vision God has given you will come to pass. Until then, you are to live by faith.
7. **Set the priorities of vision.** Your life is the sum of the decisions you make every day. When people don't succeed in their visions, it is often because they don't understand that prioritizing creates useful limits on their choices.
8. **Recognize people's influence on vision.** When you begin to act on your vision, it will stir up both those who want to help you and those who want to hinder you. We must increase the positive influences in our lives and decrease the negative ones as we pursue our vision.
9. **Employ the provision of vision.** God designed every purpose with its own prosperity. God will never give you

a vision without the provision for it. God has designed every purpose, vision and dream with its own prosperity. Sometimes God doesn't give us all the resources we need to fulfill our vision because He has called other people to provide them for us.

- 10. Use the persistence in achieving the vision.** Every true vision will be tested for authenticity. Every resistance to your vision comes to make you wiser, not weaker. Every opposition comes to strengthen you, not to stop you. Vision always demands a paying of a price.

- 11. Be patient in the fulfilling of vision.** *"Imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised."*
Heb 6:12 Your vision will come to pass if you are willing to progress at the vision's pace. Vision takes time and patience and often involves change. The testing of our faith produces patience, and patience perfects our spiritual character and leads to the fulfillment of our visions.

- 12. Stay connected to the source of vision.** *"I am the vine, you are the branches... Apart from me you can do nothing."*
John 15:5 You will never achieve your vision without prayer because prayer is what keeps you connected to the Vision-giver. Prayer encourages us to get back in the fight of faith.

Chapter 17

Seven Keys to Successful gospel ministry

One could talk about probably a hundred different “keys” or “principles” for successful Gospel ministry. There is not one set of keys that are the only ones that work, however, in this chapter I will share with you seven keys that have profoundly impacted and helped my wife and I in our ministry.

We have not learned these ministry “keys” from a theology book or a Bible college, but from many years of a long and intimate walk with our Lord Jesus Christ and through our experience on the frontlines of world evangelism.

Some of the keys we have previously talked about in this book; now I will expand some new ideas and pack together in one chapter what I believe to be the most important principles and keys we can follow in order to have successful Gospel ministries.

These keys make a strong foundation upon which you can build your ministry. You can add more keys from your own life, but I strongly encourage you to make these seven keys a

guideline and foundation for your life and ministry. If some of the keys are new to you or you haven't discovered their value yet, pray and study God's Word over that specific key. You will be mightily blessed as God opens your eyes to that very key.

THESE SEVEN KEYS WORK and they will work for you if you apply them with love for Jesus and for lost people, as well as with unwavering faith in God and His Word, which never fails.

SUCCESS KEY #1 – VISION

“Where there is no revelation [prophetic vision] the people cast of restraint” ^{Prov 29:18} In the amplified version we read: *“Where there is no vision [no redemptive revelation of God], the people perish...”*

This verse is powerful. Without a prophetic vision we are limited, restricted and put in shackles, yes we even perish. When we do not have a vision, a dream in our lives, and a prophetic picture from the Holy Spirit of God's plan for our lives, we are limited in our lives and ministries.

The purpose of God's vision is not so that you can brag about your vision and impress people around you. NO. The reason God gives you vision is so that you will lift your eyes from yourself and look up to God and His thoughts for your life. God wants to give you His vision, so you will see with His eyes into the future He has planned for you.

God's vision gives you direction in your ministry. God's vision gives you faith in your life. God's vision gives you peace and rest so you don't have to run all over trying to do everything in order accomplish the will of God for your life. God's vision will fuel your faith and launch you into your destiny, not by your own power, but by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The first key I have learned to embrace in my life is the importance of God's vision. God's vision for my life and ministry has given me strength, hope and faith when nothing else was

left. When I have felt totally alone, forgotten, powerless and useless at times, God's vision for my life lifted me up, and I have been rekindled and refocused, ready to take action again.

God's vision for your life and ministry will take you through the darkest hours. With God's vision burning in your heart, it doesn't matter where God will drop you; in the jungles of Africa, in the remote villages of India or in the high technological societies in the West, YOU WILL SUCCEED!

One of the greatest examples in the Bible is the father of our faith, Abraham. I love to read about how God gave Abram a vision and how his life transformed into the will and plan of God. The childless Abram became Abraham and was destined to become the father of millions of sons and daughters. God's vision made the difference.

GOD'S VISION FOR ABRAHAM

"After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!" And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness." Gen 15:1-6

Abram saw no hope or future. He was childless, but worst of all, he was visionless. To be without vision is the worst condition you experience, because without a vision we can't connect with God's plan and thoughts and work in partnership with Him. It is vision that makes us see what God sees, then we can start to act according to God's plan and will for our lives.

As Abram received God's vision of "countless descendants in the heaven" his life changed. His faith was fueled. His focus was changed. His thoughts changed. Yes, Abram became a new man, Abraham! God changed Abram into Abraham and told him that his descendants shall be like the stars in heaven. And Abraham BELIEVED in the Lord! Hallelujah!

GOD'S VISION TO ME

When God's vision came to me to be an evangelist to the unreached peoples of the world, I became a "new Marcus." Through several encounters with the Holy Spirit, God showed me a vision, clearer than any visible thing, and His will became clear to me to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the darkest and most unreached corners of the world.

As the vision came to me I could see myself preaching to masses of lost and unreached peoples. I could see great miracles accompany the preaching as Jesus confirmed His Word. I could see that I was not going alone, but an army of evangelists were raised up and following in my footsteps going throughout the Earth preaching, teaching and healing. This is the vision given to me by God. This book is part of the fulfillment of that vision. Through this book I believe God is lighting a fire and putting a dream in your heart to be a part of this army of evangelists who will arise and go to the very ends of the earth.

As the vision became clearer and clearer I was changed. The way I thought changed. The way I conducted my life changed. The way I spoke changed. The desires of my heart changed. The focus in my life changed. My faith, boldness and passion for Jesus and the Gospel were greatly increased. My plans and my goals all changed, and up to this day this vision has burned like a fire in my heart.

It is God and His vision for my life that has carried Hanna and I through the many years of our worldwide Gospel ministry. When no one believed in us, God believed in us. His

vision for us gave us strength, hope and faith to move on. Praise be to God! God is wonderful. He is faithful and He loves to give us vision and show us His plans for our lives.

GOD'S VISION TO PAUL

Another great example is Paul the apostle. His life was not easy and comfortable, yet he accomplished more for the kingdom of God than anyone in the New Testament. What was his motivation, strength and "key" to such a successful ministry? Listen to his own reflection as he gives his testimony to king Agrippa:

"At midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'" Acts 26:13-19

Paul boldly said: **"I was no disobedient to the heavenly vision."** Through shipwrecks, beatings, fastings, imprisonments, stoning, whippings, persecutions, misunderstandings, sleepless nights, heartaches and burdens for the churches, it was GOD'S VISION for his life that carried him and brought him through. Paul continually had the vision of God burning in his heart. It was the vision given to him directly from Jesus that helped him accomplish all he did.

NOW PRAY this prayer: “Heavenly Father, today I surrender all my life to you. Father in heaven, I ask you right now, give me your vision for my life and ministry. Holy Spirit, come upon me and give life to the dream of God in my life. Let me be impregnated with your vision today. Thank you for giving me your vision in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

SUCCESS KEY #2 – PLANNING

Some people might think that planning is not spiritual. I am saying that planning is very spiritual. Throughout the Bible, God shows us how much He plans His works in detail. Look at how He helped Noah plan for the Ark. Look at how He unfolded His plans for the Temple to David. Look at Nehemiah and how He helped him build up the wall. Look at Joshua and how He helped him plan to take the Promise Land.

