The background of the slide is a solid red color. Overlaid on this background are several white, jagged lines that resemble lightning bolts. These lines originate from the top left and bottom left corners and branch out towards the right side of the slide, creating a sense of dynamic energy.

When Revival Tarries

Elmer D Grobler

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By Elmer D Grobler

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This book is dedicated to my father and mother, Nick and Johanna (Nella) Grobler, to whose prayer-life much of what is written in this book can be attributed. Their burden for revival rubbed off on me. They are both long in glory and did not see all their prayers answered during their life time. I believe if they were able to read this book they would acknowledge this as an answer to many of their prayers. The book *Destined For The Throne*, by Paul Billheimer, from which I am frequently quoting in this book, was given to me by them on 17 April 1979 — 30 years before God mightily used it to open my own eyes to the deeper treasures of God's Word.

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Definitions

In the book I am using certain words that may be better understood by the reader if I define them in advance. These are:

Bride (with a capital letter)	The Bride of Christ with specific reference to the final body of believers who will be united with Jesus Christ at the marriage supper of the Lamb.
bride (with a small letter)	A general reference to the Bride of Christ typified by an earthly bride; or an individual believer whose destination ultimately is to be part of the Bride of Christ; alternatively, a bride.
Christian	I use the word Christian as meaning a born again child of Jesus Christ. That is why I spell it with a capital letter, as a Christian bears the name of Christ, of Whom he or she is a child, in exactly the same way I bear the surname of my father.
Church (with a capital letter)	The universal Church of Jesus Christ comprising of all born again, blood-washed children of God of all Christian denominations.
church (with a small letter)	A local church or congregation, meaning the body of members, not the building.
Churchsm (with a capital letter)	This is my own word and I am using it to describe the phenomenon of elevating the interest and importance of the universal Church of Jesus Christ above that of a local church or denomination. Also referred to as interdenominationalism.
churchsm (with a small letter)	This is my own word and I am using it to describe the phenomenon of elevating the interest and importance of the local church or the denomination above that of the Church of Jesus Christ universal.
Pastor (with a capital letter)	I am using the word Pastor as a title for the leader of a church, and I include all other titles such as Minister, Reverent, Dominee, Doctor, or whatever, in my use of the word.
pastor (with a small letter)	A general reference to the leader of a church whatever his or her title.

Preface

Leonard Ravenhill published a book in 1979 with the title, *Why Revival Tarries*. This book was a great blessing to me, and I sincerely trust that my choice of a similar title will in no way cast a shadow on his book. Leonard Ravenhill died in November 1994 and if he was still alive today, maybe the Lord would have called him to write a follow up on his title.

My choice of a similar title was inspired by his book, yet with a deep awareness that the last word has not yet been spoken on the subject of why revival tarries.

This book is actually not about revival in the first place — it is first and foremost about fulfilling the Great Commission. The purpose of this book is not to prove the point why revival tarries, but rather to prove the point in when revival tarries. This book has more to do with the outcome of, and God's purpose in revival, rather than how to get revival.

In our day and time there is a renewed focus on revival, either from a perceived lack and need thereof in certain sections of the Church, to a claim of abundance thereof in other sections of the Church. The section of the Church claiming to experience revival believes that the section of the Church lacking revival is out of line with what God is doing in the Church, while the section lacking revival believes what the other section of the Church is experiencing is not Biblical revival. Are these two opposing views reconcilable?

When the Lord started speaking to me regarding the writing of this book, I said to the Lord: "Lord, I don't want to be a writer of many books. But if it is your will that only this one book be published, it is my prayer that it will impact the Church to its core for Your glory and purpose. Then I will know that I have fulfilled my task here on earth and will be ready to be called up to higher service."

The purpose of this book is to seek an honest answer to the question: What is God busy doing in the world and the Church in our day — and

what must the Church do to step in line? I have no doubt in my mind that when the Church finds the answer to this question, and is willing to face the truth and step in line with God, revival will follow as an automatic consequence.

Dear pastor, minister and church leader, what will you do when revival breaks out in your church tomorrow? Will you build a bigger auditorium to ensure that the increasing number of people you expect to join your church within the next five years all have a comfortable seat? Will you train and call more pastors, teachers and leaders to assist you to cope with the increase in membership? Will you accept an increase in salary because you have now taken on a more senior position? Will you appoint more administrative staff to assist with all the organisational work to keep your large church running smoothly? Will you ensure that air conditioning is installed in the church to ensure that people don't faint from the heat or freeze from the cold during the long services?

Maybe this is one of the reasons why revival tarries. It is my humble but persuaded view that one of the reasons why revival tarries is because God cannot trust us with revival! We simply don't understand what God's purpose in revival is! That is why I wrote, *When Revival Tarries*.

I explain the backdrop to the writing of this book further in the Introduction.

Elmer Grobler
March 2012

Introduction

Called for a Purpose

It all began on 16 December 1987

During the dying minutes of the night of 15th December 1987 Jesus Christ revealed Himself to me in a very special way as I was returning from a holiday on the cruise ship, Achille Lauro (now resting in peace on the sea bed). Although the weather was calm, the entire cruise on the ship felt to me like a Jonah experience. I knew I was running away from God and if a storm had to come up while I was on the ship I knew I would be the cause. There was no storm on the sea, but a vicious storm raged within my soul!

My private life was in a mess, I had just gone through a second divorce and my dreams of a happy marriage were lying in tatters. I had even nurtured thoughts of suicide and the slippery road I was on came to a T-junction. I knew I either had to make a radical turn to the left or to the right, or life's road was ending for me. I either had to reject God and the Bible completely and utterly live for myself, or I had to radically surrender myself to God and turn my back on sin and the world for ever! But this double-minded, twin-track road I was on arrived at a cul-de-sac!

Jesus Christ, in His insurmountable love and mercy came and placed His arms around me that night and I experienced an inexplicable desire to surrender my life totally and fully to Jesus Christ, whatever the cost — which I did! When I rose from my knees I was a changed person — to this very day!

On the 25th of August 1988 my purpose in life changed for ever when God called me into full time service as a missionary. Two months earlier I was dismissed from my position as Marketing Manager of a group of companies

in Pretoria, South Africa. As a Christian I had refused to put my signature to a tender based on a dishonest practise, resulting in the company losing the contract.

As a result I had to sell my newly built company subsidised house, relinquish my company vehicle, and forfeit my liberal salary and quarterly bonuses. After I settled my debts my bank account was empty and at the age of 38 I once again had to move in with my parents, to whose prayers my conversion and calling can be primarily attributed.

The day God called me into full time missionary service is as clear in my mind as the day of my conversion. I can still take you to the exact place where God revealed Himself to me and every word and promise He gave me that day is still clearly marked in my Bible. I constantly remind God about the promises He gave me on the day of my calling, and I have no doubt in my mind that He is going to fulfil each and every one of them, and is indeed busy doing so.

Since that day I have a missionary vision which I have never had before and this missionary vision has burned stronger ever since! When God called me into full time service He gave me a vision for a lost world without Christ. I had a new purpose in life and everything else faded into the background. However, little did I know about God's training school planned for me for the task He was eventually going to assign to me.

