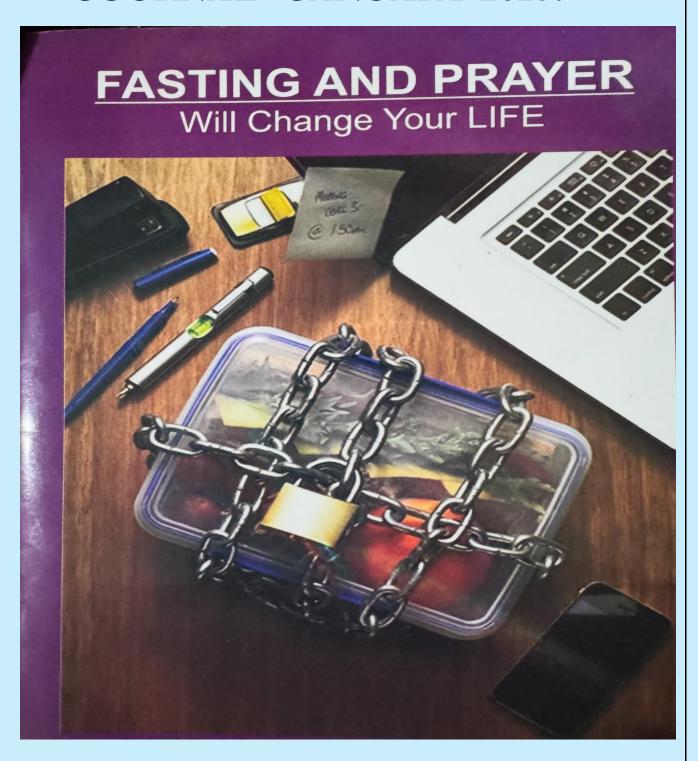
STRATEGIC LEVEL PRAYER JOURNAL - JANUARY 2025.



JOIN US IN THE 40-DAY FASTING AND PRAYER 6th January- February14th 2025

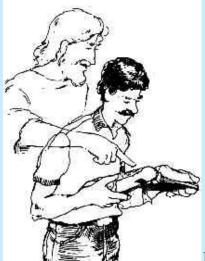
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- 7. https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1163/j.ctt1w76wv6.11?seq=1



May the Lord grant you understanding of this prayer journal as you pray, consequent upon which there will be changes in your life or your prayer group or Family, Church, Nation, and Continent. What is presented are not Jewish Dates or the Jewish calendar but what the LORD instituted which we all see manifested in the movement of the Moon every month. The enemy has always manipulated these bodies for which believers are just becoming aware. This season is also a special edition of revelation which brings a new breath of fresh air without adding to the word of God but confirms it and makes our faith stronger.

You may wish to pray in two ways:-

- 1. You can pray using the whole journal to pray into the womb of time according to the authority level granted to you by your appointment in the Lord. Expect the prophetic germination [as you saturate the ground and the womb of time with God's ordination] to happen. In any case ensure your seed remains in the ground as investment for the coming year. Determine, and command what this month should deliver to you and what it should not and must Not.
- 2. You can also use this daily for your prayers AND DEVOTION to prevail at the gate of each day, especially on critical days of intense warfare in the heavens. Remember that the day starts from 6pm for the next 24 hours. If you are in Britain for instance the time will be early hours of the next day in Hong Kong @ your 6pm.
- 3. This document may seem lengthy, but it shows the effort that was generated in prayer. You can keep it and save it for use in a good way.

Pray that your prophetic faculties will be on the rise and be enlarged and sharp...<u>visions</u>; <u>dreams</u>; <u>interpreting symbols</u>; <u>applying parables</u>; <u>riddles</u>; <u>revelation and predictions</u>; <u>accurate delivery of words of wisdom and words of knowledge</u>; <u>intercessions</u>; interaction with heaven etc.. Divine decrees to cause the future and many other such faculties.

SHAPE YOUR DAY, MONTH AND CONSEQUENTLY YOUR YEARS

Ignorance of what every month holds for you, your family, community, nation, the church and the continent at large has caused many to perish, miss out or not fully access what God has in store for them.

Understanding the heavens and what they signify every month is another very key aspect as we enter this new level of our assignments among the nations. While the kingdom of darkness has used astrology, prognostications, and all manner of demonic methods to control the

activities on earth using the heavens, the church continues in ignorance. They have even employed materialism to blind believers in Jesus Christ, whereas *all things are yours*

We thank God for the many people whom He is raising in different parts of the world to understand what the heavens hold for us every month. As you seek deeper understanding, the Holy Spirit will guide you into greater revelations. Amen.

FASTING AND PRAYER

Introduction

Bishop Joseph Hall, a seventeenth-century Anglican minister, was once imprisoned in the Tower of London for his faith. He lived his final years on a farm in the country writing devotional classics. Here is what he remarked about prayer: 'An arrow, if it be drawn up but a little way, goes not far; but if it be pulled up to the head, flies swiftly and pierces deep. Prayer, if it be only dribbled forth from careless lips, falls at our feet. It is the strength of

Matthew 26:36-41

Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.

And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.

Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

[discharge] and strong desire that sends it to Heaven, and makes it pierce the clouds. It is not the arithmetic of our prayers, how many they are; nor the rhetoric of our prayers, how eloquent they be; nor the geometry of our prayers, how long they be; nor the music of our prayers, how sweet our voice may be; nor the method of our prayers, how orderly they may be; nor the divinity of our prayers, how good the doctrine may be - which God cares for. Fervency of spirit is that which availeth much.'

In a time of new and great enlargement it becomes so vital to ask others to pray for you as personal intercessors. Some very great preachers are ashamed to ask others to pray for them. When we come out to the world stage we become objects of greater attack.

Several times, Jesus told His disciples that <u>He prayed for them</u> (see Luke 22:31–33; John 17:9). Paul not only prayed for the many believers He had raised up, but also asked them to pray for him and with him. He writes, "Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me" (Rom. 15:30). He asks for this multiple times in his letters.

You might ask why it is so vital to have personal intercessors? Let us see a few reasons

1. Jesus said "that ye enter not into temptation"

Spiritual warfare is real. We need others to pray for us so that the fiery Darts of the wicked might fall elsewhere or even when it hits you your armour is strong enough to withstand the evil day.

Many years ago, I noticed that while my family was back in the city of Ibadan and I was in Kano City, it was strange that every time I flew into Lagos and came by road to Ibadan a headache would strike me as soon as I arrived at the old Ibadan Toll Gate into the city of Ibadan. It took me time to inquire of the Lord, and I soon found out that there were arrows been thrown at me. So, I needed a prayer covering. I began to publish and print articles on my own to alert ministers about personal intercessors and to recruit personal intercessors for prayer covering for myself.

There was the case of a young man we were sending as a missionary to Niger Republic. I had to become his personal intercessor (without telling him). If he was traveling in the night I would be awake through the night tracking him by phone and praying. Sometimes the border would be shut against him until prayer was made then miraculously the border would open. I knew his itinerary and schedule. One occasion when he deliberately did not communicate only the Lord helped him because the bus he boarded drove him the wrong route into Edo State before he found his way back to Oyo State.

I made mistakes sometimes without a prayer covering, mentioning family members in my messages, forgetting that I was preaching to the whole world in a world of the internet, then a day or three after my message I would hear that my family member's home was in trouble . I would fall on my face praying and repenting and then the trouble would lift almost immediately.

We all need personal intercessors, especially now.

C. Peter Wagner (who is gone to glory now) organized strategic prayers for what we called the 10/40 Window nations. The 10/40 Window is a rectangular area of **North Africa, the Middle East and Asia** between 10 degrees north and 40 degrees north latitude. This area is often called "The Resistant Belt" and includes the majority of the world's Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists. The strategic prayers for these nations were from 1993–1999, with an emphasis on prophetic prayer journeys to target these nations. It seems evangelism exploded in most of those nations

as a result. But it was not without cost to those on those prophetic prayer journeys but God be praised for friends and families that prayed for those brethren personally.

2. Overlooking or ignoring the reality of the devil and the spiritual warfare he is constantly waging.

Even though we are well aware of the devil and demons and how they try to hinder—or at least give backlash after the ministry is over, I am surprised how easy it is to be lulled into a false sense of security and just overlook/ignore the reality of the devil and the spiritual warfare he is constantly waging. We are all being shifted into larger spheres to influence. Demonic opposition can intensify. In Ephesians 1:18, Paul prays that the eyes of our heart would be opened so we can better see into the spiritual realm.

During my stay in Kano city, God gave me favour and many people were saved from among the Kanawas and Maguzawas. But then the Lord made me discern two forces that dominated the city.... Violence and Sodomy. Brethren were killed as sport in the place, ministers backslid into immorality as though their minds were blinded by the way the things happened.