In Proverbs 16:9 we find this very important “key” – planning: *“A man’s heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.”*

God’s Word says, “A man’s heart plans His way.” Vision comes from God, but planning to fulfill the vision belongs to us. Vision and planning are connected and are both needed for us to fulfill our God-given race and Gospel ministry.

God gives us His vision for our lives, but then it is our responsibility to make the plan to fulfill the vision together with the Holy Spirit. We plan and God directs our steps. If we don’t make any plans and don’t move toward the vision, how can God direct our steps?

The proof of your faith and willingness to fulfill your God-given vision is in your planning! Your plan makes the vision practical and reachable. Your plan makes the vision possible to accomplish. Without a plan, your vision will remain just what it is, “a vision.” It is the plan that makes the vision achievable and possible. Therefore start to plan, and as you plan God will direct your steps.

FOUR REWARDS OF PLANNING

1. Planning ahead eliminates stress in difficult seasons of your life. *"Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest."* Prov 6:6-8
2. Planning greatly effects the decisions you make in life. *"Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace."* Luke 14:31-32
3. The quality of your planning determines the quality of your performance. *"Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before unknown men."* Prov 22:29
4. Proper planning guarantees completion of any project. *"For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish'?"* Luke 14:28-30

THE SEVEN MOST IMPORTANT KEYS IN PLANNING

1. Ask God for wisdom. *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."* James 1:5
2. Spend time in prayer as you develop your plan. Your time in God's presence determines your fruitfulness and accomplishments publically. *"But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."* Isa 40:31

3. Keep a daily planner at hand always. To be effective you need to make your daily plan simple to follow. If you can plan your day, you can plan your life. Keep your planner handy and use it to complete daily tasks. Make a list for each day of specific tasks that you need to complete that day. This will make you a master achiever.
4. Write your daily plan in detail. I like to write down the five to seven most important tasks for every day, starting with the most important and then ending with the least important task. In this way you will accomplish all the tasks you plan.
5. Follow your plan on a daily basis. If you are disciplined in following your daily plan, you will be surprised how much you will be able to accomplish in a week, month and year. You build a stone castle by putting one stone at a time in the right place. By following your plan day by day, you will eventually see your plan fulfilled.
6. Develop a detailed picture of your desired end and conclusion. Your plan should lead to this desired picture. Visualize your completed plan. See God's vision fulfilled. Your imagination is God's tool and gift for you to use for His purposes. Use your imagination and create a "dream picture" of you in the future, having fulfilled your plan.
7. Keep flexible for the unexpected, and adapt the plan accordingly. It takes a moment to get a command from God. But it often takes a long time to develop the plan, and then your lifetime to fulfill that plan. Be flexible to make necessary changes, to be able to effectively and obediently follow God's vision for your life.

SUCCESS KEY #3 – PRAYER & FASTING

No vision and no plan that God has given to us can be fulfilled in our own strength. God wants to be involved in the completion of His plans for our lives. God's kingdom is built as we partner with Him and follow His plan. And this can

only be accomplished when we practice the discipline of prayer and fasting.

Praying and fasting is a powerful key that we need in order to be successful Gospel ministers. We can never build God's eternal kingdom without God, His power, His anointing, His authority, His love and His miracles being poured out on the people we want to minister to.

Through prayer and fasting we connect with the source of power, the Holy Spirit. It is through prayer that we stay in close intimate contact with the vision-giver. In order for the vision to always be clear and real to us, we must live a life of prayer and fasting. Through prayer and fasting we empty ourselves of all our own weaknesses and God fills us with His power, love, anointing and His vision for our lives becomes clear.

Paul said to Timothy: *"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."* ^{1 Tim 2:1-4}

To the church in Ephesus Paul said: *"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints — and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,"* ^{Eph 6:18-19}

The first church had great success as they lived in constant prayer and communion with God. *"And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness."* ^{Acts 4:31}

There are some who don't believe that it is necessary to fast, but only pray. We are up against the powers of hell, therefore we must treasure all of the weapons given to us by God.

Prayer and fasting and the Word of God are the most powerful weapons we have in our battle against the evil powers of Satan.

The Word of God is the sword of the Spirit. Fasting is like oxygen to the fire of the Holy Spirit and makes room for God's power to work effectively. This is what Jesus said to His disciples when they faced difficulties casting out an evil spirit: *"So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."* ^{Mark 9:29}

"When you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly." ^{Matt 6:17-18}

Prayer and fasting is a powerful key to be a successful Gospel minister. Jesus Himself prayed and fasted and He instructed us to pray and fast. When you fast, you obey the words of Jesus and you follow the example of the Apostle Paul: *"But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings..."* ^{2 Cor 6:4-5}

SUCCESS KEY #4 – GIVING

All dreams, visions and plans cost money. Often they cost lots of money. God is our provider! In our Gospel ministry we have learned how this fourth key of giving is of uttermost importance in order for us to be able to receive God's provision. When we let go of what is in our hands, God will let go of what is in His hands. Jesus says it clearly in Luke's Gospel:

"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." ^{Luke 6:38}

GIVE and it will be GIVEN back to you. Amen. This key is so important to understand. You and I need to live with God's principle of provision daily in order for us to see His vision

fulfilled in our lives. When we give, then God will give to us, and more than we can receive will be given back to us.

Many times we face great financial challenges as we launch out and do great Gospel campaigns in Africa and Asia. The truth is that when we give, we set an invisible law in motion – the law of sowing and reaping. When we give, we are qualified to receive a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over.

We always give more than ten percent of everything we receive both from our personal salary and from our ministry income. We know we need to sow good seeds in order to reap a good harvest. Up to this very day, we have never lacked one dollar in our Gospel ministry. Praise be to God! God is faithful.

THREE SECRETS OF RECEIVING GOD'S PROVISION

1. Always pray and seek God's directions. When He leads you, He will feed you. When He guides you, He will also provide for you.
2. Always give freely to people, churches and ministries God directs you to bless. Never argue with God or give sparingly. Give abundantly. The same measure you use, God will use for you.
3. Expect God's provision as you move and take action in fulfilling your God-given assignment. Don't wait for God's provision. Take action and as you move, God will move with you.

"He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work." ² Cor 9:6-8

SUCCESS KEY #5 – FAITH

Faith that moves you from believing in God and His vision for you, into action is the key that will make all the difference. Faith is not knowing everything about God, but doing something with that which you believe. Faith is all about taking what you know from God's Word and doing something that will cause an impact in people's lives.

To have childlike faith in our heavenly Father is the key that unlocks God's unlimited power, provision, miracles and blessings. *"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."* ^{Heb 11:6}

Your faith is the key to see God's power and miracles released in your life and ministry. Yes, your faith can even move mountains that the enemy has put in front of you! *"Jesus answered and said to them, 'Have faith in God. 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."* ^{Mark 11:22-24}

GOD CAN DO MORE THAN WE CAN ASK OR THINK

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us" ^{Eph 3:20}

We have to stir up our faith, to believe God for greater things. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. Faith, which leads to action, is the key to your success in the ministry. Jesus goes with goers and works with workers. When you act in faith, the Holy Spirit will be with you to do the miracles.

Remember, God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all you and I can ask or think. Let us ask and think bigger and higher thoughts! Aim for the stars if you want to reach

the highest mountain. Faith makes all the promises in God's Word available to us today! God needs people with reckless faith who will take action and do the work He has called them to do.

People who forever seek the will of God, are overrun by the people who do the will of God. God doesn't sit with sitters, but He goes with goers. Activate your faith and believe that with God all things are possible. Release your faith by moving toward the God-given vision that burns in your heart – millions of eternal souls depend on our faith and action! Set your vision high and go for it.