Twenty five years have since passed, of which most was God's training school for the task He has now assigned to me. If it was not for God's clear calling on my life, I would have been back in business long ago! In fact if it was not for God's clear calling on my life this book would never have been written! During the course of this book you will find glimpses of God's training school in my life as I relate some aspects of my journey with God.

Getting Business out of Me ...

For approximately ten years I was involved in a large number of business projects with the view to raise funds for missions and my own ministry. I thought that with my business background God could fruitfully use me to raise funds for world missions. However, I clearly did not understand that when He called me as a missionary, He wanted me to turn my back on business and focus my attention on the task He had called me to. Apart from the fact that my ministry was unfruitful, every single business project I embarked upon failed. I just could not understand this, until God finally

brought me to the point where I was willing to say, 'Alright Lord, I am now finally finished with business and fund raising — for ever! I don't know where my income will come from, but I don't care — I am simply going to trust You!' The Lord completely set me free from dependence on money.

During this time I wrote Article 6 in the Article Section of this book, 'Why Many Business and Fund-raising Ventures by Pastors, Missions and Christian Organisations Fail.' I wrote other business articles as well, but this was the only one that received a 5-star rating on Ezign Articles. It didn't take God long to get me out of business — but man, did it take Him long to get business out of me! Of course there is nothing wrong with business — if that's your calling!

The day I said to God that I was finished with business, He began using me as a missionary — for which He called me. I always thought that God could use my business background fruitfully in His service, until I discovered He did not need my experience and knowledge at all! Most of all He did not need me to help Him raise money do His work! He only needed my availability!

Unqualified — Just Available

I wish I was able to give you a list of my achievements, my qualifications, and the successful missionary projects I have completed. This way I would have earned your readership. However, I have to disappoint you. I have no formal theological training. I have no theological degrees.

This does not mean that I have done no reading and have not studied the Word of God! In fact I gave myself to intensive private study of the entire Bible, and with God's help I have completed an exhaustive topical study of the New Testament consisting of two volumes of which the index alone consists of 34 pages. This study has proved to be a major instrument in the hands of God in the formation of my Biblical view. However, I do not lay claim to any achievements on my side. What I know and understand about the Word of God I have received through revelation by the Holy Spirit.

I therefore cannot lay claim to any qualification or title, and would not want to accept any such even if it was offered to me. My only wish is to add more titles to the One who taught me: Creator, Counsellor, Almighty God, Prince of Peace, King of Kings, Lord of Lords!

(Hereby I do not mean to reflect negatively on those with formal theological qualifications and doctorates — on the contrary I recognise the value and importance of formal theological training in the work of God. I am simply making a statement concerning the way God has dealt with me, which I admit to be unusual.)

I am no super Christian — just an ordinary, average person who loves Jesus Christ and placed my life on the altar for His purpose alone. I have no record of major successful missionary projects or a curriculum vitae that you would want to appoint me in your organisation. I have no charismatic personality, above average intellect or any special gifts that you would desire! I am not even a gifted speaker! I have simply placed my five sandwiches and two sardines in His hands.

All I have is a purpose and mission — and this purpose and mission must be completed before I die! My purpose and mission is contained in this book, and you will be the judge whether I have fulfilled it or not!

The Turning Point

The turning point in my ministry came on the 29th September 2010, when I led my first convert to Jesus Christ on the internet — a man from India — through a program I had created on the internet.

Over the first one and a half years since then and at the time of writing, I have led 266 people to Jesus Christ with this particular program over the internet, with a further 262 seeking souls having placed their names on my prayer list — without any financial or technical support.

These people are from the following countries: Afghanistan, Albania, Aruba, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Botswana, Cameroon, Cambodia, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Hong Kong, Ireland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Philippines, Uganda, USA, and Zambia.

The above figures may not sound very impressive by some other's standards. However, when one realises that this happened with an extremely limited budget with zero external support during a total presence of probably not more than 130 hours on the internet, the picture starts to look quite different. This actually means that I was leading approximately two people to Jesus Christ on the internet per hour. (In fact during one campaign 23 people made a decision for Jesus Christ within 60 minutes.)

This in effect means that if I had support from Christians and the Church, and I could maintain my presence on the internet 24 hours a day 365 days a year, 17,520 people from all over the world could probably be won for Christ on the internet every year through only this one program!

A similar internet ministry with substantial support from a large number of organisations and churches, www.GodRev.com, was at the time of writing leading more than one person to Jesus Christ every minute! Since their inception only a few years back, they have led more than 2,800,000 people to Christ through the internet.

The reason why I am giving you these figures is not to blow my own trumpet, but to show you the potential power of the internet to reach the world for Christ!

My Mission

You may be wondering at this stage, 'what on earth (or in heaven) has the internet got to do with when revival tarries?' On the one hand one could say — sweet nothing! However, on the other hand one could say — maybe a lot more than the Church understands right now! God used the internet to open my eyes to a chapter in God's missionary program for the Church I never noticed before, and my mission is to communicate this vision to the Church.

Just ponder on the internet facts below for a moment, and you will soon see what I am driving at.

One of the most important signs of the fast approaching return of Jesus Christ is the fact that for the first time in the history of the world it is possible to reach every country in the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ by means of the internet! The internet is developing into the world's largest business and social meeting place. Until relatively recently the internet was used by only a selective minority who possessed sufficient computer and internet literacy and skills. Most internet users were quite content with only an email facility. However, this situation is changing at an astronomical pace.

New applications such as search engines, blogs, forums, social media such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and many other continually developing applications are not only bringing the internet into every household, but are also making it an indispensable tool for every home. Applications are even now in the process of integrating radio, television, and cell phone technology with the internet.

Education is already busy implementing Computer Literacy at primary school level. The UN recently issued a declaration stating that by 2015 school leavers in Southern Africa (or any other place in the world for that matter) will not be able to find work unless they are computer literate.

In 1995 (only 17 years ago) there were only 16 million internet users world wide. In June 2011 there were 2,1 billion! This means that within 17 years internet access grew from virtually nothing to 30,4% (or almost one third) of the world's population! Amazingly, the largest number of internet users are not found in the developed world of North America and Europe, but in Asia, namely 44%.¹ (Although the user penetration figures are much lower in Asia than the western nations.)

In January 2012 there were 5 million searches for "happiness" and 368,000 searches for "how to be happy in life" per month on Google alone. The total number of searches done on Google EVERY DAY at the time of writing peaked at 3 billion!²

Social internet media such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc., is growing at an astronomical rate. By March 2012 there were already 835.5 million Facebook users across the world. This means that more than 12% of the entire world population are on Facebook!³ (At the time of writing there were for example 4.8 million Facebook users South Africa, 4.3 million in Nigeria, 391,00 in Libya, 31 million in Turkey, 3.3 million in Israel, and 5.2 million in Russia.)⁴ It is possible to reach just about every nation in the world (except China) with the Gospel on Facebook alone.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, do you notice something here? God has created an instrument for the Church to effectively reach the WHOLE world with the Gospel — and if the Church does not use the opportunity, Satan will — and he does! But the wonder of the internet is that the more Satan uses it, the more people come on board the internet — and the greater the opportunity to spread the Gospel! The only real danger Satan poses is that he is working overtime to close the internet for the Gospel. May the Church fully utilise the opportunity while it is still available!