The only saving grace was that I saw the spirits behind the scene and from demonic confessions obtained from deliverance sessions conducted in the presence of others. The other saving grace was that I was given only the municipality to cover, so I had much more time to pray, even though the whole state and Jigawa were later added. The point here is that there are too many things hard to share which came to light that on getting to my room I would fall on my face thanking God for victory in the constant war.

About this time, The Lord gave me a strategy to divide the fellowship into 21 areas and declare a 90-day fast on a pro-rata basis. The good things that happened were because many in the fellowship were fasting and praying. I was taken out of the place after 7 months but before I left I warned the brethren to pay close attention to the things we had fought together. I was then posted to Ilorin city. The man I met on the ground in Ilorin was a good man, he was withdrawn and sent back to Lagos but before he left I prophesied to him one night where we were staying together by the spirit that he would be sent to Kano. It was only the Lord that helped him to survive those two forces. In his time was the Reinhard Bonnke violence that kept Bonnke out of the shores of Nigeria from 1991 -1999.

It was only the prayer of a multitude and my wife that enabled me to be led by the Holy Spirit and to see the spiritual reality. An intercession team will help all of us to have our spiritual eyes increasingly opened.

3. Bringing an enlarged ministry God plans for us—In 1 Kings 12 when young Rehoboam ascended to the throne after the death of his father, Solomon, the twelve tribes of Israel gathered and requested that he lighten the load of taxes and obligations they had to carry. The older counsellors advised him: "If you will be a **servant** to these people today, and **serve** them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever" (1 Kings 12:7.). Sadly, Rehoboam pridefully chose to exert his "personal rights and authority" as king. Ten tribes immediately left him. So instead of twelve tribes, he was left with only two. It was just a fraction—a mere sixth—of what God had intended for him.

We don't want only a fraction of what God wants to give us. If having intercession will help us keep a right heart and attitude so God can give us enlargement, then we should want it.

Perhaps we will double, triple, or as the converse of the above example shows, end up with six times as much!

Conclusion

Don't be shy about asking people to pray for you in general. But beyond that, ask the Lord to give you intercessors who will regularly and faithfully pray for you. Let the Lord raise them and connect them to you. Amen.

I.D. Lawon. 7/12/2024

A PROPHETIC VIEW OF THE YEAR 2025/5785

The <u>Hebraic Calendar</u> has hidden supernatural predictive ability that ancient men for centuries have studied. The Hebrew language has the finger of God in it and often, meanings are lost in English. It is based on the Hebraic patterns, numbers and letters with values that have specific meaning and prophetic meanings for the whole biblical seasons prophetically. And everything God does he does according to the Biblical calendar. Let me draw your attention to the sudden change of seasons from October 2024. The full moon was on September 18, 2024, but the full moon is on the 6th of October 2024 because of a new year beginning from October 4-6, 2024 into 2025 of the Hebraic year of 5785. A year of judgment (justice and righteousness) and final resolution. It has been 4 years of conflict and war from 2019 we have predicted.

Passover speaks of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ to pay for our sins (1 Corinthians 5:7). The feast of the **Unleavened bread** which is fulfilled in sanctification and holiness of life (1 Cor 5:8). The feast of the **first fruits** (Rom.8:23, 1 Cor 15:20,23), The Feast of **Pentecost** is 50 days after the resurrection (Leviticus 23:15-21; Acts 2:1). On this day, God gave the Holy Spirit to the disciples (Acts 2:4, 38-41). The feast of **Trumpets** (**Lev.23:24; Is 58:1; 1Cor. 15:52**). The **feast of Atonement** dealing with fasting and prayer and total separation unto the Lord (Leviticus 16:10, 21-22. 29-31; Hebrews 9:7 and Acts 27:9). The **Feast of Tabernacles** is a seven-day feast that represents the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth. John 7 describes some of the things that Jesus did and taught while He kept the Feast of Tabernacles.

These Old Testament feast pre-figure the coming of Jesus and how these are fulfilled in Him.

The difference between the Roman calendar and the biblical calendar is that one was created by Pope Gregory's XIII and the Hebraic Calendar was created by God Himself operating as the Biblical Calendar.

Last year we spoke prophetically that doors were open for leadership. We did not even know at that time that we would make changes in FMI like it has happened. We also did not know about the exposé of many leaders in Nigeria and overseas to open the way for a new kind of leadership in the church. As we write everything about the world is accelerating for a close but the kingdom of God is a different set of reality.

We should welcome the Holy Spirit for we need Him. In the year 5785 we have 5 repeated two time which double grace. When you deal with the letter HEI in Hebrew we are dealing with the name of the Yahweh. YHVH.

This represents Breath... the breath you breathe

It is also the season of the wind

It also represents ... Word...the living word

It is the season of the Spirit... coming into people's lives...

God wants to sweep through the House of the Lord.

God will minister the Holy Spirit to people if they are desperate and cry out to him.

In the 5785 we have 5000 + 785. The 5000 speaks about the number of people Jesus fed in John's gospel and the number that came to the Lord in the Acts of the apostles.

So this year is the Evangelist's year. This year people will have to understand that there are no unbelievers in hell. The moment everyone crosses into the other side, they will suddenly know or realize that Jesus died for them, but it will be too late to change sides when someone dies. Many of these who might go to hell, would be doctors, lawyers and market women and businessmen and women. When people are saved there is a powerful encircling of the blood of Jesus around them.

When God changed the name Abram to Abraham God added the H and the same with Sara to Sarah. God added an H, that gave the Abraham name and breath sound. There are Abrahamic journeys that will take place in 5785 and the Lord said, do not be afraid. We must leave the familiar behind. We must follow the Lord by faith. The life of faith is a quantum swing from the high to the low. And low to high but we must trust in the living God.

You must be ready to serve the Lord and live by faith.

The life of faith is not resolved on a balance sheet by a calculator. It is the power of God as fuel in that realm to keep the sons of God going.

God is going to answer many people's questions in this coming year about the confusion in the world. Those who are reading this will be a testimony. Many prophets live their prophecy without even realizing it. The people of the Lord have to understand that things are going to be torn and the past will not be anymore. We are going through a prophetic trajectory towards the anti-Messianic order all around us.

We are an end-time generation. The symptoms are rife indicating we have come to the end of the age. This calls us to BE SPIRITUALLY MINDED... and not to be focused on *political solutions to spiritual problems*. This is going to be a season of the bear to make all men desperate to cry out. We call the attention of those who are familiar with the stock markets to note.

Insecurities, human failures, unreliable governments, government in perpetuity etc...God people will be crying out for a divine move of God. We have to cry out for power to heal and provide.

Please listen... we are not citizens here... we should be less and less taken over by this world. ... we should desire a better country. Psalms 91 is our prayer... we dwell in the shadow of the almighty. The problem of the world is not your problem. Don't hold the world to your chest. Use the world legitimately, the Lord said, and don't allow the world to use you. Money uses people but Holy Spirit filled people to employ creativity to use money. The world is coming under judgment but not the people of God. Their sin is full and overflowing. We must not be so invested here until we forget that we are not citizens here. What looks hard to the people of the world we will go through trusting God in it or through it with the power of grace.

The people will realize that our resource is not in man but of God. The Lord said we have a front seat to help other people and pray for the lost. The world will suffer because of conflicts and war. Our suffering as believers in Jesus is how to navigate the new ...over the last several years. It is clear that the Lord is speaking to the church about wisdom and discernment of the Holy Spirit. This is critical for compassion to take root.

In many churches the presence of the Holy Spirit is diminishing, and we need the gifts more than ever before to navigate new paradigms. This power sustains the kingdom of God.

Please read Psalm 91 and read it aloud daily. You have MUST BE LED by the Holy Spirit.. You have to pray in tongues and let your life depend on it. Pray for protection as people fight over food and water.

Angelic activity will be prominent. But the picture locked up in this revelation is to give and receive, divine answers to the earth and prayer.

So, we have the year 5785 which 5+7+8+5=25 this is **5 squared**. And relates to 2025.. After seasons of meditation in the word and prayer, we receive revelation and creative power for His purposes. 5 is an apostolic number. Pray for His full hand to be revealed.

Pray about conflict in the waters and the air. Amen.

YHVH is the name of the Lord, and you cannot say HEI without breathing out which represents divine breath, the Holy Spirit.

It is a year of the wind and waves of water as foundations are tested. There will be grace for the prayer watch. The voice of the Lord will be calling you to this watch for many will be renewed to call upon the name of the Lord to keep watches. There will be violent winds that clash with waters to bring cyclones and Tsunamis that will cause changes in the nations. Waters will pile up in heaps but wash away the filth. The people of God will have authority to have wisdom to call forth peace and when to call forth the waves to overflow jagged edges. The

church will be given power to speak creatively or to speak to creation according to wisdom and will of God. Only the VOICE of God can speak to the waters in line with His will. And Jesus arose and rebuked the wind and the sea "Peace be still" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

The Lord will have the church call for water in dry places. Powerful moves of the Spirit breaking forth watering dry places. Be ready to be called suddenly aside, so the Lord can bring clarity and correction. This will help you to enter the right door though it be painful for you.