SUCCESS KEY #6 – FIRE

Just like faith unlocks all of God's promises for us, the fire of the Holy Spirit is the power that makes the engine work. Faith transports the fire wherever it is needed. Fire is a glorious free gift from God. Faith is a switch that you and I need to turn on.

Fire and faith work together, and these keys are of uttermost importance when it comes to Gospel ministry. We need faith in God for miracles, provision, direction and protection, and we need the fire of the Holy Spirit to be able to do the works Christ has called us to do. John the Baptist says about the Holy Spirit: *"He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire"* ^{Matt 3:11}

This fire is not for show or to display spectacular charisma. It is a holy fire, an empowering fire that makes us like Christ, filled with power and boldness to proclaim His Gospel. We are called to be "fire" men and "fire" women. We are called to heat up the temperature wherever we go. The world hungers for the fire and anointing of the Holy Spirit, not for dead lectures. They long for "fire" speeches filled with power and God's presence!

The fire comes directly from Jesus – the baptizer in the Holy Spirit. You can live in this fire no matter where God sends you. The fire of the Holy Spirit comes directly from Jesus

and He is present with you right now. *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”* Acts 1:8

The Holy Spirit will also connect you with the right people who will stand with you to see the dream and vision come to pass! When the fire of the Holy Spirit burns in your life, God will bring the pieces of the puzzle together for you. The anointing of God will make a way for you. The Holy Spirit is the key to our preaching and ministry.

SUCCESS KEY #7 – ACTION

The last key will make all the other keys work – Action! Without action all the other keys are meaningless. You are created for action. You are designed for a great Gospel ministry of action, not for sitting and waiting, watching others do the work of the Lord.

We don’t wait for God. Since the day of Pentecost, the Lord waits for us! Arise and let God’s vision in your heart come alive. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you daily with fresh fire from heaven. Have faith in God, His Word and His vision for you. Activate and push the GO button by taking action today!

“And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.” Mark 16:20

Jesus had done all He could do. He died on the cross and gave the disciples the fire and power of the Holy Spirit. Now all of heaven waited on them to take action. Read the Scripture above one more time. It was not until THEY WENT OUT AND PREACHED that Jesus confirmed the Word with miracles, signs & wonders.

The whole key to the successful ministry of the disciples and the first church was their action. Smith Wigglesworth once said. *“The Acts of the apostles was written because the apostles acted.”*

You need VISION, FIRE and FAITH that leads to ACTION in order for God's dream in your life to be fulfilled. Vision lifts your eyes to see what God can do. Faith and action transport the fire wherever it is needed. Vision is one of God's ways of speaking to us. Fire is a glorious free gift from God for empowerment. Faith is a switch, the currency of God that you and I must turn on. Faith starts the engine and action makes the vision come into reality.

All of heaven is looking to you, waiting to back you up, waiting to work with you, alongside you. They are waiting on you. Arise and take action, and God himself will work alongside you confirming your Gospel ministry with miracles, signs and wonders.

Chapter 18

Run Your Race

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.”

Heb 12:1-2

God has given you a heavenly race to run here on earth! You are called and chosen by God to go out and bear much fruit for the kingdom of God. You are called, chosen and appointed for a destiny – to fulfill your God-given assignment here on earth – your race! In heaven a great crowd of witnesses is watching you and cheering for you, “Run, Run, Run!!!!”

As you prepare yourself to run this race I want to challenge you to obey the verse we just read:

- Let go of all the sin and weight that hinders you, repent, confess it to God, shake it off you and leave it at the cross of Jesus.
- Commit yourself wholeheartedly to run the race with endurance which God has set before you.

- Always look to Jesus, your Savior, your Master, your role model and the author and finisher of your faith.

PAUL INSPIRES US TO RUN OUR RACE

“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.” ^{1 Cor 9:24-27}

When I study the life and ministry of Paul there is one striking fact that impacts me: his determination and passion to run and finish his race. Paul was consumed with a passion for the Gospel and for the kingdom of God. Paul was totally focused on his God-given calling, his race. Paul was determined. Paul had his eyes fixed on the goal, the finish line. He sums up his commitment to Jesus in one sentence: *“Nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”* ^{Acts 20:24}

Through persecution, shipwreck, fastings, beatings, imprisonment, loneliness, poverty, trials, and frequent opposition from the very people he brought the good news, he never lost his focus. Paul looked ahead, focusing on his calling, his race, to take the Gospel to the Gentiles, to new unreached regions where the Gospel had never before been preached.

As Christ’s ambassadors we have a race to run. As the Body of Christ we are called to preach the Gospel to all nations, to all people groups, yes, to all tribes on the earth. Our assignment is to finish the Great Commission, to run the very last lap of this great race. Yet, we still have a long way to run. We must follow the example of Paul, refocus our lives and ministries and determine to finish our race, no matter what the cost will be.

There are more than 7,000 unreached people groups to reach. We have still more than 3 billion souls to reach. These people must be on our agenda and in our prayers. We have to finish the Great Commission; this is our race to run. Jesus will not come back for us, His bride, until we have finished the assignment we received more than 2,000 years ago.

The Great Commission is the last command, the last order from our King, Jesus Christ. He and all of heaven are waiting on us to finish our job. The Great Commission can and must be finished. As we stand together shoulder to shoulder, joining our hearts and hands WE CAN, WE MUST, finish the final lap of this race for souls.

YOU HAVE A PERSONAL RACE TO RUN

There is a great truth we must comprehend - the Great Commission is NOT an impossible task. We must understand that Jesus believes we can fulfill His commission, otherwise He wouldn't have entrusted this great mission to us.

What I want you to see and focus on is YOUR race; your personal assignment and calling that you have uniquely received from Jesus. When each of us fulfills his/her individual race, with a heart of teamwork, unity and love for the Body of Christ and for the lost peoples of the world, we will fulfill our corporate race.

You have a personal race to run. No one can do it all, but we all can and must do all we can do to contribute toward the completion of Christ's Great Commission. Your race, your personal calling, is very important. You have your own lane to run in this last lap. No one can take your place. No one can run your race. You are uniquely designed, crafted and made by our Creator for the completion of your personal race. You have been given gifts, talents and creativity that you must use for the spreading of the Gospel.

You can preach and testify about Christ. You can pray and intercede for the peoples of the nations and for the preachers

of the Gospel who reach them. You can help send new missionaries and support evangelism to the unreached peoples through your giving. Your part in the Great Commission is a vital link for the job to be completed. When you do all you can do to run this heavenly race, then you will help the Body of Christ run and finish her race.

OLYMPIC RUNNERS INSPIRE US TO RUN OUR RACE

I have always been a sportsman, enjoying running, biking, swimming and playing tennis, etc. I must say when it comes to running I have always been impressed by the long distance runners from Kenya and Ethiopia. They are one of a kind. They run with endurance and a determination to win the gold medal like no other runners.

Think of the 10,000 meter race or even a marathon. All the runners run to win the gold medal. All have prepared, trained and are passionate about winning the race. They all know that to be the winner you must be in first place at the end of the race. All runners have a mentality and an attitude to fight the fight and run the race with all their hearts, power and strength.

The race is not necessarily won by the fastest runner, or the strongest runner, but by the runner who never loses his focus on the finish line. The race is in many ways won or lost in the runners mind, in his or her focus and attitude. The winner is the runner whose determination is absolutely unshakeable. Focus and attitude are two keys to winning both in the Olympics, and in obeying the Great Commission and running your race.

THE GREAT COMMISSION IS A RELAY RACE

Let me illustrate the Great Commission in another way. In a relay race you have four runners on each team. Let us say each runner must run one lap around the track, 400 meters. The first runner starts as soon as he hears the starting shot.

Then he gives the baton over to the second runner, who then gives over the baton to the third runner and finally he hands over the baton to the last runner.