It is of course true that the internet cannot do the job alone. The internet does not replace conventional missionaries and missionary strategies. The internet cannot reach the illiterate. The internet cannot work in isolation. New converts must be followed up, taken up by local churches and disciples. The unevangelised world cannot be reached with the internet alone — but the internet can fulfil a major supporting role. We expand on this issue in the last article of this book, Project CyberWorld.

In conclusion

Why am I relating all this to you and what does this have to do with revival? The answer is, perspective and vision. Is one of the reasons why revival tarries not perhaps an inadequate perspective and vision of what God wants to do and is doing in the world and the Church? Is our focus with regards to revival not perhaps in the wrong place? We think that revival tarries because of a lack of prayer, because of sin, or because of a lack of hunger after God. That may be so, but what do we expect revival to do? Why do we need revival?

Some may say, we need revival to revitalise and grow our churches, or to save our generation, or to turn our country back to God, or to transform our city, or for the lost of our village or town to come to Christ, or to win our nation for God. There can be many other reasons and they are all very noble, but are they in line with the heart of God? Why does God not give revival everywhere and every time we pray for revival? Does God want to give revival? Is revival normal for the Church?

My parents prayed for revival for 50 years or longer, as long as I can remember. They are both deceased and did not see the answer to their prayers. I was personally part of a prayer meeting in our home at 6 am every Friday morning for revival in our local church that lasted for ten years, without answer.

Where was the problem? Did God not want to give revival? Did we pray amiss? Were there unconfessed sins in our lives? Were we not praying hard or long enough?

Elijah prayed once in 1 Ki 18:36-38 and *"the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench."* How is it possible that God's children can pray for years without answer? There can be only one reason. We are out of touch with what God wants to, and is doing in our time and world! We are out of touch with the heart of God!

I believe there are three messages the Church of Jesus Christ universal, and in South Africa in particular, need to hear at this time in history. These three are:

1. God's Purpose in Creation, with the Church Universal, Nations, and the Church in South Africa in particular.

2. The Christian Warfare.
3. A Call for Biblical Unity.

This book contains the summary of these three messages as the Lord revealed it to me over the past few years. This is not intended to be an exhaustive theological treatise of the subjects in question, but rather a rendering of how God revealed these truths to me on the 'Adversity and Affliction campus of God's Eternity University'. (See Article 2: God's School of Adversity and Affliction)

Although this book was written with the South African Church in mind, it is equally applicable to the Church universal. I hereby pass it on to the Church universal in all humility, with the prayer in my heart that this book will mobilise the Church to finish the task of the Great Commission and hasten the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Maranatha!

Message One

God's Purpose in
Creation, with the
Church Universal,
Nations, and the
Church in South
Africa in particular.

Chapter One

God's Purpose in Creation

Purpose in Crisis

The paragraph heading above can be read in two ways, PURPOSE in Crisis, or Purpose in CRISIS. They are different perspectives of the same truth. Whichever way you look at it, they were both true in my life at the same time.

Approximately fifteen years after my calling as a missionary the Lord led us as a family on a road of adversity and affliction which we experienced at the time as a never-ending whirlpool of negative circumstances that appeared to destroy us physically and spiritually. During this time I began asking questions about many things. I even began doubting the love of God.

During this time of adversity and suffering I continued to daily seek the face of God in prayer and talked to, and argued with God about these issues. Sometimes I was quite straight with God, sometimes even angry, sometimes in tears. I even packed out the words "Oh God!" with stones on a hill on our property and painted them white for God to read every day.



During this time every theological belief I held was put through the test of fire — while every superficiality, spiritual accessory and ornamentation were consumed! In His great mercy and love God did not reject me, but as in the case of Job, He was for long dead quiet. However, as also in the case of Job, a day arrived when God started speaking and began revealing Himself once again.

The question to which I longed to find an answer was, 'Lord, what is your purpose with my life? Do I still have a purpose? If not, please take me home! I do not want to continue living without a purpose!

The Earth for Man, or Man for the Earth?

The Lord led my mind back to Genesis chapter 1 and I began meditating on God's purpose in creation.

In Gen 1:26-28 we read: *"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'"*

What was in God's mind when He created man? What was the real motive behind God's creation of man?

We read firstly that He created man in His own image. Secondly, He commissioned man to multiply and rule over creation. From this we can already make important deductions. However, did God perhaps have more in mind than what we generally understand?

The question that remains unanswered in these verses is, did God create the earth for man, or man for the earth? In other words, did God already have in mind to create man when He said in Gen 1:1 *"Let there be light ..."*, or did He first create the earth and then decided to create man to rule over the earth?

The answer to this question makes an enormous difference with regard to your and my purpose as Christians! When I asked God what my purpose in life was, I was thinking in terms of my place in this world. If I was created to rule over the earth, then what was my specific role here on earth? I was ill

prepared for the answer to my question which God subsequently revealed to me.

The Lord then took me to Matt 25:34 where Jesus said: *"Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ...'"* (Emphasis mine.) Also refer the following verses (emphasis mine throughout):

Mat 13:34,35: *"All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: 'I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world.'"*

Eph 1:4: *"... just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love."*

2 Tim 1:9: *"Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, .."* (AV)

Tit 1:2: *"In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; .."* (AV)

1 Pet 1:17-20: *"And if you call on the Father, knowing that you were ... redeemed ... with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb ... He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you ..."*

Rev 13:8: *"All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."*

Rev 17:8: *"... And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is."*

When was the foundation of the world? The foundation of the world began the moment God said, *"Let there be light ..."* In other words, God already had a Kingdom in mind for man before He created the earth.

The Bible is absolutely clear on this issue, creation of man was planned before the creation of earth! If that is so God must have had a very special purpose and plan in mind with the creation of man — much higher and greater than simply to rule the earth! The fact of the matter is that man was not created for the earth, but the earth was created for man!

A Future Destiny and Purpose

The earth was created as a dwelling place for man and ruling over, and subduing thereof are man's preparation and training field for a higher

purpose! Man is in fact ruling over, and subduing the earth at present as God intended it originally, even though we are living in a fallen world. The development of science, mathematics, engineering, technology, electronics, medicine, education, economics and all the different sciences and trades are proof thereof, while pollution, plundering of resources, maladministration, corruption, crime, poverty, wars, HIV and AIDS, epidemics, and natural disasters are proof and evidence of the fallen world we are living in.

In Genesis chapter 3 we read the account of the fall. What a catastrophe! Have you ever thought what the world would have looked like if the fall had never occurred? No sin, no devil, no death, no disease, no destruction, no poverty, no curse — only perfection! Well, the message of hope the Bible proclaims is that one day, when Jesus Christ returns, life will be as God intended it to be before the fall!

We know from Rev 21:1 that a new heaven and a new earth are coming. God is busy restoring creation from the fall! Redeemed humanity is destined for a restored creation! It is therefore undeniably clear that man was created for a future destiny and purpose! The apostle Paul said in 1 Co 15:19: *"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable."* The Christian's destiny therefore is a future destiny. But what exactly is this destiny?