There is a grace and holiness movement, and this unfolds into the future fully. God is calling many of us to join him in the prayer watch, praying for those hard issues so that many will encounter God. It is also a call to watch over His promises and people during the stormy times, so they will arrive at God destined place (Mark14:22-29). Early morning prayers will be born in many places for fresh revelation and to calm many storms in creation and for outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

We pray the Holy Spirit grant you understanding in all things. Amen.

ORALITY IN THE WORLD OF AI-(I)

(ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE -AI)
Billy Coppedge, Samuel Chiang & Ricki Gidoomal

Introduction

QUESTION?: If orality necessitates attending to the *spoken* and *embodied word*, then in what ways, if any, does that inform our engagement with our digital lives? Even more specifically, how does what we have learned about orality inform the ways we engage with AI and the emerging digital species that we find ourselves interacting with on a now seemingly daily basis? For many, the world of AI remains intriguing at best and scary at worst; nonetheless, it is necessary for us as mission practitioners but also as followers of Jesus Christ to continue to reflect on such cultural phenomena. We offer the following observations in a spirit of exploration, convinced that rather than orality's relevance being minimalized by the emergence of such things as ChatGPT, interpersonal oral communication demands more, not less, robust reflection. Orality, understood as communication that relies on the spoken and embodied word, is at the very heart of both the constructive and destructive manifestations of emerging AI applications as new software and platforms seek to emulate human communication. To approach this critical issue, we want to make three observations followed by several implications for the Church.

Orality, understood as communication that relies on the spoken and embodied word, is at the very heart of both the constructive and destructive manifestations of emerging AI applications as new software and platforms seek to emulate human communication.

Communication Observations in a Digit-oral Era Human communication matters



First digital communication patterns itself after human communication. To put this in perspective, it has to be reiterated that communication is at the heart of our emerging digital way of life as our lives orient around digital devices (phones, pads, pods etc) that foster and facilitate communication with other people and other entities. A phenomenon such as AI is more than communication, but it has to be emphasized that communication is at the very heart of all things related to AI. But if this elevates the role of communication in such emerging developments, then we have to acknowledge that, at some level, AI operations are patterned on oral, interpersonal communication between human persons. Wherever such software or application is on the spectrum of sophistication today, each of them, in some way, is ultimately seeking to copycat human communication. People may object, citing the new emergence of platforms such as ChatGPT and Gemini with their heavy reliance on text for prompt and interchange. Nevertheless, the goal of these software apps is not to remain textual reliant.

If we are going to be in partnership with this *new digital species* the expectation is that AI will continue to master not just spoken commands but oral interchange.

(see Microsoft's <u>Mustafa Suleyman's TedTalk</u>
https://www.ted.com/talks/mustafa_suleyman_what_is_an_ai_anyway?subtitle=en)

And how does AI learn oral communication? It learns by paying attention to how you and I speak. Certainly, AI programs learn speech by being fed voluminous amounts of text and code; but the mastery of human speech comes from practising dialogue with their human creators. Thus, AI is patterning its oral communication after your oral communication.

Curiously, while speech is not necessarily inherent to AI software, AI creators want their programs to learn to speak because humans speak. Oral communication is inherent to humans; thus, as AI programs and applications seek to pattern themselves after human communication, they likewise, prioritize the spoken word. This has implications for the church today.

For example, language sets, in so many ways, the perimeters of human interaction. Thus, the human voices being emulated by the latest AI software matter—whose voice, word selection, syntax, and yes, even pronouns are being listened to, processed, copied, and incorporated into

the latest showcase for Apple, Google, or X Holdings. Whoever sets the language defines the boundaries for human–AI interactions. This is critical for us as Christians to take seriously and what many of us overlook is that orality in all its beauty yet ambiguity is right at the heart of this unfolding human-AI conversation.

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What the church needs is theologically astute men and women who can recognize these complexities within the emerging field of AI technologies and can bring the best of Godthought to bear on these ever-increasing developments. Far from shying away from such engagement, the church needs to commission such theologically minded engineers and IT specialists, recognizing the exponential influence they have and will continue to exert.

But there is an important corollary that deserves mention: digital communication is modeled on human communication just like human communication is modeled on divine communication. To say that another way: human communication is the standard for all AI software and applications. But as Christians, we recognize that human communication is itself not the highest form of communication. Communicating like us is not actually the goal. For we were made in the image of an interpersonal, communicating Trinity—God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And while there are aspects of the divine conversation we will not pretend to comprehend; in Jesus we have a picture of how God communicates within himself and how he communicates with human persons. And the pattern is oral—verbal, embodied exchange between God and humankind. In the face of the almost demi-god status that AI has and will continue to assume, we cannot lose sight of such realities. Ultimately, neither we (nor our descendants) were made for human-AI communication; rather, we were made for divine-human communication (and communion).

Old media matters



Second, *new media borrows from old media*. While that may initially seem confusing, today's mediascape has more pre-1500 AD communication features than most of us realize. Consider how today's technological companies have done a masterful job of making the old look new: hardly anyone makes the connection between scrolling today and the use of ancient

manuscripts in ages past. The concept of infinite scrolling that all of us have come to expect as normal in our consumption of modern media is premised on the traditional unrolling of a cylindrical parchment. The ancients scrolled; now, we scroll. Likewise, I wonder how Abraham, Moses, and David would react if someone tried to explain the importance of tablets in our day for almost every sphere of society. I can imagine them responding, 'Well, of course tablets are important—clay tablets were vital in our society's communication as well.' Not incidentally, even the ubiquitous Apple (with a bite missing) on the back of everyone's device harkens back to a much older story. Recognizing the tendency of some of our favorite technological geniuses—whoever they may be—to draw upon ancient communication practices provides some stabilizing perspective. Yes, the rate of technological change is exhausting, yet there are patterns and lessons to be learned by paying attention to the old ways.

For those not quite convinced that old media forms are the new vogue, consider the contemporary phenomena of emoticons and emojis. What is an emoji but a short-hand digital symbol that conveys meaning, often of an emotive nature? In a very real way, to pull up the emojis selection on your device is to scroll through hundreds of modern-day hieroglyphics—short-hand symbols that convey meaning. Granted, not every Egyptian hieroglyphic may have been emotive in nature, but even a cursory look at some of those ancient symbols is enough to recognize emotions were often being displayed in dramatic and even, at times, embarrassing forms for our modern sensibilities. It turns out that there is very little that is new under the communication sun.

This is significant in light of orality because within certain circles, there persists a particular stigma that *orality is old-fashioned and out of touch with modern times*. *Granted—it's good for some people but not the fashionable and influential urbanites of today*. In response to such thinking, we would suggest that it's worth noting that our technological giants, lauded for their innovation, have developed a pattern of recycling ancient communication practices, stories, and media more often than perhaps any of us recognize. Ancient is the new modern, which means traditional patterns and practices of communication are at a premium. Aspects of the so-called 'old-fashioned' orality are now in demand.

And herein, is where the church has such a rich and beautiful communication history to draw upon for communicating into today's many and diverse cultural conversations. Whether in liturgies, visual arts, architecture, or song—the church down through the generations has been at the fore of generating creative communication practices and experiences, many that were oral-reliant in deference to their audiences. Rather than relying on Apple and Google to try and impress us with ancient communication practices dressed up in some new sophisticated packaging, what if the body of Christ re-visited some of its old communication patterns, stories, and practices, asking how they could be repurposed, adapted, or re-displayed for today's missional communication purposes? Yes, this is already happening in some ways in some contexts. Nevertheless, in the same way that we suggest the church needs to recognize the missional role of IT engineers, could we not also commission artisans of all sorts for the purpose of not just responding to the cultural conversations, but to actually shape them through creative initiatives? For those afraid this might be some call for a minimizing of the biblical text, let us assuage your fears. On the contrary, the scriptures have always been front and center of the church's media strategies. In the same way, let our contemporary creative initiatives, drawing on historical, liturgical practices continue to flow from and bring people back to the Word of God. This will require robust imaginative and theological engagement; nevertheless, missions, by definition, is the application of God's Word into new cultural contexts. This is part of our role and responsibility in communicating missionally today.

Image matters



Third, *image matters*. With the resurgence of phenomena such as emojis, it should come as no surprise that digital media has placed image back into the driver's seat of contemporary communication. Facebook or Insta feeds are modern-day stained-glass windows, literally showcasing in storyboard format the pantheon of today's gods and goddesses and the obstacles they have overcome to be worthy of our culture's adoration. While text is present (at times), these displays of modern-day idols (as they are literally called in some contexts) rely on image, rather than text, to engage their modern-day followers. Notice again the recycling of ancient practice. Just as the images preserved in ancient cathedrals' stained-glass windows carried a pedagogical role in the life of the community prior to 1500 AD, so images created, shared, and preserved on our digital devices today serve a pedagogical role in shaping and forming the desires and longings of modern-day worshipers.

