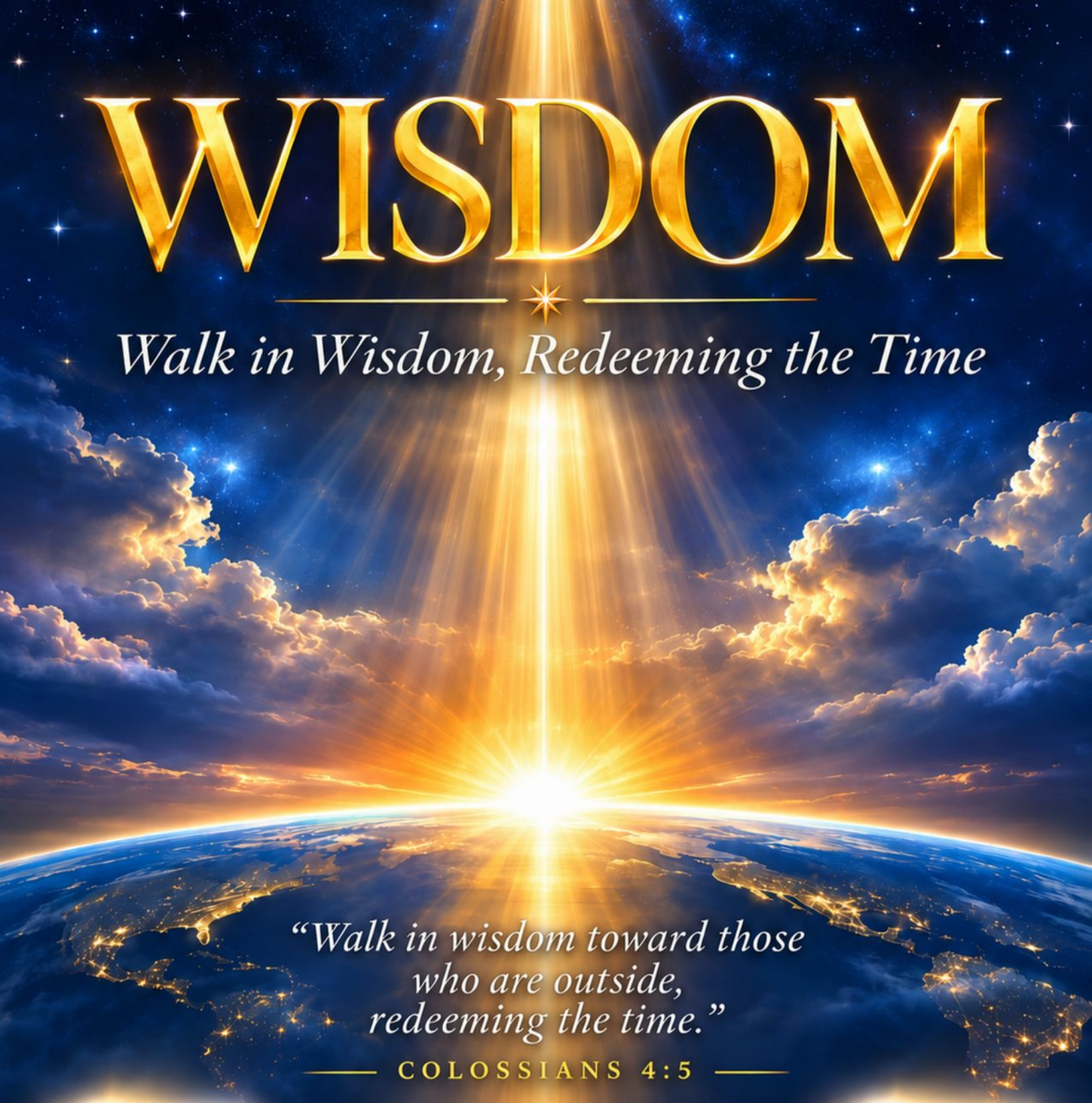
WISDOM

Walk in Wisdom, Redeeming the Time



"Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time."

COLOSSIANS 4:5

CMM
COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY
LEARN. GROW. LAUNCH.

"He who wins souls is wise."

PROVERBS 11:30 · NKJV

CMM
CHRIST'S MANDATE FOR MISSIONS
Equip. Connect. Transform.

CMM ANNUAL MAGAZINE 2026

CONTENTS

CMM Annual Magazine 2026 · Walk in Wisdom, Redeeming the Time

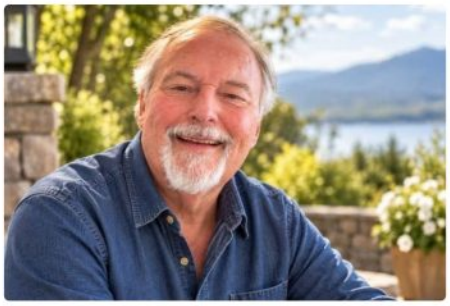
WISDOM: Walk in Wisdom, Redeeming the Time *Dr. Jorge E. Parrott* 1
Mission-Vision-Impact 4
Strategic Alliances 5
The True Heroes of the Gospel *Dr. Louis Blom* 6
Our Prophetic Ascent *Dr. Karen Williams* 8
Stretch Out Your Tent Pegs *Dr. Karen Williams* 11
Biblical Wisdom's Origin and Expression *Debra Ortiz, MTh* 12
The Role of Holy Spirit in a Changing World *Dr. Tom Burns* 14
CMM College of Theology: What Is Holy Spirit Saying? 18
Partnering with the Lord through CMM · Year-End Giving 2026 19
2026 Graduation and Eleven New Satellite Schools 20
A New Thing: When the Waters Rise *Dr. Lori Dunn* 21
The Altar of Consecration *Dr. Oby Igbiki* 25
Discipleship & Evangelism · CMM Oasis of Ordained Ministers 29
The Church at Ephesus: A Model for the Ekklesia *Dr. Katharine Reddekopp, DMin* 31
Be More Balaam's Donkey, Less Balaam *Reneé Austin* 33
Beholding Christ, Becoming Like Him *Dr. Ramses R. Girgis* 36
Uncharted Waters *Dr. Sherry Reese* 39
Building His Garden in the Kingdom *Ruth Acquaroli* 41
The Prophetic Role to Restore the Stolen Power *Dr. David Joy* 43
When Nations Are Shaken, Make Room for Those Coming Home *Chaim Malespin* 46
Standing with Israel 49
Why We Give to the Poor *Dr. Jorge E. Parrott* 51
Make the Most of Every Opportunity *Faith J. H. McDonnell* 52
CMM Is Freeing Slaves *Dr. Jorge E. Parrott* 55
Water Wells 56
The Light Must Keep Moving *Dr. Dunia M. Divin* 57
Out of the Wilderness *Stefania Della Santa* 60
What If the Answer Is Alignment? *Deidra Gillislee Mebane, PhD* 63
How Deep Are Your Roots? *Dr. Indira Persad* 66
Your Seed Will Intercede! *Prakash Daniel* 69
2026 Graduations in the USA and Ecuador 70
Highlights of 2026 72

Christ's Mandate for Missions · Dr. Jorge E. Parrott, President · www.CMM.world
CMM College of Theology · www.CMMTheology.org
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WISDOM

Walk in Wisdom, Redeeming the Time

By Dr. Jorge E. Parrott
President, Christ's Mandate for Missions · Founder/President, CMM College of Theology



Dr. Jorge E. Parrott

Scripture quotations: NKJV.

> *"Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one." (Colossians 4:5–6)*

FROM HOPE TO WISDOM

Beloved, look back with me for a moment.

In 2021 and 2022 the Lord gave us **Hope**. Our cover showed CMM as a ship sailing through stormy waters without fear. In 2024 He called us to **Believe** and walk through the door He opened. Last year the word was **Receive**.

So what do we do with what we've received?

We steward it. And stewardship takes wisdom.

That's the word the Lord has put on my heart for 2027. Paul wrote it in chains, to a young church in Colossae: "Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time."

Hope anchored us. Faith opened the door. We received. Now wisdom shows us how to walk it out.

WISDOM IS THE PRINCIPAL THING

"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding." (Proverbs 4:7)

Where does it start? Solomon tells us: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." (Proverbs 9:10)

I learned that in March of 1998. I had called the CMM office about a tax receipt. That evening Michael Correll, son of our founders Sidney and Helen Correll, called back and asked me to speak at a Bible school graduation in the Philippines.

I said, "Who am I? I'm not ordained. I haven't been to seminary."

Michael answered, "The Lord is looking for available hearts."

My life has never been the same. Twenty-eight years later, I'm still learning that wisdom begins on our knees. An available heart is a teachable heart.

James gives us a promise every one of us can claim in 2027: "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)

So ask. Our Father gives liberally, and He loves to be asked.

And His wisdom has a recognizable character: "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy." (James 3:17)

As I wrote in *Growing in the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation*, "Partial surrender produces partial clarity." The more of ourselves we give Him, the more clearly we see.

REDEEMING THE TIME

The word Paul uses for "time" is *kairos*, the appointed moment. "Redeeming" means buying it up, like a merchant who gathers every good thing in the market before the day is over.

Paul says it again in Ephesians: "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." (Ephesians 5:15–16)

Wise people know what time it is.

Wise people know what time it is.

When the tribes came to Hebron to make David king, the sons of Issachar came too. Scripture describes them as men "who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do." (1 Chronicles 12:32)

They understood the moment. Then they knew what to do. Both matter.

We live in a season of endless information. Every phone carries more facts than any library Solomon ever saw. Yet wisdom is still rare, because wisdom comes from the One who "changes the times and the seasons" and "gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and secret things." (Daniel 2:21–22)

Last year I wrote that in Christ there shall be no ebb. The river is still rising. Wisdom keeps our feet in the current and our eyes on Jesus.

HE WHO WINS SOULS IS WISE

"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise." (Proverbs 11:30)

Notice where Paul points our wisdom: "toward those who are outside." Wisdom faces outward. It goes looking for the one.

That's what I see across our CMM family.

By God's grace, since 1998 we have raised and distributed over $100 million in cash and gifts in kind, working with trusted friends in 70 nations. Every number has a name.

545 water wells now serve communities near CMM churches and church plants, supervised and maintained by CMM pastors and staff. 799 people have been freed from sex slavery. Brother F, Josh D, and our friends with Back to Jerusalem are serving many in dangerous nations with heavy persecution, supporting Chinese and foreign nationals in evangelism, discipleship, and businesses that sustain them.

You'll notice we use only initials for some of these friends. We want to tell the truth and protect the people. That's wisdom too.

And this year CMM College of Theology celebrates its 20th year of offering accredited Christian degrees. Twenty years of pastors, chaplains, and leaders learning to rightly divide the Word, then carrying it home to their own nations in their own language.

Local leaders know the culture and the language. Our part is to stand with them.

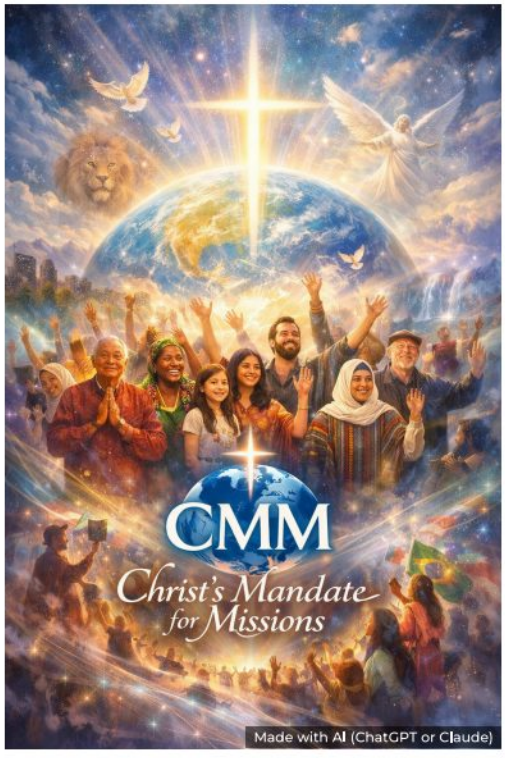
WALKING IN WISDOM IN 2027

Wisdom grows through simple, daily obedience. Here's how I'm asking our CMM family to walk in 2027.

1. **Ask every morning.** Before the phone, before the news, pray James 1:5: "Lord, I lack wisdom

for today. Please give it to me."

2. **Let peace be the umpire.** "Let the peace of God rule in your hearts." (Colossians 3:15) If the peace leaves, pause and pray again.
3. **Test everything by the Word.** "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)
4. **Seek wise counsel.** "Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety." (Proverbs 11:14)
5. **Number your days.** "So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." (Psalm 90:12) Give your best hours to what will last.
6. **Turn outward once a week.** Choose one person outside your circle. Pray for them, serve them, and let your speech be "with grace, seasoned with salt." (Colossians 4:6)





CMM Ordained Ministers globally advancing the Kingdom. Learn more: cmm.world/cmm-ordination

AN INVITATION

Beloved, here's my invitation for 2027. Ask the Lord for wisdom every day of the new year. Then ask Him where He wants you to stand with the CMM family.

We can't do everything, but we can each do something, and the Lord multiplies it. If He leads you to partner with us, you'll find the way at **www.CMM.world**.

Let's pray together.

Father, thank You for the hope You gave us, the promises we believed, and the gifts we've received. Now we ask for wisdom. Teach us to number our days. Give us understanding of the times, like the sons of Issachar, and show us what to do. Season our words with grace. Protect our friends serving in dangerous nations, and keep the lampstand burning in every church, school, and home in our CMM family. Let wisdom win souls in 70 nations in 2027. In Jesus' name, amen.

Walk in wisdom, beloved. Redeem the time.

Mission-Vision-Impact

Equip, Connect, Transform



One of many wells CMM provided in many nations. Photo by Yohana Mayiku in Tanzania at a well CMM provided.

Platinum Transparency 2026

Candid.

CMM has received the Candid Platinum Transparency Award for several consecutive years. It is the highest award possible, standing for wise stewardship, transparency, and accountability.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to **Love, Equip, Connect** and **Send** messengers of fire globally with God's simplicity, fullness, and power. We partner with leaders in many nations worldwide by helping friends to hear the voice of the Lord, offer Christ-centered education and business development, evangelism, church planting, discipleship, humanitarian aid, disaster relief, sponsored youth, clean water, anti-human trafficking, and leadership development.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to impact leaders in our global network of thriving genuine relationships in order to bring fresh hope, peace and clarity and together fulfill God's plans in individuals, ministries, and nations in completing the Great Commission.

OUR IMPACT

By God's grace, since 1998, we have raised and distributed over $100,000,000 in cash and gifts in kind to help over 1,000,000 people in 70 nations with trusted friends as family. We are relational. The motto of the Moravian Church is: “In essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; in all things, love.” The Lord led in a way that the Moravian communities worked and lived to support themselves and other mission stations. CMM works with many streams and denominations to build authentic unity.

A humanistic model of missions focuses on input and outcomes. How much did it cost? How many members do you have? How many people came forward at the altar call? Can the outreach be counted as a success or a failure?

We are focused on the depth of relational intimacy with our Lord. We believe in a holistic, spiritual as well as physical activation of the Great Commission: spirit, soul, and body. As spiritual beings, we are led by the Holy Spirit in all we do and are, and as the Word says, “God's thoughts are higher than man's thoughts.”

Go into all the world and preach the Gospel with power and signs and wonders.

MARK 16:15–18



Strategic Alliances

CMM is blessed to have many strategic relationships or “boots on the ground” with trusted friends who carry the Lord's heart for the nations. These alliances communicate with each other, especially in times of need and for the harvest. CMM can mobilize quickly in urgent times. Jorge Parrott, CMM President, has built up these relationships over 28 years of ministry globally. CMM is the global-local church.

We are so excited about our partnership with Dr. Louis Blom, CMM Assistant Missions Director and Judea Harvest, the most significant church planting movement in Africa, with over 35,000 churches planted in 40 nations. As we align and join with the Lord, He is changing Christianity across Africa, and YOU get to be a vital part of all the Lord is doing there. It's exciting, and you don't want to miss it!

Louis and Jorge have known each other over 16 years and prayed for years about joining forces to help fulfill the Great Commission. The Lord is faithful, and in January of 2023, the Lord answered our prayers. CMM and Judea Harvest will share resources in Africa, and Louis is serving as Assistant Missions Director for CMM.

We are actively involved with increasing awareness of the persecution of Christians around the world at an alarming level. Jorge Parrott serves on the advisory board of Save The Persecuted Christians. STPC is a coalition of over 200 organizations praying and laboring to end persecution and educate and instill real change in society and government. Over 370 million Christians worldwide experience persecution and the number is rapidly growing. STPC responds to crises in contacting governments and global media outlets and calling out the perpetrators in hopes of preventing future atrocities.

We are also thankful for our long-term friend and ally, Dr. Eugene Bach, of Back to Jerusalem. Eugene is a graduate of our CMM College of Theology and serves on our school's advisory board.

Back to Jerusalem is the goal of the Chinese church to evangelize the unreached peoples from the eastern provinces of China westwards towards Jerusalem. The vision was birthed among the Chinese in the 1920s, and since then, the churches of China have strived and even suffered persecution to fulfill what they believe is their integral role in fulfilling the Great Commission.

We Get To Do This Together For The Lord's Glory! Many people don't realize this, but you can “go” places where your feet may never touch the ground by giving to Christ's Mandate for Missions—this helps you be a part of something significant to be the hands, feet, and heart of the Lord.

These are just a few of many strategic alliances in CMM's global family network of remarkable men and women—what powerful divine answers to prayer after twenty-eight years of meeting and vetting many ministers and leaders to find reliable, fruitful, and trustworthy people.

BACK TO 归耶路撒冷 JERUSALEM

SAVE US SAVE THE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

JUDEA HARVEST INCORPORATED

The True Heroes of the Gospel

By Dr. Louis Blom
CMM Assistant Missions Director · President, Judea Harvest

Scripture quotation: NIV.



As we reflect on another remarkable year of ministry across Africa, and even worldwide, my heart is filled with gratitude. Above all, we give glory to God for His grace, His faithfulness, and His continued blessing upon the work of every believer building His worldwide Kingdom. Every life transformed, every church planted, every pastor equipped, and every community reached is a testimony to His goodness.

I also want to express my deepest appreciation to the CMM faithful ministry partners, churches, donors, and friends around the world. Your generosity, prayers, encouragement, and unwavering commitment make this ministry possible. You are not simply supporters of the vision—you are partners in the Great Commission.

Most importantly, however, I want to honor those who rarely appear on the platform or in the spotlight: regional managers, project leaders, coordinators, pastors, evangelists, church planters, teachers, and volunteers serving faithfully. They are the men and women who walk dusty roads, preach in tent churches and tree churches, carry solar Audio Bibles into remote villages, disciple new believers, care for children, and faithfully proclaim Christ where the Gospel is often least known.

In my heart, these are the true heroes of the Gospel.

Their names may never become widely known. They may never stand before large crowds or lead internationally recognized ministries. Yet heaven knows their names. Day after day they faithfully gather small groups beneath trees, in tents, in humble church buildings, and in villages where Christ has not yet been proclaimed. They introduce people to Jesus, disciple new believers, establish churches, and invest their lives in advancing the Kingdom of God. They embody the very spirit of the Great Commission.

This reality continually reminds me how different God's Kingdom is from the world in which we live.

Modern society—and often even the Church—is heavily influenced by corporate structures, business success, and hierarchical leadership. Too often leadership is viewed as climbing to the top of a pyramid where influence, authority, and recognition become the ultimate goals. While the Church must exercise sound financial stewardship, accountability, excellence, and good governance, we must never forget that the Church is not a business. It is the Body of Christ.

Jesus presented a radically different model.

When His disciples argued about greatness, Jesus responded:

> *"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant... For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve."* (Mark 10:43–45)

Kingdom leadership is not built upon status, titles, or power. It is built upon service.

Throughout Scripture, Jesus repeatedly described spiritual leaders as shepherds. A shepherd certainly leads the sheep, but his greatest responsibility is not exercising authority—it is caring for the flock. He guides them to green pastures, protects them from danger, feeds them, nurtures them, and ensures that they flourish. Leadership, in God's Kingdom, always finds its highest expression in serving others.

Sadly, throughout the world we have witnessed too many examples of leadership becoming centered around personalities instead of Christ. When ministry revolves around celebrity, power, or control, leaders often become isolated, unaccountable, and vulnerable. History has repeatedly demonstrated the painful consequences of this model.

The answer is not weaker leadership.

The answer is Christ-like leadership.

I count it one of God's greatest blessings that I had the privilege of serving under Pastor Hansie Henning. He consistently modeled humility, teamwork, courage, and servant leadership. Rather than presenting decisions as unquestionable directives, he brought vision before the team, invited prayer, encouraged discussion, and trusted the Holy Spirit to lead us together. That spirit of humility has deeply shaped my own leadership style.

Today, as the baby boomers start stepping aside, we find ourselves entering another significant season in the leadership space of the church.

Many of those who pioneered current existing ministries are approaching a season where they will move from leading on the front lines to mentoring, coaching, and encouraging younger leaders who will carry the vision into the future.

Our desire should be not simply to transfer positions. Our desire should be to transfer values.

We pray that the next generation will embrace the servant-hearted leadership of Jesus Christ even more deeply than we have.