The Bride of Christ

In Rev 5:9,10 we find a profound statement: *"And they sang a new song, saying: 'You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.'"* (Emphasis mine.)

We read another profound statement in Rev 19:7: *"Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."* And in Rev 21:9 we read: *"Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, 'Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.'"* (Emphasis mine.)

The reference to "kings and priests" in Rev 5:10 is a description of our occupation or mission in eternity, while the reference to "bride" and "wife" in Rev 19:7 and 21:9 is a description of our status in eternity.

Who is the Bride? The Bride is none other than the Church of Jesus Christ from all ages (the Ekklesia — the called out ones) that will be united with Him at His return. Jamieson Fausset and Brown describes the Bride as the "Triumphant Church." ¹

The Primary Purpose of the Gospel

What then is man's higher purpose? In my search for purpose I came to some radical conclusions. This may shock you, but hold onto your chair. I came to the radical conclusion that the primary purpose of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is not to save me from hell (although it does!), neither to save me from sin (although it does!), nor to let me go to heaven one day (although it does!) — but to be the Lamb's wife and reign with Him in eternity! Man's ultimate purpose in creation and the primary purpose of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to produce a Bride for the Son! When God said, "Let there be light ...", He had in mind to create a Wife for God the Son to co-rule with Him over creation in eternity! The ultimate purpose of the Church is to be the Wife of Jesus Christ and co-rule with Him over creation in eternity!

The primary purpose of the Gospel is not to save souls (although it does that!), but to produce a Bride for God the Son! The primary purpose of my and every other person's salvation is not simply to go to heaven one day, but to become the Wife of God the Son!

During my time of purpose in crisis and spiritual wrestling with God, the Lord again focussed my attention on the writings of Paul Billheimer and I once again began reading his books. The Lord used this man of God to open my eyes to truths I professed to know and even taught, but somehow previously have failed to fully comprehend. This is one of his profound statements: *"The author's primary thesis is that the one purpose of the universe from all eternity is the production and preparation of an Eternal Companion for the Son, called the Bride, the Lamb's Wife."*²

I always knew this, but had somehow pushed it to the back of my mind as if this was some fringe benefit of Christianity I don't have to take too seriously right now. It is impossible in any event to imagine what it will be like to be the wife of Jesus Christ one day, I will just lay the thought at rest until I get to heaven. There I will find all the answers that are too difficult for me right now! As long as I can just get to heaven I will be happy! Is that what you are thinking too?

Are You Happy Just to be Saved?

Just meditate on this thought for a moment. What an awesome and glorious purpose! You and I were planned ... before the creation of the world ... to be united with Jesus Christ as His wife in a heavenly marriage, and to reign with Him as kings and priests over God's creation through eternity! This is mind-boggling!

Read John 3:16 again in the light of what we have just said. Let me paraphrase it for you: For God so loved the world, (because He created man for the purpose of being a wife for God the Son, who subsequently gave His own life to purchase His bride with His own precious Blood) that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (and reign with him in eternity.)

Jesus Christ sacrificed His life for the world to die on the Cross, shedding His own precious Blood, in order to redeem and deliver you and me from the penalty as well as the power of sin and Satan, not only to go to heaven one day, but to be united with Him in a heavenly marriage in order to reign with Him over creation in eternity!

Let me repeat Mat 25:34 in the light of what we have said so far: *"Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ...'"* And Rev 5:9,10: *"And they sang a new song, saying: 'You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.'"* (Emphasis mine.)

Dear child of God, do you understand that your purpose is to become the Wife of Jesus Christ and to reign with Him on His throne over creation in eternity! Your status as Christian is much higher and greater than simply a poor sinner saved by grace! Please don't misunderstand me — you and I are poor sinners saved by grace — but for the purpose of becoming kings and queens of Jesus!

Through the blood of Jesus Christ and regeneration by the Holy Spirit you have become part of God's Royal Family and you are a prince and princess in God's eternity school, being prepared for a position of kingship and dominion over creation with Christ. Every facet of your and my earthly existence is standing central to this great and glorious purpose of God for your and my life!

The Complete Gospel Message

Some Christians superficially judge the above statement as being a man-centred and a cross-less religion. Not so at all! The contrary is actually true. I admit that a danger exists for some Christians to become self-centred and arrogant if this is the only 'gospel' they hear, but only if these truths are substituted for the Cross of Jesus Christ. What we have said thus far does not, and may never be taught as a substitute for the Gospel of the Cross of Jesus Christ.

When we speak about the Christian's higher calling as prince and princess of God, it reflects first and foremost on who God is! If I am a child of God and my Father is God through Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, what an insult it is to God if I continue to view myself as a little worm, as a nothing, only a poor sinner! Then I must not call God my Father, for God does not have worms and sinners for children!

If God is my Father, I am a new creation, and that new creation is a prince and princess of God, because the King is my Father! I am victorious over Satan, sin and the world because I am a prince and princess of God. The Holy Spirit is now living within me, I am being recreated in His image and He is transforming me more and more into the image of God as I grow in grace!

It is of course true that I am not yet a king — that I will only be in heaven. But I am a prince — a king in the making! This does not give me any cause for pride or arrogance — but it does give me a foundation for conquering faith!

I have a strong suspicion that one of the reasons the Church of Jesus Christ is so powerless and ineffective in reaching the world for Christ is because we don't know who we are! We preach an incomplete Gospel message. We often glory in the fact that we preach Christ, and Christ alone. But we don't always understand what we are saying. Jesus Christ and the Gospel message can never be separated from Genesis chapter 1 and Revelation chapters 19 to 22.

Let me explain. We often begin our Gospel message with Genesis 3, the fall and sin. We explain that Jesus came to die for sinners and to give us eternal life. Again, we stop at Joh 3:16 instead of Revelation 19 to 22. We think we are preaching Christ alone.

The complete Gospel message is that God created us to reign as kings and priests over creation with Jesus Christ on His throne as His bride and wife.

Because of the fall, sin caused us to forfeit our Divine Royal position and instead fall under the judgement of God. However, Jesus Christ died a substitutionary death on Calvary in our place, paying the penalty for, as well as breaking the power of sin, Satan and death, making perfect provision for humanity's restoration from the fall. Man can now once again not only have eternal life, but restoration of his Divine Royal position in heaven through faith in Jesus Christ.

The complete Gospel message is like a sandwich. It is the message of the Cross served in between Genesis 1 to 3 and Revelation 19 to 22. When we preach the message of the Cross without reference to Genesis 1 and 2 and Revelation 19 to 22, it is like serving the filling of a sandwich without the bread. When we preach the Cross without Genesis 3, it is like offering a synthetic filling that is indigestible; and if we preach Genesis 1 to 2 and Revelation 19 to 22 without Genesis 3 and the Cross, it is a fake gospel!

God's Purpose for Your Life

Although this book focusses on the Church in the collective, it is nevertheless important to briefly reflect on God's purpose for the individual. The Church of Jesus Christ is made up of individuals and if an individual Christian does not understand God's plan for his or her life, no wonder the Church as a collective does not understand its purpose.