It is critical to recognize and name that with the accent on image comes the appeal to imagination. These are not text-reliant communication strategies that seek to argue or persuade one to become a follower. Rather, with the repositioning of image to center-stage, the playing field has shifted. Propositional reasoning that appeals to a text has been deauthorized; and image has been invested with an almost unquestionable authority.

As James K.A. Smith discusses at length, this is no more evident than how the vision of the good life is depicted in each of our own contexts. Global brands such as Nike, Coca-Cola, and Apple are not seeking to persuade customers by arguing with well-crafted apologetic discourse that their products are better; rather, visit any one of their websites and experience a vision of human flourishing—the good life as Smith calls it. The appeal is to the imagination.

12 Prayers for the New Year

1. <u>Love</u> Lord, help us follow the way of love—let the love of Christ compel us .1 Corinthians 14:1; 2 Corinthians 5:14

- 2. <u>Joy</u> Restore the joy of Your salvation to us; let us experience the joy of Your presence. Psalm 16:11, 51:12
- 3. <u>Seeking</u> Encourage us to seek Your face with all our hearts. Deuteronomy 4:29; Psalm 27:8
- 4. <u>Peace</u> Let Your peace rule and guard our hearts; give us more of You, Jesus—You are our peace. Ephesians 2:14; Philippians 4:7; Colossians 3:15
- 5. <u>Hope</u> Enlighten the eyes of our heart so that we may know the hope You called us to. Ephesians 1:18
- 6. Favor Let Your favor rest on us Luke 2:52
- 7. <u>Life Shine Your light of life on us; help us to walk in it. Job 33:30; Psalm. 56:13</u>
- 8. <u>Salvation</u> Help us to fear You so we can unlock the treasure of Your salvation. Isaiah 33:6
- 9. Selflessness Keep us from self-seeking attitudes that reject truth. Romans 2:8
- 10. <u>Generosity</u> Make us rich in ways that result in generosity on our part so You will be praised. 2 Corinthians 9:11
- 11. <u>Faith</u> Help us receive Your kingdom, Your Spirit, and Your grace. Romans 10:17; Mark 11:23-24; John 20:22; Romans 5:17
- 12. <u>Praise</u> We ascribe glory to Your name, Lord; we come before You in worship for You are holy. 1 Chronicles 16:28-29.

Adopt-A-Missionary- A Missions' Strategy

https://www.fullstature.net/adopt-a-missionary

...a strategy for loving the missionary family as well as the people groups they serve

Adopt-A-Missionary is a mission strategy that has gained momentum in missions over the years. What makes this strategy different is its focus. Historically, churches have focused on countries, and mission agencies have focused their attention on people groups. Adopt-A-Missionary focuses on missionary families, or what we can call message bearers.

For 5 years, my wife (of blessed memory) and I served as missionary representatives to the Kenyan peoples of East Africa. We divided the nation of Kenya into 6. Working with the missionary on ground we had a plan to evangelise the nation. We raised teams of two by two from Nigeria and planted 6 churches throughout the country. In the last 29 years + the FMI missionary teams have been helped by God to open the gospel among 40 unreached people groups. Our FMC churches faithfully prayed and the missionaries that we served with, and the church has supported them financially.

In 1990 for example, we were relocated to Kano with two major tribes- the Kanawas and Magusawas. We were led of the Lord to pay more attention to *tribal missions in 1993*, *where the gospel has never been heard while maintaining a church base*. Thankfully, our churches have continued to pray for and support the mission's effort with this strategic ministry.

ADOPT-A-Missionary Defined

What then does it mean to Adopt-A-missionary? It means committing yourself as an individual, fellowship group, local congregation, denomination, or mission agency to pray for and commit resources to win souls, establish believers, administrate the work within a specific people group through a missionary family or families. This commitment is continued until the believers in that people group can reach the rest of their people without outside (cross-cultural) assistance.

We are agents of God praying, giving, and serving to see an adopted family reach out to bring sinners into God's family. This is the true meaning of Adopting a missionary family. One day this will be accomplished, and every tribe, tongue, people, and nation will give glory to God around His throne (Rev. 5:9).

Adopt a Missionary Family

Fullstature Missions International is committed to the work of missions and has developed a ministry to bring into focus the Great Commission (Matt 28:19-20) set forth by Christ and to support missionary families need. We ask that your family prayerfully consider adopting a missionary family to be a blessing and to be blessed. After you have made an adoption, we encourage you to send your missionary family an email to share about your family and to ask them to share with you. The FMI becomes a bridge to help people you may never know or meet. You can reach out to the missionary during Holidays, birthdays, or anniversaries or just at any time. Commit to lift your missionary up in prayer. (Phil 6)

It is also our desire to support more missionaries through our ministry budget than we currently can do. The missionaries we support currently are under-supported. In other words, the support we grant is not adequate. In most cases, we are nearly able (with Naira) to provide what will keep body and soul together leaving projects in the field undone. This is where you pause and do something.

It is our goal to ensure that every Missionary, supported through, (what we call) the General Fund which includes the "Faith Promise Offering" (FPO), are missionaries we, as a ministry want to support.

The money these Missionaries receive is totally dependent on what is given by the individual or families who have adopted them.

Example: Missionary "Felix" may have two families in First Baptist Church which chose to adopt him. They do so for a combined support of \$200 per month, one for \$75 per month and one for \$125 per month. Should the family who chose to support Missionary "Felix" for \$125 per month be unable to do so for any reason, Missionary "Felix" would only receive \$75 for that month. There will be a "shortfall" and the family who was unable to give what they had purposed to give would not be contacted and asked, "Where is your contribution".

If you have a desire to support a Missionary, please feel free to fill out a "Adopt-A-Missionary Request Form" and return it to our ministry office.

Build a Relationship

Develop a relationship with your adopted missionary family. Learn about their ministry and their ups and downs so that you know when to Praise God with them and when to lift them up in prayer. Being a missionary can have very hard times and there is great comfort when a missionary knows that God is always there and that there are people supporting them at every step.

Faith Promise

In addition to your commitment to get to know and pray for your adopted missionary, you may consider supporting your missionary financially. Among some of the greatest difficulties that missionaries face is having their financial needs met. Missionaries typically spend a significant amount of time raising monies to support their ministries which in turn reduces the amount of time out in the field.

Would you prayerfully consider financially committing to a missionary? If you agree please fill out the form below and send separately.

Thank you.



Missionary Adoption Promise Form

Click this link to complete online-

<u>Fullstature Missions International Conference Centre for the Nations, 4 Parliament Highway, Secretariat</u>

Donor Information (please print or type)

https://www.fullstature.net/adopt-a-missionary
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Type Donor □ individual □church group □church □other:
Promise Information: I want to □donate to General Fund □ Adopt a Missionary I (we) promise by faith a total of \$ to be paid: □one time □monthly
\Box quarterly \Box yearly for a length of: \Box three years \Box four years \Box five years.
This gift will start (date) and end (date), with an option to continue. I (we) plan to make this contribution in the form of: □cash □check □credit card □other. If you have already been given a missionary name list here: Please contact me by
□phone □email if my missionary leaves the field
I am also interested in:
 □ Praying for MAP □ Receiving more information □ Going on a Mission Trip
Contact Information:
 □ Giving toward MAP □ Representative visiting my church □ Becoming a MAP Missionary Mobilizer
Please send all MAP information to (list name and email):
Please communicate all MAP financial information with (list name and email):
Name (Print)
Position:
Signature(s)Date
Online Giving
Donation Instructions

You can give a general gift or toward your specific missionary for a tax-deductible contribution. If you have filled out this faith promise form, you will receive a

18

missionary's name and account to give toward, and/or you can give a general gift to be used by MAP

https://www.fullstature.net/adopt-a-missionary.

YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT THIS JOURNAL

The Strategic Level Prayer Journal is a daily devotional with God's timing (Kairos) attached. It is published monthly by faith and support of the brethren.

Please support the continued publication of this journal.

Send your donations to: -

Bank: - Zenith Bank Plc.

Account Name: - Fullstature Missions International

Account Number: - 1011822382

Please send SMS or WhatsApp to +234-802 333 9638 or email: fmi@fullstature.net to notify us of your donation. *The Lord blesses us. Amen.*

IS THIS THE MONTH OF YOUR BIRTH? DOUBLE DOWN AND USE THIS PRAYER TO YOUR BENEFIT!!



Even if this is not your month of birth, pray into the day of your birth on a weekly basis (that is the weekday in which you were born). Take time at regular basis to be praying for yourself

and prophesying over your own life. Speak into the foundations of your life and prophesy good things.

Thank Him for your specific day of birth. Declare that day blessed.