The starting shot is the Great Commission of Jesus, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel." When the runners hear the shot, they all start to run. Jesus has already pulled the trigger when He said GO into all the world.

The baton that each runner holds in his hand is the Gospel message, and our mandate, our assignment, is to take the Gospel to all the world. We hold in our hand the only message that can save the world.

The runners represent different generations, each running one lap in obedience to the Great Commission given to us by Jesus. Each lap is a picture of each generation that has obeyed the Great Commission. The baton has been passed to us, and we are running the final lap!

The coach that has trained the runner for many long years is the Holy Spirit. As the runners run they can hear the words of their coach in their head, the same is true for us. We have our coach with us every day; He speaks words of faith, vision and encouragement to us.

The crowd cheering on the runners in the huge stadium is the witnesses of saints and angels in heaven watching us, cheering us on. We are not alone; all of heaven is watching and cheering us on, each and every one of us.

Many laps have been run since the birth of the Church. Now the baton has been handed over to you and to me in this generation and I believe with all my heart that we will finish the Great Commission. I believe we are running the last lap of the Great Commission. HALLELUJAH!!!

RUN YOUR RACE TO WIN

If we individually cooperate with God's unique vision and purpose for our lives and then in love and unity join hands in the Great Commission and commit to run, we can finish the final lap! We all have to do our part, and do it with a "team mentality" in order to finish the Great Commission.

The vision that burns like fire in your heart is God's prophetic photograph of your destined future. Your vision is the race God has called you to run here on earth. It is your race to run, and it is a race that all of heaven is watching; a race that will echo for all eternity. Your obedience to finish your God-given race will determine the eternity for all the lives God has planned for you to reach.

To finish your race is your life's purpose. Paul was a focused man with determination. He understood that his calling was to reach the unreached Gentiles by the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

FOLLOW THE EXAMPLES OF OTHER RUNNERS

Paul ran his race as he traveled on his missionary trips to the unreached world outside Israel. Paul was always on the go to new places, to new villages, preaching the message of the Cross. Paul ran his race as he planted churches where no church previously existed. He ran his race as he preached Christ where Christ was not named. *"I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named."* ^{Rom 15:20}

Paul ran his race as he mentored young Timothy, bringing with him teams of disciples whom he trained in the ministry, always pouring his own life into his followers. Paul finished his race being obedient to the heavenly vision as he so boldly declared to King Agrippa.

"Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem,

and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.” Acts 26:19-20

Jesus ran and finished His race as He went from village to village in Israel preaching the kingdom, healing the sick, casting out devils, and teaching in the synagogues. He then died on the cross for the sin of the world, rose from the dead and sent out His disciples into all the world to preach the Gospel.

Pioneers of old have lived and died preaching the Gospel to the poor, to the unreached, to the lost, broken, suffering and to forgotten people, and have finished their race. Some of these pioneers include Hudson Taylor, William Carey, Charles Thomas Studd, and Tommy Lee Osborn, plus countless others who have finished their race and are now watching us as a part of the great cloud of witnesses. They cannot do anything more than they have already done. They cannot run our race for us. They have done their job, now it is our job to run and finish our race.

Run your race! I said, run your race! If you have lost your vision or you don't know what you should do, get down on your knees and pour out your heart before God. He alone can give you what you need. He gives us visions and dreams freely. He loves to fill us with His power, His Spirit and His strength. But, you have to take up the baton, your calling, and run your race. No angel will run your race for you. No one else but you can run your race.

ARISE AND RUN YOUR RACE!

Whatever your dream is for the kingdom of God, arise and shine. Arise and run your race! Obey God. Whatever the Holy Spirit has put in your heart to do, do it, take action; don't wait for any more prophesies. Don't wait for any more hands to be laid on you. Take up your baton and run your race. When you take one step in faith, God will take one step with you. This is the race of faith we must run. We walk by faith and not by sight.

Your race lies before you, whether you are in the beginning, in the middle or at the end of your race, and you must determine to finish the race. Never lose focus of the finish line.

Your reward will last forever and lives will be brought into the kingdom of heaven because of your testimony, your preaching, your obedience and your sacrifice. Keep one eye on eternity and one eye on your race here on earth and you will run the whole race God has called you to run without stopping, without slowing down, and without falling into any ditches.

Together we will finish the last lap of the Great Commission reaching all nations, all peoples and all tribes. We will, in our generation, finish the Great Commission if we all run our personal race united together in the Great Commission of Jesus Christ. We will plunder hell and populate heaven with millions of souls. We will cover the whole earth with the knowledge of Jesus Christ and let the whole world hear the Gospel of the kingdom as a testimony of our living Lord!

This book is written for this very reason, to inspire you, to challenge you, and to ignite you to run your heavenly race here on earth. You only have one life to live. You only have one race to run. Your heavenly vision, your calling is a vital link for the Great Commission to be fulfilled.

NO ONE CAN RUN YOUR RACE BUT YOU!

The prophet Joel paints a picture of our combined race in a powerful way:

“They run like mighty men, they climb the wall like men of war; every one marches in formation, and they do not break ranks. They do not push one another...” Joel 2:7-8

We are called to run our race both individually but also with a heart for the whole team, the whole Body of Christ. You have a specific lane to run in. You have a unique calling that no one else can fulfill. You have to fulfill your race and com-

plete the God-given task entrusted to you. Don't fight your brother or sister on the same team. Don't get jealous or criticize your brother. Rejoice and encourage one another and together we will finish the race.

Arise and take your lane in the race that God has set before you. Recharge and re-fire. Forget what is behind you. Forget all your mistakes, all your failures. Like Paul, look ahead TOWARD what lies before you. A great harvest of souls awaits for you to harvest. If you don't go, who will run your race? No one can run your race for you. God is looking to you today and he asks, *"Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?"* Isa 6:8

God wants you to run your race with the mindset and focus to FULFILL and reach your FULL POTENTIAL in God. Jesus wants you to go out and bear a hundredfold fruit!

Paul had this mentality and focus. He was not satisfied! He was hungry for more. He wanted all of God's promises to be fulfilled in his life! He never settled for second best!

"Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Phil 3:12-14

DECIDE TO RUN YOUR RACE

Now that you have read this book, nothing can hinder you from taking action and running your race. I challenge you as your dear brother in the Lord, arise and start to run your race. If you're already running, increase the speed! Don't settle for second best, but stretch toward God's best for your life and ministry! Many thousands of people are waiting for you to minister the Gospel to them.

Decide today to make a plan and take action. Decide today to join the thousands of other runners who preach the Gospel to a lost and dying world. Decide today to surrender all of your life, your future and all of your gifts and talents to Jesus Christ and to the Final Lap of the Great Commission.

Dearest Co laborer in the harvest field,

The baton of the Gospel has been put into your hand, therefore follow the example of thousands of other soul-winners in our world, RUN YOUR RACE, take action and preach the Gospel to a lost and dying world. Run with your God-given vision. Believe it, and go with it. God will go with you, wherever you go. Multiplied millions of souls will be saved in this end-time harvest as we join hands and do our utmost in obeying the Great Commission. God bless you as you serve the Lord and fulfill His Commission. Let us reach the entire world together, and then Jesus will come back...

Your dearest brother

Marcus Bloom

“Nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.” Acts 20:24

Literature

Royer, Galen B. Christian Heroism in Heathen Land. Brethren Publishing House, 1915

Barlow, Dr. Fred. Profiles in Evangelism, Sword of the Lord Publishers, 1976

Howell, Clifford G. The Advanced Guard of Missions, Pacific Press Publishing, 1912.

William Carey: Father of Missions (Heroes of the Faith), Barbour Publishing, 1997

Reese, Ed, Hudson Taylor , Christian Hall of Fame series, Reese Publications,

M. G. Guinness, Story of the China Inland Mission, 1893

Harrison, E. Myers. Heroes of Faith on Pioneer Trails, Moody Press, 1945.