In Gen 1:26-28 we find two important truths we have to understand: "Then God said, *"Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; ... Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion ..."*

The first is that God made man in His own image. From this we know that it is God's will that man should be an image bearer of God. The fall is the reason why every human is born in sin and inherits a fallen image or nature from Adam. It therefore follows that one of the primary areas of restoration Jesus accomplished on the cross of Calvary, was the restoration of man's fallen image or nature.

God's Purpose Number One

The first purpose of God in the life of a Christian is to restore his or her character into the image of God's love, righteousness and holiness. Regeneration or the new birth restores man's status as a child of God, but sanctification restores man's state into the image of God.

It is not enough to have your status restored as a child of God, you also have to have your character restored into the image of God. Jesus Christ died on Calvary to restore your position as conqueror — conqueror over sin, Satan, the world, and life.

You are destined to become part of the Bride of Christ. The Bride of Christ will be pure in character. The Bride of Christ will be restored into the image of God's love, holiness and purity! The Bride of Christ will be wearing white robes: *"Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Rev 7:13,14.*

Becoming a child of God is only the very beginning of God's purpose for your life. God wants to restore you into His image in preparation for brideship!

God's Purpose Number Two

The second purpose of God for your life that Jesus Christ came to restore on Calvary, is your spiritual fruitfulness. God wants you to multiply spiritually. God wants to produce a Godly offspring through you!

Firstly, this implies that God's plan for your life involves a Godly marriage and that you should produce a Godly family by bringing up your children in the fear and knowledge of God.

But secondly, it implies your spiritual fruitfulness and that you must be His instrument through whom He wants to reach the whole world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Act 1:8.*

Are you living your purpose? You may be successful, you may be prosperous, you may be healthy, you may have achieved much in this life, you may be famous in this life, you may be important in this life, you may be happy for now — and yet missing your purpose! You may even be in God's service, you may be a pastor, minister, or missionary — and yet be missing God's perfect purpose for your life.

Food for Thought ...

The only life that will withstand the test of time, is the purpose driven life! A career-driven life will fail you. A success-driven life will fail you. A business-driven life will fail you. A prosperity-driven life will fail you. An achievement-driven life will fail you. A knowledge- and qualification-driven life will fail you. A pleasure-driven life will fail you. A religious-driven life will fail you. Only a Godly purpose-driven life will never fail you!

A Prayer

Lord, please fulfil Your grand purpose in creation in and through my life! I fully surrender myself to You and Your purpose for my life!

Take a few minutes of prayer to express the prayer burden on your heart to God right now.

Chapter Two

God's Purpose for the Church

The thoughts we expressed in the previous chapter actually leads us to an ever deeper understanding of God's purpose in creation. In this chapter I want to draw your attention to God's purpose in creation from God's perspective.

The Bridegroom

I want to focus your attention in this paragraph on the "Bridegroom".

Joh 3:29: *"He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled."* (John the Baptist)

2 Cor 11:2: *"For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."* (The Apostle Paul)

I want you to see the picture, the Triune God in conference — Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (By the way, that's why we read in Gen 1:26: *"Then God said, 'Let **Us** make (man) ...'"* (Emphasis mine)) This is a reference to the Trinity. I want you to imagine the following scene in heaven just before creation began.

Father: "Son, we need a Royal Family — We must create a Wife for You, in Our own image, glorious, beautiful, holy and pure like Us, to share Our throne and co-rule with Us in eternity. You will love Your Wife because she will be perfect in stature, perfect in beauty, perfect in character, pure in spirit — like You! She will be made up of millions and millions of intelligent individual souls! This will be Our purpose in creation. This will be the reason

why we create the universe — to fill creation with a Royal Family of Our own, in Our own image!”

Son and Holy Spirit: “What a great and wonderful dream, plan and purpose, Father!”

Father: “We will firstly create a masterpiece of natural beauty for our Royal Family to live upon — We’ll call it earth. Then We will create one man and one woman in Our own image — glorious, beautiful, holy and pure like Us. We will commission them to reproduce themselves until they are a huge, magnificent, glorious, holy BODY made up of an innumerable multitude of Royal souls in Our own Image — because the universe will be huge and there will be an enormous amount of unoccupied space, not to mention all the management work that will need to be done!”

Son and Holy Spirit: “Your dream, plan and purpose is perfect, Father!”

Father: “While they are on earth We will call them the Church, the Body of Christ — who will be indwelt by Our Holy Spirit, until they are complete, prepared and ready, when they will become the Bride — after which, My Son, You will be married to the Bride and they will become Your Wife — and kings and priests in Our service! It will finally happen at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb!”

Son and Holy Spirit: “Father, we stand in awe of Your glorious purpose and plan!”

Father: “However, My Son!” And tears appear in the eyes of the Father, “What We are planning will be done at an enormous risk! Because the Bride will be created in Our own image, she will have a Will, Intellect and Emotion of her own, making her sovereign like Us. An enormous risk exists that she may choose not to submit to Our authority, and obey and love Us — that she may fall into sin and into the power of Satan! If this happens, she will become self-centred, self-confident, self-reliant, self-sufficient and self-indulging.”

Son and Holy Spirit: “Oh no, Father!”

Father: “My Son, if that happens there will be only one way to save the Bride and win back her love and affection — You will have to demonstrate Our love for her by being incarnated in a human body and dying a substitutionary death in her place. You will have to purchase her back from the power of Satan and sin with Your own precious Blood! You will have to take her sin upon You! Are You willing My Son?”

Son: “Your will be done, Father. I am willing. It is awful to imagine I may have to take her sin upon Me, but I am willing, my Father. I love My Bride so much that I am willing to die for her!”

Father: “That settles it! Let’s go ahead.” (Gen 1:3:) *“Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.”*

The Bride

Dear friends, the theme and purpose of the entire Bible and the Gospel message is the creation of the Bride. This is how Paul Billheimer describes it: *“The universe, including this planet, was created for one purpose: to provide a suitable habitation for the human race. The human race was created in the image and likeness of God for one purpose: to provide an eternal companion for the Son. After the fall and promise of redemption through the coming Messiah, the Messianic race was born and nurtured to bring in the Messiah. And the Messiah came for one intent and only one: to give birth to His Church, thus obtaining His Bride. The Church, then — the called out body of redeemed mankind — turns out to be the central object, the goal, not only of mundane history but of all that God has been doing in all realms, from all eternity.”*¹

Now we all know the reality of the fall and its sad consequences. The fall did not take God by surprise, as we have already pointed out. This simply serves to confirm the point that the entire Bible-message from Genesis chapter 4 to Revelation chapter 18 is about one thing, and one thing only — God’s plan of salvation, restoration and preparation of the Bride.

Who exactly is the Bride?

We have already said in the previous chapter that the Bride is none other than the Church of Jesus Christ from all ages (the Ekklesia — the called out ones) who will be united with Him at His return. Another term that is used throughout the New Testament is, the Kingdom of God. These three terms, the ‘Kingdom of God’, the ‘Church’, and the ‘Bride’, are all three related terms but each with its own distinctive emphasis.