- Thank Him that He ordained that you will be made manifest on earth on a specific day in that month at a specific hour and minute.
- Thank Him that He has a purpose for your life, and it will be fulfilled.
- Ask Jehovah to forgive you where you have for one reason or another, ignored or rejected to recognize your day of birth.
- Thank Jehovah for the day of your conception. (Psa 139:13)
- Thank Jehovah that when He thought of you, he already thought of your entire life. Thank Him that He did not leave anything to chance. (Isa 49:1)
- Thank Him that he knew exactly what your redemptive purpose was going to be. (Psa 139:16)
- Pray that He will reveal the original you more and more as you enter another year of your life. (Psa 139:13-15)
- Pray that He will restore the heavenly label, and the heavenly name He gave you before you were conceived. (Jer 1:5).
- Speak into the foundations of your life and prophesy good things.
- Prophesy that you will live and not die prematurely in any area of your life. Your family will live, the work of your hand will live and grow from strength to strength. Deut 33:6, Psa 27:13, 118:17
- Prophesy and proclaim the blessing of Levi upon your life as a priest unto Jehovah (2 Pet 2:9, Deut 33:8-11)
- Prophesy and proclaim the blessing of Benjamin upon your life Deut 33:12
- Prophesy the blessing of the wisdom of Issachar in every area of life. Wisdom to establish the work of your hands, your family, as you grow a year older 1 Chron 12:32, Deut 33:18b-19, Pro 24:3-4
- Prophesy the blessing of Dan concerning your role as a leader. Prophesy over your inheritance that Jehovah will indeed ensure you leave an inheritance for your descendants. Deut 33:20-21, Psa 16:5-6.
- Prophesy the blessing of Joseph. Speak to the earth and declare that the earth will bring forth its best for you in this new year. Prophesy to the heavens to declare the glory of Jehovah over your life every day of this new year. Deut 33:13-17, Lev 26:4-5, Hos 2:21-22, Psalm 19:1-2, Isa 55:12
- Prophesy that you will grow in your spirit man into a matured son so you can receive your inheritance. Wherever you go in this new year, creation will experience release from frustration. Rom 8:19-20, Gal 4:1-2
- Praise Jehovah that your birthday marks the entry into another season of Jubilee. Thank Jehovah that immediately you were born, you cried out prophetically blowing your own jubilee cornet, and prophetically rejoiced in yourself. Ask Him to give you joy no matter your circumstance, to rejoice on this day.



Happy New Year!! The Way of the Lord

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1 Scripture: Genesis 18:19

Genesis 18:19 says of Abraham, "For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep **the way of the Lord**, to do <u>righteousness and justice</u>, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him." The reason God developed a relationship with Abraham is because God knew he would keep the way of the Lord and teach his children to do what was necessary to inherit the promises! The way of the Lord consists of two things: <u>doing righteousness</u> AND to do <u>judgment</u>. The Lord made it clear that Abraham would have to do righteousness and judgment in order to receive the prophetic promises. It is no different for us. We have to do the same. We have to embrace righteousness in order to do judgment so that we can have all that God promises us.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2 Scripture: Proverbs 8:12,13 Proverbs 8:13 reveals that just like God has the way of the Lord, Satan has the way of evil. Evil has a specific way. Proverbs 8:12,13 says, "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And find out knowledge and discretion. The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate." God's way is opposite of Satan's way! Satan has a way that consists of pride, arrogance and evil, accompanied by perverse and lying lips. There are two competing ways – there is the way of the Lord and the way of the devil. One is righteous and one is evil. The question is, which one will man choose?

What is our attitude to be toward evil?

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3 Scripture: Amos 5:10-15

Amos 5:10-15 says, "They hate the one who rebukes in the gate, And they abhor the one who speaks uprightly. Therefore, because you tread down the poor And take grain taxes from him, Though you have built houses of hewn stone, Yet you shall not dwell in them; You have planted pleasant vineyards, But, you shall not drink wine from them. For I know your manifold transgressions And your mighty sins: Afflicting the just and taking bribes; Diverting the poor from justice at the gate.

Therefore, the prudent keep silent at that time, For it is an evil time. Seek good and not evil, That you may live; So the Lord God of hosts will be with you, As you have spoken. Hate evil, love good; Establish justice in the gate. It may be that the Lord God of hosts will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph." Is the church taught this today? Do we hate evil? We often do not hate anything because we are taught not to hate anything. We do not think Jesus hates anything, but He does! Jesus hates sin!

We are clearly told to hate evil, love good and establish justice in the gate. Does the church see that as part of their assignment? The prophet Amos saw it and proclaimed it. Do we hate anything? The Bible says to hate evil, but many in the churches worldwide do not.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4 Scripture: Psalm 97:10

Psalm 97:10 says, "You who love the Lord, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked." Psalm 97 is simple and clear – if we love the Lord, we will hate evil. The Bible draws a clear distinction between the way of the Lord and the way of evil. There are two

distinctive paths that men can take. One is Godly and righteous and the other is ungodly and demonic. Evil has its own path. It has its own way, and those who are righteous are called to drop the plumbline and ask for justice for human sacrifice and sale of human parts in our cities. We must ask ourselves, does the evil of shedding innocent blood prevail in our nation?

Why has human sacrifice and human trafficking prevailed around the world? Why are preachers silent about these abominations and wickedness. Choosing the way of the Lord requires us to choose, in every decision and every action, whether to keep the Lord's way or abandon it.

As innocent blood continues to be shed, the cup of iniquity fills, demanding termination of the land's inhabitants! The church needs to open their eyes to the truth in the Word. Ignoring Bible verses and truths about justice, judgment and hating evil effectively enables evil to prevail. Refusing to hate evil is more acceptable in today's culture and many believers genuinely think they are emulating Christ by doing so.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5 Scripture: Psalm 2:1-9

Psalm 2:1-3 describes the battle between the high and the mighty setting themselves against God's representatives. Verses 4-6 describe God arising with His anointing.

This is not a personal vendetta or praying against personal enemies.

Verses 7-9 outline the church's use of the Rod of Iron to execute that judgment. And verses 10-12 warn the high and mighty that the wrath of God is coming their direction if they do not repent. Are we applying this Psalm in our prayer life? Are we praying God's Rod of Iron on the rebellious?



MONDAY, JANUARY 6 Scripture: Acts 8:18-24.

In our Book "<u>Fresh Mandate for Kingdom Extension</u> –(2002), we documented eight (8) biblical case studies to address and change the mindset of many believers about violence of faith and termination of wickedness. In Psalm 2:10-12 is very important in this hour because it says, "Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, And rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed is all those who put their trust in Him."

Nothing brings destruction on a nation faster than fullness of iniquity.

In Acts 8, the sentence of Peter was very severe against Simon to the effect that Simon would perish with his money! If we do not go into warfare with the Simons of this world we are in danger of further pollution of the altar of God.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7 Scripture: Romans 1:20-32

Romans 1:20-32 says, "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made (e.g. the Sun, the Moon, Mars, Jupiter and other stars), even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew

God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things (that is -all the symbols of scorpion, snakes, Virgo, Aries, etc and all what your star foretells signs). Therefore, God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are

whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them." Those that "...knew God, (but) did not glorify Him as God" are unequivocally without excuse. And "...even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind." Our Bibles say "those who practice such things..." and those that "approve of those who practice them" are deserving of death! It is indeed strong language, but it is the language of Romans.

We are called to represent Christ and we are called to follow the Spirit in doing righteousness and doing judgment. The Spirit knows when a judge has exhausted mercy. We do not decide these judicial prayers on our own. Instead we move through Holy Spirit direction. Asking God to weigh to a judge what they weigh to a nation allows the Lord to determine the layer of love necessary – warning, affliction or even termination.

Simply practicing homosexuality or approving of those who practice it does not make or break an individual case. Fullness is the ultimate issue. Only God knows if an individual is filled with ALL "...unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful..."

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8 Scripture: Acts 9:3-4,8-9

This man, Saul, was a principality and power in the land but God knocked him down. It was a divine attack on the enemy of the gospel. Saul was struck blind and judged by God because he (Saul) had done so much evil to the saints at Jerusalem.(Acts 9:13) God stretches His hand of judgment in the nations where the light of the gospel has been put out.

Many ask, what is God's standard for biblical judgment? The answer is His Word!

God visits people and repays them according to their works when they refuse to repent and only God determines when the cup of iniquity is full.

A picture of a late-term abortion is a frightening picture - doctors insert a catheter at the base of an unborn infant's brain and literally remove everything from his or her skull.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-7, 8-12

2 Thessalonians 2:1-7 says, "Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way."

The mystery of lawlessness is already at work and the one thing we know about that mystery comes out of verses 8-12... "And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness." *The mystery of lawlessness finds pleasure in unrighteousness*. People who find pleasure in unrighteousness deserve the full measure of the judgment of God. And the only way to save the nation is to invoke the covenant of Sure Mercy over the land and invoke God's judgment on all those who choose the mystery of lawlessness and find pleasure in lawless actions! Finding pleasure in sexual sin earns judgment. Finding pleasure in killing and beheading innocent people earns death!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10 Scripture: Joshua 23:11,12

The New Century Version of the Bible quotes Joshua 23:11,12 as saying, "So you must be careful to love the Lord your God. 'If you turn away from *the way of the Lord* and become friends with these people who are not part of Israel and marry them,...'" In the NKJ, verse 13 says, "...know for certain that the Lord your God will no longer drive out these nations from before you. But they shall be snares and traps to you, and scourges on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this good land which the Lord your God has given you."