For this reason, we should be empowering leadership teams across the world with greater responsibility, ownership, and authority. Rather than concentrating ministry at a central office, we should intentionally move leadership closer to the harvest fields.

Our role as leaders in His Kingdom should never be to build an organization around headquarters. Our calling is to serve God's laborers wherever He has placed them. Everything we do—from training pastors and planting churches to providing Audio Bibles, children's ministry, leadership development, and community outreach—exists to strengthen those faithfully serving in the harvest fields.

Across Africa and worldwide, local leaders are taking ownership of the mission with renewed passion, creativity, and faith. We believe this decentralized, servant-hearted model will create a stronger, healthier, and more sustainable movement for generations to come.

We certainly do not claim to have perfected this model. We continue to study Scripture, learn from others, listen carefully to the Holy Spirit, and seek God's wisdom for the future. Yet our prayer remains unchanged:

That God would use CMM to help cultivate a fresh generation of servant leaders across Africa and worldwide, leaders who empower rather than control, who release rather than restrain, who multiply rather than accumulate, and who faithfully point people not to themselves, but to Jesus Christ.

As you read this article, I invite you to celebrate not simply the statistics, projects, or achievements of CMM but the faithful men and women behind every story. They are the true heroes of this ministry.

Thank you for standing with them.

Together, by God's grace, we continue to mobilize His laborers, gather His harvest, and advance the Kingdom of Christ across the world.

To God alone be all the glory.

Blessings,

Dr. Louis Blom
CMM Assistant Missions Director
President, Judea Harvest



Made with AI

Our Prophetic Ascent

By Dr. Karen Williams
USA Academic Dean, CMM COT Graduate and Ordained Minister

Scripture quotation: NKJV.



Lightning flashes as thunder roars. The earth shakes and a heavenly trumpet resounds throughout the Israelites' camp as the Lord calls Moses to ascend to the top of Mount Sinai and the people to assemble at its base. It is three months after the Israelites safely crossed the Red Sea and watched Pharaoh and his army drown. Only Moses may ascend the holy mountain and live as he enters the Presence of the Lord. Israelites who dare to touch Mount Sinai will die.

The Almighty makes His presence known to His chosen people. Their bodies tremble as the trumpet echoes loudly through the camp. A supernatural trumpet prophetically declares the presence of the Lord from Mount Sinai. No ram's horn can resound as loudly or as continuously as the blast that penetrates the souls of the Israelites that day.

As the mountain quakes violently the entire camp shakes. The people fall to the ground. Who can stand in the presence of God? They had followed Moses' instructions and bathed to ready themselves; however, clean clothes cannot sufficiently prepare them for this display of God's power. He is almighty and the Israelites must know it before they receive the blessings of life in the land of milk and honey.

As Moses ascends the smoke-covered mountain with fear and trembling, perhaps he recalls the burning bush and longs for an experience more like it. In his first encounter with the Lord there was no lightning, no thunder, and no earthquakes. Since that initial theophany, Moses commands plagues against Egypt and observes God's omnipotence as He reveals His power. He hears the cries of the Egyptians as all their first-born die because Pharaoh refuses to release the Israelites from harsh slavery. Moses knows the Lord is with him. He knows he is called to be the chosen leader of the Israelites. A few days prior to this ascent, Moses ascended partially up the mountain when the Lord

called him (Ex 19:3). Yet suddenly he is challenged to meet the Lord at the top of a smoke-covered mountain as heaven declares the glory of God through the trumpet call, with thunder, lightning and shaking.

Later Moses takes Aaron, two of his sons and seventy of the elders of Israel part way up the mountain to worship the Lord. They experience a measure of the Lord's glory as they see His feet standing on sapphire above them. However, only Moses is permitted to ascend to the top and encounter the Presence of the Lord (Ex 24:1–2). After six days of waiting, the glory of the Lord descends more fully and rests upon the mountain. Moses remains in His presence for forty days.

This first leader of Israel became so intimate with God that it is said the Lord spoke to him face to face (Ex 33:11). Yet Moses, with the boldness of one who knows he has favor with God, pleads for the Lord to show him His glory. After spending forty days in God's presence, Moses must veil his face to hide the glory shining upon him while it faded (2 Cor 3:7). He has intimate encounters with the Lord at the Tent of Meeting whenever the divine cloud descends upon it. Surely, he experienced God's glory many times. Yet, Moses' heart yearns to know the Lord more. He realizes there is much more of God to experience; he has only received a limited measure. Moses is not satisfied and cries out for more. This yearning pleases the Lord, so with great loving kindness, He passes by him and declares His goodness.

This great leader experienced a beautiful, deeply intimate relationship with the Lord. However, he did not have the indwelling presence of Holy Spirit. Since the atonement, Christians have more than Moses had. The Spirit of Jesus lives in those who believe, and they live in Him (Jn 20:22). We are now one with Christ (Jn 17:23). John the Revelator exemplifies this.

COME UP HERE

The Apostle enjoyed a greater gift of intimacy with the Lord than did Moses as he experienced extreme encounters with Christ and heard Him speak loudly like a trumpet.

> *"I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, 'Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.'" (Rev 4:1)*

Sometime after receiving messages for the seven churches, he suddenly sees Jesus on His throne.

In this encounter the Lord calls John up to heaven. "*Come up here.*" This invitation must have caused John's heart to leap. Immediately, the apostle is again in the Spirit and finds himself in the throne room. There he sees Jesus revealed so gloriously that he can only describe Him using the beautiful stones of jasper and sardius. Moses needed to be placed in the cleft of the rock to experience more of the Lord's glory. However, John sees the Rock of our Salvation on His throne. John's extensive visions and extreme encounters are a sign to us that all who are born again may have deeply intimate relationships with the Lord and experience His wonders.

SET YOUR HEART

Moses pursued a face-to-face relationship with the Lord although it was costly. There are challenges, tests and decisions to make that we may know the Lord more deeply. Moses willingly obeyed and ascended the mountain repeatedly. Rather than turn back when he is tired, he presses on to the top. He will not be deterred by the hot sun, thirst, or the lack of a clear path. Our adventure to know Christ may be likened to it. We must decide to press through the trials and challenges that arise as we seek to know the King of Glory and experience His presence. We must set our hearts now with intention to pursue Him so that we are ready to overcome obstacles along the path. If our hearts are not set for the pursuit, when the sun gets hot, we are likely to choose an easier path that leads us to shade rather than Christ.

We must find our secret place and commit ourselves to spend time with the Lord daily. Distractions will plague us if we do not prepare for intimate fellowship with the King. The phone needs to be silenced as we separate ourselves to Him. Our actions reveal our heart and communicate our deep desire to be alone with Him.

LET YOUR YES BE YES

Moses had to decide to obey God. He set his heart to obey before he encountered the Lord's presence. A yielded heart comes before intimate experiences with the Lord. Without it, pride and self-will may lead to a fall. Moses had to confront Pharaoh many times although his life was at risk. His obedience led to overwhelming victory. It is always worth the cost. Every time we choose to obey God we take a vital step on the path up the mountain, and He secures our footing so we may advance higher.

ONLY GOD

Humility was required of Moses, and it is required of us. It was Joshua, his scribe, who declared his humility (Nu 12:3). By the time the Israelites reached Sinai it is clear to Moses that the Almighty has called him and empowered him to do His will. Only God could manifest the plagues, and only God could part the Red Sea. Now Christians live with the inner witness of the Spirit and have the witness of the word of God. With humility we must remember that Jesus spoke truth when He declared that we could do nothing apart from Him (Jn 15:5). We cannot plant seeds, much less bear fruit apart from His working in us and through us. We must choose humility, reject presumption and trust Him.

REMEMBER THE MANNA

Finally, Moses boldly asks the Lord to show him His glory. He had already experienced God many times. The glory of the Lord was revealed through miracles and later at the mountain top. His presence was thick in the divine cloud that hovered over the Tent of Meeting. Yet Moses wanted to know the Lord more. He would not be satisfied with the amazing outpouring he had received. His heart yearned for even more of the Lord's presence.

Remember the manna rotted. I don't ever want to be satisfied with the word God gave me yesterday, or the prophetic dream I had last night. I don't want to be satisfied with the wonderful presence of the Lord I previously received. Like Moses, I must yearn for more. I must intimately know the One who is Perfect Love, Almighty Holiness, and Righteousness. My heart cries out to know and experience the unlimited King of Glory more. I must have Him. I choose to live daily with my head on the chest of Jesus, where I hear His voice intimately. I will never stop pursuing Him. He is my life and my joy. He is my exceedingly great reward!

Dr. Karen Williams
USA Academic Dean, CMM COT Graduate and Ordained Minister



"And He said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'"

John 1:51 (NKJV)

Stretch Out Your Tent Pegs



By Dr. Karen Williams, DMin, CPhD
USA Academic Dean, CMM COT Graduate and Ordained Minister

The flame of the greatest harvest the world has ever known is now burning. My heart is deeply stirred by an intense night vision I experienced. First, loud footsteps walking through my home awakened me. The whole house creaked with every step. No man could walk with such an impact. I opened my eyes hoping to see Jesus. Suddenly I had a clear vision of Him walking toward me. He carried a huge pumpkin under His right arm. I recently read about a single pumpkin that weighed over 3,000 pounds in October 2026. That pumpkin is a prophetic "seed" of the last-days harvest. The Lord is revealing the time is finally upon us.

The Divine Sower is rapidly planting seeds of faith. Holy Spirit is moving to bring forth the greatest revival the earth has ever known. CMM frequently receives reports from ministry leaders of the mighty power of God moving in the nations. The harvest is ready, and the Lord will not be stopped. He is birthing lost souls into their new lives in Christ. All hands are needed to serve. We must prepare for expansion if we are to be part of His last-days outpouring.

God is raising up His last-days people as He equips current and future leaders to minister in the power of His Spirit. At CMM College of Theology, students from around the globe are preparing to bring transformative ministry to their communities and into the nations. Strategic leadership, revival, prophetic communications, multicultural ministry, and sustainable community development and counseling are a few of the dynamic topics studied by our students.

Our college is a global community of spiritually hungry students. We gather in online classes that span many nations. Students study the Scriptures extensively to know the Lord more and prepare to minister with His life-changing power. Holy Spirit releases revelatory understanding as He equips them to live and minister at higher levels of authority. Our well-educated and experienced faculty work closely with students to help each one reach their educational goals.

Graduates experience expansion as the Lord stretches their tent pegs and launches them into greater ministry effectiveness. Those who earn advanced degrees serve as leaders in the areas of their calling. Some influence government policy and minister to political leaders. Many graduates serve the Lord as pastors, ministry organization leaders, revivalists, church planters, missionaries, counselors, chaplains, or educators. Some establish a business as a method of ministry outreach. Many publish books and minister in online communities. All become world changers as Christ transforms their hearts and greatly increases their impact.

All our degree programs are accredited by QAHE, AICCS, and AAHEA, including associate's, bachelor's, master's, doctoral, and Christian PhD in ministry and in Christian Counseling. We also offer diploma programs in Chaplaincy and Strong Foundations. Additionally, we have affiliate colleges in Canada, Ecuador, Thailand, and other nations. Students have the opportunity to experience international ministry trips through CMM. They may also apply to study abroad with one of our colleges.

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Dr. Karen Williams, DMin, CPhD
USA Academic Dean, CMM COT Graduate and Ordained Minister

Biblical Wisdom's Origin and Expression



By Debra Ortiz, MTh
CMM Ordained Minister · Theology Instructor, CMM College of Theology

Scripture quotations from the KJV, as quoted by the author.

Biblical wisdom has its genesis in God Himself. Wisdom is intrinsic to God. He does not become wise, acquire wisdom, or discover it. He cannot grow in wisdom because He possesses all fullness of wisdom in His uncreated, infinite personhood.

> *"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" (Romans 11:33)*

Humanity cannot originate divine wisdom because humanity is created, dependent, and finite. We can recognize and articulate what God reveals, but we cannot establish its ultimate meaning independently of Him.

The Creation of Adam

When Adam became a living soul, he awakened into an existence he had neither initiated nor understood. He could not independently know who had created him, why he existed, or what purpose his life was intended to fulfill. That knowledge could come only through revelation from God, his Creator. God was not only the source of Adam's life but also the source of the truth by which Adam could understand his existence. Adam did not determine his own purpose; he received it from God. The meaning and purpose of Adam's life originated in the heart and mind of his Creator and could only be known as God revealed them to him.

Humanity cannot independently discover the fullness of God and His wisdom through intellect, experience, or human reasoning. We depend on God to reveal Himself. He is the One who initiates relationship, makes Himself known, and invites us to walk in His ways. Humanity is the recipient and the responder. In theology, this is called **Divine Initiative**.

Jesus teaches us, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him" (John 6:44). In 1 John 4:19, we understand that "We love him, because he first loved us."

God's initiative does not eliminate human reasoning, discovery, or responsibility. Rather, it establishes that human knowledge of God and His purposes is dependent upon what God first makes known. God created Adam with the ability to think, discern, and make decisions (for instance, naming the animals). God wanted Adam to trust Him and not his own understanding.

God the Creator establishes our existence; revelation from Him establishes our understanding of that existence.

Relationship with God

Relationship with God provides the context in which our understanding grows. Because we are created, we are not the originators of wisdom or truth. Rather, we are recipients of God's divine revelation, and that revelation matures and transforms us as we walk in relationship with Him. We become what we behold. Like children who grow up in the household of their father, we gradually take on the characteristics of God, the One with whom we live in fellowship.

Fear of the Lord

In Genesis, at the Fall, humanity was tempted to pursue wisdom through a source and method apart from God (Gen. 3:6). Adam and Eve were not forbidden from thinking, learning, or exercising discernment. They were created with those capacities. The Fall exposed the danger of attempting to find Truth (origin, meaning, and purpose) apart from God, our Creator. He alone knows our origin, why He created us, and what value and purpose we have.

The fear of the Lord restores us to our proper relationship of reverence, humility, recognition of God's divine authority, and our obedience to it. That is the beginning point of wisdom (Prov. 9:10; Prov. 3:5–7).

Jesus Christ, the Wisdom of God

In Jesus Christ, we see the perfect revelation of God the Father: His character, will, and purposes. Scripture declares that Christ is "the power of God, and the wisdom of God" (1 Cor. 1:24). Jesus Himself said, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9).

Wisdom is an eternal attribute of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus, as the eternal Son of

God who became man, perfectly reveals the Father's wisdom through His earthly life. Through His complete obedience to the Father's will, we see divine wisdom expressed in a human life through His compassion, righteousness, and discernment.

Jesus demonstrates what it means to walk in the fear of the Lord, honoring, trusting, and obeying the Father in all things (Isa. 11:2–3). He does not merely teach wisdom; He is the wisdom of God revealed. Through His life, we see that true wisdom begins with knowing, reverencing, and obeying God.

Transformation

As children, when we behold God and walk with Him in relationship, we are transformed by the renewing of our minds (Rom. 12:2; 2 Pet. 1:4).

> *"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." (2 Corinthians 3:18)*

Transformation involves an inward change that increasingly produces corresponding outward behavior. A person can learn biblical principles and attempt to practice them without deeply knowing the God whose character those principles reveal. As dearly beloved children of God, we go beyond imitating the One we behold; through sincere fellowship with Him, the Holy Spirit also transforms us (Eph. 5:1).

Our final expression as believers does not mean that we become God, possess His infinite attributes, or share His uncreated essence. Instead, as we behold Christ, receive His Word, and respond to the Holy Spirit, our thoughts, desires, judgments, and conduct are increasingly shaped by His character.

Wisdom is more than something we consult. Wisdom is learning God's heart and ways and living in a way that demonstrates the moral likeness that God graciously communicates. Always, our source remains God.

A child who only knows the rules of the household may obey them. A mature son or daughter has come to know the father's heart and begins to understand the values, purposes, and character behind those instructions. The goal is maturity in the relationship.

Spiritual maturity is not becoming less dependent upon God. It is growing in intimate knowledge of Him, being transformed by His Spirit, learning to reflect His heart, obeying His will, and discerning what is good and true, all while remaining dependent upon Him. We are not the source of wisdom; we are called to bear faithful witness to that Source, who is God.

Wisdom Is Given to God's Children

The treasures of wisdom are found in Christ, "in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Col. 2:3). Believers are instructed to seek wisdom from God: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (James 1:5).

Our relationship with God provides access to His wisdom, but this does not mean we automatically exercise wisdom in every circumstance. We grow in wisdom as we come to know His character, understand His will, and walk in obedience. Wisdom is an eternal attribute of the Triune God, who alone is its source. In Christ, the eternal Son, divine wisdom is perfectly revealed, and through the Holy Spirit, believers are enabled to understand and walk in the things of God (1 Cor. 2:12–13; Eph. 1:17).

Wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord. This truth takes us back to Genesis, where we see that God, our Creator, is the source of all life, truth, and wisdom. Just as Adam was entirely dependent upon God to reveal who he was and why he existed, we too must place our faith, hope, and reverence in the One who created us. He alone is the source of truth by which we understand our existence and purpose.

Yet God's purpose extends beyond our creation. Before the foundation of the world, He loved us and purposed in Christ to bring us into His family as sons and daughters (Eph. 1:4–5). His desire is that we grow into spiritual maturity, becoming increasingly conformed to the image of His Son, Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:29).

Therefore, the beginning of wisdom is recognizing God as our Creator and the source of all truth, while growing in wisdom means coming to know His heart, understanding His ways, and becoming more like Christ.

Debra Ortiz, MTh
CMM Ordained Minister · Theology Instructor, CMM College of Theology



About Debra Ortiz, MTh
Debra Ortiz is a CMM Ordained Minister and a published author who teaches in the MMin and MTh programs at CMM College of Theology. A dynamic teacher and student of the Bible for over 40 years, she has served in various leadership roles, including pastoral staff and Women's Pastor.

The Role of Holy Spirit in a Changing World



By Dr. Tom Burns
CMM Prophetic Team Leader and Trainer · Graduate, CMM College of Theology

Scripture quotations from the NKJV.

The world is changing so quickly that it can be difficult to keep up. Technologies that seemed impossible a few years ago are becoming part of everyday life. Economic uncertainty affects families and ministries alike. Long-established cultural norms are being challenged and redefined. At the same time, many of our brothers and sisters around the world are facing war, persecution, floods, earthquakes, and the struggle to simply provide food and shelter for their families.

Isaiah 60 begins with the call to "Arise, shine," declaring that the glory of the Lord has risen upon His people. It goes on to describe darkness covering the earth and deep darkness covering the people. Yet in the midst of that darkness, God's glory shines forth. I believe this passage carries an important message for the Church today. As darkness increases around us, are we going to arise and shine God's light and glory into the world?

Paul reminds us in Ephesians 6:12 that our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual powers. That is especially important when public debate becomes angry and divisive. It is easy to identify a politician, a movement, a government, or a group of people as the enemy. Yet people are the very ones Jesus calls us to love and reach.

There is a place for responsible civic participation, including speaking out against injustice. But protests, petitions, political influence, and human arguments cannot replace the spiritual weapons God has given His Church. Second Corinthians 10:3–4 reminds us that although we live in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh. Our weapons are mighty in God.

How should the Church respond? We can spend our time reacting to each new development, or we can seek the One who sees beyond what is happening today. I believe this is a season when we need to pay renewed attention to the manifestations of Holy Spirit—not as spiritual experiences to collect, but as tools that God has given us to help His people find their way forward.

When God called Moses, He started by asking, "What is that in your hand?" (Exodus 4:2). He began with something Moses already possessed. Perhaps we should ask ourselves the same question. What has God entrusted to us—spiritual gifts, relationships, resources, experience, or opportunities—that He wants to use for the good of others?

> *We need both spiritual insight and the wisdom to act on it.*

Paul makes an often-overlooked statement in 1 Corinthians 12:7: "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all"

(NKJV). Notice those last words: for the profit of all. The manifestations of Holy Spirit are not primarily about the person through whom they operate. They are given to benefit others.

When Holy Spirit gives us something that can strengthen the Body of Christ, we have a responsibility to steward it faithfully. That does not mean speaking every impression immediately or claiming certainty where we have only a partial understanding. It means learning to recognize His voice, testing what we believe we have received, and serving others with humility and courage.

First Chronicles 12:32 describes the sons of Issachar as men who understood the times and knew what Israel ought to do. Those two abilities belong together. Understanding the times matters, but that understanding alone is not enough. We also need God's wisdom on how to respond.

Consider Joseph in Genesis 41. Pharaoh had received troubling dreams. God enabled Joseph to interpret them, explaining that seven years of abundance would be followed by seven years of famine. But Joseph did not stop with the interpretation. He recommended appointing wise leadership and storing food during the plentiful years. Revelation led to interpretation, and interpretation led to application—a practical plan that preserved lives.

Revelation led to interpretation, and interpretation led to application.

When training people in prophetic ministry, it is common to distinguish three parts of a word: revelation, interpretation, and application. Revelation is what we believe Holy Spirit has shown or spoken. Interpretation is what it means. Application is what we should do in response. In prophetic ministry training, we generally focus on revelation and interpretation, leaving the application to the person receiving the prophetic word.

In a training environment, there are good reasons to be cautious about telling someone what to do. People must learn to hear God for themselves, and no one should use a prophetic word to control another person. But mature prophetic ministry cannot be content merely to announce that change is coming. We should also be asking Holy Spirit how His people can prepare and respond.