Although the term ‘bride’ or ‘marriage’ is used throughout the Bible as an illustration of the relationship, between God and His chosen people, (for example the parable of the heavenly marriage in Matthew 22), the term ‘Bride’ or the Lamb’s ‘Wife’ is used as a substitute for the ‘Church’ for the

first time in Revelation 19. This indicates to us that the Bride is the final 'product' of God's creation. What will the distinctive characteristics of the Bride be?

From what we have said so far and from the verses in Genesis chapter 1 we have already quoted, one characteristic of the Bride stands out like a pole above water. This is the fact that she will carry the image of God! That means that the image of God will be reflected by each and every individual member of the Bride.

What does the image of God look like? Firstly we must recognise that this 'image' has three aspects to it — body, soul and spirit. With the fall, three things happened to man. One, he died spiritually. That is why a person must be born again, born spiritually, to be restored into a living relationship with God. Secondly, man's soul (will, intellect, and emotion) inherited a fallen, sinful nature from Adam. Therefore man's character must be renewed into the holiness and love of God's character. The Bible calls this heart purification and sanctification. Thirdly, man's body became mortal at the fall. With the return of Jesus Christ we will receive a new, immortal, spiritual body like Jesus Christ.

However, there is another distinctive characteristic concerning the Bride of Jesus Christ that is grossly under-emphasised and often not understood at all, or taken seriously by the Church. This the fact that the Bride of Christ, although one body, will be made up of every tribe and tongue and people and nation! We have already quoted this verse, but let me place the emphasis for you on the relevant words: *"And they sang a new song, saying: 'You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood **Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation**, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.'*" (Rev 5:9,10) (Emphasis mine.)

This is also the crux of the matter in Jesus' Great Commission in Mat 28:19: *"Go therefore and make disciples of **all the nations**, ..."* And in Acts 1:8 Jesus said: *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and **to the end of the earth**."*

For this very same reason Jesus said during His prophetic address in Mat 24:14: *"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached **in all the world** as a witness to **all the nations**, and then the end will come."*

The Difference Between the Church and the Bride

Let us briefly paint the complete Bible picture. The Message of the Bible consists of God's plan and purpose to create a Bride for Jesus Christ in His image, to reign with Him over creation in eternity. After Adam and Eve fell into sin, God destroyed the entire human race because of their wickedness through the great flood except for Noah and his family. After Noah God dispersed the nations throughout the world by confusing their language, when they aspired to build the tower of Babel.

God then produced a Messianic race through Abraham, a man after God's heart, in maturity of time, giving birth to the Messiah. Through the Messiah the nations of the world would find salvation and would once again be united in one body through the Church. The Church would then become the Bride at the second coming of Jesus Christ, when she will be complete and ready, and represented by every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

What is important to understand about the Bride of Christ is her completeness and wholeness. The Church of Jesus Christ will become the Bride the moment she is whole and complete. This will happen the moment of Jesus Christ's return. One second before Christ's return the final soul will be added to the Church and she will become the Bride! The moment the last soul is added to the Church, the Church will become the Bride and Jesus Christ will return. The difference between the Church and the Bride is simply this: the Church is incomplete while the Bride is complete. The purpose of Jesus Christ's return to this earth is to fetch His Bride — the Church complete!

We read in 1 Th 4:13-17: *"But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."*

And in Rev 19:7 we read: *"Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."*

It is important to emphasise that the 'completeness' of the Bride has two aspects to it, a quantitative and a qualitative aspect. Therefore, when we place the emphasis on the completeness of the Church and the Bride throughout this book, we include the qualitative dimension of her purity, holiness and character in the image of God. The aspect of discipleship of new converts is as much part of the fulfilment of the Great Commission as is world evangelism. Therefore, when we speak about reaching the world with the Gospel throughout this book, we do not only mean evangelism, but also discipleship.

The Church's Focus

This is the reason why Jesus commissioned the Church to take the Gospel to the whole world, to all nations, to the ends of the earth. Jesus is anxious to fetch His bride! The entire purpose of God in eternity is the Bride. If it wasn't for the Bride, there would be no reason for Jesus Christ to return to the world. The return of Jesus Christ is inseparably connected to the Bride. This is the next major event in the history of creation that must soon take place — Jesus Christ must return to fetch His Bride.

It therefore follows that the return of Jesus Christ should and must be the primary vision and focal point of the Church. The eyes of the Church must be fixed on the clouds! The Church should have a lively second coming expectation and desire! It also follows that the Church should have no other objective and purpose greater than accelerating the return of Jesus Christ! The one common purpose that should unite the Church of Jesus Christ across denominational, racial, national and international boundaries is the return of Jesus Christ!

With this in mind, with what should the Church then be pre-occupied in this world? Surely with taking the Gospel message to the ends of the earth! Surely to take the message of the Gospel to every tribe and tongue and people and nation!

When will Jesus Christ return? I have with great interest followed (and am still following) the teaching of preachers and authors focussing on the signs of the times and the second coming of Jesus Christ. During the final stages of the previous millennium there was an expectancy among many believers that the year 2000 might be the time of Jesus' return. The year 2000 has come and gone and nothing profound has changed in the world since then to make us believe that the return of Jesus Christ is any closer. A number of

'prophets' have also attempted to predict the exact date of Jesus' return, without success. The question remains, when will Jesus return?

The answer is simple — the moment the Bride is complete! But when will the Bride be complete? Again, the answer is obvious — when a Christian witness and a church exists among every tribe, tongue, people and nation. When will this happen? **As soon as the Church completes and finishes the task of Jesus' Great Commission!**

Dear Christian friend, the time of the second coming of Jesus Christ depends on the Church fulfilling her responsibility, for the task of taking the Gospel to the whole world has been given to the Church!

Don't expect Jesus Christ to return soon! There are still 29.6% of the global population that have not once heard the Gospel! ² The return of Jesus Christ is still far in the future — unless the Church wakes up to her calling — unless God visits us with revival!

It is with a feeling of anxiety that I listen to Christians using the expression, "If Jesus tarries to return ..." Jesus does not tarry to return! In fact, Jesus is anxious to return! Jesus wants to be united with His Bride! But the Church tarries to finish the task of the Great Commission! **The Church is preventing Jesus' return!**

What is the Condition of the Church?

When we look around us, we see a lukewarm local church snugly wrapped in a blanket of self-interest. The church primarily exists for herself — her own survival, her own growth, her own theology, her own denomination, her own ministry, her own welfare. When world missions do form part of a church's program, it usually competes with a string of other ministries for attention, finance and support. It is treated as just one of the many (important) ministries of the church.

It is said that 52.6% of global income belongs to the 33% of the global Christian population.² Interesting, not so? This confirmed my own belief that prosperity and development are by-products or fringe benefits of Christianity. This is probably the main reason why the Prosperity Gospel is so popular. May God prevent us from preaching a by-product or fringe benefit gospel while missing the essence thereof!

How sad that in our prosperity we are missing God's purpose for our personal lives as well as for the Church! For the frightening part of the statistics is that 99.9% of Christian income is spent on themselves, 0.09% is

spent on the Evangelised Non-Christian World, while only 0.01% is spent on the Unevangelised World! ² What an indictment against the Christian Church! May God have mercy on us!

What percentage of your income is spent on the Unevangelised World? Also read Article 8, 'The Blessing of the Faith Offering.'