Hudson Taylor: Founder, China Inland Mission (Heroes of the Faith), Barbour Publishing, 1999

Grubb, Norman P, C T Studd Cricket Champion and Missions hero, Lindblads, 1936

Thompson, Phyllis. Hudson Taylor – God’s Adventurer, Moody press, 1980

Osborn, Tommy Lee. The Gospel according to TL & Daisy. Osborn Publishers, 1985

Osborn, Tommy Lee. The Message that Works. Osborn Publishers, 2004

Bonnke, Reinhard. Evangelism By Fire, ER productions, 2008

http://www.eaec.org/hall_of_faith.htm

<http://www.wholesomewords.org/biography/>

<http://healingandrevival.com/BioTLOsborn.htm>

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/>

APPENDIX

Five Gospel Messages That Work

As I have worked on this book for more than two years I often thought of how I can give practical help for those who want to preach the Gospel. Therefore I want to give you five of the best Gospel messages I have preached in hundreds of small and big Gospel meetings in many different nations. These message work, because they clearly present the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the cross at its center.

A Guideline On How To Preach A Gospel Message

The purpose for these outlines is to give you practical guideline as you preach. I want to encourage you to think of a Gospel message in four parts. You don't have to do it in this way, but this can help you, especially if you are new to preaching.

PART ONE - INTRODUCTION

This is an opportunity for you to make a short introduction, give testimonies or an opening prayer. Greet the people and welcome them to the Gospel Festival or Gospel Campaign. Encourage them that Jesus is present to speak to them and to do a miracle among them. Encourage them to open their hearts to God's Word.

PART TWO – THE READING OF THE PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE

Read or quote a passage of scripture from your text. This is very important. Remember, this is the Word of God and it is the Gospel that is the power of God unto salvation.

PART THREE – THE PREACHING OF THE MESSAGE

This can be done in many different ways, just be sure you preach from your heart and not from your head. Use the outline below and add a personal story, illustration or a testimony for your message. This will make the message more interesting to hear, it will become more "personal" and it will be even more "believable."

PART FOUR – THE ALTAR CALL AND INVITATION TO RECEIVE JESUS

The fourth part is when you move from the preaching of the message into the altar call, and your invitation for people to receive Jesus. This part is in my opinion one of the most important parts of your ministry as a preacher. Now that you have preached the Gospel, you have to draw in the net of salvation and catch the fish.

Be very clear and straight to the point. Speak with love and authority. Remember that the people are lost, standing on the edge to eternity, they need to get saved now. Challenge every person to say yes to Jesus, to make Jesus their personal Savior, to repent from all their sin and receive forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

If it possible, make an altar call and ask everyone who says yes to Jesus to come forward near where you stand. Then lead everyone in a public prayer of salvation, where you say a short sentence, which they will all repeat after you. Make sure you give the interpreter and the people enough time to pray the prayer.

After the prayer, make sure everyone is followed up for discipleship.

MESSAGE I:

The Paralytic man meets Jesus

Gospel of Mark 2:1 – 12

Jesus was teaching the people in a house about God's Kingdom.

The house was packed with people who had come to listen to God's Word and to receive a touch of God's miraculous power.

Jesus was telling the people that God in heaven is near to save, heal and deliver all who need a miracle.

The words of Jesus filled the hearts of the people and they were amazed because His Word was with power and authority.

Today God's Word is the same. It is powerful and filled with life, power, truth, love and authority.

Jesus was not like an ordinary teacher the people said. His words were filled with God's power and miracles happened.

Everywhere Jesus went He healed the sick – He opened the blind eyes, He opened the deaf ears and made the cripple walk.

Jesus removed the sin from the people and gave them peace. He gave them a hope and a future together with a loving God!

This day people were sitting and standing throughout the house in order to see and listen to Jesus teach.

THEN in the middle of the teaching a paralytic man lying on his bed heard that Jesus was near.

This crippled man had been lying on his bed for many years. He had no hope. He was doomed to lie in his bed for all his life.

BUT, when he heard that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came from God, to do miracles, then HE RECEIVED HOPE!

The paralytic said to his friends: *"Please bring me to Jesus. Take me to Jesus Christ; He is the only one who can help me."*

His four friends carried him to the house where Jesus was. BUT they couldn't come in because of all the people.

The paralyzed man had no hope; he was paralyzed and couldn't walk, run or stand on his feet.

Then one of his friends got an idea: We will make a hole in the roof and pull him through the roof down to Jesus.

They were desperate to meet Jesus. They knew if they could just bring their paralyzed friend to Jesus he would be healed!

So they made a hole in the roof and pulled the man down on his bed in front of Jesus.

Everybody was silent. Everybody was still. Nobody was moving. Everybody looked to Jesus and the paralyzed man.

The paralyzed man was now next to Jesus and then Jesus looked to the man and his four friends.

Jesus saw their faith. Jesus saw in the man's eyes that he believed in Him, and that He could heal him.

When Jesus saw their great faith He said to the paralytic:

"Son, your sins are forgiven you"

Then some religious priests thought: *"Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"*

Then Jesus said so all could hear:

"That you all today will know that God has given me power to forgive sins, I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

Immediately the paralyzed man arose, took up his bed and went home, he was healed, joyful and praising God!

TONIGHT I HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU!

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. The same Jesus who forgave and healed the paralyzed man is here!

Jesus has all power in heaven and on earth to heal, deliver and to save you from all your sins, sicknesses and bondages.

All things are possible for God! Jesus is here to do a miracle for you! Only believe in Jesus and you will receive your miracle!

Jesus wants to lift off every burden, every pain, sickness, sin, depression, darkness, fear and worry, TODAY! God's Word says in the book of Isaiah chapter 53:

"Jesus carried your sicknesses and pains, He was wounded for your transgressions. He was bruised for your sins. The penalty and punishment for your sins was put on Jesus. And by his stripes you are healed, forgiven, set free and made whole!"

Jesus came to this world to take all our sins and sicknesses and to die with them on the cross, so we can be forgiven, healed, delivered and redeemed back to God.

Jesus died for you so we all can receive His eternal life, that we will become children of God and live forever in His presence in the kingdom of heaven.

Your greatest need tonight is to receive forgiveness of your sins and the greatest miracle of ALL is the forgiveness of sins.

Only Jesus can save you and forgive you from your sins, because only Jesus was sin free and died for you on the cross.

Jesus died but rose again on the third day and lives now forever more. Jesus is alive and He is here tonight!

Jesus is the same as he was 2000 years ago. Jesus is still doing miracles!

Come to Jesus today, just like the paralyzed man came to Jesus and was forgiven and healed.

Come to Jesus tonight and you will be forgiven and healed tonight! Say Yes to Jesus and he will come into your life.

Believe in Jesus Tonight! Confess Him tonight as your Lord, your Healer, your redeemer, your deliverer and your Savior!

MESSAGE II:

Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus

Gospel of Mark 10:46-52

Jesus and His disciples were going from city to city preaching the Good News and healing all who were sick. This day they came to Jericho and many people followed them because wherever Jesus was miracles happened!

This day as Jesus walked and many people followed on the road, a poor blind beggar was sitting begging for money.

This blind beggar had been sitting by the road begging for help for many years.

Nobody could help him. If he was lucky maybe somebody gave him five schillings. But he was blind and could not see.

The blind man had been sitting blind and poor for a very long time, without any hope, without any help, without any future.

But one day the blind beggar heard the news about Jesus Christ, who went around doing good and healing the sick.

When he heard about Jesus, the one who forgave sinners and healed the sick, THEN HE RECEIVED HOPE for his own life!