That is the kind of Spirit-led ministry we need today. A warning without a wise response can leave people frightened or confused. A hopeful word without a practical response may leave them inspired for a moment but unchanged. We need both spiritual insight and the wisdom to act on it.

Elisha gives us another picture of Holy Spirit in action. In 2 Kings 6, he warned Israel's king about the movements of the Syrian army. His warnings were so accurate and effective that the Syrian king accused his advisors of betraying him to the Israelites. When his advisors explained that Elisha knew even what the king said in his bedchamber, the Syrian king ordered his army to capture him. The next day, when Elisha's servant awoke, he realized they were surrounded by the enemy army, and he was terrified. But Elisha remained calm. When Elisha prayed that the servant's eyes would be opened, the young man saw the mountain filled with horses and chariots of fire. The circumstances had not yet changed, but his understanding of them had. He could see what Elisha already knew; the visible threat

was not the whole story.

> *The circumstances had not yet changed, but his understanding of them had.*

We need that perspective. What we can see with our natural eyes is real, but it is not all there is.

Receiving revelation, understanding its meaning, and recognizing how to respond are important. But there is another essential step: we must be willing to speak what God is showing us.

In Ezekiel 37, God brought Ezekiel into a valley full of dry bones and asked whether they could live. Ezekiel did not pretend to know the answer. He said, "O Lord GOD, You know." Then he spoke as God commanded. What looked hopeless became a picture of restoration and life. But nothing happened until the prophet spoke. The bones did not come together, the sinews and flesh did not appear, the skin did not cover them, and the breath did not enter them until the prophet spoke.

There are plenty of situations around us that look like valleys of dry bones. Some congregations are exhausted. Families are overwhelmed. Communities have been devastated by disaster or conflict. Others have simply lost hope that things can change. This is not the time for the Church to retreat into fear or become consumed with the latest controversy. It is time to hear what Holy Spirit is saying and faithfully, boldly speak and act as He directs.

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 14:3 that prophecy speaks to people for edification, exhortation, and comfort. Those are not abstract religious words. People need strength to continue, encouragement to take the next step, and comfort when life has become painful. A timely word may do that. So may a practical act of generosity, a courageous decision, or a ministry partnership formed in response to God's leading.

Scripture tells us that we know in part and prophesy in part (1 Corinthians 13:9). That should make us careful about declaring every impression to be a complete message from God. Throughout Proverbs, we are repeatedly encouraged to seek wise counsel. We need Scripture, prayer, wise counsel, and fellow believers who can help us weigh what we have received. Team ministry is not a sign of weak faith. It is often an expression of wisdom.

> *Team ministry is not a sign of weak faith. It is often an expression of wisdom.*

The world will continue to change. We do not have to understand every development or predict every outcome. But we do need to remain close to Holy Spirit, grow in discernment, and be willing to respond when He speaks. The manifestations of the Spirit are given for the profit of all. Let us seek understanding, receive His wisdom, and put what He shows us into practice—so that the saints are strengthened and God's light shines through His Church into a darkened world.

"Arise, shine;
For your light has come!
And the glory of the LORD
is risen upon you."

ISAIAH 60:1 (NKJV)



Dr. Tom Burns

About Dr. Tom Burns

Dr. Tom Burns brings together a unique blend of technical expertise, ministry experience, and a lifelong passion for helping people discover a deeper relationship with God. His journey spans more than five decades in the information technology industry and more than forty years of ministry, teaching, and prophetic service. A graduate of CMM College of Theology, he serves CMM as a prophetic team leader and trainer, and as Web & Technology Director, overseeing CMM.world and CMMTheology.org.

Tom is actively involved in serving Russian-speaking churches throughout Kazakhstan, Russia, and Central Asia, where he ministers via the Internet multiple times each month. He has also taught and ministered online to established and emerging Christian leaders in India, French-speaking North Africa, and French-speaking nations in Europe. As an international teacher and conference speaker, he is known for his practical, accessible approach to teaching on prophetic ministry, spiritual growth, and life with Holy Spirit.

Drawing from both his professional and ministry backgrounds, Tom has a unique ability to communicate complex subjects in ways that are understandable and relevant to everyday life. His teaching emphasizes developing an authentic relationship with God, hearing the voice of Holy Spirit, growing in spiritual maturity, and living a life that reflects the character and presence of Christ.



CMM College of Theology 2026 Graduation, USA.

CMM College of Theology

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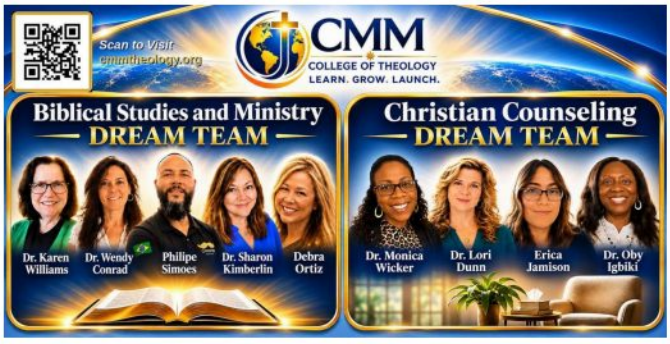
John 1 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Jesus is the manifestation of the Word and we have the opportunity to be the manifestation of Yeshua and that fragrant offering as we do and say what we hear the Father doing and saying as Jesus did. We are disciples of Christ!

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Accredited by QAHE, AICCS, and AAHEA

CMM College of Theology Global is a body of schools committed to radical faith and scholarship, addressing the culture of the day, networking together to serve the Church in preparing God's people to equip the saints, building the Kingdom for the mission of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 4:11–16)

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Dr. Praphan Nawrat, Director of our Thai School, with two of his graduates, who all traveled from Thailand to attend the flagship school's graduation. This year we had the largest graduation class ever in 20 years. Many from overseas were unable to attend. We also had the largest number of CMM Ordainees.

Plan now to attend the May 14–15, 2027 Graduation in Wilkesboro, NC.

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In 2026 we are blessed to open eleven new satellite schools teaching our Strong Foundations Diploma course in local dialects. These schools are in Asia and Africa, some in dangerous closed nations. Pray for protection and much eternal fruit to remain for these new schools.



Dr. Karen Williams, USA Academic Dean, DMin, CPhD.



2026 Graduation ceremony.

A New Thing: When the Waters Rise and God Calls Us to Rest

By Dr. Lori Dunn, DCC, MA

Graduate, CMM College of Theology · Instructor, Doctoral Program in Christian Counseling
CMM Ordained Minister



Isaiah 43:19 quoted from the ESV.

There is a sound in the Spirit that I believe many are beginning to recognize. It is the sound of a rallying cry—not necessarily a call to war, but an invitation to those who have endured seasons of extraordinary hardship, loss, and transformation. Many have given everything: relationships, marriages, careers, finances, dreams, and even the identities they once held. What once seemed secure has shifted, and what once appeared to be coming together has been interrupted.

Yet, perhaps what looked like an ending was preparation.

I hear the drums beating as a war call to the new season. Not a call to return to everything we once knew, but an invitation to recognize what God has been forming in the hidden places. Some people have spent years in a process they did not fully understand. They have experienced the stripping away of what could not accompany them into the next season. They have been hidden, refined, and brought into a deeper dependence on the Lord. A new relationship with the Father has brought them to a higher level of faith. Many have experienced a pause in their building, a separation from former partnerships, and a silence that seemed to contradict everything they believed God had spoken.

For some, hope has been deferred. The building stopped just before completion. It seemed the Father was saying, "Let it go—all of it." Years spent in relationships once destined for kingdom partnership dissolved. People expected to walk alongside them chose another path. Loneliness and isolation became unexpected companions. Yet amid uncertainty, a quiet prompting remained, unshakable: God is doing something new. Can you see it?

Could it be that we have been looking at the interruption instead of recognizing the preparation?

THE BLUEPRINT OF A NEW THING

Throughout Scripture, we see moments when God invited His people into something they could not fully comprehend. Noah was one such example. When the Lord instructed him to build an ark, He gave specific instructions for something never seen before. Noah was given a blueprint that did not make sense to those around him, yet he continued to build as God had spoken.

After the flood, God established a covenant with Noah and every living creature, promising that the waters would never again destroy all life on the earth (Genesis 9:11). He then instructed Noah and his family to be fruitful and multiply. The flood marked the end of one season and the beginning of another. I believe this account is especially significant for the season we are in. The invitation isn't to recreate what was built before or prepare for another version of the same experience. Rather, it is to recognize that God may be inviting us to embrace a new perspective, a new assignment, and a new way of building. It requires a new faith and a deeper relationship with Him.

Many have been speaking about rising waters, increasing tides, and waves. I believe these images should prompt us to seek the Lord rather than

respond from fear. The question is not simply how we prepare for what may be coming, but whether we are listening for what He is saying. Isaiah 43:19 declares, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert" (ESV). The question within this passage is especially important: Do you perceive it? We can become so familiar with the way God moved in a previous season that we fail to recognize when He is doing something differently. It may require us to release familiar structures, reconsider our construct, and allow God to reshape our understanding of what fruitfulness looks like.

The waters may rise. The landscape may change. The familiar may fall away. But we are not without direction, and we are not without hope.

This is a time to listen, a time to rest, and a time to recognize the new thing God is doing. The next season will require us to know His voice, trust His heart, and follow His instructions—even when the blueprint looks different from anything we have built before.

The question is no longer simply, "What are we building?"

It is, "Are we listening to the One who is calling us to build?"

WHEN THE WATERS RISE, REMEMBER WHO IS WITH YOU

Isaiah 43 does not simply speak of new beginnings. It also reveals the character of the One who leads us into them. In Isaiah 43:1–2, the Lord reminds His people that He has called them by name and that they belong to Him. He promises that when they pass through the waters, He will be with them, and when they walk through the rivers, they will not be overwhelmed.

Notice that the promise is not that there will never be waters to cross. The promise is that we will not cross them alone. There is a profound difference between preparing from fear and preparing from relationship. Fear causes us to grasp for control, build protective walls, and depend on what we can see. Relationship invites us to listen, trust, and follow the One who already knows the way through.

For those who have spent years in the hidden place, this may be an invitation to recognize that the season of stillness was not necessarily wasted. God can use quiet seasons to deepen our roots, establish our identity, and prepare us for responsibilities we could not have carried before. Our identity is not found in the storm, the loss, or the interruption. It is found in the One who calls us by name. New levels of healing are available to deepen your identity in the Father. He is gently pressing on these areas to bring about a new inner strength and authority.

"The promise is not that there will never be waters to cross. The promise is that we will not cross them alone."

THE HIDDEN SEASON: A TIME FOR THE NOAHS

Some people have spent years carrying something they could not adequately explain to those around them. Like Noah, they received instructions that seemed incomprehensible to others. Some have experienced the painful reality of watching relationships dissolve as their assignments changed. Others have endured the disappointment of buildings, ministries, or dreams that appeared almost complete before everything came to a halt.

The pause button was pressed.

In the quiet, the Lord began to expose what could not be carried forward. Perhaps the greatest challenge of a hidden season is resisting the urge to measure our value by what we are producing. We can become so accustomed to doing, building, leading, and serving that stillness feels like failure. Yet in some seasons, the most important work happens beneath the surface.

A seed does not become fruitful because it is constantly being moved. There are seasons when it must remain in the soil, developing roots before anything becomes visible. For the Noahs of this

generation, the invitation is not simply to build another ark. It is to recognize the voice of the Lord, discern the instructions for the season, and resist the pressure to explain every step to those who cannot yet see what you see.

The Lord who called Noah provided the blueprint. The Lord who spoke through Isaiah promised to make a way in the wilderness. The Jesus who invites the weary to come to Him still offers rest. Perhaps the rallying cry we are hearing is not simply a call to do more, build more, or fight harder. It is a call to become more deeply rooted in the One who holds our future.

MORE THAN CONQUERORS: THE POWER OF LOVE

Romans 8 reminds us that we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. Yet the greater truth of Romans 8 is that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. This love is what will fuel the coming season and bring glory to God. In the rest, there is a release to greater capacity to love others with more compassion.

Our calling is not simply to conquer circumstances. It is to remain rooted in His love and allow that love to work through us. Jesus made the greatest commandment clear: We are to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:37–39).

This is the foundation of kingdom living.

When we become consumed with defending our assignments, proving our worth, or striving to establish what we believe God has spoken, we can lose sight of what we were created to demonstrate: His love. The question to ask yourself is whether you are bringing glory to yourself, your adversary, or God. The power of love is greater than the need to prove ourselves. It allows us to remain steady when others misunderstand, to release what no longer belongs in our hands, and to continue loving without compromising the truth.

Yet Jesus does not invite us into passivity. He invites us into a different way of carrying responsibility. His yoke is easy, and His burden is light. This does not mean that the assignment will always be simple or that difficulties will disappear. It means we are not required to carry what belongs to Him.

Perhaps the blueprint for the next season begins here: learning to rest before we build, listening before we move, and trusting before we understand.

RECOGNIZING THE NEW SEASON: A CALL TO DWELL, GATHER, AND BUILD

The Father says, "As you come, I will give you the rest during rest."

> *"Learning to rest before we build, listening before we move, and trusting before we understand."*

I believe there is an invitation for those who have been in the hidden place to begin recognizing what has been formed in them. The years of difficulty, the unexpected losses, the relationships that changed, and the dreams that were interrupted do not have to become the defining story of their lives.

There is still purpose. There is still fruitfulness. There is still a call to build, but perhaps the building will look different than it did before. The new season may require a different kind of strength—one rooted in intimacy rather than striving, obedience rather than performance, and love rather than fear.

Do not mistake the pause for the end of your assignment. A greater revelation and deeper faith will be required for the coming seasons. This requires us to know our Father in Heaven, understand His character, and remember our testimony. Revelation 12:11 reminds us that we overcome by the blood of the Lamb, the word of our testimony, and by not loving our lives even unto death.

Our testimonies carry more than memories of what God has done. They show the character of the Father. The word of our testimony can help those who remain bound by sin, insecurity, fear, and doubt recognize God's character and the power of His Word.

But I believe there is another important invitation in this season: **We must learn not only to dwell with God, but also to dwell with one another.**

In the busyness of building, serving, leading, and advancing the Kingdom, it is easy to lose sight of the importance of simply being with Him. Jesus invites us to abide in Him (John 15:4–5). Abiding is more than visiting His presence when we need direction. It is learning to make our home in Him—to cultivate a life of communion, dependence, listening, and trust.

The hidden season was never intended to become a permanent place of isolation. It was an invitation to deepen our roots in the Father so that our lives could produce fruit that remains.

There is a difference between being hidden with God and becoming disconnected from the people He has called us to love. The secret place should cultivate intimacy that overflows into authentic relationship. Throughout Scripture, God's people were called to gather, worship, remember, encourage, and strengthen one another. We were never intended to fulfill God's purposes in isolation. Hurts from past relationships cannot define our future call to gather.

The answer to unhealthy relationships is not permanent isolation. The answer is learning to build relationships differently—with wisdom, discernment, healthy boundaries, humility, and a commitment to love. We need places where we can gather without performing, where we can be known without pretending, where we can share our testimonies without competition, and where we can grow together in the presence of the Lord.

This is the heart of Koinonia: authentic fellowship rooted in our relationship with Christ and expressed through our relationship with one another. It is creating space for genuine connection, shared growth, encouragement, and the kind of relationships that help us become who God created us to be.

We are being invited to build from intimacy, gather from a place of love, and serve from a foundation of security rather than striving. The waters may rise. The landscape may change. The familiar may fall away. But we are not without direction, and we are not without hope.

This is a time to listen, a time to dwell, a time to gather, and a time to recognize the new thing God is doing.

✦

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

ISAIAH 43:19 (ESV)

The Altar of Consecration: The Foundation of Effective Prayer

A Call to a Life of Surrender, Intimacy, and Glory

By Dr. Oby Igbiki
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Faculty, CMM College of Theology

Scripture quotations: AMPC, NIV, and NKJV, as marked.



Foundational Scripture

> *"I appeal to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship."* (Romans 12:1, AMPC)

INTRODUCTION: PRAYER BEGINS WITH CONSECRATION

Prayer requires a life of consecration. Every believer is called to cultivate a lifestyle of prayer. Scripture declares that we ought always to pray and not faint (Luke 18:1). Prayer is not merely a religious activity or something we engage in when we have needs; it is the lifeline of our relationship with God. Just as the body needs oxygen to survive, the believer needs a consistent life of prayer to remain spiritually alive, sensitive, and connected to God.

However, effective prayer begins with more than words. It begins with the condition of the heart and the posture of our lives before God. We cannot separate the ministry of prayer from the life of consecration. The depth of our communion with God is closely connected to the degree to which we have surrendered ourselves to Him.

Romans 12:1–2 establishes this foundation by calling every believer to present their entire being as a living sacrifice—holy, consecrated, and acceptable to God.

Necessity of Consecration

CONSECRATION: OUR REASONABLE ACT OF WORSHIP

Romans 12:1 calls us to make a decisive dedication of our bodies, members, and faculties to God as a living sacrifice. This is described as our reasonable service and spiritual worship.

Consecration means complete surrender. It is the intentional decision to yield every area of our lives to the Lord: our bodies, minds, desires, ambitions, abilities, relationships, time, and resources. It is a life that is no longer governed by personal preferences but submitted to the will and purposes of God.

Paul makes it clear that presenting ourselves as living sacrifices is not an extraordinary spiritual achievement reserved for a select few. It is the reasonable response of every believer to the mercies of God.

This means that worship goes beyond singing songs, lifting our hands, or attending church services. True worship involves offering our entire lives to God. Our daily conduct, decisions, obedience, and devotion become expressions of worship.

A life that is not surrendered to God cannot fully express the worship He desires. Consecration is therefore the foundation upon which our prayer life and service to God must be built.

Romans 12:2 further instructs us not to conform to the patterns of this world but to be transformed through the renewal of our minds. Consecration is not only about what we surrender; it is also about what God transforms within us.

As our minds are renewed by the Word of God, our values, attitudes, desires, and perspectives begin to align with His perfect will. This transformation enables us to discern and walk in what is good, acceptable, and perfect in the sight of God.

We cannot effectively represent the Kingdom of God while remaining conformed to the systems and values of the world. A consecrated life must be continually transformed by the Word.

THE SECRET OF INTIMACY: SEEKING GOD WITH OUR WHOLE BEING

David understood the relationship between consecration, prayer, and intimacy with God.

In Psalm 63:1–2, he declares:

> *"You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory." (Psalm 63:1–2, NIV)*

David's pursuit of God was not superficial. He desired God with his whole being. His greatest longing was not simply to receive something from God but to encounter God Himself.

He understood that the presence of God was the place of satisfaction, strength, and spiritual fulfillment. He longed to behold God's power and glory because he had discovered that nothing could compare with the reality of God's presence.

This is the heart of effective prayer: seeking the Lord for who He is before seeking Him for what He can do.

A believer who desires to experience the glory of God must cultivate a lifestyle of devotion. Time in God's presence should include thanksgiving, praise, worship, meditation on the Word, and prayer.

David understood the power of praise and worship. His devotion created an atmosphere of intimacy in which he could continually acknowledge God's goodness, remember His faithfulness, and experience His sustaining presence.

Our prayer altars must therefore become places of genuine fellowship with God, not merely places where we present requests.

Practical Ways of Praying

BUILDING AN ALTAR OF PRAYER: WHEN OUR PRAYERS ASCEND BEFORE GOD

Prayer is more than speaking words into the atmosphere. Scripture gives us a beautiful picture of the prayers of believers ascending before God's throne.

Revelation 5:8 describes the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders falling before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people.

This reveals the precious place prayer occupies before God. Our prayers are presented before His throne like incense.

In Psalm 141:2, David prays:

> *"May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice." (Psalm 141:2, NIV)*

This imagery teaches us that prayer is a spiritual offering. As we cultivate a life of devotion, obedience, worship, and consecration, we establish an altar of prayer before the Lord.

There is a powerful spiritual picture of our prayers ascending like fire before God. In one prayer encounter, our eyes were opened to see our prayers on chariots of fire. When we inquired of the Lord, the understanding we received was that our prayers were coming before Him like fire.

This experience reminded us of the spiritual significance of prayer and the importance of maintaining a consistent and consecrated prayer altar.

Our desire should be to become a people whose prayers rise before God as a pleasing offering, sustained by lives that are wholly devoted to Him.

APPROACHING GOD THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS

Effective prayer must be grounded in the finished work of Jesus Christ. We do not approach God's presence through our own righteousness, religious activities, or human efforts. We come through the blood of Jesus.

Hebrews 10:19 declares:

> *"Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus." (Hebrews 10:19, NKJV)*

The blood of Jesus has opened the way for us to enter God's presence. Through His sacrifice, we have been given access to the Father.

This access should never make us careless about how we approach Him. Rather, it should inspire reverence, gratitude, repentance, and a continual desire to walk in holiness.

Before engaging in prayer, we can consciously acknowledge the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus and ask the Holy Spirit to search our hearts.

A prayer of preparation may be:

Prayer of Cleansing and Consecration

Father, I come before Your presence and approach Your throne through the precious blood of Jesus Christ. I thank You for the access You have given me through the finished work of the Cross.