The way the Israelites forfeited the covenant blessing of God was by departing from the way of the Lord. As long as they kept the way of the Lord, then they had covenantal blessing to destroy the enemy. When they departed from the way of the Lord, they lost that covenantal blessing. It is fairly straightforward and simple and it is the manner in which covenant works.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11 Scripture: Judges 2:21-23

Judges 2:21-23 says, "I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died, so that through them I may test Israel, whether they will keep the ways of the Lord, to walk in them as their fathers kept them, or not.' Therefore, the Lord left those nations, without driving them out immediately; nor did He deliver them into the hand of Joshua." *In order to keep the way of the Lord, they had to do righteousness so they could execute judgment.* And whether or not they would execute judgment was the real test. That is one part of what comprises the way of the Lord. It is obvious that God was and is very serious about His people doing the way of the Lord. He was so serious that He left nations that had to be judged and removed in order to find out if Israel would keep the way of the Lord.

Is God leaving certain leaders to find out if His church will keep the way of the Lord? Identify leaders today that champion rebellion against God's Word!

According to Judges, it was a pretty serious issue in Israel, because God left five nations that needed judgment to determine whether or not Israel would keep the way of the Lord. We must consider how much money we spend today to get one person saved simply because the church does not even want to be distinguished from the world.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12 Scripture: Judges 3:1-4

Judges 3:1-4 says, "Now these are the nations which the Lord left, that He might test Israel by them, that is, all who had not known any of the wars in Canaan (this was only so that the generations of the children of Israel might be taught to know war, at least those who had not formerly known it) namely, five lords of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites who dwelt in Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal Hermon to the entrance of Hamath. And they were left, that He might test Israel by them, to know whether they would obey the commandments of the Lord, which He had commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses." God left the nations to test Israel as to whether or not they would execute judgment, go to war and utterly destroy them. It was, "...namely, five

lords of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites..." It is obvious that the way of the Lord concerns knowing war. If we do not know war or are not willing to learn how to war in the Spirit, we cannot execute the judgment of God. Do we know enough war that we can pray see God's deliverance?



MONDAY, JANUARY 13 Scripture: 2 Samuel 22:17-25

2 Samuel 22:17-25 states, "He sent from above, He took me, He drew me out of many waters. He delivered me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me; For they were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my calamity, But the Lord was my support. He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me. The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me. For I have kept the ways of the Lord, And have not wickedly departed from my God. For all His judgments were before me; And as for His statutes, I did not depart from them. I was also blameless before Him, And I kept myself from my iniquity. Therefore the Lord has recompensed me according to my righteousness, According to my cleanness in His eyes." David became a mighty warrior and one of the reasons was that he adhered to and kept the way of the Lord. It was the way of the Lord that made David's mighty men, mighty. He walked in righteousness and could therefore execute judgment. When David did what was evil, God's judgement caught up with him. That is God's plan for every single one of us. That plan has not changed and is still functional and operational today.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

Scripture: 2 Kings 21:19-23, Proverbs 29:2

2 Kings 21:19-23 states, "Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Meshullemeth the daughter of Haruz of Jotbah. And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, as his father

Manasseh had done. So he walked in all the ways that his father had walked; and he served the idols that his father had served and worshiped them. He forsook the Lord God of his fathers, and did not walk in the way of the Lord. Then the servants of Amon conspired against him, and killed the king in his own house." David adhered to the way of the Lord and became the greatest king that Israel ever had. Amon departed from the way of the Lord and he was killed by his own servants in his own house. The blessing of God went to all those who kept the way of the Lord and the judgment of God fell on all those who abandoned it. *The righteous face tremendous persecution when evil is ascendant. The righteous groan when the wicked rule. Being faithful in great adversity has eternal reward!* The question is really simple – are we walking in the way of the Lord or have we abandoned it?

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15 Scripture: 2 Chronicles 17:1-9

2 Chronicles 17:1-9 says, "Then Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place, and strengthened himself against Israel. And he placed troops in all the fortified cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah and in the cities of Ephraim which Asa his father had taken. Now the Lord was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the former ways of his father David; he did not seek the Baal, but sought the God of his father, and walked in His commandments and not according to the acts of Israel. Therefore the Lord established the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah gave presents to Jehoshaphat, and he had riches and

honor in abundance. And his heart took delight in the ways of the Lord; moreover he removed the high places and wooden images from Judah. Also in the third year of his reign he sent his leaders, Ben-Hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Michaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah. And with them he sent Levites: Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and Tobadonijah—the Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, the priests. So they taught in Judah, and had the Book of the Law of the Lord with them; they went throughout all the cities of Judah and taught the people." Jehoshaphat and his appointed leaders taught the people the ways of the Lord!

By teaching the people the ways of the Lord, he strengthened the whole nation. How can we strengthen our whole nation? We could share with everyone we know the ways of the Lord and trust that those who have a heart for it will grab it and advance!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16 Scripture: Psalm 18:16-21 Psalm 18:16-21 says, "He sent from above, He took me; He drew me out of many waters. He delivered me from my strong enemy, From those who hated me, For they were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my calamity, But the Lord was my support. He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me. The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me. For I have kept the ways of the Lord, And have not wickedly departed from my God." In this Psalm of David, we find God on David's side.

Verses 20,21 tell us why, "The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me. For I have kept the ways of the Lord, And have not wickedly departed from my God." David tells us why God was with him and gave him tremendous victory. It was simple. David chose to keep the way of the Lord. And because he kept the way of the Lord, the blessing of God was his. We even have greater advantage by the Holy Spirit dwelling in us.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17 Scripture: Psalm 18:22-42

David makes it very clear why God blessed him. Because David kept the ways of the Lord, he was blessed. In verses 34-36 David said, "He teaches my hands to make war, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your right hand has held me up, Your gentleness has made me great. You enlarged my path under me, So my feet did not slip." Verses 37-42 make very clear the necessary attitude of a warrior who keeps the way of the Lord.

Warriors pursue the enemy, they do not turn back until they have utterly destroyed the enemy under their feet. Verse 42 says, "Then I beat them as fine as the dust before the wind; I cast them out like dirt in the streets." The attitude of a warrior who keeps the ways of the Lord is, do not turn back until the enemy is utterly destroyed. If the enemy is not destroyed, we should be willing to pray and use our faith until God's enemy is utterly decimated. This how evangelism should be conducted.... The principle of zeal in establishing the will of God in the earth. That is how God works. We need to realize that and act accordingly.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18 Scripture: Psalm 25:8-18

Psalm 25:8-18 says, "Good and upright is the Lord; Therefore He teaches sinners in the way. The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies. For Your name's sake, O Lord, Pardon my iniquity, for it is great. Who is the man that fears the Lord? Him shall He teach in the way He

chooses. He himself shall dwell in prosperity, And his descendants shall inherit the earth. The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant. My eyes are ever toward the Lord, For He shall pluck my feet out of the net. Turn Yourself to me, and have mercy on me, For I am desolate and afflicted. The troubles of my heart have enlarged; Bring me out of my distresses! Look on my affliction and my pain, And forgive all my sins."

God guides the humble in judgment. and He teaches the humble the way of judgment. Psalm 25:10, in the NIV, says, "All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful toward those who keep the demands of his covenant." God's way of the Lord is loving and faithful when we do His covenant. We receive the full blessing of God when we say yes and walk in it.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19 Scripture: Psalm 138:1-7

Psalm 138:1-7 says, "I will praise You with my whole heart; Before the gods I will sing praises to You. I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name. In the day when I cried out, You answered me, And made me bold with strength in my soul. All the kings of the earth shall praise You, O Lord, When they hear the words of Your mouth. Yes, they shall sing of the ways of the Lord, For great is the glory of the Lord. Though the Lord is on high, Yet He regards the lowly; But the proud He knows from afar. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch out Your hand Against the wrath of my enemies, And Your right hand will save me." Verses 5-7 give us a glimpse into the heart of those who say yes to the ways of the Lord. These verses say, "Yes, they shall sing of the ways of the Lord, For great is the glory of the Lord. Though the Lord is on high, Yet He regards the lowly; But the proud He knows from afar. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch out Your hand Against the wrath of my enemies, And Your right hand will save me."

That is the promise of Psalm 138 and we know we will see it! For those called to be martyrs, the injustice of their death demands judgment!