Church With a Bridal Vision

What does a church with a Bridal vision look like? Let's list a number of basic characteristics of such a church:

- ◆ The church will be evangelical — in other words it will preach conversion and regeneration. Church growth is measured in terms of conversions and not members.
- ◆ The church will have a healthy discipleship program that focusses on a Spirit-filled and Spirit-controlled life, sanctification, usefulness and fruitfulness in God's Kingdom.
- ◆ The church will have an active prayer program — and approximately 50% of the prayer time and focus will be on world missions and reaching the whole world for Christ.
- ◆ The church will be 'return of Jesus Christ focussed'. Preaching and teaching about the return of Jesus Christ will be a priority as opposed to earthly comfort, success, health and wealth.
- ◆ The church will be world missions minded — in other words, approximately 50% of all preaching and teaching will be focussed on calling, equipping, preparing, and commissioning members for involvement in gathering in and completing the Bride of Christ.
- ◆ Approximately 50% of all church ministries will be focussed on world missions and reaching the whole world, especially the unreached people groups for Christ — working with, supporting and strengthening existing agencies and mission organisations, and sending out missionaries where called and needed.
- ◆ The church will aim at spending 50% or more of the church's income from tithes, thank offerings and resources on the Great Commission and taking the Gospel to the ends of the world. In other words, it will set itself an objective to be able to spend a maximum of 50% of the

church's budget on its own buildings and premises, and salaries of local church pastors and staff.

Also read Article 7, 'Stop Raising Funds for Missions.'

Food for Thought ...

Dear pastor, minister and church leader, I want to repeat the question I posed in the Preface of this book, namely, what will you do when revival breaks out in your church tomorrow? Will God be able to trust you with revival?

Do you long for revival? Don't pray for revival and don't preach revival unless you are willing to fulfil God's purpose for revival!

A Prayer

Lord, give me and my church a Bridal Vision and use us as Your instruments to fulfil Your grand purpose in creation.

Take a few minutes of prayer to express the prayer burden on your heart to God right now.

Chapter Three

God's Purpose in History

You will notice that throughout my book I am asking questions. I continually ask questions, because it is important for me to understand the purpose behind things. It is especially important for me to understand God's purpose in the world and in the Church today. As you will remember, it all began with the question, what is God's purpose with my own life?

Another important question we need to answer is, what is God doing in the world and the Church today in the light of His grand plan and purpose in creation which we have discussed in the previous chapter? If we know what God is primarily busy with, surely it is important for the Church to be busy with the same thing. Is He primarily busy reviving the Church, or is He primarily busy purifying the Church from error, or is He primarily busy preparing the Church for persecution, or is He primarily busy uniting the Church, or is He primarily busy sanctifying the Church? It is of vital importance to understand the answer to this question in order to be able to measure our own priorities.

Of course God has been busy with all of the above things throughout history, with special emphasis on a particular need in the Church during specific times. For example, think of the reformation during the 16th century. We all know what God was doing then, but what is God primarily doing now? When I look at the timeline of Christian revival, one thing stands out like a pole above water. During each wave of revival, the First, Second and Third Great Awakenings, (from 1727 to 1904), the outflow was an upsurge in world missions.

I am quoting some extracts from the website, SermonIndex.net for your information: *"The Second Great Awakening (1792 on) in UK resulted in*

*the founding of the British and Foreign Bible Society, The Religious Tract Society, The Baptist Missionary Society, The London Missionary Society, The Church Missionary Society and a host of other evangelistic agencies."*¹

*"The next Great Awakening (sometimes called the Third Great Awakening) began from 1857 onwards in Canada and spread throughout the world including America and Australia. Significant names include Dwight L. Moody, Ira D. Sankey, William and Catherine Booth (founders of the Salvation Army), Charles Spurgeon and James Caughey. Hudson Taylor began the China Inland Mission and Barnardo founded his famous orphanages. The Keswick convention movement began out of the British Holiness movement, encouraging a lifestyle of holiness, unity and prayer."*²

*"The next Awakening (1880 - 1903) has been described as "a period of unusual evangelistic effort and success", and again sometimes more of a "resurgence" of the previous wave. Moody, Sankey and Spurgeon are again notable names. Others included Sam Jones, J. Wilber Chapman and Billy Sunday in North America, Andrew Murray in South Africa, and John McNeil in Australia. The Faith Mission began in 1886."*³

During the twentieth century there were the Pentecostal and Charismatic revivals. One cannot escape the observation that some of these revivals were a major driving force in world mission movements and advancing the Gospel across the nations of the world during the twentieth century.

A Bird's Eye View of Mission History

I want to encourage you to read the Timeline of Christian Missions on Wikipedia. It reads like a storybook. There are hundreds of statements on this timeline dating from the year 33, when Jesus ascended into heaven until 2007. I am going to quote you just a few statements from the year 1950:

1951 - World Evangelical Alliance organised; Bill and Vonette Bright create Campus Crusade for Christ at UCLA; Alaska Missions is founded (later to be renamed InterAct Ministries).⁴

1952 - Trans World Radio founded⁴

1954 - Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities opens work in Cuba; Argentina Revival breaks out during Tommy Hicks crusade; Augustinians re-established in Japan; Columbans enter Chile⁴

1955 - Donald McGavran publishes Bridges of God; Dutch missionary "Brother Andrew" makes first of many Bible smuggling trips into Communist Eastern Europe;⁴

1956 - U.S. missionaries Jim Elliot, Pete Fleming, Edward McCully, Nate Saint, and Roger Youderian are killed by Huaorani Indians in eastern Ecuador. (See Operation Auca)⁴

1957 - East Asia Christian Conference (EACC) founded at Prapat, Sumatra, Indonesia⁴

1958 - Rochunga Pudaite completes translation of Bible into Hmar language (India) and was appointed the leader of the Indo-Burma Pioneer Mission; Missionaries Elisabeth Elliot and Rachel Saint make first peaceful contact with the Huaorani tribe in Ecuador.⁴

1959 - Radio Lumière founded in Haiti by West Indies Mission (now World Team); Josephine Makil becomes the first African-American to join Wycliffe Bible Translators; Feba Radio founded in UK.⁴

1961 - International Christian radio stations now number 30⁴

1962 - Don Richardson goes to Sawi tribe in Papua New Guinea; Operation Mobilisation founded in Mexico by George Verwer⁴

1964 - In separate incidents, rebels in the Congo kill missionaries Paul Carlson, Phyllis Rine and Irene Ferrel as well as brutalising missionary doctor Helen Roseveare; Carlson is featured on December 4 Time magazine cover; Hans von Staden of the Dorothea Mission proposes to Patrick Johnstone that he write the book now titled Operation World⁴

1966 - Red Guards destroy churches in China; Berlin Congress on Evangelism; Missionaries expelled from Burma; God's Smuggler published⁴

1967 - All foreign missionaries expelled from Guinea⁴

1968 - The Studium fhnndgnbcv cbnfhdbdfgbcvn mmBiblicum Translation of the Bible is published in Chinese by the Venerable Gabriele Allegra⁴

1969 - OMF International begins "industrial evangelism" to Taiwan's factory workers⁴