I ask that You cleanse me from every unrighteousness. Let the blood of Jesus cleanse my body, soul, and spirit. Search my heart and reveal anything that is not pleasing to You. Purify my thoughts, motives, desires, and intentions.

I surrender myself afresh to You. Let every area of my life be consecrated to Your glory. Holy Spirit, prepare my heart for genuine fellowship with the Father. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Having acknowledged the cleansing work of Christ, we can approach God with confidence, knowing that our access rests in Jesus and His finished work.

THANKSGIVING AND WORSHIP: ENTERING HIS GATES AND COURTS

Psalm 100 gives us a pattern for approaching God:

> *"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name." (Psalm 100:4, NIV)*

Thanksgiving shifts our attention from our circumstances to the faithfulness of God. It reminds us of His goodness, mercy, provision, and unfailing love.

Worship takes us deeper. It is the response of a heart that recognizes God's greatness and desires to honor Him.

There is a dimension of worship that goes beyond singing familiar songs. It is the surrender of the heart in genuine adoration and reverence before God.

We have experienced moments in prayer when worship seemed to draw us into an overwhelming awareness of God's presence. On one occasion, while praying, we suddenly found ourselves singing before His throne, accompanied by the angels. The harmony was extraordinary, especially because the person singing did not consider themselves gifted in singing.

Such moments remind us that worship is not dependent on human ability or musical excellence. It flows from a heart yielded to God.

The heart of worship is surrender. When we worship in spirit and truth, our attention moves away from ourselves and becomes centered on the Lord.

FASTING: THE SACRIFICIAL DIMENSION OF PRAYER

Fasting is another important expression of consecration. It is a spiritual discipline through which we deliberately set aside food for a period of time to seek God with greater focus and devotion.

Fasting does not manipulate God or purchase answers to prayer. Rather, it helps us humble ourselves, discipline our appetites, and give focused attention to spiritual things.

In Scripture, fasting is often associated with repentance, seeking divine direction, spiritual preparation, and intercession.

Isaiah 58 reveals that the fast God desires must be accompanied by righteousness, compassion, justice, and obedience.

Fasting must therefore be more than abstaining from food. It should be accompanied by prayer, meditation on the Word, worship, and a heart that is surrendered to God's purposes.

A consecrated life embraces fasting not as a religious performance but as an expression of hunger for God.

THE ULTIMATE DESIRE: TO BEHOLD HIS GLORY

David's prayer in Psalm 63 captures the heart of a consecrated believer. His desire was to know God

more deeply, behold His power, experience His glory, and remain satisfied in His presence.

Psalm 63:3–8 declares:

> *"Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. I cling to you; your right hand upholds me."* (Psalm 63:3–8, NIV)

David's devotion was not limited to a particular place or moment. He remembered God during the night, praised Him throughout his life, and continually held on to Him.

This is the lifestyle God desires for His people: a life in which prayer is not an occasional activity but a continual expression of our relationship with Him.

We must become believers who carry the presence of God into our homes, families, workplaces, communities, and territories.

The glory we encounter in His presence must be reflected in the way we live, serve, love, and fulfill our Kingdom assignments.

CONCLUSION: BECOME A LIVING ALTAR

Prayer is not simply an activity we perform; it is a lifestyle that flows from a consecrated heart.

Before God can use us effectively in the place of intercession, we must first become people who are surrendered to Him. Our bodies must be living sacrifices, our minds must be renewed by His Word, and our hearts must be continually drawn toward His presence.

We must move beyond superficial Christianity and cultivate a life of genuine intimacy with God.

Let our homes become altars of prayer. Let our families become places of worship. Let our churches become houses of prayer. Let our personal devotion rise before God as incense.

May we never become satisfied with religious activity without intimacy, prayer without consecration, or service without surrender.

The call is to become a living sacrifice, a people of prayer, and carriers of His glory.

May our lives continually ascend before the Lord as a fragrant offering, and may we be transformed from glory to glory as we behold Him.

2 Corinthians 3:18 remains our promise: As we behold the glory of the Lord, we are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory.

REFLECTION AND PERSONAL PRAYER

1. Is my prayer life built on a foundation of complete surrender to God?
2. Have I become more committed to religious activities than to genuine intimacy with the Father?
3. Am I consistently making time for the Word, worship, thanksgiving, and prayer?
4. What areas of my life still need to be placed on the altar of consecration?
5. Am I growing in spiritual sensitivity and becoming a carrier of God's glory?

Personal Declaration

Father, I present myself to You as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable in Your sight. I surrender my body, soul, spirit, thoughts, desires, abilities, and ambitions to You. Let my life become an altar of continual worship and prayer.

Deliver me from superficial Christianity and every form of spiritual complacency. Give me a deeper hunger for Your presence. Teach me to pray, worship, fast, and live in obedience to Your Word.

Let my prayer altar never go out. Let my life continually ascend before You as incense. As I behold Your glory, transform me from glory to glory. Make me a vessel through whom Your Kingdom is advanced and Your glory is revealed on the earth.

In Jesus' mighty name. Amen.

Dr. Oby Igbiki
Faculty, CMM College of Theology

Discipleship & Evangelism

Training the Trainers · Building People



Sidney Correll's (CMM Founder) vision for CMM was to encourage nationals in their own nations. They know the language and culture and don't have to come home on furlough.

The Lord strategically positioned CMM with trusted friends and 'boots on the ground' behind enemy lines. Our faithful CMM Partners recognize the excellent soil sowing into our established friends and serve where needed.

Spiritual and prayer covering, along with intercession among this tribe, are essential for our thriving in the days ahead, not merely surviving, but truly and eternally seeing transformed lives in ourselves and each other. We have many teachers but not many fathers. Many of our missionaries and ministers tell us they have never felt the Father's heart as they do in CMM. That is not us; it is Him, all by His grace and mercy alone. CMM ordains many globally, and our leadership team prays daily and makes time available to serve those ordained in our CMM Oasis Family in many nations. We continue to plant and build new churches worldwide. CMM's vast network is a relational global local church.

Discipleship requires love, time, and giving selflessly to equip the Saints. Ephesians 4:11-14 addresses the importance of building people before the buildings. Discipleship is often spoken of, yet should never become just a cliché. The Holy Spirit shows us His love through relational revelation, which is the 'why' of 'knowing those who labor among you.'

Our evangelistic global family network of missionaries, ministers, students, and alumni witness daily. Our prayer is for souls to come to know Jesus as Lord to 'see everyone complete in Christ.' If discipleship is essential to our Lord, it is necessary for us.

> *"Go then and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." (Matthew 28:19)*

CMM agrees fully with the Apostle Paul and desires 'to see everyone complete in Christ.' Each person is unique and 'fearfully and wonderfully made.' CMM helps people discover their supernatural identity in Christ and walk in the fullness of His joy.

Our leadership team understands the importance of wise stewardship and accountability with all resources entrusted by our donors as our sacred covenant to see their gifts reach the intended purpose and recipient or project. Whether supporting pastors or building new churches, we recognize this sacred covenant of trust our donors place in us and give glory to the Lord for continuing the legacy of Sidney and Helen Correll, CMM founders.

CMM MINISTERS AND MISSIONARY SERVICES

Missionary services: Most of CMM's Ministers and Missionaries come by referrals from other long-term, known and trustworthy leaders. CMM invites missionaries to apply to join CMM as a minister. We have hundreds of ministers globally who are a part of our network. Because CMM has been a 501(c)(3) since 1978, we have many long-term members and newer ones who connect for prayer and spiritual covering, help raising funds, donor relations, monthly support, emergency and disaster funding, widows/orphans, special projects, etc. Our policy allows each minister or ministry to have their own ministry or organizational name. This tapestry of followers of Jesus allows freedom to thrive and walk in each of their unique supernatural identities in Christ. 'He who the Son sets free is free indeed!'

CMM OASIS OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

We have high standards to ordain men and women with proven, humble leadership, ministry 'fruit that remains', maturity, solid references and verifiable experience. Our ordained ministers are pastors,

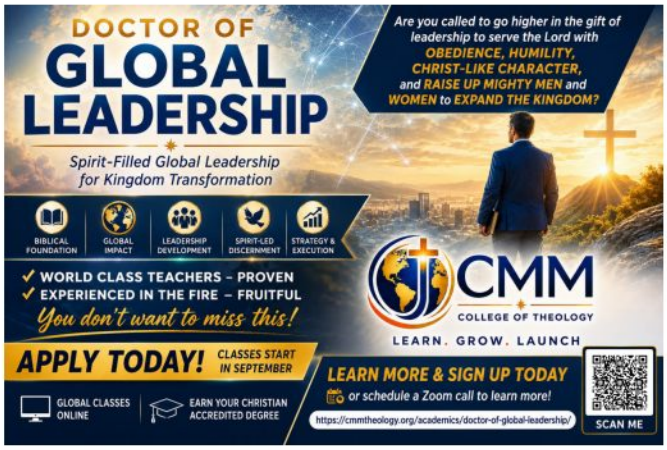
shepherds, and church leaders, ministry or business leaders. Relationships are vital. Jesus is our Oasis. The CMM Oasis members serve the Lord on assignment on the frontlines of His Vineyard in their region to obey the call of God on their lives and families. The Oasis offers a fresh and trusted, safe atmosphere for transparent, sweet fellowship with fellow pastors and apostolic leaders to encourage and strengthen each other through the trials and joys of ministry.

We often meet online and offer unique social media groups to stay in touch and share prayer requests, testimonies, and revelations. We encourage cross-pollination and friends helping friends worldwide for the glory of our Lord. We have over 140 ordained ministers in the US, Canada, and Latin America, with 800 plus globally in your CMM Global Family, all serving and loving the Lord first and each other, just as Jesus commanded. CMM offers ordination by laying on hands, prayers, and prophetic words. Psalm 133.





We are family and welcome you to join us as we celebrate each other, working in our assigned roles as parts of the global body with Christ as the Head, always. Accept YOUR invitation to join the CMM Global Family today!



The Church at Ephesus

A Model for the Ekklesia

By Dr. Katharine Reddekopp, DMin
Graduate, CMM College of Theology



Drs. Katharine and Jacob Reddekopp

Scripture quotations as given by the author.

Introduction

The church, the Ekklesia which the Lord Jesus is building, is built on the knowledge of Him and the relationship that each individual member has with Him. Ephesians 2:20–22 describes the church as "having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit."

Where worship under Old Covenant was built on laws and ordinances, the church under the New Covenant is an organic, "growing" entity, a living temple destined to become a dwelling of God. Scripture gives us very little information or direction of how exactly we are to "do church", or what is supposed to happen when we gather. There is immense variety in what happens during worship meetings every Sunday morning, each gathering reflecting the language and culture of the worshipers. And the Spirit of the Lord moves through all of it, building His church.

When we comb through scripture, looking for a format for the church, we find one that the Lord lifts up as an example for the other gatherings – the Church at Ephesus. Among the seven churches addressed in Revelation 2 and 3, this church is first, being a lamp stand in a particular place. We are not given specific instructions but rather a vision of the ultimate church which Jesus is building, some understanding of the building blocks, and the mortar which holds it all together.

Background

The seaport city of Ephesus had the extraordinary distinction of being one of the western termini of the ancient Silk Road. As such, it served as a center for trade for the great adventurers and traders of the ancient world, along with their slaves. At some point, prior to the arrival of the Apostles Paul and John, a piece of space debris had fallen from the sky, somewhere in the region. This odd shaped rock seemed to resemble a woman with many breasts and was promptly named after a fertility goddess of even greater antiquity – the goddess Artemis, or Diana to the Romans.

The incredibly diverse city of Ephesus included Greeks, Romans, Egyptians, and people of Gallic descent. All had their variations of idol worship and each was quite willing to attach the local goddess to their collection. After all, one must pay tribute to her before entering the vast marketplace. Without this, one could not buy, sell, or trade in the great market at Ephesus. There was also a community of the Jewish diaspora. They must have found their way around the local idol worship.

When Paul reached Ephesus sometime during his third missionary journey, he must have been delighted to find a small group of believers already gathered. Acts 19 tells us that about twelve men who had been taught by Apollos had received the baptism of John, that is for repentance. When Paul baptized them into the Lord Jesus Christ, they received the Holy Spirit and began to prophesy. The Lord gave him an almost-ready-made team. He was able to reason in the synagogue for three months, leading some to Christ and, as usually happened, offending the rest. The group of believers followed Paul to the Greek school of Tyrannus. For nearly three years, Paul and his team taught and reasoned with the multicultural population of Ephesus and the surrounding area. He was able to spend more time there than in any other location on his missionary journeys. This no doubt contributed to the quality and strength of the Ephesian church.

The church at Ephesus was comprised of Jews and Gentiles, men and women, slaves and masters, and they were known for their love. The agape love of God had replaced the Eros love of Artemis worship in the hearts of true, mature believers.

Paul's Prayer

In his apostolic prayer for the Ephesians, he mentions first that he has heard of the "faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among [them]". According to the blueprint, this faith is the very foundation of the church. It is the "foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus being the corner stone" (Ephesians 2:20). This faith displaced countless false gods and goddesses brought in by the many people groups who passed through, and some who settled, in the area. The substance of the foundation is made of true faith in Jesus.

Paul continues the prayer, stating that he has heard of their "love for all the saints" (Ephesians 1:15). This love was extraordinary in that it existed in a gathering of extremely diverse cultures. Those who were local to Ephesus and those who came from far away but settled in the area, found a cohesive community. In Christ, through their common faith in Him, by the bonds of love, they became one new household. The church was made up of those "who were far away, and... those who were near". Paul reiterated that all have their access "in one Spirit to the Father." The barrier between Jew and Gentile, local and settler is broken down in this statement "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household..." (Ephesians 2:19) The pillars and lintels of the Ekklesia are made of love.

In praising the Lord Jesus Christ, Paul does not fail to magnify the Father; this is a stark contrast to the "mother worship" of the false goddess Artemis. Paul makes his request through the "God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory." (Ephesians 1:17) He asks that they may be given "the spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him." (Ephesians 1:17) Wisdom is the door, revelation makes up the windows and, those that know Him are the very building blocks of the church that God is building. They are "living stones", ever increasing, ever changing from glory to glory, as they grow in the knowledge of Him.

In verse 18, Paul prays that the eyes of their hearts may be enlightened. This enlightening would result in hope, in riches of glory, in inheritance and in great power, strength and might, all in Christ. This was absolutely necessary for the Ephesian church, in that their physical reality was very different, almost opposite. It was easy to lose hope when one lost access to the market for refusing to pay tribute to Artemis. She had her own "tree of life" where a devotee could leave requests for spiritual help. This was the inheritance of her worshipers. Wealth and glory were tied to the selling of idols. The temple devoted to her worship was four times the size of the Greek Parthenon, carved out of giant marble pillars. The early Ephesian church must have felt weak and scared in her shadow. In a letter given to John on the Isle of Patmos, Jesus would promise the over-comers of Ephesus that He would grant them, "to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God." (Revelation 2:7)

In his prayer, Paul pleads that their eyes would be opened to the spiritual reality that the glory, power and strength in Christ far out-weighed anything that Artemis had to offer. History tells us that the church would continue to grow in glory and strength through all the ages. Meanwhile, the temple of Artemis would be rocked and scattered by a number of earthquakes and finally destroyed during a Goth invasion.

Conclusion

The church at Ephesus stands as a beacon for the church which Jesus has been building throughout the church age. The church of the first age overcame the giant principalities and powers by truth and love. They held fast to the Cornerstone, which is Christ Himself. They embraced the teachings of the apostles and the prophets which anchored them to truth. They grasped eternal life through the knowledge of God. Jesus promised them the true Tree of Life "which is in the Paradise of God". In our day, we face identical challenges, giant hurdles to overcome, and a tremendous need for a unified community. As we come into agreement with the Lord's will and purposes, we will see the false gods fall just as happened for the churches of Asia Minor.

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Be More Balaam's Donkey, Less Balaam

Wisdom Sees What the "Seer" Missed



Made with AI

By Reneé Austin

CMM Ordained Minister · Worshipper, Musician, and Christian Comedian · YouTube: @lionsandhoneyshowreneeaustin

Scripture retold in the author's own words.



Reneé Austin

With all my heart I love donkeys... or burros, if you're from a Spanish-speaking country. You can ask my handsome husband. I ask for my own burro on a regular basis. He regularly tells me no... but I'm a Texan, and the burro discussion is pretty much an Alamo standoff!

The first mention of a burro/donkey in the Bible is Genesis 12:16. The Pharaoh of Egypt gave Abram "male and female donkeys" and other livestock as a trade for Sarai, who was beautiful (Genesis 12:14). Abram knew Pharaoh would want her for his own and kill him to have her. Abram makes Sarai say she's his sister (which wasn't a lie... Sarai was Abram's half-sister wife). OK, I know... ew... but that's how it was done back then. So Abram hands over his supermodel wife Sarai to the Pharaoh to cover his own, as they say in the South, *backside*! Well, the LORD puts the kibosh on Abram's nonsense. He afflicts Pharaoh and his household with great plagues. The LORD must've let Pharaoh in on the lie, because he confronts Abram with, "Why did you tell me she was your sister? Take your

wife, the donkeys, the sheep... everything I gave you, and get outta Egypt!" Off they went, with their once-empty hands now full of servants and livestock, including those cute donkeys, and more blessed than ever before.

The Most Popular Animal Award in the Bible goes to "Team Sheep/Lambs," with sheep and lambs mentioned hundreds of times. But I bet you didn't know that the lesser-mentioned but just-as-cool "Team Burro/Donkeys" are mentioned in the Bible over a hundred times, serving as symbols of divine purpose, service, and humility, appearing in key stories like the one above with Abram all the way to Jesus? I want to focus on the not-as-popular but just-as-cute Team Burro, er, Donkey. And not just any donkey. No. I want to focus on a prophetic donkey who happened to belong to a demonic seer: a seer who ticked off a very powerful person and who gets schooled by his mode of transportation.

This tale in Numbers 22 finds the Moabite king, Balak, terrified of the Israelites, who just left Egypt, wiped out his neighbors the Amorites, took their territory, and are now camped out with tents and lawn chairs in his front yard on the plains of Moab! Israel, guided by God, was in the midst of taking their Promised Land, and King Balak saw all that Israel did to the Amorites and was terrified! He sent a message to Balaam, the "*prophet for hire*": "A people has come out of Egypt. They cover the face of the earth, and they're dwelling opposite of me. Come now, curse this people for me, since they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I will be able to defeat them and drive them from the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed." Tombstone-worthy...

But Balaam is a pagan diviner/sorcerer with a reputation. Balaam's name in Hebrew, Bil'am, means "destroyer" or "swallower," reflecting his two-faced, dangerous character. He was from Pethor near the Euphrates River in Mesopotamia, which today is the area between Aleppo and Carchemish in modern-day Syria and Turkey. He took money to bless or curse people and nations.

King Balak sent Moabite and Midianite elders off to Balaam with the fees for divination. Balaam was a syncretistic diviner for hire and an Aramean haruspex, combining different forms of beliefs or practices for whatever suited the customer. He was trained to practice divination by inspecting the entrails of sacrificed animals, especially the livers of sheep and poultry. Ew... Gross much? (Insert gag face here.) He relied on omens, while at the same time mingling whatever knowledge he had of the LORD, the *one true God*, with pagan practices. Gee, that sounds a lot like our world today, eh?

Now, back then you couldn't just transfer money on PayPal. A king had to send payment via humans with bags of coins on camels or donkeys to whatever city the receiver lived in. The Moabite elders traveled 400 miles to reach Balaam and gave him Balak's cursing request. Balaam tells them to lodge in town for the night, and he'll bring back word to them as the LORD speaks to him. Hold up! Somehow this pagan diviner, this professional curser, is just gonna nonchalantly have a word with the Most High? Well... apparently ol' Balaam knew Who the LORD was, as word spread of the Israelite God.

Maybe it was how He trashed Egypt with 10 plagues? Maybe it was wiping out the Amorites, or through demonic channeling...? Whatever the source, Balaam knew of the LORD, Overseer of those Israelites.

Numbers 22:9 says, "*God came to Balaam*" and asks, "Who are these men with you?" Now let's get this out of the way: anytime God came to man in the Old Testament, it's the LORD. The LORD is Jesus pre-incarnate, meaning in Heaven before He came in a human body to earth approximately 1,492–1,500 years later. He knew the answer to what He was asking Balaam. He's just getting Balaam talking, and boy, does he spill the beans, basically sharing King Balak's letter with the LORD: "Behold, a people has come out of Egypt, and it covers the face of the earth. Now come, curse them for me. Perhaps I will be able to fight against them and drive them out." God doesn't hesitate and replies, "You will not go

with them. You will not curse the people, for they are blessed."

Balaam got up the next morning and told the men, "Sorry, fellas. Take your money and go home. The LORD says I can't go with you." All the men turned around and rode 400 miles back to Balak, telling him, "Balaam refused to come with us." Balak, who doesn't like to be told no, sent a bigger group of princes, more honorable than the first, carrying more incentives for Balaam to take the bait! 400 miles later, they read Balak's note: "Let nothing hinder you from coming, for I will surely do you great honor, and whatever you say to me, I will do. Come curse this people for me." Sounds like Satan tempting Jesus... But Balaam turns them down with, "Though Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I couldn't go beyond the command of the LORD my God to do less or more." (Funny how a full-blown pagan, after one encounter with the LORD, now calls God "the LORD *my* God.") Balaam tells them, "Y'all stay here tonight, so I can know what the LORD will say to me." God told Balaam, "If the men come to call you, rise, go with them; but only say what I tell you."