He had heard the wonderful news from all the villages and cities Jesus had been to – that Jesus had come from God.

He knew that Jesus was the answer for his life, his blindness and his sins.

He had determined to do whatever it would take to meet Jesus. He was so desperate, he had nothing to lose!

As Jesus came passing by him, he started to shout: *“JESUS HAVE MERCY ON ME... JESUS HELP ME!”*

People around him told him to be quiet and to shut up – don’t disturb Jesus. Nothing could stop him. He shouted even louder:

“JESUS HAVE MERCY ON ME... JESUS HELP ME!”
THEN SOMETHING HAPPENED. Jesus heard his cry. Through all the noises – Jesus heard the cry from the poor blind beggar!

As Jesus heard the poor beggar cry for help His heart was touched. The love of God in Jesus went out to the man.

Jesus heard that somebody needed help. Somebody needed a miracle. The cry made Jesus stop for just ONE MAN!

As the blind man was brought to Jesus, Jesus asked him what do you want me to do for you?

The blind man said: *"I want to receive my sight again so I can see."*

Jesus saw HIS FAITH and the desperation in his heart and said: *"Go your way – your faith was made you well."*

AT ONCE the man was healed and received his sight!

TODAY I HAVE GOOD NEWS!

Jesus came to this world to give us peace with God in heaven, forgive us all our sins, to save us for eternity!

Jesus came to this world to heal us from all our sicknesses and do all kinds of miracles here on earth!

How can Jesus do miracles today? How can Jesus save and heal today? The answer is simply:

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever!" ^{Heb 13:8}

He died on the cross 2000 years ago. He carried all your sins, all your sickness and all your bondages.

God's Word says in the book of Isaiah chapter 53:

"Jesus carried your sicknesses and pains, He was wounded for your transgressions. He was bruised for your sins. The penalty

and punishment for your sins was put on Jesus. And by his stripes you are healed, forgiven, set free and made whole!"

Jesus came to this world to take all our sins and sicknesses and to die with them on the cross, so we can be forgiven, healed, delivered and redeemed back to God.

Jesus died for you so we all can receive His eternal life, that we will become children of God and live forever in His presence in the kingdom of heaven.

BY HIS STRIPES YOU ARE FORGIVEN, HEALED AND SET FREE!

Jesus can heal you today - because Jesus took your sickness on Himself when He died on the cross and He is THE SAME TODAY!

When Jesus sees your faith and hunger to receive a miracle from Him today – He will come to you right now!
Do like blind beggar did - CRY OUT FOR JESUS!

The hand of Jesus is reaching out for you! He wants to save you now! He wants to heal you now! Jesus is here right now!

Come to Jesus! Believe in Jesus! Call on his name and you will be saved! Call on his name and you will receive your miracle tonight!

MESSAGE III:

The Power of the Cross

“I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.” ^{Rom 1:16}

I. THE CREATION

In the beginning God created us perfect. Mankind and God had a wonderful relationship with peace, joy, and love.

There was no suffering, no sicknesses, no fear, no loneliness and no pain. Everything was in harmony with God.

“God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them... Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.” ^{Gen 1:27,31}

II. THE FALL OF MAN

Then Adam and Eve turned away from God. The result was the entrance of all kinds of evil into our world: sin, sickness, diseases, suffering, poverty, loneliness, fear, hatred, confusion, guilt, condemnation and eternal death.

When Adam and Eve disbelieved God’s Word, and believed what Satan said, God’s relationship with them

was broken. This sin infected the entire human race and now we are all born into sin. All were now separated from God and condemned to eternal judgment, separated from God.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...Just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned...”

Rom 3:23, 5:12

People all over the world, no matter what skin color, culture or religion seek after God.

People seek after God through rituals, offerings and sacrifices without reaching Him because of the wall of sin that separates them.

III. GOD’S SACRIFICE FOR OUR SIN

God did not want us to suffer in sin and to be forever lost. That is why he sent his only Son Jesus Christ to the world. Jesus died on the cross in our place and paid the full price for our forgiveness, salvation, restoration, and provision.

Sin separated us from God, and since God is holy he cannot have anything to do with sin. That is why Jesus had to die for us.

Jesus opened the way for us by dying on the Cross. Now we can come into His Kingdom and receive God’s eternal life!

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us...” Rom 5:8

"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Rom 6:23

IV. THE POWER OF THE CROSS

"Surely He has borne our pains and carried our sicknesses... But He was wounded for our disobedience, He was bruised for our sins; the punishment for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the sin of us all." Isaiah 53:4-6

When Jesus died for you and me on the cross, something powerful happened:

1. Jesus was punished so that you can receive forgiveness!
2. Jesus was wounded so that you can receive healing!
3. Jesus took our sin so that you can be righteous!
4. Jesus died your death so that you can receive eternal life!
5. Jesus took all curses so that you can receive all God's blessings!
6. Jesus took all emptiness so that you can live in His presence!
7. Jesus took all your guilt so that you can receive God's peace!
8. Jesus took all evil bondages so that you can receive deliverance!
9. Jesus took all fear so that you can receive faith and victory!

V. JESUS NOW REACHES OUT FOR YOU

The Good News of Jesus Christ is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.

The Good News for you is that all the evil, sin, sickness and suffering, Jesus took it all when He died on the cross!

MESSAGE IV:

An Adulterous woman meets Jesus

Gospel of John 8:2-12

Jesus was teaching a great crowd of people the Word of God. Everyone wanted to listen to Jesus; He was not an ordinary teacher.

The priests and the Pharisees – the religious experts were jealous of Jesus because so many people followed Him.

They wanted to trap Jesus in front of all people. They said we must expose Jesus as a deceiver of God's law.

They said: we will make a plan to trap Jesus. We will catch a woman in adultery in the very act and bring her to Jesus.

In front of all people they brought to Jesus a woman – caught in adultery, in the very act.

They said to Jesus: *“Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. Now, God’s law commands that such must be stoned to death. But what do you say.”*

They were all armed with stones, ready to kill the woman. They expected Jesus to say NO in front of all the people.

They thought He would say something like: “Don’t be so cruel and hard, I am friend of the sinners; do not kill this woman, let her go free.”

Then they would have said to all the people that Jesus speaks against the Law of God:

“He who commits adultery with his neighbor’s wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death.”

Lev 20:10 *“The soul that sins shall die.”* Ez 18:4

If Jesus said “YES, kill her,” then Jesus Himself would have to recognize that we are the keepers of God’s Law and Jesus would be put to shame in front of all people.

This was the trap:

If Jesus said NO – Jesus would break God’s law.

If Jesus said YES – the priests won and Jesus put to shame.

Jesus sat down and wrote on the ground and looked to the priests and said: *“He who is without sin among you, throw the first stone at her.”*

The priests thought they had a good plan to trap Jesus, BUT the words of Jesus shocked them all. *“He who is without sin may throw the first stone at her.”*

The words of Jesus were filled with power and authority. All the priests froze like ice as they heard the words of Jesus.

For a short moment it was like a vision came to the oldest Pharisee. He could see God’s commandments in God’s Law on two stone tables:

No1. You shall not lie.

No2. You shall not steal.

No3. You shall not kill.

No4. You shall not commit adultery.

No5. You shall not worship other God’s or idols...

As he saw God’s Law with God’s Ten Commandments, the oldest priest was terrified, and began to shake with fear.

He was also guilty, he was also a sinner and was convicted – from the first to the last commandment – he had also broken God’s Law.

He was a sinner before God. He couldn’t throw the stone and kill the woman.

He said to himself: “If I throw the stone and kill the woman, that stone will be like a cricket ball and it will come back to me and kill me because I am also a sinner.”

He dropped his stone and with his head bowed down he walked away shameful and convicted of his sin.

Then the next priest had the same vision and was also convicted and left.