MONDAY, JANUARY 20 Scripture: Proverbs 10:27-29

Proverbs 10:27-29 says, "The fear of the Lord prolongs days, But the years of the wicked will be shortened. The hope of the righteous will be gladness, But the expectation of the wicked will perish. The way of the Lord is strength for the upright, But destruction will come to the workers of iniquity." What an awesome promise is in verse 29: "The way of the Lord is strength for the upright, But

destruction will come to the workers of iniquity." What a tremendous promise! When we say yes to doing the way of the Lord, walking in righteousness and doing judgment, then we guarantee that in every situation we find ourselves, we will have the strength of the Lord. If we want strength, we must walk in the way of the Lord. It is guaranteed for all of our days. Amen.



TUESDAY, JANUARY 21 Scripture: Isaiah 2:5

Isaiah 2:5 in the New Century version of the Bible says, "Come, family of Jacob, and let us follow the way of the Lord." We know what the way of the Lord is. We see it in David. We see it in Israel's other righteous kings. The way of the Lord is doing righteousness so we can execute judgment. And when we say yes to that, we walk in light. There is never a darkness that can overtake us if the light is always there. And that is the promise – that the light will always be there.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22 Scripture: Isaiah 40:3-5

Isaiah 40:3-5 says, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

When we are preparing the way of the Lord, then the judgment of God raises every valley, brings down every mountain, straightens out the crooked places and makes the rough places smooth. That is what judgment does. Judgment always prepares for a manifestation that results in salvation. Once people see the judgment, then they have a motivation to come to salvation. If they do not see the judgment, they have less motivation for salvation. John the Baptist fully

shouldered it. Now since Jesus is coming again, we have the opportunity to fully shoulder it in our generation.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23 Scripture: Jeremiah 5:4,5

Jeremiah 5:4,5 says, "Therefore I said, 'Surely these are poor. They are foolish; For they do not know the way of the Lord, The judgment of their God. I will go to the great men and speak to them, For they have known the way of the Lord, The judgment of their God.' But these have altogether broken the yoke And burst the bonds." This passage makes it very clear that the primary way of the Lord is the judgment of God. If we know the way of the Lord, then we know the judgment of God.

Is what Jeremiah states true of us today? Do we know the way of the Lord? Do we know the judgment of God? It was true for Jeremiah. That was his declaration! If you know the way of the Lord, you know the judgment of God. Do we know the judgment of God? Or have we mistakenly thought that we could not participate in judgment? That is precisely what the enemy has said – we thought we could not participate in judgment. But that is absolutely a lie according to the Word! We are supposed to be the primary participators in bringing forth justice. A heart to bring forth God's timely Words in prayer will result in mighty fruit. It is the way of the Lord and we are called to it. Will we walk in it?

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24 Scripture: Ezekiel 18:24-30

Ezekiel 18:24-30 says, "But when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and does according to all the abominations that the wicked man does, shall he live? All the righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; because of the unfaithfulness of which he is guilty and the sin which he has committed, because of them he shall die. Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is not fair." Hear now, O house of Israel, is it not My way which is fair, and your ways which are not fair? When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity, and dies in it, it is because of the iniquity which he has done that he dies. Again, when a wicked man turns away from the wickedness which he committed, and does what is lawful and right, he preserves himself alive. Because he considers and turns away from all the transgressions which he committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is not fair." O house of Israel, is it not My ways which are fair, and your ways which are not fair? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,' says the Lord God. 'Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin." It is interesting that Israel was complaining that the way of the Lord was not fair. Then the prophet had to say, 'Wait a minute – the way of the Lord is fair. It is your ways that are not fair.' Verse 30 is very interesting, "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, everyone according to his ways,' says the Lord God. 'Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin.'"

If there was ever a statement that could be made to nations, it is that one. Turn and repent so that iniquity will not be your ruin. The church can make that difference in many nations today. As we embrace the way of the Lord and execute the judgment of our God, we can

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

Scripture: Hosea 14:9

Hosea 14:9 says, "Who is wise? Let him understand these things. Who is prudent? Let him know them. For the ways of the Lord are right; The righteous walk in them, But transgressors stumble in them." According to Hosea, the righteous walk in the way of the Lord. It is only those who are transgressors that have a problem. Many churches have a problem in keeping the way of the Lord. Is part of the reason, our failure to do righteousness so we can execute judgment?

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26 Scripture: Matthew 3:1-3

Matthew 3:1-3 says, "In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!' For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight." Jesus is coming again. Will we shoulder this prophetic or the apostolic anointing? Will we do the judgment of God in order to make His paths straight? If not, we are hindering the harvest in the last days. By participating in the judgment of God, we participate in welcoming an increased harvest in the last days. Will we increase or decrease the harvest of God? We will increase it or decrease it based on whether or not we will walk in the way of the Lord? It is our choice!

MONDAY, JANUARY 27 Scripture: Mark 1:1-3

Mark 1:1-3 says, "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the Prophets: 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You. The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight."" We have the opportunity to help prepare the way of the Lord. *We Do it by righteousness*

and by judgment. it is pretty clear – over and over again the Scripture keeps telling us the very same thing.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28 Scripture: Luke 3:4-6

Luke 3:4-6 says, "...as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight. Every valley shall be filled And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough ways smooth; And all flesh shall see the salvation of God." Luke emphasizes the fact that by doing the way of the Lord, the door for all flesh to see the salvation of God is opened. So, in Luke's understanding, salvation follows judgment. When we do judgment, we prepare for a harvest of salvation. Surely, we are willing to prepare for a harvest of salvation. And the only way to do that is to follow the Spirit in doing judgment. Are we ready to say yes to the way of the Lord?



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29 Scripture: John 1:21-23

John 1:21-23 says, "And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the Prophet?' And he answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?' He said: 'I am "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.'" All four Gospels record the command to make straight the way of the Lord. Each one emphasizes a little different aspect, but they are all in agreement.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

Scripture: Acts 9:1,2

The Good News translation of Acts 9:1,2 says, "In the meantime Saul kept up his violent threats of murder against the followers of the Lord. He went to the High Priest and asked for letters of introduction to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he should find there any followers of the Way of the Lord, he would be able to arrest them, both men and women, and bring them back to Jerusalem." It is interesting that the early church, in most Bible translations, is called "The Way". But apparently, "The Way" was short for "The Way of the Lord". So the nickname that the early church gained was, "The Way".

Can the reason be because they walked in righteousness and justice and did not comprised the way of the Lord? The way it is translated here in the Good New Translation certainly points in that direction, because that is how it is translated each time it appears. *It is amazing to see all of the many verses that the "way of the Lord" appears. There are enough of them to make us realize that it is a very serious issue in both Old and New Testaments!*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

Scripture: Acts 13:9,10; 18:24,25; 19:9,23

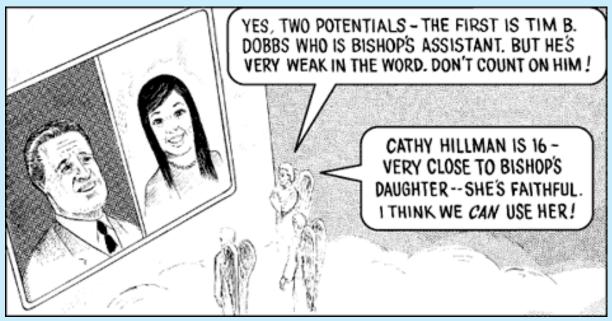
Acts 13:9,10 says, "Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, 'O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord?" Isn't it interesting that as soon as the Apostle Paul found himself in a confrontation with a false prophet, perverting the straight ways of the Lord and immediately brought blindness and judgment on him? And that judgment caused the proconsul to believe so that he gained a salvation through judgment. How many salvations have we not gained because we have not understood and embraced the way of the Lord?

Acts 18:24,25 says, "Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John." Apollos was eloquent in Scripture, but he only knew the way of the Lord up to the point of the baptism of John. He did not know the way of the Lord, as comprised in the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is interesting that there is a difference between the baptism of John and the baptism of the Spirit. This difference tells us that the baptism of the Spirit is important to executing judgment in the way of the Lord. Acts 19:9,23 in the Good News translation, states, "But some of them were stubborn and would not believe, and before the whole group they said evil things about the Way of the Lord. So Paul *left them and took the believers with him, and every day he held discussions in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.*..It was at this time that there was serious trouble in Ephesus because

of the Way of the Lord." We find that the way of the Lord became a central issue in the New Testament church. Serious Christians who executed judgment turned cultures upside down, forcing them to consider righteousness! Righteousness is not popular and there are enough religious spirits who war against this message that it has consequences.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." And if only we enter in, can we taste the full measure of harvest? The choice is ours and we have to make it. It is time to line up with Jesus and demonstrate the way of the Lord!