The next morning Balaam got up, saddled his donkey, and went straight to the princes of Moab. 1. Hello, burro! 2. I missed this for so long: the men never came for Balaam. *He saddled up and went to them!*

Now Big G is angry! The Angel of the LORD (AOL = Jesus before the New Testament) took His stand in Balaam's way as His *adversary*. That's not good. Balaam, the supposed spiritual seer, is blind as a bat because the LORD is standing in the road with a drawn sword in His hand. That burro veered right off the road into the field. Frustrated, Balaam hit *her* to get her back on the road. Then the AOL stood between two vineyards in a narrow path. Again, burro girl sees Him and draws back against the wall, pinning Balaam's foot. He's mad now and hits her again. The AOL goes on ahead to a narrow place, and when our girl sees Him again, she just lies down right where she was. Balaam is furious and hits our burro girl with his staff.

The LORD, who is hilarious, opens our girl's mouth to speak: "What have I done to you that you hit me three times?" Balaam, seemingly unfazed by a talking donkey, says, "Because you made a fool of me. I wish I had a sword... I'd kill you." She responds with, "Am I not the donkey you have ridden all your life long to this day? Have I ever acted like this before?" He said, "No." Then his eyes are opened, and he sees the AOL, large and in charge, with a flaming sword. Balaam falls on his face: "I have sinned." Duh! The LORD sends him off to Balak, where he blesses Israel three times. Good times.

> *"When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is wisdom."*
>
> PROVERBS 11:2, NKJV

Till you read nine chapters later, in Numbers 31:7–8. Balaam has gone Darth Vader to the dark side with the Midianites, and in a battle against Israel he was killed by the sword. In 31:16 it's revealed that Balaam gave demonic advice, causing the people of Israel to act treacherously against the LORD, causing a plague among the congregation.

In closing, Church, Bad Boy Balaam was still discussed in the New Testament 1,500 years later, in 2 Peter 2:15, Jude 1:11, and Revelation 2:14, for how *not* to live. Let's be more like Balaam's donkey, who was way more prophetic than her owner, Balaam.



Beholding Christ, Becoming Like Him

The Call to Christian Maturity

By Dr. Ramses R. Girgis
Adjunct Professor Faculty, CMM College of Theology



Scripture quotations: KJV.

After more than seven decades of following Jesus, I find myself returning to a question that becomes more searching with every passing year: Who am I becoming?

I am grateful for every opportunity to study, teach, write, and serve. Yet beneath these privileges lies a deeper desire: that the life of Jesus would become increasingly visible in my own. I want those who encounter me to experience something of His patience, His kindness, His truth, and His love.

This, I believe, is at the heart of Christian maturity. The Father's purpose reaches into the whole person. He draws us into fellowship with His Son and, through the Holy Spirit, forms us in His likeness. Romans 8:29 describes that purpose as being "conformed to the image of his Son."

For those of us entrusted with ministry, this is both an encouragement and a searching invitation. While we attend to the people and responsibilities placed in our care, we must also remain attentive to the work God desires to accomplish within us.

THE INVITATION TO BEHOLD HIM

Paul gives us a beautiful picture of this transformation:

> *"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."* (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Notice who accomplishes the change: the Spirit of the Lord. Christian maturity grows through our living relationship with Christ. We come to Him, attend to Him, receive His Word, and respond to His grace. As we do, the Holy Spirit works within us.

To behold Christ is to give Him our loving attention. We encounter Him in the Scriptures, where His words and actions reveal His heart. We turn toward Him in prayer, bringing our gratitude, confusion, weakness, and longing. We learn to remain before Him even when there is little to say.

Jesus expressed this relationship in the language of a vine and its branches: "Abide in me, and I in you" (John 15:4). The branch receives its life from the vine. Our fruitfulness likewise depends upon a continuing dependence on Him.

This truth has become increasingly precious to me. There is rest in knowing that I can bring my unfinished life to the One who loves me and knows how to form it.

RECEIVING THE WISDOM OF THE ANCIENT PATHS

Jeremiah records this invitation:

> *"Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls."* (Jeremiah 6:16)

In its original setting, this was a call for God's people to return to faithful obedience. It continues to challenge us to consider the way we are walking.

My own journey has led me to spend time with the spiritual inheritance of the early Church, especially the Desert Fathers. Their witness has encouraged me to take seriously the inner life: our thoughts, desires, reactions, and hidden motives, all brought into the light of Christ.

We read these witnesses with Scripture as our guide. Their lives invite us to consider how the Gospel can be lived with greater attention and faithfulness. Their circumstances were different from ours, but their struggles with pride, anger, distraction, and self-will remain familiar.

The practices they cultivated can serve believers in every setting. Stillness gives us room to attend to God. Prayer teaches us dependence. Repentance opens our hearts to correction and healing. Humility makes us willing to receive help. These practices have value as they help us respond to the Lord who is already drawing us toward Himself.

We can begin where we are. A home, an office, a classroom, or a crowded city can become a place of faithful response to Jesus.

GRACE IN THE ORDINARY DAY

Much of our formation takes place in moments that appear insignificant.

Someone interrupts us when we are busy. A family member misunderstands our intentions. A colleague receives the recognition we had hoped for. Plans change, and we discover how tightly we were holding them.

In these moments, the condition of our hearts becomes visible. We also receive an opportunity to turn toward Christ.

We may pause before answering. We may ask Him for the grace to listen. We may acknowledge that our irritation has more to do with wounded pride than with the other person's actions. A small act of obedience can become a meaningful response to His love.

This is why repentance belongs throughout the Christian life. As we grow closer to the Lord, we become more willing to let Him show us what needs to change. We can confess our failures honestly because we trust His mercy.

An apology, sincerely offered, can express real spiritual growth. So can a grievance released, a harsh word restrained, or an act of kindness performed without seeking recognition.

Over time, such responses become habits. Through the Spirit's patient work, the character of Christ takes deeper root in us.

LOVE MAKES MATURITY VISIBLE

Paul names the fruit of the Spirit as "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance" (Galatians 5:22–23).

These qualities bring our understanding of maturity into everyday life. They shape the atmosphere we create around us. They influence how we lead, how we disagree, and how we respond when we are tired or disappointed.

We can ask ourselves: Are people safe to speak honestly with me? Am I becoming more patient with weakness? Can I receive correction? Do I listen with a desire to understand? Is my love extending to people who cannot repay me?

Such questions are especially valuable for those who teach and lead. Our words carry greater weight when our conduct bears witness to them. The people closest to us encounter our faith in the tone of our voices, the attention we give them, and our willingness to forgive.

Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35).

Love is therefore central to our witness. As Christ forms us, His compassion becomes something others can encounter through our lives.

GROWING TOGETHER FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD

The journey toward maturity is shared. God places us among people who encourage us, challenge us, pray for us, and sometimes reveal weaknesses we would rather overlook.

Within the body of Christ, we learn to receive as well as give. Leaders need friendship, accountability, and prayer. Teachers remain learners. Those who strengthen others also need strengthening.

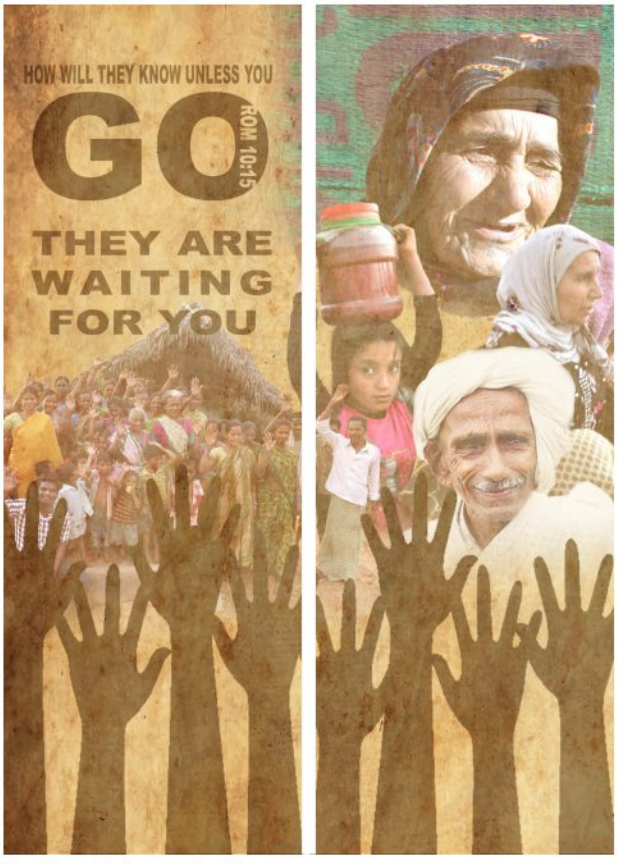
Ephesians 4 connects the ministry of the Church with our growth toward "the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (verse 13). This gives our service a clear purpose: helping people grow into a life increasingly shaped by Him.

That formation prepares us for participation in His work. As we become more attentive to Jesus, we become more attentive to those He loves. Prayer moves us toward compassion. Humility helps us serve across differences. A heart being healed by grace becomes more ready to offer hope.

The world needs believers whose lives make the goodness of Christ visible—in homes, workplaces, communities, and nations.

A FAITHFUL RESPONSE TODAY

Where do we begin?



Graphic credit: Nancy G. Daniel



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Set aside a few quiet minutes with a passage from the Gospels. Consider what it reveals about Jesus. Speak honestly with Him about your life, and ask how you can respond to what you have read.

Then carry that prayer into the day. Listen patiently to someone. Make the apology you have delayed. Offer practical help. Return to the Lord when you become distracted.

At eighty-five, I remain a learner in this school of grace. I am thankful that the Lord continues to invite me closer and to work in the places where I still need His transforming touch.

My prayer for the CMM family is that, amid every assignment and opportunity, we will keep our hearts turned toward Jesus. May we behold Him with growing love, follow Him with willing obedience, and become people through whom others encounter His life.

Lord Jesus, draw us close to You. Form Your character within us, and let Your love become visible in all we do. Amen.

Uncharted Waters

By Dr. Sherry Reese, DMin
Instructor, CMM College of Theology



Photo credit: pexels.com / abdessalem-benyahia-3820058-5663229

Scripture quotations: NKJV.



About a week ago, as I was praying, I heard two distinct things for the days ahead. I heard the phrase "uncharted waters!" Uncharted waters is a nautical term used when entering completely new, unexplored territory where charts and maps are unavailable for navigation. In such instances, seamen could not rely on past experience to guide them. They had to use different tools and measurements to reach safe passage and decipher the information they gathered. Navigating in such circumstances was critical; a mistake could mean running aground and losing the vessel. Only the most experienced seamen were successful.

The same is true for you and me. I believe this warning applies to us on every level: We are entering uncharted waters globally, nationally, but most importantly, in our individual spiritual lives.

As we move into the next season, we do not have the luxury of leaning on past experiences or strategies; they will not serve us now. We need new blueprints. When we take new territory, the temptation is to pick up what has worked before, what we know, what is familiar... but it will not work this time. We cannot remain an old wineskin; we must remain pliable in the Lord's hands and allow Him to stretch us to carry the new.

> *"Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."* (Isaiah 43:18–19)

Although new things always sound exciting, they are also challenging and uncomfortable, because they are unfamiliar and we don't yet know how to walk in them. They require a deeper surrender to the Lord, greater discernment, and a listening ear. To take new territory, we must have a teachable spirit that allows the Lord to shift our old mindsets

to align with His thoughts and ways for the new. Our old thinking was for the old season; we need fresh insight and revelation to walk in the new.

I am reminded of Joshua, who gave the Israelites instructions before crossing the Jordan River. He had the priests go out ahead of the people and instructed them to pace themselves so the ark of God was always in view (Joshua 3:3–4). The ark, being symbolic of God's presence, is our "north star," so to speak. Just as the seamen of old studied the stars to navigate their vessels, you and I must decide now that we will not move unless we see God's presence move. In the days ahead, the Lord will bring victory and kingdom advancement only through what He is breathing on.

The second thing I heard the Lord say for the days ahead was that "we must walk with precision." In the past, we have been guilty of thinking, "Oh well, close enough!" This will no longer do. When we think of precision, we think of the quality or state of being precise, which Merriam-Webster's Dictionary defines as "minutely exact / strictly conforming to a pattern, standard, or convention." God is a God of order and precise action. He is a sharpshooter who never misses the target. In the days ahead, He is calling us to a greater sensitivity



Jorge with Franklin Graham, Reinhard Bonnke, Rick Joyner, Don Potter, Randy Strombeck, and Bart Peacher, October 10, 2012.



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to His leading, to follow closely only where He walks. That means we put our hands only on what He is highlighting, and we also let go of what He is no longer breathing on. This is perhaps the hardest thing to do, because in the past, God has blessed a certain endeavor, and it has borne great fruit, but He is moving in a new way. The days ahead are pivotal, and there is no time for error by holding on to the old things, or the old way of doing things.

My prayer for all of us is that God would increase our sensitivity to His leading and align our feet to walk in tandem with His Spirit. As we do so, we will walk with great precision and spiritual agility, able to navigate and stay the course in the uncharted waters ahead. Our greatest days are ahead!

> *"Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you." (Isaiah 60:1–2)*

Blessings,

Dr. Sherry Reese, DMin
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Building His Garden in the Kingdom

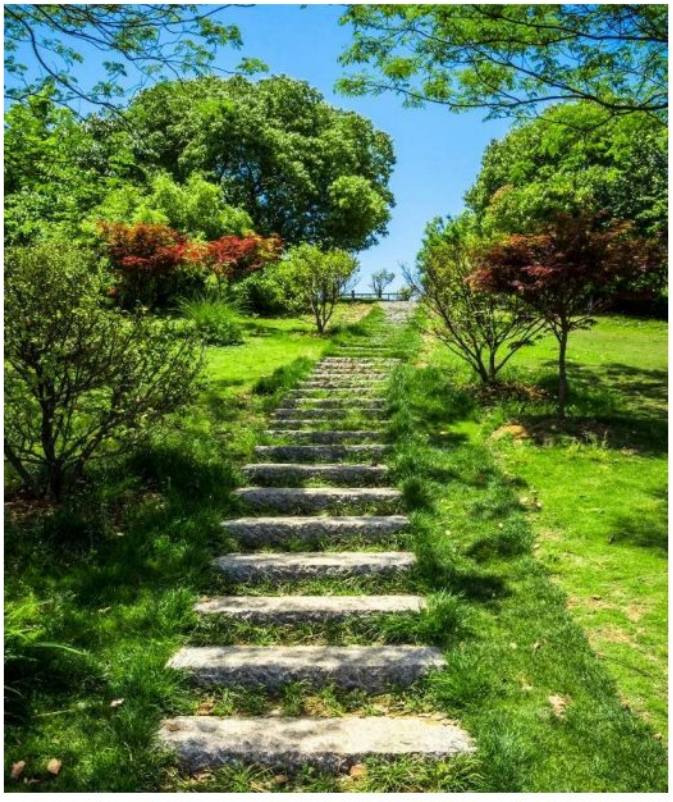
By Ruth Acquaroli
A CMM Fellowship Hub – Sardinia

Scripture quotations: Amplified Bible and NLT, as marked.



Building is a painstaking, demanding process. It involves risk, exertion and unflagging commitment. It requires getting our hands dirty and wiping the sweat from our foreheads. It exposes us to cold, adverse winds and blistering hot days, depending on the season we are in.

The extensive beauty and value of whatever building project we might have undertaken will be revealed only at the very end of the process. And, at times, a silent, subtle disheartening feeling can worm its way into our initial vision of the completed work, before we see it done.



Yet, building has been God's own business since the beginning. One of the attributes of our marvelous Father concerns "building": Hebrews 11 describes Him as an "Architect and Builder" (Hebrews 11:10). Again, in Hebrews 3:4 it is written of Him: "For [of course] every house is built and furnished by someone, but the Builder of all things and the Furnisher [of the entire equipment of all things] is God" (Hebrews 3:4, Amplified Bible).

His whole Kingdom basically revolves around "building": as His sons and daughters, we are called to "build up" others until they reach the full stature of Christ. "Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12, NLT). And just like any other building project, building up people takes time, patience, foresight and utter dedication. Indeed, it's one of the most captivating and rewarding endeavors.

Recently, I started delving into the subject of "building a garden," following a prophetic vision someone vividly received for our fellowship in Sardinia. In the vision, Jesus was asking the prophetic person what he thought about "His Garden in Sardinia." If Jesus was asking such a specific, deeply moving question, I supposed there must be a record of some kind in His Word. What I found just connected all the dots and gave such a beautiful confirmation of His perfect and loving design!

> *"For we are fellow workmen (joint promoters, laborers together) with and for God; you are God's garden and vineyard and field under cultivation, [you are] God's building." (1 Corinthians 3:9, Amplified Bible)*

In this enlightening Scripture, His voice through the apostle Paul connects His garden to His

building. So I came to the conclusion that building His garden is actually an active part of building His Kingdom.

At the very beginning, as recorded in Genesis 2, right after making Adam, God prepared a specific "garden" inside His already luxuriant creation, where man was destined to dwell, grow, expand and exert the dominion entrusted to him by the Father. The uniqueness of this specific place on earth was very intentional and telling. What kind of delightful (Eden) and purposeful garden did the Father have on His mind when He planted it?

Most probably, it included the most gorgeous and diversified variety of flowers and trees for the creation He had made in His Own image, Adam and Eve, to enjoy and benefit from. As we can still see in nature today, there's such a breathtaking assortment of plants, each one with very distinctive characteristics and properties, all destined to a specific use and purpose. And if we are His garden, each one of us, in some way, resembles one of



Our Caribbean island closed nation graduation with 115 graduates loving to worship, go deeper in the Word and Spirit with leaders from 26 denominations.

A beautiful and prosperous garden is designed and built with care and skillful planning. You have to put together those plants that thrive on a specific kind of soil, those that need the same amount of water, those that flourish under the sun and those that grow better under the shadow.

There are flowers that blossom in spring, others that spring up during summertime, some that light up the fall season and others that color the greyness of winter.

Just like with a flower garden, we can tend and build with thoughtfulness the lives of those around us, whether in our natural or spiritual families. And precisely as we do to take care of flowers, plants and trees' healthy growth, we should implement those same principles with people.

People need as well to be stimulated in their growth with a good dose of "fertilizer" in the right season. They also need help to get rid of any unwanted "bugs" that may pester them, harming their healthy development. And, whenever necessary, just like for the plants' leaves, it is helpful to wipe off any "dust" that might have gathered on them, so that His light can be better received and absorbed.

There's such a profound goodness and inherent beauty in everything the Father has prepared and established for us to learn, live and enjoy. Becoming a proficient builder, even in His Garden, I believe is part of our outstanding journey and adventure with Him!

> *"According to the grace (the special endowment for my task) of God bestowed on me, like a skillful architect and master builder I laid [the] foundation, and now another [man] is building upon it. But let each [man] be careful how he builds upon it." (1 Corinthians 3:10, Amplified Bible)*

Ruth Acquaroli
A CMM Fellowship Hub – Sardinia

The Prophetic Role to Restore the Stolen Power

By Dr. David Joy, M.B., B.S., M.Th., Th.D.
Prophetic Revolution Ministries CMM Asia Director Director, CMM College of Theology in a dangerous Asian nation

The views expressed in this article are the author's own.



(A) THE FLYING SCROLL

According to the Cook Political Report, Democrats received 12.9 to 20 million more votes in the 2026 US midterm election than in 2022. Many people today are asking hard questions about the security and integrity of elections. In a free country, citizens have the right to ask those questions and to work for elections everyone can trust. A nation is strengthened by citizens who honor its laws, whether they were born there or lawfully made it their home. When the rule of law is ignored, it is painful to all who truly love their country, and this must be dealt with. The issue is rooted in the spiritual realm and the god of this world, making a purely physical solution a huge challenge. So, this is meant to be dealt with through the ways of heaven in our pre-third-temple days by looking into the spiritual patterns of the pre-second-temple days of the prophet Zechariah (520–518 BC) with the revelatory lenses of the Holy Spirit.

In the fifth chapter of his book, Zechariah the seer recorded that he saw a vision of a flying scroll 30 feet long and 15 feet wide. On one side of the scroll were written curses against thieves (stealers), and on the other side were written curses against those who swear falsely (liars). Stealers and liars together make frauds. God asks Zechariah to deal with the frauds by proclaiming curses against stealers and liars. We know that we are not meant to curse people but to love our enemies. Our battle is not against flesh and blood. That doesn't mean we need to sit down and let the enemy do whatever he wants to steal, kill, and destroy our nation. We are called for more than just saying encouraging words to one another on social media. Political correctness must be thrown out of our houses and chapels to get into the war room of heaven and engage in a real fight. I am not writing this article in a political spirit or for any political party. I am not writing this article in bitterness or offense. I am really drawn by a Spirit-led spiritual encounter to write my heart out as I really feel the weight and urgency of the message. Friends, we are called to prophesy against stealing and lying spirits, not humans. Our battle is in the spiritual realm. When sinners repent, they get delivered. When they don't and stand with the devil, it is up to the Lord for His patience, wisdom, and decision in His time. Again, we are called to prophesy against the stealing and lying spirits in our land.