All the priests and religious experts with their holy garments were convicted of their sin and left sad and shameful.

The words of Jesus had such power because Jesus was without sin.

Now Jesus was alone with the woman. Jesus could have killed the woman, but Jesus didn't kill her because the Word of God says:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." John 3:16-17

Jesus looked into the eyes of the woman and said: *"Neither do I condemn you, God and sin no more."*

The woman was waiting to be killed, but the love from Jesus changed everything and Jesus forgave her sins.

All her burdens, suffering, sins and curses were lifted from her and she was made whole by the love and power of Jesus Christ.

She received peace with God and eternal life in Jesus Christ.

How could Jesus forgive her sins?

Why did Jesus have the right to send this woman home in peace and not kill her?

Jesus didn't kill the woman – because He was already on His way to be pierced and killed in her place on the cross.

Jesus took her death, her curse, her sin on Him and went to the cross and died in her place.

You don't have to die – I don't have to die, because Jesus died for us!

Jesus could forgive this woman's sins because He was already on His way to the cross to die for her.

We are all guilty before God – we are all sinners and we all deserve to die, but Jesus didn't come to condemn you, He came to save you.

Jesus can forgive all your sins tonight because Jesus already paid the price and died for your sins on the cross.

Don't make the same mistake as the priests did. Don't leave Jesus with your sins unforgiven. Don't leave tonight with your sins.

We are all sinners before God and we all must die and be lost forever because of our sins.

Do like the woman did, kneel before Jesus and say yes to Jesus!

MESSAGE V:

The Rich man and Lazarus

Gospel of Luke 16:19-31

In this story Jesus is speaking about life after death. He is the only one who can speak of life after death with authority because only Jesus died and rose again from the dead and now lives forever more.

Jesus didn't go around threatening people with hell. NO, He warned people about hell and He showed them the way to heaven.

Jesus spoke so much about hell because hell is a reality as heaven is a reality.

What was the terrible damning sin that the rich man committed that made him go to hell?

Do you know why I want to know the answer to this question? I want to know the sin the rich man committed, because I don't want to make the same mistake.

First of all, in verse nineteen, we learn the he was a rich man. Tell me, do you think the rich man went to hell because he was rich? NO!

The rich man didn't go to hell because he was rich. Wealth is not a sin if a man earned the money honestly and he gives to God what belongs to God.

There is more information in verse nineteen. It says that he was clothed in fine and purple linen. He was dressed very well in the latest clothes.

Do you think this was the damning sin that made this rich man go to hell? NO! It is a blessing to dress well. It is no sin at all.

There is more information in verse nineteen. He lived luxuriously every day. He ate very expensive and delicious food.

Do you think this was the sin that made this man go to hell? NO!

Lets us look at the background again:

The rich man was sitting inside his nice palace. Outside the palace a poor man, Lazarus was sitting.

He was sick and he had no money, no food and no medicine. He was dying. The dogs even came and licked his sores.

Then something happened. The rich man died in his palace and the poor man died outside the palace.

When the poor man died, the angels came and carried him to Abraham's bosom in heaven. But when the rich man died he woke up in hell.

He suffered great torment in hell because he was eternally lost without salvation. He was screaming in hell and he looked up and could see Lazarus comforted in heaven.

Then a conversation started between heaven and hell, and the rich man from hell shouted:

"Father Abraham, please send Lazarus with a drop of water, because I am tormented in these flames."

Abraham replied: *"That is not possible, because there is no bridge to go from hell to heaven."*

Then the rich man said: *"I have got five brothers on earth and they have committed the same sin as I did, and they come here too if they don't repent. Let someone rise from the dead and go and warn them."*

Abraham said: *"They have Moses and the prophets. They have the Bible, the word of God and they have the preachers of the Gospel. If they don't believe the preachers of the word of God, they will not believe if someone rises from the dead."*

Now I want to reveal the reason why the rich man went to hell.

Then the rich man in hell shouted to Abraham and said, *"No Father Abraham."*

In death the rich man said NO to Father Abraham but in life the rich man said No to Jesus. That NO to Jesus is the biggest sin a man can commit in life.

Murder, adultery, fornication, theft, lying, they are all big sins. But of all the sins in the whole world that "NO" to Jesus is the biggest sin a man can commit in life.

If you say no to Jesus there is no salvation for you. The biggest sin in life is to refuse Jesus, the only Savior.

Without Jesus and His salvation we are lost for eternity, but with Jesus we are saved and on our way to heaven!

From hell there is no bridge to heaven, BUT tonight I have Good News; there is a bridge from your city to heaven! Jesus Christ is the bridge to heaven for you!

In John 14:6 Jesus says: *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

People are not going to hell because they are sinners. People will not go to hell because they are sinners.

The Bible says we were all born in sins. We are not sinners because we commit a couple of sins. We are sinners because we were all born sinners.

The only reason why people go to hell is because they refuse to receive the Savior. Say yes to Jesus and you will be saved!

If you say no to Jesus you will go to hell. If you say yes to Jesus you are on your way to heaven. You must say yes to Jesus!

We are sinners. We were all born sinners. And we should go to hell, but Jesus came and died for us, for all our sins and for our death.

If we want to be saved we must say yes to Jesus. The poor man said yes to Jesus and entered heaven. The rich man said no to Jesus and went to hell.

When some people are asked if they are saved, they reply, "yea I belong to such and such church." There is nothing wrong with churches, but there is one thing a church can never do, a church cannot save you. Do you know why, because your church did not die for you.

No religion can save us because no religion died for us. No Pope can save us because no Pope died for us.

No bishop can save us because no bishop died for us. No evangelist can save us because no evangelist did for us.

Only Jesus can save us, because only Jesus died for us.

The Word of God says: *"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."* ^{Act 4:12}

In hell the rich man looked into heaven and he always prayed to Father Abraham. He prayed, "FATHER ABRAHAM."

However, we should always pray to our Heavenly Father in the name of Jesus, never to Abraham. Why did he pray to Father Abraham?

Because the name of Jesus was not known in hell. People will find no salvation in hell.

The only name by which you will be saved is the glorious, powerful and wonderful name of JESUS! Only Jesus can save you because only Jesus died for you!

This may be your only chance to say to Jesus. Tonight might be your last chance to say yes to Jesus and be saved from hell and be on your way to heaven. Take this opportunity now and receive salvation for your life.

**TODAY IS THE DAY OF SALVATION!
JESUS WANTS TO SAVE YOU TODAY!
THERE IS NO TOMORROW!
COME TO JESUS TODAY!
SAY YES TO JESUS TODAY!**



GOOD NEWS
to all people



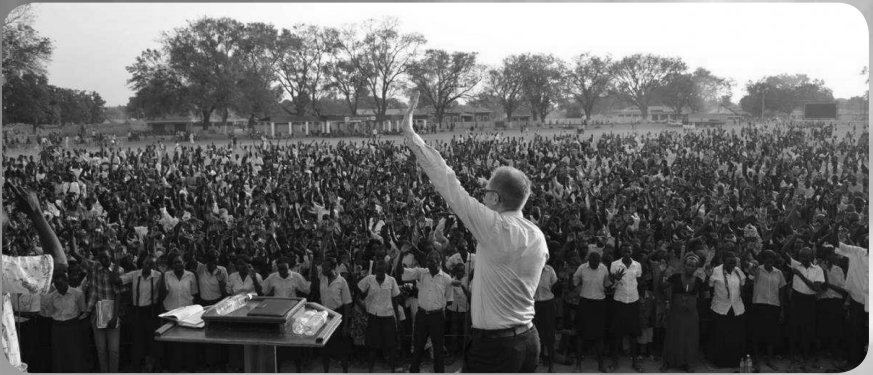
Marcus, Hanna, Tobias, Daniel

*"This gospel of the kingdom will be
preached in all the world as a witness to
all the nations, then the end will come."*