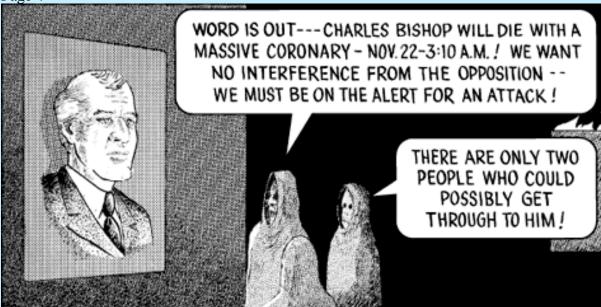
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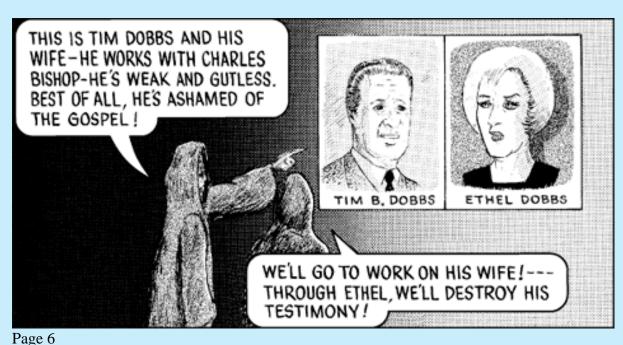
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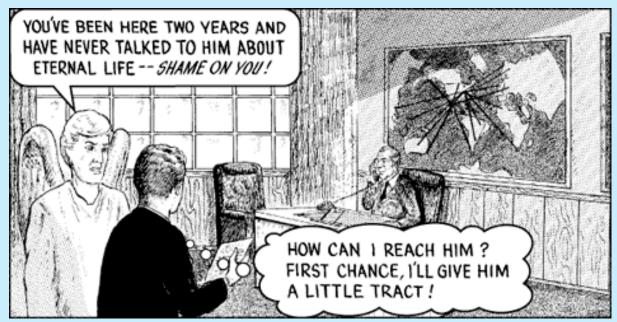


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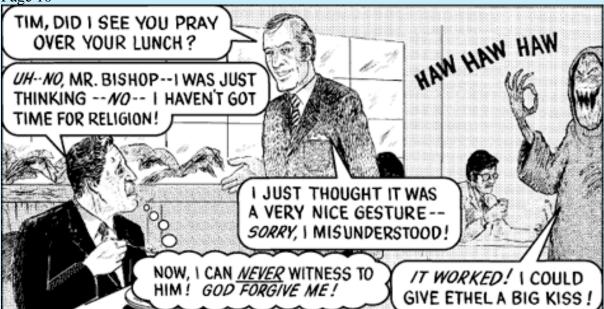


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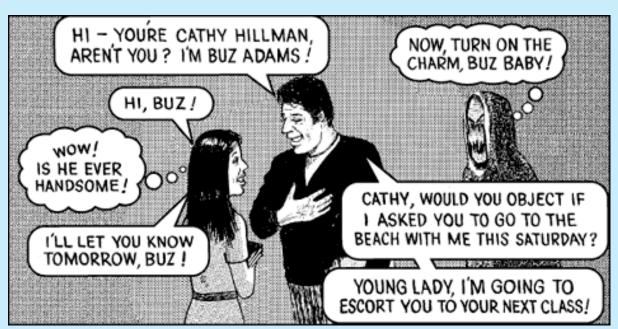


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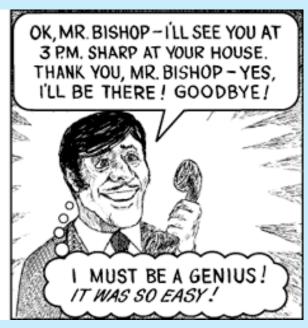


THIS IS AN ORDER! YOU WILL
KEEP CATHY AWAY FROM BISHOP!

I'M WORKING ON IT RIGHT NOW!
SHE HASN'T GOT A CHANCE!

CALL CHARLES BISHOP AND SET UP
AN APPOINTMENT FOR TOMORROW
AT 3 P.M. – YOU CAN SELL HIM A
BIG POLICY!

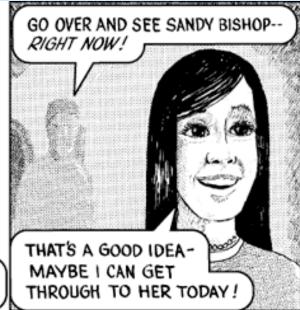
A1-INSURANCE



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HEY, I'LL CALL MR. CHARLES BISHOP. WHAT A GREAT IDEA!





Page 16
2:30 P.M.

OOH NO-WHAT A TIME FOR A BLOW-OUT--AND I DON'T HAVE A SPARE TIRE!





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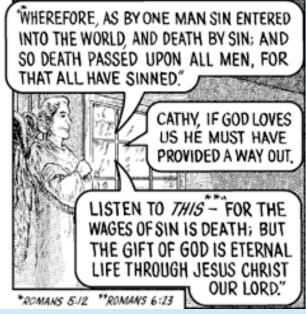
REMEMBER, NOW - YOU ASKED FOR IT --- YOU'D BETTER SIT

DOWN, MR. BISHOP!

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LOOK AT THIS -- AS IT IS WRITTEN,
THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NO,
NOT ONE: FOR ALL HAVE SINNED,
AND COME SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD:

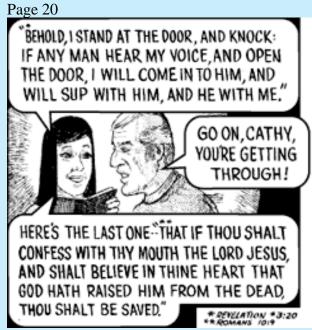
I GUESS THAT
INCLUDES ME!

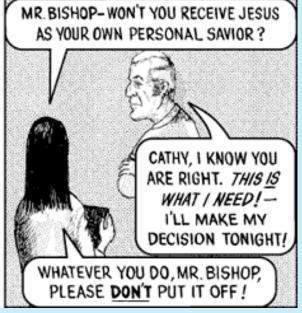


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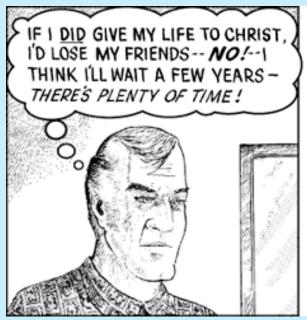


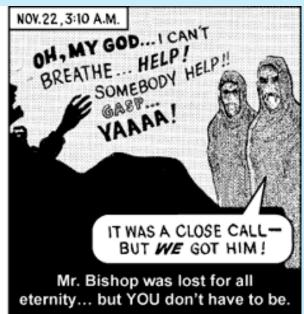






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THE BIBLE SAYS THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO HEAVEN!

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6

NOBODY ELSE CAN SAVE YOU. TRUST JESUS TODAY!

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Rom. 10:9

- 1. Admit you are a sinner. See Romans 3:10
- 2. Be willing to turn from sin (repent). See Acts 17:30
- Believe that Jesus Christ died for you, was buried and rose from the dead. See Rom. 10:9-10
- Through prayer, invite Jesus into your heart to become your personal Saviour. See Rom. 10:13

WHAT TO PRAY

Dear God, I am a sinner and need forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ shed His **precious blood** and died for my sin. I am willing to turn from sin. I now invite Christ to come into my heart as my personal Saviour.

If you trusted Jesus as your Saviour, you have just begun a wonderful new life with Him. Now:

- Read your Bible (KJV) every day to get to know Jesus Christ better.
- 2. Talk to God in prayer every day.
- 3. Be baptized, worship, fellowship, and serve with other Christians in a church where Christ is preached and the Bible is the final authority.
- Tell others about Jesus Christ.

Here's help to grow as a new Christian! Read The Next Step, available at www.chick.com.



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The Generosity Test

Interactive Q's KEEP SCORE - ADD POINTS

- 1. Do you support missionaries or other ministries?
 - a) Regularly (2 pts.)
 - b) Sometimes (1 pt.)
 - c) Seldom/Never (0 pt.)
- 2. When eating out with someone, do you offer to pay for their lunch?
 - a) Regularly (2 pts.)
 - b) Sometimes (1 pt.)
 - c) Saldom/Never (0 pte)
- 3. When driving do you prefer the other driver when changing lanes, parking and/or stopping at a stop sign?
 - a) Regularly (2 pts.)
 - b) Sometimes (1 pt.)
 - c) Seldom/Never (0 pt.)
- 4. Do you lend money to those in need and then decide to cancel or reduce their debt?
 - a) Regularly (2 pts.)
 - b) Sometimes (1 pt.)
 - c) Seldom/Never (0 pt.)
- 5. When you hear about a need do you pause to consider how to personally meet it?
 - a) Regularly (2 pts.)
 - b) Sometimes (1 pt.)
 - c) Seldom/Never (0 pt.)
- 6. Are you responsive to the Lord to give over and above your regular preplanned giving? (Tithes & Offerings etc.)
 - a) Regularly (2 pts.)
 - b) Sometimes (1 pt.)
 - c) Seldom/Never (0 pt.)
- 7. How did you do in the Generosity Test? Please visit www.fullstature.net

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