(B) THE TRANSITIONAL STRIFE

By the way, this article is not just for the United States, but also for any nation as we have the mandate from Christ Jesus to make disciples of nations. We are called to transform the nations. Interestingly, the dimensions of the flying scroll are identical to the dimensions of the portico of Solomon's Temple, which was destroyed nearly 70 years before by the Babylonians (see 1 Kings 6:3). The portico is the transitional place between the outside world and the inside world. I miss the days when we would take shelter from the rain in the portico of a building. I wasn't on the inside, and I wasn't on the outside either. It is the portico that is the transitional place.

There were two monumental bronze pillars that stood at the portico of King Solomon's Temple, and they were named Jachin and Boaz. Detailed in 1 Kings 7:15–22 and 2 Chronicles 3:15–17, these massive pillars did not support the roof of the temple structure; instead, they served as standalone structural monuments flanking the entrance. Jachin means, "He will establish." Boaz means, "In strength." So, those two pillars are the testimony that the Lord will establish (the temple / the kingdom) in strength. The flying scroll of curses against stealers and liars has the exact dimensions of that portico with the testimony of the strength of God in His establishing work. There is a connection there. Now the stealers and liars want to steal away our bronze pillars of testimony. It is always at the transition where battles are the most intense. The enemy knows how to engage in strife at the transition. It is time for us to wake up the mighty man inside of us to engage in strife at the transition for victory (see Joel 3:9). Prophesy to remove the stealing and lying spirits from our land. What will happen next is promising.

Zechariah saw another vision of a woman who is the embodiment of wickedness. That woman was contained in a barrel with a heavy cover made of lead. Then two women soared swiftly with outstretched wings like those of a stork. The woman, Wickedness, was carried to Babylon, where her temple would be built and she would be worshipped. This is the power and beauty of the prophetic ministry. When the saints stand up and engage under the leadership of true apostles and prophets who operate by the leading of the Spirit to fight off stealing and lying, wickedness will be removed from our land. It is time we stand up and unwelcome the woman called Wickedness from our land. Say it:

"Stealing, lying, and wickedness, you are not honored in my city / village / state / country. We resist you right now. The Lord Almighty promises to resist the devil so that he will flee. We reject you from our land. God will send you where you are hosted and honored. We do not host you, nor do we honor you. We lift up Christ Jesus in our land. We invite the glory of God into our land. We offer our land to the Spirit of God to move and operate. In Jesus' name, I make this declaration."

(C) THE TWO BROKEN STAFFS

In the 11th chapter of his book, Zechariah described a scene of the flock rejecting the greatest shepherd, the Lord of hosts. The two shepherd staffs were broken. The first staff's name was "Favor." Favor represents the covenantal relationship between the people and the Lord. The second staff's name was "Union." Union represents the union between the people of Israel and the people of Judah. When people break away from the covenant with the Lord, division in the land follows. We are seeing people openly reject the Lord in our day. They proudly reject God by killing the unborn and mutilating their body parts. They engage in open mockery. For example, the Lord's Supper was mocked in the 2024 Paris Olympics. When people defile the covenantal relationship with the Lord, division follows. In my lifetime, I am seeing non-negotiable conflicts of ideologies between those who love their nation and those who hate it. It is not just between one nation and another. It is violent hatred manifesting inside a nation internally, where love should reign.

(D) THE SPIRIT OF GRACE AND SUPPLICATION TURNS THE TABLES

The good news is we are not hopeless. The Holy Spirit will turn the tables. In Zechariah 12:10, God promised the prophet that He will pour out the Spirit of grace and supplication on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Hallelujah. Those who were hard-hearted will mourn in repentance. This is what we are called for. We must receive the spirit of grace and supplication in spiritual revival to pray for the coming great spiritual awakening. God will pour out His Spirit of grace and supplication to turn the tables. We do not just preach about grace and pray. The Spirit will impart grace and supplication. This is the reason we are placed in the nations where we are living today.

(E) YHWH SABAOTH AND THE 47

Coincidentally, "the Lord of hosts" or "YHWH Sabaoth" appears 47 times in the book of Zechariah. Earthly leaders come and go from the most powerful seats of this world. The Lord of hosts sits on the most powerful throne in the entire universe from eternity to eternity. Pray His kingdom come, and His will be done.

I shared 5 "S"s in this article: "Scrolls, Strife, Staffs, Spirit, and Sabaoth." This is our mandate for dealing with the spirits of stealing and lying in order to remove wickedness from our land, and to restore covenantal favor and union by asking for and receiving the Spirit of grace and supplication. YHWH Sabaoth will manifest, rule, and reign in our land. This is our prophetic role to restore the stolen power. The real power is for us.

Dr. David Joy
Prophetic Revolution Ministries · CMM Asia Director · Director, CMM College of Theology in a dangerous Asian nation



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When Nations Are Shaken, Make Room for Those Coming Home

An Invitation from the Galilee to Pray, Stay, Learn, and Serve

By Chaim Malespin

Executive Director/Chairman, Aliyah Return Center (A.R.C.) · The Faithful Galileans



Dear CMM Global Family,

I moved from America to Israel when I was fourteen. Today, I am a husband, a father of three, and an Israeli reservist living in the Galilee. When I speak about aliyah—the Jewish return to Israel—I am speaking about something that changed the direction of my own life.

That is why, watching the unrest unfolding in France this October, I think first about families. I think about parents looking at their children and asking where they can build a secure future. I think about the courage it takes to leave familiar streets, a career, and a language you know, and begin again.

On October 17, 2026, demonstrations over living costs and public services escalated into violence in several French cities. Most demonstrators were peaceful, but rioting, looting, and fires caused serious damage and prompted emergency security measures. These events have added uncertainty to an already difficult period.

At the same time, more Jewish families are choosing Israel. On October 26, The Jerusalem Post, citing Israel's Aliyah and Integration Ministry, reported that more than 4,000 people had made aliyah from France during 2026—nearly 50 percent more than during the corresponding period the previous year. Officials identified economic uncertainty and antisemitism among the factors encouraging interest in the move.

For us here in the Galilee, this raises a practical question: Are we ready to welcome those coming home?

I believe we are living in a significant moment. But recognizing the moment carries responsibility. Families need somewhere to live, a way to earn an income, help learning Hebrew, and people they can trust.

We have an opportunity to become part of their answer.

Jeremiah 31:10 calls the nations to hear that the One who scattered Israel will gather him and watch over him as a shepherd watches over his flock. I read that promise with gratitude. Through generations of displacement and persecution, the God of Israel has remained faithful.

I also read it with a question in my heart: What does faithfulness require of us?

The people returning have names, stories, abilities, and hopes. They deserve to be welcomed with dignity. If we rejoice over their return, we should also be willing to help them establish their lives.

At Aliyah Return Center, this is our daily work. We assist new immigrants in the Galilee through temporary housing, Hebrew instruction, food and clothing assistance, employment training, educational opportunities, and guidance through the challenges of settling in Israel. These practical foundations help people move from uncertainty toward independence.

A Hebrew lesson can help a parent communicate with a child's teacher. A place to stay can give a

family time to find its feet. Training can help someone return to meaningful work. These are the steps through which a new country becomes home.

Our wider humanitarian work also supports vulnerable people in the Galilee and Israeli soldiers. We want to strengthen the communities receiving new arrivals as well as the families arriving in them.

I do not rejoice over the suffering in France. We should pray for peace, wise leadership, and the protection of Jewish communities and every innocent person. We should also be truthful: the unrest has complex causes, and not every riot or protest is an antisemitic act. False claims have circulated alongside genuine events. Our witness should bring clarity and compassion.

Yet we can acknowledge that complexity and still respond with urgency to families who want to come to Israel.

Since October 7, my own life has been shaped by military service, separation from family, and the determination to protect a future for our children. I long for peace. I also know that hope needs people willing to work for it.

That conviction connects the humanitarian work of Aliyah Return Center with another invitation close to my heart: The Faithful Galileans.

Through The Faithful Galileans, we welcome people from the nations to spend time with us, deepen their understanding of Israel, worship, build friendships, and serve. Our invitation has four simple parts:

Pray. Stay. Learn. Serve.

Pray with us. At the Vertical Galilee House of Prayer in Kibbutz Beit Zera, we gather for worship and intercession. Come take a prayer shift. Bring before the Lord the families considering aliyah, those carrying grief, and the communities affected by war. Make time to listen, read Scripture, give thanks, and seek His direction.

Stay with us. Our Galilee House welcomes visitors, volunteers, and those coming to pray near the southern end of the Sea of Galilee. Spend enough time here to build relationships. Join us around the Shabbat table. Share meals and conversations. Let the people you have prayed for become people you know.

Learn with us. The Ambassador Academy brings together biblical teaching, visits to historical sites, encounters with Israelis, and practical experience. We want participants to return to their communities better equipped to speak about Israel with knowledge, humility, and confidence. There is room for honest questions and for discovering how Scripture, history, and daily life meet in this land.

Serve with us. Bring your skills and your willingness. Through volunteer opportunities with Aliyah Return Center and local community projects, you can contribute to practical needs in the Galilee. Prayer, teaching, service, excursions, and Shabbat fellowship form part of our shared rhythm. Each person brings something different, and we welcome the opportunity to explore where you can help.

Isaiah 60 calls us to arise and shine even while darkness covers the earth. For me, carrying Yahweh's light means allowing His goodness to become visible in how we treat people.

Yeshua teaches in Matthew 5:16 that our good works should lead others to glorify our Father in heaven. The Gospel's message of forgiveness, reconciliation, and resurrection hope should shape the way we live: with courage, generosity, truthfulness, and love.

Dear CMM family, you have a place in this work.

A congregation can help support Hebrew education. A business owner can share useful experience. A family can give toward food or housing. A prayer group can faithfully remember those making difficult decisions. Those able to travel can connect with us about coming as individuals, couples, or small teams.

I think about the children arriving in Israel today. Years from now, they may remember little of the speeches or headlines surrounding their move. But they may remember the person who welcomed them, the teacher who patiently helped them, or the kindness that made their parents feel less alone.

We can become part of those memories.

May the Holy Spirit give us wisdom to recognize the needs before us and willing hearts to respond. May we prepare well, serve faithfully, and make room for those beginning again.

From the Galilee, we invite you to connect with us.

Come pray, stay, learn, and serve.





Infinite Blessings,

Chaim Malespin
חיים מלספין · 新生活- 生命
Executive Director/Chairman, A.R.C.

CONTACT

The Faithful Galileans
Visits • Prayer and worship • Ambassador Academy • Volunteering
www.FaithfulGalileans.com ·
info@faithfulgalileans.com

Aliyah Return Center
Helping new immigrants establish their lives and strengthening communities in the Galilee
www.AliyahReturnCenter.com



Standing with Israel

Scripture quotations: NKJV.

CMM supports the Biblical stance on standing with and supporting Israel. During the Israel-Hamas war, we helped with urgent humanitarian aid to our trusted friends there, Avi Mizrachi with Dugit Ministries and Chaim Malespin with ARC in the Galilee area. Avi has family fighting the terrorists. Chaim is in the Gaza Strip as an active-duty reservist. Many continue to pray since Hamas began this war. CMM sends regular urgent aid to care for the victims forced to relocate. We also have supported for years to care for the poor in Israel and new arrivals. For over 20 years, we have sent teams to trustworthy ministries in Israel and organized tours of the Holy Land.

We oppose the persecution or hatred of others because of their faith, as well. In particular, we condemn anti-Semitism as it is wholly incompatible with the teachings of Jesus Christ, who was Himself a Jew, and insofar as anti-Semitism has been associated throughout history with persecution of the most egregious kinds, even on a genocidal scale. As the Scriptures teach,

> *"Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."'" (Zechariah 8:23)*

We invite you to join in solidarity with the friends mentioned above and others who are residents and are called to live there in Israel.

> *"And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you." (Genesis 17:7)*



AVI MIZRACHI OF DUGIT MINISTRIES



Avi Mizrachi carries the mantle of a leading Rabbi in his native Bulgaria who saved thousands of Jews in World War II. This rabbi openly believed in Jesus as Messiah, as does Avi, leader of **Dugit Ministries in Israel**. The rich legacy and heritage for several generations continue through this well-respected Messianic leader in their church, prayer tower, coffee shop, and evangelistic outreaches, providing humanitarian aid to many every week and also welcoming many Jews making Aliyah to Israel as the Great Harvest and salvation of Israel marches forward.

CHAIM MALESPIN OF ALIYAH RETURN CENTER



PROPHECY • ALIYAH • RESTORATION • DISCIPLESHIP • PIONEERING

Our vision is to eradicate anti-Semitism by building bridges and encouraging Jews and Christians to work together to fulfill God's plans for Israel and the Nations through education, infrastructural development, innovation, and Aliyah's aid, "Building their legacy."

We desire to impart God's covenant love for Israel to people of faith, teaching them to be part of the prophesied "Return and Restoration" of His Jewish people from the earth's four corners. "Rally the remnant globally."

We mobilize the church to embrace God's call to serve His people and stand as ambassadors/advocates for Israel and the Jewish people through various initiatives, such as "Sing Together" events, the "Ambassador Academy," Internships/Volunteering, Joint Torah Studies, and much more.

BART AND CAROLYN PEACHER OF IT IS TIME ISRAEL





Bart and Carolyn Peacher, dear friends and neighbors of Jorge and Anna Marie, lead **It Is Time Israel**, a ministry dedicated to helping wake Israel to her destiny as the nation that will openly honor the Lord (Isaiah 60; Ezekiel 28:25–26). Bart, a retired chemist, serves on the board of Dugit in Tel Aviv. Together they bless Israel through prayer, teaching, spiritual and material support, and partnering with Jewish and Gentile ministries. **ItIsTimeIsrael.org**

"Now the LORD had said to Abram: 'Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'"

GENESIS 12:1–3



Photo by Larm Rham

Why We Give to the Poor

How to Thrive by Faith into Your Breakthrough!

By Dr. Jorge E. Parrott
President, Christ's Mandate for Missions

Scripture quotations: NKJV.

Heaven's windows are now open. Now is the time of enormous harvest, when the light of the Lord's brightness dispels all the shadows and foils all the schemes of our spiritual enemy. Mass satanic deception persists. We must get ready for the next natural or man-made catastrophe. As disciples of Jesus, we hold on to the Word and Psalm 91 during every global adversity. To access God's gifts and abundance in both good and difficult times, let's take a brief look at what the Bible says about giving to the needy and how we rise above the fray and prosper, even as our souls prosper.

Jesus came to earth to destroy the works of the devil, not to take your money and give it to people who don't have any. "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil." (1 John 3:8)

Luke 12:15 says, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." The man asked Jesus to take something from his brother and give it to him, but Jesus did not have anything. Both the rich and the poor can struggle with covetousness, and Jesus forbids it. Proverbs 23:4 states, "Do not overwork to be rich; because of your own understanding, cease!" Greed and materialism are synonyms for covetousness.

While Jerusalem was under siege, Jeremiah foretold in Jeremiah 6:13, "Because from the least of them even to the greatest of them, everyone is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even to the priest, everyone deals falsely." Greed and covetousness are natural desires of the flesh, and we must constantly die to the flesh.

Next, "one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses" (Luke 12:15). Given that Christians are citizens of this world, this can be a major issue for the church. When someone has a lot of stuff, the public views them as successful. God examines one's heart. "Yet He is not partial to princes, nor does He regard the rich more than the poor; for they are all the work of His hands." (Job 34:19)

There is no distinction between rich and poor in Christ; we are all the same, regardless of our financial situation. As the Bible states, "the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil" (1 Timothy 6:10). It is evident that the Bible, from the time of the Law of Moses to the arrival of Jesus, commands us to give to the impoverished.

Deuteronomy 24:19 says, "When you reap your harvest in your field, and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands."

In Matthew 25:41–43, Jesus says, "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'"

"Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account." (Philippians 4:17) "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). Often, as we pour out blessings, the Lord makes a way for us to receive even more blessings. "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)

Make the Most of Every Opportunity

Because the Days Are Evil

By Faith J. H. McDonnell
Director of Advocacy, Katartismos Global

Faith serves on the Advisory Board of Save the Persecuted Christians Coalition along with Jorge and leaders of 200 NGOs praying and blessing our Persecuted Brethren.

Scripture quotation: NIV.

I was struck recently by St. Paul's exhortation:

> *"Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because THE DAYS ARE EVIL" (Ephesians 5:15–16).*



Faith J. H. McDonnell · KGIGlobal.org

Frankly, in evil days, I would be tempted to hunker down with reruns of "Murder, She Wrote." But "Murder, She Wrote" has **nothing** on the adventurous, exciting, redemptive, and holy calling the Lord has for us in evil days.

There have always been evil days because we live in a fallen world. The days when Paul wrote to the Early Church were no exception, especially for followers of Yeshua. And today's evil days seem to be getting worse all the time, particularly for fellow believers suffering and dying around the world.

We, the Church, are one Body. I believe taking care of the persecuted and repenting of previous neglect is a key to longed-for and prayed-for revival in the Church. So, in that context—for their sake and for the sake of seeing revival—what does it mean to be wise, not unwise? How do we make the most of every opportunity to help persecuted members of Christ's Body? And how *do* we do this when the days are so evil?

In his book *Heirloom Love: Authentic Christianity in the Age of Persecution*, author/advocate Dominic Sputo confronts the modern church for its lack of compassion and action for persecuted Christians.

He reveals what Scripture says about the Church in the era of the Apostles when Satan wanted to wipe out this new phenomenon before it even got started. The Roman Empire was Satan's weapon. Christians were bound to poles and set on fire as human torches in Nero's courtyard, put in arenas and torn apart by wild beasts, or killed in other horrific ways.

Sputo says:

> *The New Testament was written with tears and blood of Christians at a time when THE NORMAL CHRISTIAN LIFE (THE NORMAL CHRISTIAN LIFE, not something unusual) was defined by suffering and loss. But today in the West, our lens for reading scripture is distorted by our comfort and security. (Perhaps that's changing?) And we've misunderstood these teachings that, when read in context, will help us to remember the persecuted (all emphases mine).*

Part of being wise, not unwise, is understanding how to read these verses in context and then apply them to the situation of persecuted Christians today. Sputo did a verse study in the New Testament and found that 426 verses specifically spoke about helping "the poor." BUT of those 426 verses, 281 were exhortations specifically about the Church helping *persecuted Christians*. The poor spoken of are, for example, widows and orphans of men martyred for Jesus.

Likewise, when Paul says to "practice hospitality," we are liable to think it's a command to invite friends over for lunch after church. But those verses are instructions concerning aid to Christians fleeing Roman persecution. Our incomplete reading of those scriptures is reflected in many churches by

the extremely small part of church offerings (Sputo discovered one-half of one percent!) that go to the global persecuted members of our Body.

In turn, persecuted Christians made the most of every opportunity *they* had by spreading the Good News wherever they went in their flight and extending the Kingdom. Likewise, in today's evil days many of our persecuted brothers and sisters are spreading the salvation message, building the Church, and some are seeing their former persecutors come to Christ.

So, what are the lessons for us Christians who today still have the freedom to defend the persecuted?

Make the most of every opportunity. By pointing out the darkness of these days and the faithfulness of our persecuted brothers and sisters, you may also lead lost people to Jesus! I'm still thanking God for using an atheist, Bill Maher, to speak out about Christian genocide in Nigeria. I'm praying for Maher's salvation!

Make the most of sermons. Pastors can find ways to incorporate a story or statement about persecuted Christians into more sermons. For instance, a sermon from the Book of Daniel, about how we are to live as exiles in Babylon, based on Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, could incorporate a story of modern persecuted Christians who face death for their faith, such as the Coptic martyrs killed by ISIS on the Libyan seashore.

Make the most of Bible studies. Be like Dominic Sputo and do a thematic Bible study on something like "giving to the poor and persecuted" or on "standing firm when you are persecuted"—**using examples** from the current persecuted church.

Make the most of Sunday School, Christian school, and home school. Have lessons on where Christians are being persecuted today (pro tip: added geography benefit!). How to pray for them? Have high school students research how their peers are persecuted in places like India, Pakistan, Sudan, Nigeria, Iran, Congo, Ukraine, China, Ethiopia, Syria, etc. and help them understand that they are part of the same Body of Christ of which we are a part.

Make the most of Saints' Days. That's easy because lots of saints were martyrs. For example, a good way to amplify the persecuted church in Sudan is with the day commemorating Saint Josephine Bakhita (1869–1947). Bakhita, born in Darfur, is Sudan's first canonized saint. She was stolen by Arab slave traders when she was a child. Finally given to an Italian family, she was freed by Italian law and chose to spend the rest of her life with the Canossian Sisters in Schio, Italy.

Bakhita's story is instructive about today's Arabist/Islamist jihad against Christians and black Africans in Sudan and the horrors of slavery. But it's also the story of Bakhita's grateful love to Jesus. When asked what she would do if she met her captors, Bakhita declared, "If I were to meet the slave-traders who kidnapped me and even those who tortured me, I would kneel and kiss their hands, for if that did not happen, I would not be a Christian and Religious today." (You can see a photo of Bakhita overlooking the grand foyer in the Museum of the Bible. It's like greeting her in the Cloud of Witnesses!)

Make the most of the arts and social media. Powerful advocacy for persecuted Christians often comes through the arts. The Lord can reach many people that are impervious to statistics and reports with songs, poems, photographs, paintings, sculptures, films, novels, and even more avant-garde methods such as arbors and bridges.