Matt 24:14

OUR VISION
WIN MILLIONS OF SOULS FOR
THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN
THE HEART OF AFRICA AND ASIA

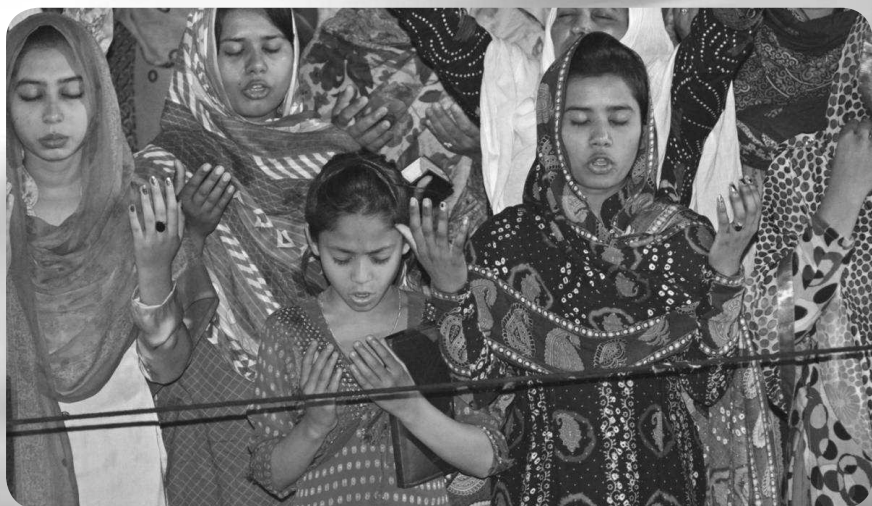
GOSPEL CAMPAIGNS



AFRICA



GOSPEL CAMPAIGNS



ASIA



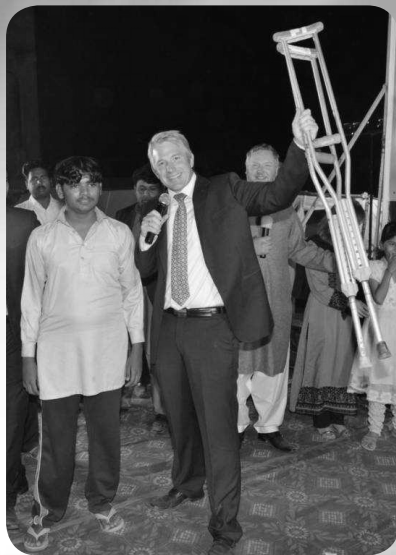
GOSPEL CAMPAIGNS



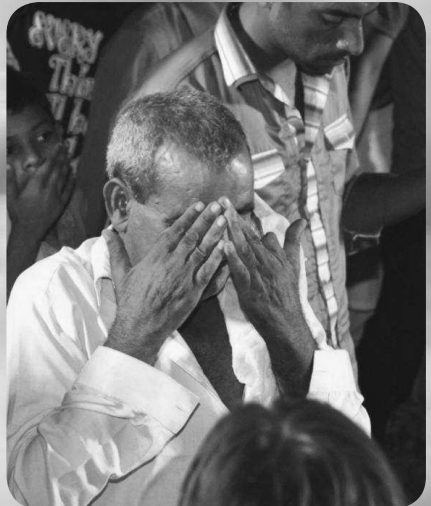
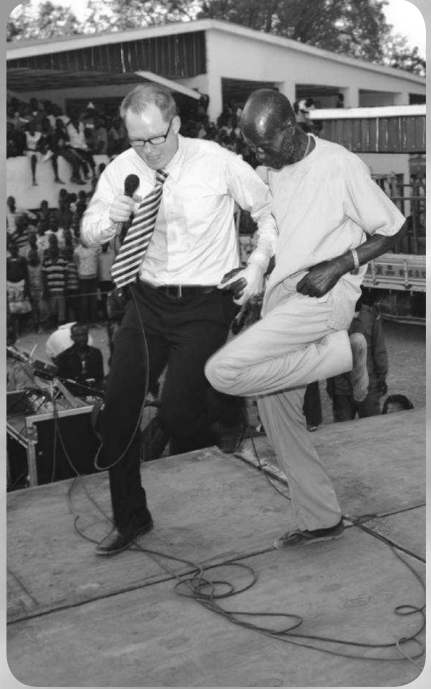
ASIA



MIRACLES



WONDERS



SALVATION

**“WHOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME
OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED.”**

ROM 10:13

**“IF YOU CONFESS WITH
YOUR MOUTH THE LORD JESUS
AND BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART THAT
GOD HAS RAISED HIM FROM
THE DEAD, YOU WILL BE SAVED.”**

ROM 10:9



FIRE CONFERENCES



BOOK DISTRIBUTION



**“THEN THERE APPEARED TO THEM DIVIDED
TONGUES, AS OF FIRE, AND ONE SAT UPON
EACH OF THEM. AND THEY WERE ALL FILLED
WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BEGAN TO
SPEAK WITH OTHER TONGUES, AS THE SPIRIT
GAVE THEM UTTERANCE.”**

ACTS 2:3-4



TEAM TRIPS

JOIN US ON AN EXCITING MISSIONS TRIP AND
EXPERIENCE THE BOOK OF ACTS "LIVE"



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.GNTAP.ORG



WOULD YOU LIKE TO INVITE US TO MINISTER IN YOUR CHURCH?



Marcus Bloom

Hanna Bloom

Tobias Almhill

Daniel Kanat

- Does your church long to see people being saved?
- Does your church long to see God's power and healing miracles?
- Does your church long to experience revival?
- Does your church long to experience renewal and inspiration?

Then we will be happy to come to you and your church for a revival meeting or an entire weekend of meetings. We can help your church with teaching, evangelization and revival meetings.

We travel regularly to churches in Scandinavia, America, Africa, Asia, and we love to build up and encourage believers in their ministry for the Lord.

Contact us and we will gladly come to your church!

VISIT OUR BRAND NEW WEBSITE:



WWW.GNTAP.ORG

BECOME A PARTNER TO US

WE ASK GOD FOR
1 000 PARTNERS WHO
MONTHLY PRAYS FOR
AND SUPPORT US IN
OUR SOULWINNING
MISSIONSWORK.

DO YOU WANT
BECOME ONE
OF THEM?

FOR MORE INFORMATION HOW YOU
CAN GIVE AND BECOME OUR PARTNER
VISIT: WWW.GNTAP.ORG









THE FINAL LAP OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

*It's time to finish
the greatest race
ever begun...*

God is calling you to join a mighty army that is going into all the world, to the unreached and forgotten people, preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We believe that in the next few years the Body of Christ will witness the greatest harvest of souls in history and in the end, fulfill the Great Commission Jesus entrusted to us.

In This Book You Will Be Inspired And Learn How To:

- **Take your place** in this exciting end-time harvest of souls.
- **Run the final lap** of the Great Commission.
- **Complete your job** now that Christ has completed His job.
- **Obey the the last command** of Jesus to *"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature"* (Mark 16:15).

Marcus and Hanna Bloom are missionary evangelists who have led successful Gospel Campaigns in the heart of Africa and Asia since 2002. They have seen more than half a million souls give their lives to Jesus Christ as Savior and they have witnessed thousands of modern-day miracles that prove that Jesus is alive today. Marcus and Hanna burn with the vision of seeing millions saved and the Great Commission fulfilled in their generation. They also have a great heart to train, inspire, and release new Gospel workers into the harvest fields of the world.



GOOD NEWS
to all people

WWW.GNTAP.ORG