Share with family and friends what you know. For example, you can watch the recent film DANIEL and make the most of it as an opportunity to talk about those who will not bow to anyone but Jesus.

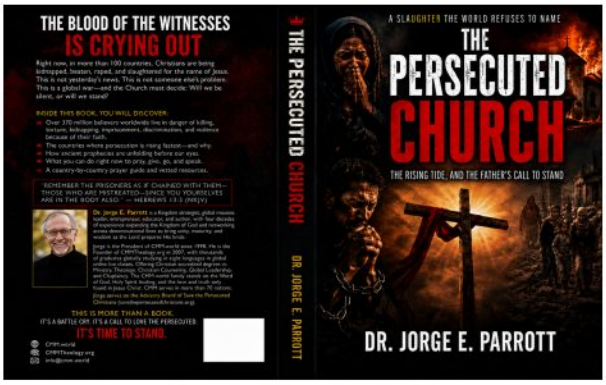
And share news about the persecuted church on all your social media. We worry about the impact and potential harm of fake news and false narratives on social media, but it can also be very useful in spreading TRUE information that's very important in the face of lies—such as the outrageous lie about Nigeria's genocide of Christians: "It's not Christian

persecution. It's farmer/herder conflict caused by climate change!" You can counter lies wherever you find them and provide accurate information on your social media.

Finally, an example of a country's leadership that made the most of their opportunity to care for suffering Christians in a spectacular way. I want to honor them as now, when their days have become even more evil, they are still finding new ways to help the persecuted.

I am referring to the previous Government of Hungary, under Prime Minister Viktor Orban. At that time, Hungary was the *only* nation to have a state-level, Parliamentary office for aid of *persecuted Christians*. In those years, under the leadership of my friend, State Secretary Tristan Azbej, Hungary did more for persecuted Christians than *any other nation*! They worked in 60 countries through their government ministry, Hungary Helps.





Available on Amazon.

Sadly, the new Prime Minister "repurposed" that ministry, something that could prove devastating for the persecuted Church. But being *wise* enough to see the writing on the wall, and making the most of every opportunity, Azbej has launched a new venture for persecuted Christians in the private arena with an emphasis on training up young people to pick up the mantle of caring for suffering Christians.

With that, and so many other examples to cheer us on, we, staying close to Jesus and hearing from Holy Spirit, must press on in evil days. In whatever way you are able—small or large, written or spoken, musically or dramatically, as Jesus' hands and feet or as His voice—with wisdom, courage, and truth, make *the most of every opportunity* to be one with the persecuted Body of Christ. Thanks be to God!

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CMM Is Freeing Slaves

Jesus Sets Captives Free

By Dr. Jorge E. Parrott
President, Christ's Mandate for Missions

One of the greatest tragedies of our times is the many who are lured, then trapped in sexual slavery. Reports show there are more people in slavery worldwide than at any time in history. The CMM Global Family prays for and helps free slaves through our trusted, indigenous network of long-term fruitful friends/missionaries.

Thank you for your prayers and generosity in helping provide freedom, safety, hope, restoration, and renewal of hope to many women, men, and children who were freed from the terror of sex slavery. Many we have freed are teenagers sold in the sex trade.

CMM has gathered friends who are graduates of our CMM College of Theology to form a Trauma Triage Team to comfort and counsel these victims. Freeing the slaves is only the beginning of the process of restoration leading to fullness in their lives. Please remember this healing process is a long road and we ask you to pray about sending monthly support for their healthcare, food, clothing, education, and eventual vocational training so they may become self-sustaining.



CMM PARTNERS PRAYED, GAVE AND BOUGHT FAMILIES OUT OF SLAVERY

CMM has freed many families from slavery. Thank you CMM Partners for praying and giving generously to free several whole families from slavery in brick kiln factories and slaves freed from the sex trade.

One of our long-term CMM members and friend, Tahir in Pakistan, keeps us updated regularly on all that is happening in his region.

One family's ordeal: A precious 4-year-old girl fell into a brick kiln and was burned over 60% of her body. The slave owner who also owns the brick factory would not even let the parents take her to a doctor or hospital! Pastor Tahir acted fast and contacted CMM and we quickly let our intercessors and friends pray and help. Within days the price was paid to buy the whole family out of slavery so the precious little girl could get much-needed medical care. She and her family are now safely in a Christian compound recovering from terrible trauma.

Through your help and prayers, we paid all the money owed to buy these whole families and free them. They are all safely in our ministry compounds and safe houses receiving the love of God, hope, and restoration. The Muslim owner had to sign official government papers and put his thumbprint on it to make it valid so that he cannot chase them or come back later and say they did not pay.

Our prayers and plans are to free more slaves as the Lord leads and provides. If you want to be a part of this precious outreach and free more slaves or help in their restoration please contact our office. We are also buying sewing machines regularly to help these former slaves learn skills and a trade to be self-sustaining as the Lord heals the broken-hearted. Jesus came to set the captives free and YOU can be a vital part in this process.

CMM is thankful to partner with and highly recommend Fernando Figueroa, a CMM Ordained Minister and founder of AntiTraffickingBureau.org. Jorge serves on their board.



Subscribe, pray for, and support antitraffickingbureau.org

Water Wells

Water for the Thirsty



India

We have drilled many wells over the years, and we are happy to report they are all still in service, being properly maintained while being a tool for spreading the Gospel. In the last twenty years, we have drilled wells in DR Congo, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Our protocols for providing wells include water being accessible to all those nearby, regardless of creed. Wells must be in an area of evangelism, near a new or existing church plant, and stand as good witnesses of our love and hope in Jesus. We include a set of 17 CDs covering community development, sustainable agriculture, children's, women's, and men's health and business start-up training.

Over 80% of all diseases worldwide are from unsafe water. Over 748 million people worldwide lack access to clean, safe water. Through our network of trusted, embedded CMM family members, we drill water wells and provide community development and hygiene training to help people live longer, healthier lives. Many women and children walk miles each day to carry water. Providing local safe water can dramatically reduce violence, sexual abuse, and kidnappings, reducing the horrors of sex trafficking.

Help us drill new wells and provide community development and health and hygiene training to help people live longer, healthier lives and become more self-sustaining while reducing violence against women and children.

To honor our Partners who give to supply a well, we place a plaque where you can memorialize a loved one or place your favorite scripture.

On our last trip to India, we visited four new wells that generous donors provided to be drilled. Our whole team witnessed the supernatural visitation and presence of our Lord in miraculous ways at each site. Hundreds came to celebrate in each place at the dedication of fresh, safe, clean water given away freely. At each location, many were saved, many healed, and even some delivered from idol worship. The presence of our God was tangible, and the glory of God filled the air with demonstrable evidence experienced by all. There are now churches near each site to further the unstoppable love of Abba. It was a day none of us will ever forget!

"One donor, who has given toward several wells in the last year, told me, 'I don't know of a better way to get out of the valley of debt than by giving to provide a well through CMM. I gave for a well and saw my $2,000 donation returned many times over when I sent it overseas.'"

Will you give it today? Please visit our website: cmm.world/get-involved/water-for-the-thirsty



Tanzania

Scan to give toward a well

Secure online giving

The Light Must Keep Moving

Carrying the Whole Gospel to a Hurting World

By Dr. Dunia M. Divin
Founder & Chief Executive Officer, International Gospel Response Ministries (IGRM Canada)

Scripture quotations: NKJV.

1. WE ARE CALLED TO CARRY THE LIGHT



Jesus said, "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). These words are more than a beautiful statement. They are a calling. As followers of Jesus, we are called to carry His light into our homes, communities, cities, and nations.

Jesus also said that our light should shine before others so that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16). This means that our lives should point people to God through both our words and our actions.

Today, many people face conflict, displacement, poverty, loneliness, and uncertainty. Some have lost their homes. Others are struggling to find hope, direction, and a reason to keep going.

At such a time, the Church must remember its calling. We are not called to serve only where it is comfortable. We are called to reach people wherever they need the love, truth, and hope of Christ.

Matthew 9:36 tells us that Jesus looked at the crowds with compassion because they were troubled and helpless. His ministry was not limited to teaching. He also healed the sick, welcomed those who were rejected, fed the hungry, and cared for people in need.

Jesus cared for people completely. He did not separate their spiritual needs from their physical, emotional, mental, and social needs. This is also how we understand whole-person ministry. We care for the spirit through teaching, prayer, and discipleship; serve the body through practical help; strengthen the heart through friendship and encouragement; support the mind through listening and care; and build relationships that help people find belonging and community. Our calling is not simply to speak to people about Christ, but to walk alongside them with love, dignity, and compassion. We must not only speak about God's love. We must also show that love through the way we live and serve.

2. LEADERSHIP MUST TURN HOPE INTO ACTION

The world needs more than words of hope. It needs people who live that hope, share the love of Christ, and take action to bring change to human lives.

I believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ is for every person, in every nation, and in every circumstance. No one should be forgotten because of where they were born, the language they speak, the challenges they face, or the opportunities they lack.

Through International Gospel Response Ministries Inc. (IGRM Canada), our vision is to equip disciples and leaders to transform communities through the Gospel and compassionate action. We seek to bring hope to those who are suffering, strengthen leaders, disciple the next generation, and serve people with dignity and love.

From communities affected by conflict and displacement to families, churches, and emerging leaders, our desire is to see lives strengthened, faith grow, and communities experience the transforming power of the Gospel.

Micah 6:8 reminds us that God calls His people to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him. This gives us an important picture of Christian leadership. Leadership is not simply about holding a position or speaking to people. It is about serving

others, showing mercy, and living according to God's Word.

When we provide help, we must respect people's dignity. We should never use food, support, or other forms of assistance to pressure someone to accept our faith. We serve because Christ loves people.

3. MAKE DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES

Our mission is not simply to reach more people. It is to help people become disciples who can also reach and disciple others.

In Matthew 28:19–20, Jesus commands His followers to go and make disciples of all nations. This mission belongs to the whole Church, not only to a few leaders.

Paul gives us another important picture in 2 Timothy 2:2. He tells Timothy to pass on what he has learned to faithful people who will also be able to teach others.

This is how we help the Gospel move from one generation to another. We teach others, walk alongside them, equip them, and trust them with opportunities to serve.

Through my ministry journey, I have come to understand that the work of the Gospel does not always begin with large resources or comfortable conditions. Sometimes it begins with a small gathering, a simple prayer, one person willing to learn, or a leader ready to serve. What matters is not how large our beginning is, but our faithfulness to the mission God has given us.

We want to see today's believers become tomorrow's leaders. We also believe that today's small beginnings can become tomorrow's movements of hope.

We must not keep all the work in our own hands. Good leaders prepare others to lead. They help people grow, serve, and use the gifts God has given them.

A small prayer meeting, a home gathering, a conversation with one person, or a new believer sharing the Gospel may become the beginning of something greater. We should never look down on small beginnings.

4. THE MISSION GOES BEYOND BORDERS

The mission of Jesus is bigger than our location, culture, or language. Revelation 7:9 gives us a picture of a great multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language standing before God's throne.

This reminds us of the global reach of God's redemptive purpose. The Gospel is not limited to one nation or culture. We are called to share it with people everywhere.

Today, technology gives us new ways to connect believers across countries. Through online discipleship, leadership training, worship, and prayer, people in different nations can learn, grow, and encourage one another.

However, technology should support real relationships, not replace them. We must also remember people who have limited internet access or cannot afford airtime. We need to find different ways to reach and care for them.

Our methods may change, but the message of the Gospel remains the same. Our calling is still to make disciples of all nations.

5. DO NOT GIVE UP IN THE WAITING SEASON

Ministry does not always grow quickly. Some leaders serve with very limited resources. Some churches meet in simple places. Others serve faithfully for a long time before they see the results of their work.

But a slow season does not mean that we should give up.

Galatians 6:9 encourages us not to grow tired of doing good. It reminds us that, in due time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

A prayer offered in a small room matters. A leader who encourages a young believer matters. A family that opens its home to serve others matters.

We may not see the full results of our work today. However, we can remain faithful and trust God with

the outcome. We must continue to pray, serve, teach, and encourage one another.

6. A CALL TO THE GLOBAL CHURCH: CARRY THE LIGHT TOGETHER

We may come from different nations, speak different languages, and face different challenges. Yet, in Christ, we are one body, with a shared calling to serve and make disciples.

We need leaders who are willing to serve, churches that are ready to equip others, and believers who understand that the mission belongs to all of us.

My message to the world is simple: Let us not only speak about hope. Let us bring hope. Let us not only preach love. Let us demonstrate love. Let us not only make disciples. Let us equip disciples to make disciples.

Together, we can help build a future where the Gospel reaches people, leaders are equipped to serve, and communities are strengthened for generations to come.

We are not called merely to keep the light. We are called to carry it.

The light must keep moving.



IGRM ministry in the Democratic Republic of Congo: Bringing the Gospel, serving children and families, and strengthening communities through compassionate action.

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Out of the Wilderness

By Stefania Della Santa

Ruth quotations from AMPC; other Scriptures NKJV.



> *"Who is this coming up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved?" (Song of Solomon 8:5)*

I just want to share a little bit of my journey: what I have experienced during the last two years and what I see unfolding now. I pray this can encourage others, since each one of us is dealing with our own spiritual warfare (1 Peter 5:9).

In 2024 the Lord started speaking to me about new birth, mixture, and going into the wilderness with Him. I had my own idea or interpretation about that, but it was different from what the Lord meant and was doing.

During this time, I stopped teaching and discipling the people of the home groups I was leading. There was in my heart a deeper desire for more depth and consecration, but I understood that only a few wanted to go further into that. I was at the end of my strength and ability to continue as in the past. The warfare around me was intense. So my mom, who helped me lead, and I went on with just a very few people. After less than a year of beautiful fellowship, I was again in a similar situation. Spiritual warfare strongly arose, to the point that I found myself alone with just my mom and aunt. I didn't expect such a painful moment. But it was the appointed time for going with the Lord into the wilderness prepared for me. This season has been a time of sorrow and of deeper purging and healing for me and my family.

I dealt with my own heart, with specific issues in the heavenly Courts, and with the enemy's accusations in a mental battle against feelings of guilt, discouragement, doubt, fear, and unbelief. It was all at once. In the midst of that, the Lord gave me a dream that was a preparation for what was coming. My sister got cancer. All of a sudden we were catapulted into full warfare. This place was the perfect storm. We went into battle for her life. The Lord placed a few faithful, mature people by our side to sustain us in the fight. During this time we saw the hand of the Lord, even though my sister went to be with Him in heaven in January 2026.

Today, after these past two years, recovering from the loss of my sister, dealing with my own battles and with the enemy's weapons against me and my family to wear us out, I am seeing and understanding what I could not see at the beginning of this painful journey.

The enemy wanted to destroy my life, my call, my family, my relationships. But what the enemy wanted to use against me, the Lord turned for my good. He was using every situation to bring me into a new rebirth, a new depth and dimension of knowing, trusting and relying on Him. Today is like an awakening and a coming back to spiritual life, even in the midst of warfare all around. To me, it is like being on another frequency in my relationship and communication with my Father, and it is expanding.

To better explain what I mean, the book of Ruth is one way the Lord is speaking to me personally about "a place to rest" and a progressive "expansion of favor until full reward." It is a book of full restoration and recompense because of love and faithfulness.

After the loss of her husband and of her two sons in Moab, Naomi decided to return to her land in Bethlehem. She loved her two Moabite daughters-in-law and desired for them "a place to rest" with a new marriage in their native land. But she was too

old to assure them this inheritance. She could not give them more sons to marry.

> *"But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find a home and rest, each in the house of her husband! Then she kissed them and they wept aloud." (Ruth 1:8–9 AMPC)*

Despite the risk of not finding this rest in a new marriage, Ruth decided to follow Naomi out of love.

> *"And Ruth said, Urge me not to leave you or to turn back from following you; for where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts me from you." (Ruth 1:16–17 AMPC)*

There was a price to pay for Ruth, but love for the Lord and for Naomi was leading Ruth's heart into uncharted territory.

I was paying a price too in my own journey. I left everything behind and followed the Lord without quitting, even to the point where I was almost dying spiritually and could no longer find my place of rest, the comfort zone I had before. He was keeping me even when I couldn't see ahead.

Ruth was led by the Lord to the field of Boaz. She didn't know he was the kinsman of Naomi's husband. The Lord ordained her steps and gave her favor because of her heart.

> *"Now Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor. Naomi said to her, Go, my daughter. And [Ruth] went and gleaned in a field after the reapers; and she happened to stop at the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech." (Ruth 2:1–3 AMPC)*

In the midst of this tough season, the Lord ordained my steps and was keeping His hand upon me, even if I was not aware. He knew my heart and the meaning of this wilderness. It was a deeper work than I could understand. He was shifting my entire life to a new level of faith and dependency. It is something happening in the secret place, not on the outside, not "for the public."

Ruth was noticed by Boaz. He knew who she was and invited her not to go to other fields to glean but to stay in his field.

> *"Then Boaz said to Ruth, Listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but stay here close by my maidens." (Ruth 2:8 AMPC)*

The key during this season is for me to stay close to the Lord, not to worry and hurry or be distracted by others. Just focus on Him, His voice, the way He is leading me now, and let Him do the work. Just nurture myself with everything He is saying to me. To stay with Him can be very challenging. Distractions are there, and old ways of doing things and of thinking. I am learning to press in, stay focused, and trust His word on a new level.

The more Ruth stayed in the field, the more Boaz's favor towards her increased. It was a progression of favor, and during this time of harvest they came to know one another.

> *"And Boaz said to her, I have been made fully aware of all you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and mother and the land of your birth and have come to a people unknown to you before. The Lord recompense you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under Whose wings you have come to take refuge!" (Ruth 2:11–12 AMPC)*

The Lord spoke to my heart about this progression of favor upon my life the more I stay and abide in His field, at His feet, and live by faith.

The culmination of the story of full restoration for Ruth arrives when Naomi tells her to go to Boaz at the time of the barley harvest, at the threshing floor during the night. She was to lie down at his feet and wait.

There is much to say about this prophetic time and picture for the remnant today, but here I just want to highlight how Ruth fully obeyed Naomi and how Boaz reacted when he awakened and saw Ruth at his feet.

> *"So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had told her. And when Boaz had eaten and drunk and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then [Ruth] came softly and uncovered his feet and lay down. At midnight the man was startled, and he turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet! And he said, Who are you? And she answered, I am Ruth your maidservant. Spread your wing [of protection] over your maidservant, for you are a next of kin. And he said, Blessed be you of the Lord, my daughter. For you have made this last loving-kindness greater than the former, for you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich."* (Ruth 3:6–10 AMPC)

In obedience and agreement with the Holy Spirit's lead, there is change and favor. I am learning to let Him set my pace and "set my table," and to follow and trust no matter what is around me. Sometimes it is scary, but it is a place of surrender. It is like when the Lord told Joshua and Israel to cross over the Jordan River, "for you have not passed this way before" (Joshua 3:4).

Boaz could protect Ruth as kinsman redeemer and lead her into her rest: marriage to him. And he did it in the best and most honest way possible. He did everything necessary to help her.

> *"And Boaz said to the elders and to all the people, You are witnesses this day that I have bought all that was Elimelech's and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's from the hand of Naomi. Also Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife to restore the name of the dead to his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from the gate of his birthplace. You are witnesses this day. And all the people at the gate and the elders said, We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the household of Israel. May you do worthily and get wealth (power) in Ephratah and be famous in Bethlehem. And let your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring which the Lord will give you by this young woman. So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the Lord caused her to conceive, and she bore a son."* (Ruth 4:9–13 AMPC)

I trust the Lord for this full restoration in my life and in the life of His remnant, because Jesus is our Kinsman Redeemer. He is our place of rest. We are His sons and daughters, and He is living in us. If we obey and stay close to Him, it is His power that is manifested and His leading that sets our path. I am leaning on my beloved in a new way, coming out of the wilderness. I am coming into His rest, knowing Him more deeply and with fewer veils between us. His covering of protection is for us, and He will keep us from all who are inflamed against us.

My love, trust, and hope are being restored, and so is my identity in Him after this wilderness. Just watch what is coming next from His perspective!

> *"Return to your rest, O my soul, for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you."* (Psalm 116:7)

What If the Answer Is Alignment?



By Deidra Gillislee Mebane, PhD
CMM Ordained Minister · "God's Silent Dove"

Scripture quotations from the NKJV unless noted.

An upper cervical spine chiropractor may make a very small adjustment, yet the effects can be felt throughout the whole body. Just ask any upper cervical doctor.

Physically, the atlas (C1 vertebra) carries the weight of the head. The axis (C2 vertebra) is the pivot point that allows the head to turn and maintain proper orientation. When the atlas and axis are aligned, the body receives proper communication, balance, posture, and movement; the head communicates clearly to the body. When they are misaligned, pressure, distortion, pain, and dysfunction can ripple through the entire body.

The Atlas: Bearing the Head Properly. It exists to support the head. When the Head is properly positioned, everything beneath it finds order.

The Axis: The Point of Divine Turning. The axis is what allows the head to turn. Spiritually, that speaks volumes, because the Head is Christ, and believers in Jesus Christ are His body.

> *"And He is the head of the body, the church..." (Colossians 1:18)*

God sometimes makes what appears to be a small adjustment in a person's heart, and suddenly things begin to flow that seemed delayed for years. Not because God finally decided to bless us, but because alignment created a pathway for what He had already purposed. A small misalignment in the atlas or axis can affect the whole body. Likewise, a small area of disobedience, offense, fear, pride, self-will, or misplaced affection can create spiritual distortion far beyond what we realize. The issue is often not rebellion. What if the answer is alignment?

Two Essential Kingdom Realities

1. The Atlas. Spiritually, our lives were designed to carry the government of Christ properly. We were never meant to carry our own headship. Many believers experience spiritual strain because they are carrying responsibilities, identities, ministries, and burdens that were never meant to rest upon them. The question becomes: *Am I carrying Christ as my Head, or am I trying to be my own head?*

2. The Axis. Spiritually, this speaks of alignment with the movements of the Spirit. The axis asks: *Can I turn when the Lord turns, or says turn? Can I change direction when He speaks, "Come"? Can I pivot when heaven says pivot, or when heaven pivots?*

Kingdom principle: When God begins straightening things, it is often a sign that manifestation is drawing nearer, not farther away. The straightening is not a delay. The straightening is part of the fulfillment. So, if the Lord is speaking to you about alignment, as He is with me, I would not view that as a season of restriction. I would view it as a season of preparation. The Master Builder squares the foundation before He raises the structure.

What if, as believers, we have been carrying Christ as Head but have become rigid in our movements, and cannot turn because we are locked into yesterday's revelation?

What if the Lord is aligning His people to His Headship again?

What if we have been receiving genuine revelation, but the Lord is bringing a deeper adjustment? Not merely more revelation. Not merely more power, because power without alignment can damage, authority without alignment can corrupt, and revelation without alignment can deceive.

What if one reason the Lord values alignment so highly is that He is not merely interested in bringing forth a promise, but wants the vessel to be able to carry what He brings forth?

What if, before the Lord does a new thing, He is giving us a glimpse of His heart so that when it arrives, we recognize Him in it? Otherwise, we might celebrate the manifestation and miss the One who brought it forth.

What if alignment carries the fragrance of how God works?

SELAH [pause and think calmly of that]!

Mary and the Word Conceived by the Spirit

> *"Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38)*

Notice that before Mary could carry Christ in her womb, she had to come into alignment with His Word; she aligned her heart with heaven's declaration. "Be it unto me according to Your word." Mary's words are the language of alignment. The appearing came, but first there was an inward rearrangement. Mary surrendered before she conceived.

She did not need to understand everything.
She did not need a timeline.
She did not need every detail explained.
She simply aligned herself with the Word.

Once alignment occurred, manifestation became a matter of God's faithfulness. That may be the sweetest part of all: manifestation is not sustained by our striving. It is sustained by His faithfulness. The same God who conceives the promise is the same God who brings it to birth. The same God who aligns the vessel is the same God who fills it.

The fact that this word about alignment is arising alongside the themes of conception feels significant. The Lord prepares the vessel before He pours the oil, and He aligns the womb before He brings forth the promise. That is His kindness. That is His wisdom. And that is His way. We often think fulfillment begins when we see the promise. Heaven often sees fulfillment beginning when God starts preparing the vessel for the promise.

The Lord does not primarily seek stronger vessels. He seeks aligned vessels.

The Lord Spoke through Isaiah

> *"I will go before you and make the crooked places straight..." (Isaiah 45:2)*

Notice He did not merely promise to bring the breakthrough. He promised to straighten the path first. Crooked places are not always sinful places. Sometimes they are simply places where our perspective, timing, expectations, priorities, or understanding have become slightly bent. The Father's mercy is often seen in the adjustments He makes before He entrusts us with greater weight.

What strikes me is that Isaiah does not say *you* will make the crooked places straight. The Lord says, "I will." There is great rest in that. The responsibility of the Lord is alignment: "I will make the crooked places straight." The responsibility of the believer is surrender: "Be it unto me."

The crooked place often feels like loss until you realize God was creating space. A gardener pruning a branch appears to be taking something away. A builder clearing land appears to be removing what is already there. Yet both are preparing for something greater. The same God who straightens the path is the same God who walks upon it. The removal was not rejection. The adjustment was not abandonment. So when you hear Him say, "I am making the crooked places straight," that is not merely a word about correction. It is a word about arrival. The straightening was making room for the appearing.

The Words of John the Baptist

> *"Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight." (Matthew 3:3)*

The preparation was not the destination. The straight path was not the Messiah; the straight path made room for the Messiah. The preparation was not separate from the coming; it was part of the coming. That is why many of the Lord's greatest works feel hidden at first. We are looking for the manifestation, while He is working on the alignment that will sustain the manifestation.

Perhaps that is why the Lord is emphasizing straightening. He is not withholding His provision, His presence, His promise, or His purpose. He is ensuring the pathway is clear for what He has already determined to release. It is the sound of the Forerunner going ahead of the King. It is heaven saying, "Make room. Something of God is drawing near." And for those who have learned to sit at His feet, as I have, the straightening itself becomes precious, because it reveals that the Master is already at work before His appearing is fully seen.

The fingerprints of fulfillment are often found in the preparation.

Jesus Said of the Spirit

> *"He will honor and glorify Me, because He will take of (receive, draw upon) what is Mine and will reveal (declare, disclose, transmit) it to you." (John 16:14, AMPC)*

What strikes me about alignment is that it is one of the Holy Spirit's primary ministries. He is always glorifying

Jesus, always bringing things into proper order under the Headship of Christ. The Holy Spirit is constantly aligning hearts, thoughts, desires, timing, relationships, ministries, and assignments with the mind of Christ. That is why His work can sometimes feel like a gentle adjustment rather than a dramatic intervention.

Whether in a person, a season, a calling, or a promise, His pattern remains the same. When the Holy Spirit begins aligning us, there is often a fragrance of surrender: less striving, less self-effort, more rest, more yieldedness, more "Yes, Lord." He aligns. He overshadows. He conceives. He forms. He manifests.

Perhaps that is what you are sensing: not merely correction, not merely instruction, but the nearness of the Spirit lovingly orienting everything toward Jesus, our Lord. Alignment is not forcing ourselves into position. It is yielding to the gentle pressure of the Spirit until our hearts face the same direction as His. Perhaps that is why this theme has touched me so deeply: "The Holy Spirit is preparing a place for Christ to be more fully revealed."

> *"Holy Spirit, align every thought, affection, motive, and desire with Jesus. Make every crooked place straight. Turn our face toward the King. Let there be nothing in us that resists Your gentle leading. Prepare in each of us a dwelling place for His appearing."*

Alignment is the language of surrender.

The world seeks control. The flesh seeks control. But the Spirit seeks agreement. Not force. Not pressure. Not striving. Agreement. The greatest words ever spoken by a human heart to God may well be:

"Be it unto me according to Your word." (Luke 1:38)
"Your kingdom come, Your will be done." (Matthew 6:10)
"That I may know Him..." (Philippians 3:10)

"That I may know Him..." This verse itself is alignment. Paul was not pursuing things from the Lord as much as he was pursuing the Lord Himself. Everything else flowed from that. Perhaps the sweetest manifestation is not the promise, the ministry, the provision, or even the fulfillment. Perhaps the sweetest manifestation is that in the process of being aligned, we find ourselves closer to Him.

The promise may arrive. The oil may flow.
The doors may open. The crooked places may become straight.
But the treasure remains the same: **HIM.**

This is alignment. And when alignment comes, heaven begins to move. There is something peaceful in knowing that the One who is aligning us is also the One carrying us. He is not standing at a distance demanding perfection. He is the Shepherd walking beside His sheep, gently adjusting, gently leading, gently speaking. What a comfort to know that the same hand that straightens the path is the hand that holds us while we walk it.

What if the Lord is straightening what has been slightly out of place so that the oil can flow without hindrance? And when that happens, heaven's government can flow through each vessel with very little resistance.

What if knowing Him is the ultimate alignment? Not merely knowing about Him, but knowing Him, being intimately acquainted with Him. What if the answer is alignment?

Prayer

Lord, align our lives so completely under Your Headship that every thought, every decision, every relationship, every assignment, and every step turns when You turn and rests where You rest. May every adjustment bring greater clarity. May every straightened place become a testimony of Your faithfulness. May those who truly desire to know You never find the journey ending, but simply discover that every step taken, every alignment, every fulfillment, and every fresh revelation is leading us deeper into Your heart.

Lord, may our hearts continue to whisper the prayer that has marked so much of our journey: Your kingdom come, Your will be done; be it unto me according to Your word; and make every crooked place straight, for Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Deidra Gillislee Mebane, PhD
"God's Silent Dove"
"That I may know Him..." (Philippians 3:10)



About Deidra Gillislee Mebane, PhD
Deidra has ministered many years as a leader in churches and house fellowships. She has ministered to many women, men, and singles. She was ordained with CMM in 2025.

How Deep Are Your Roots?

Go Deeper in God, and You Will Stand Strong



By Dr. Indira Persad, DCC CMM Ordained Minister · Student Pastor in Theology

Establishing a Life That Is Deeply Rooted in Christ and Fruitful in Every Season

Scripture quotations: KJV.

Have you ever stopped to consider how deep your roots really are? Not the roots people see, but the ones hidden beneath the surface. The roots that determine how you respond when life becomes difficult, when storms arise, and when everything around you begins to change.

A tree is only as strong as the foundation that supports it. Its branches may stretch toward the heavens and its fruit may be abundant, but much of its ability to survive depends on what is happening beneath the ground. The same principle applies to our spiritual lives.

It is possible to look strong on the outside while being weak on the inside. We can become so focused on producing fruit that we neglect the very thing that sustains it. So, I want to ask you a question:

HOW DEEP ARE YOUR ROOTS?

1. IMAGINE ROOTS THAT GO 400 FEET DEEP!

A wild fig tree found in the Echo Caves near Ohrigstad, South Africa, is reported to have roots reaching approximately 120 meters, or 393 feet, beneath the earth's surface. This remarkable depth is often rounded to 400 feet. It is recognized by Guinness World Records as the greatest reported root depth. (Source: Guinness World Records)

Imagine that! While people admire the tree above the ground, there is an extraordinary root system hidden beneath the surface.

I wonder how many of us want to have the branches without developing the roots. Everybody admires the branches, but God knows the depth of the roots. Perhaps we should stop asking only how high we can grow and start asking how deep we are willing to go.

The deeper our spiritual roots, the stronger our foundation can become.

> *Everybody admires the branches, but God knows the depth of the roots.*

2. THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ROOTED IN CHRIST

> *"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving."* (Colossians 2:6–7)

Notice that Paul uses the word *rooted*. He doesn't simply tell us to know about Christ. He encourages us to become rooted in Him. There is a difference between knowing about someone and truly knowing them.

Being rooted in Christ means that He becomes the foundation of our lives. Our faith is no longer dependent on circumstances, emotions, or the opinions of others. We may experience uncertainty, but we know where our security lies. God desires more than surface-level Christianity. He desires a relationship with us that grows deeper with time.

3. WHAT DRAWS OUR ROOTS DEEPER?

Roots seek water and nutrients because they are essential for the survival of the tree. The roots are doing important work long before anyone sees the tree's full development. Spiritual growth requires nourishment, and what is our source of spiritual nourishment?

THE WORD OF GOD! Psalm 1:1–3 gives us this beautiful picture:

> *"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." (Psalm 1:3)*

A tree planted near a constant source of water is not dependent solely on occasional rainfall. Likewise, we must establish ourselves near the living water of God's Word.

4. DON'T JUST READ THE WORD. STUDY THE WORD!

Don't rush through several chapters simply to say you have read them. **STUDY THE WORD SO THAT THE WORD GETS INTO YOU!** Take a chapter. Slow down. Take it apart. Ask yourself:

- Who is speaking?
- To whom are they speaking?
- What is happening in this passage?
- What is God revealing about His character?
- What can I learn from these Scriptures?
- How can I apply this to my everyday life?

And invite the Holy Spirit into your study time. Second Timothy 3:16 tells us that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God. So, ask Him: "Holy Spirit, You inspired this Word. Help me understand what I am reading. Show me the heart of the Father."

> *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105)*

The more we study, the more we understand His character, and the more we trust Him, the deeper our roots become. You cannot depend on someone else's roots to sustain your spiritual life. You must develop your own relationship with God.

5. STORMS REVEAL THE STRENGTH OF OUR ROOTS

No tree is exempt from storms. A relationship ends. A loved one passes away. A door closes. Sometimes the storm happens within us.

Jesus teaches about two builders in Matthew 7:24–27. Both experienced rain, floods, and winds. The difference was the foundation. Being deeply rooted in Christ does not mean we will never experience hardship. It means that hardship does not have to destroy our faith. We may bend under pressure, but we do not have to break. Our circumstances may change, but God remains faithful.

When your roots go deep, you can stand tall.

6. THE MASTER'S SEARCH: WILL HE FIND FRUIT?

In Luke 13:6–9, Jesus tells the parable of a man who came looking for fruit on his fig tree for three years and found none. In Mark 11:12–14, Jesus approaches a fig tree looking for something to eat, though it was not the season for figs. When the Master comes looking, may He find something! May we have a word of encouragement for the discouraged, compassion for the hurting, kindness for the mistreated, wisdom for those who need direction, and love for those who need to experience the love of God.

Our fruitfulness is not simply about what we receive from God. It is also about what God can give to others through us.

May we always be fruitful in season and out of season! (2 Timothy 4:2)

7. PRUNING IS NECESSARY FOR DEEPER GROWTH

In John 15:1–2, Jesus describes Himself as the true vine and His Father as the husbandman. Every branch bearing fruit is pruned so that it may bear more fruit. Pride, bitterness, unforgiveness, jealousy, and fear can hinder our spiritual development. Perhaps we are asking God for greater fruitfulness while resisting the pruning that prepares us for it. Let us be willing to allow the Holy Spirit to work within us.

8. DEEP ROOTS PRODUCE LASTING FRUIT

Galatians 5:22–23 describes the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. When we are deeply rooted in Him, our lives begin to reflect His character. We become more patient. We learn to forgive. We develop compassion. We become less controlled by circumstances and more willing to respond with grace. And fruit is not produced for the benefit of the tree alone. It also provides nourishment for others. The deeper our roots, the greater our capacity to remain fruitful through changing seasons.

9. LET US GO DEEPER IN THE COMING YEAR

Not simply to accomplish more, achieve more, or accumulate more, but to become more established in Him. Let us spend more time in His presence, study His Word with greater intention, and listen for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Let us become more obedient, more compassionate, more forgiving, and more loving. There is always room to grow in grace, and always an opportunity to become more like Jesus.

Remember the wild fig tree. Even when the storms come and the leaves are stripped bare, may our roots remain firmly established in Christ, and may we continue to bear fruit.

A PRAYER FOR DEEPER ROOTS

Heavenly Father, as we enter another year, I come before You with a desire to go deeper. May we never become satisfied with a superficial relationship with You. Holy Spirit, take our roots deeper into the living water of the Word. Open our understanding and remove anything that hinders our spiritual growth.

When the winds blow, keep us standing. When the rains come, strengthen our foundation. When the leaves are stripped bare, remind us that our strength comes from what has been established deep within us. Father, may we always have fruit to offer when You come looking. May our roots grow deep, our faith grow strong, and our lives produce fruit that brings glory to Your name. In Yeshua's mighty name, Amen.

CONCLUSION: GO DEEPER BEFORE YOU REACH HIGHER

Go deeper in prayer. Go deeper in the Word. Go deeper in worship. Go deeper in obedience. Go deeper in your relationship with Christ.
Because when your roots go deep, you can stand tall.

IF THE STORMS OF LIFE CAME TOMORROW, WOULD YOUR ROOTS BE DEEP ENOUGH TO KEEP YOU STANDING?

Let us grow deep enough to stand strong, and let us remain fruitful enough to nourish others.

Grace and peace, in Yeshua's name.

KEY SCRIPTURES FOR REFLECTION

- Colossians 2:6–7: Rooted and built up in Christ.
- Psalm 1:1–3: Like a tree planted by rivers of water.
- Matthew 13:1–23: The parable of the sower.
- Matthew 7:24–27: Building upon the rock.
- Luke 13:6–9: The parable of the fruitless fig tree.
- Mark 11:12–14: Jesus and the fig tree.
- John 15:1–8: Abiding in Christ and bearing fruit.
- Galatians 5:22–23: The fruit of the Spirit.
- Ephesians 3:16–19: Being rooted and grounded in love.
- 2 Timothy 4:2: Being ready in season and out of season.

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Your Seed Will Intercede!

By Prakash Daniel
CMM Ordained Minister · Forecast Ministries International



Prakash and Brittany Daniel.

Scripture quotation: NKJV.

My first visit to the United States was in 2014 when I was invited to preach at a morning service in Port St. Lucie, Florida. Before the service started, a man who had heard about me approached me and confidently asked, "What is God saying about America?" I didn't have an answer to his question, so I replied, "Well, sir, I will pray for you after the service." After the worship time, the pastor introduced me and handed me the microphone, and under the unction of the Holy Spirit I spoke words I had never used in my life. I said, "Your seed is not stagnant, it is still interceding."

I began to share my experience at a conference where we rented a building that was built by Dutch missionaries in the Northeast of India. I was walking around the auditorium to check everything before our Leadership Conference began and a sign caught my attention. On the right side of the wall I saw the names of missionaries that arrived in India from Europe, America, and Canada in the early 1900s and died within a few short years of ministry.

Then, under the unction of the Holy Spirit during the morning service, I said, "The seed of your forefathers that was sown in India, Africa, and China is not stagnant, it is still interceding for this land, for the land of America."

The following week, I was invited by Pastor Jorge Parrott to attend a Missions Conference at Morning Star Ministries in South Carolina. At the end of the event, they had a banquet fundraiser where they were asking others to help fund a Vision Center in honor of Prophet Bob Jones. And by faith, I sowed a seed into the vision.

In 2018, I came back to South Carolina and my friend Willie said that he had arranged a special service for me to minister. I asked him where it was going to be and he said, "It is going to be at the Bob Jones Vision Center." That night, we had a powerful service and God moved in a mighty way. Then, after I ministered, I went by the donor wall and saw my name on the wall. I was amazed! The seed I had sown four years prior had interceded and opened a door for me to minister in the very place where I sowed a seed in faith.

The Bible says:

> *"Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days." (Ecclesiastes 11:1)*

Your seed is not stagnant, your seed is still interceding!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Prakash Daniel and his wife Brittany have a prophetic and healing ministry and together take the gospel of Jesus Christ from Florida to the nations and the ends of the earth to change the destiny of the people for the glory of God.

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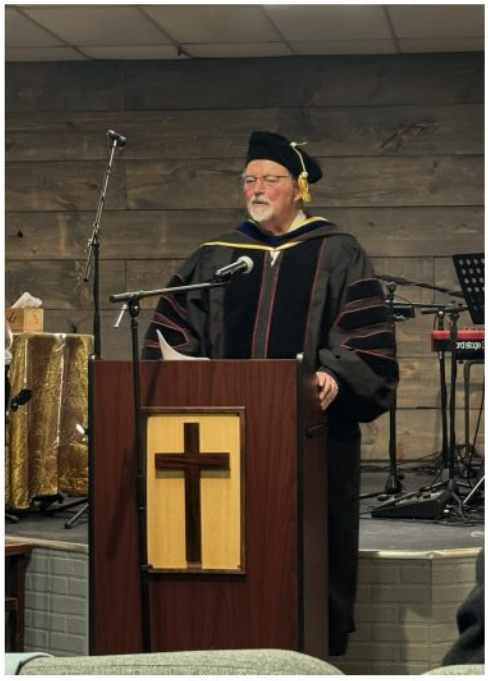






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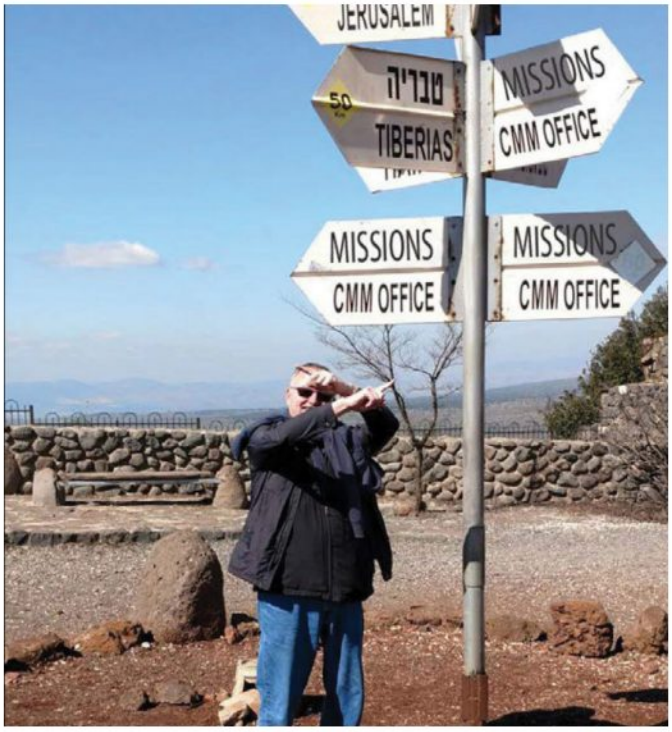






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"For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding."

PROVERBS 2:6