1970 - Frankfurt Declaration on Mission;[368] Operation Mobilisation launches MV Logos ship;[369] Abp. Makarios III (Mouskos) of Cyprus baptises 10,000 into the Orthodox Church in Kenya.⁴

1972 - American Society of Missiology founded with journal Missiology⁴

1972 - Worldwide Faith Missions is founded by Dr Johannes Maas, following a request to care for orphans made by Christian leaders in India⁴

1973 - Services by Billy Graham attract four and a half million people in six cities of Korea;[373] first All-Asa Mission Consultation convenes in Seoul, Korea with 25 delegates from 14 countries⁴

1974 - Missiologist Ralph Winter talks about "hidden" or unreached peoples at Lausanne Congress of World Evangelism.[375] Lausanne Covenant is written and ratified⁴

1976 - U.S. Center for World Mission founded in Pasadena, California; 1600 Chinese assemble in Hong Kong for the Chinese Congress on World Evangelisation; Islamic World Congress calls for withdrawal of Christian missionaries; Peace Child by Don Richardson appears in Reader's Digest.⁴

1979 - Production of JESUS film commissioned by Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ; Ted Fletcher founds Pioneers, a missionary agency with a focus on "unreached people groups"; Columban missionaries enter Pakistan at the request of the Bishop of Lahore⁴

1980 - Philippine Congress on Discipling a Whole Nation; Lausanne Congress on World Evangelism Conference in Pattaya⁴

1984 - Founding of The Mission Society for United Methodists, a voluntary missionary sending agency within the United Methodist Church; rebranded in 2006 to The Mission Society; Founding of STEM (Short Term Evangelical Mission teams) ministry by Roger Petersen signals the rising importance of Short-term missions groups⁴

1991 - The Marxist government of Ethiopia is overthrown and missionaries are able to return to that country⁴

1993 - Trans World Radio starts broadcasting from a 250,000-watt shortwave transmitter in Russia⁴

1997 - Foreign Mission Board and Home Mission Board of Southern Baptist Convention become the International Mission Board and North American Mission Board with ten thousand missionaries⁴

2000 - Asia College of Ministry (ACOM), a ministry of Asia Evangelistic Fellowship (AEF), was launched by Jonathan James, to train national missionaries in Asia.⁴

2001 - New Tribes Missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham are kidnapped in the Philippines by Muslim terrorist group; Baptist missionary Roni Bowers and her infant daughter are killed when a Peruvian Air Force jet fires on their small float-plane. Though severely wounded in both legs, missionary pilot Kevin Donaldson landed the burning plane on the Amazon River.⁴

2003 - Publication of Back To Jerusalem Called to Complete the Great Commission - Three Chinese Church Leaders with Paul Hattaway brings Chinese and Korean mission movement to forefront; Coptic priest Fr. Zakaria Botros begins his television and internet mission to Muslims in North Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia, and western countries, resulting in thousands of conversions.⁴

2007 - Kriol Bible completed, the first translation of the entire Bible into an Australian indigenous language Youth Missions International (Washington) (YMI) was founded by Brian Hughes to train churches and teens in the United States to do evangelism locally, regionally, and internationally.⁴

2008 - In 1999, Wycliffe committed to the mission of seeing a Bible translation program started in every language still needing one by the year 2025. In response to this great need, in November 2008, Wycliffe USA publicly launched the Last Languages Campaign — a commitment to raise their part of the remaining resources needed to help reach these last languages with God's Word. (This entry was added here by myself.) ⁵

2011 - Bible translations have already been made into 2,572+ languages. ⁶ Approximately 340 million people out of a world population of 7 billion, are still without any portion of Scripture in their language. ⁷ (This entry was added here by myself.)

What is God doing in the World right now?

I now want to turn your attention back to my statement in the first chapter, namely, that one of the most important signs of the fast approaching return of Jesus Christ is the fact that for the first time in the history of the world it is possible to reach every country in the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ by means of the internet! Consider this statement in conjunction with what you have read so far in this chapter, and I am convinced you will agree with me when I state that it is my humble but persuaded opinion that God is now busy bringing the Bride to completion. Jesus Christ is anxious to fetch His Bride!

In K P Yohannan's book, Revolution In Missions, Dr Yohannan tells of an indigenous missionary by the name of Simon in the North Indian state of Bihar, also known as the graveyard of missionaries! Simon, contrary to his western counterparts, conducted an extremely fruitful ministry in this area. Dr Yohannan tells further: "At one point, I talked with Simon's leader and asked him, *"What is the secret to Simon's ministry? What is it that causes the Lord to use him so effectively?"* Simon's leader replied, *"His case is not an exception. Many of our brothers on the mission field are experiencing the same thing. This is harvest time."* ⁸

In spite of the fact that many developed countries, including South Africa, is saturated with the Gospel, churches, preaching, and Christian resources, the Church in general is either stagnating or dying, or worldly, compromising, fat or self-sufficient. (There are exceptions.) At the same time millions of people across the world are finding Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour while God is busy gathering the Bride from the nations — and it is passing us by while we are only spectators watching Jesus Christ in triumphal procession marching through the world! "This is harvest time!"

Dear brother and sister in Christ, what are you primarily busy with in this world? Caring for your family? Helping the church? What is your church primarily busy with? Filling the pews every Lord's Day? Ensuring everybody feels good about coming to church? Why isn't half of your congregation busy elsewhere on the Lord's Day sharing the Gospel — with the unsaved, or cross-culturally, or the world by means of the internet, television or electronic media?

What do you spend your church budget on? Paying the church buildings, pastors, ministers, and church staff salaries? What percentage of your church budget is spent on taking the Gospel to the whole world? I believe that if it is less than 50% you are out of touch with the heart of God and are missing God's purpose for you as church!

Food for Thought ...

Dear pastor, minister and church leader, is your name and your church, ministry, organisation or mission listed on God's Purpose for the Church timeline in heaven?

How sad it will be one day to find out that you are not even mentioned on God's Great Commission Timeline! Will you look back on your work on earth and testify with king Solomon in Ecc 1:14: *"I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind."* ?

A Prayer

Lord, please include my name and my church's name on God's Purpose For The Church Timeline in heaven!

Express your own prayer burden to God.

Chapter Four

God's Purpose With the Nations

The History of Nations are Written by the Finger of God.

"In the same hour the fingers of a man's hand appeared and wrote opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. ... And this is the inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. This is the interpretation of each word. MENE: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it; TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting; PERES: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians. ... That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain." (Dan 5:5,25-30)

The history of every country, nation and the world is determined by God in accordance with His Divine plan for the world as revealed in His Word, the Bible!

The governments and powers of this world rise and fall on God's command! The Lord says in Jer 27:5: *"I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are on the ground, by My great power and by My outstretched arm, and have given it to whom it seemed proper to Me."* Likewise God also revealed Himself to the great king Nebuchadnesar of Babilon and we read in Dan 4:17b: *"In order that the living may know That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men."* We also read in Ps 47:9,10: *"For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with understanding. God reigns over the nations; God sits on His*

holy throne. The princes of the people have gathered together, The people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; He is greatly exalted."

God does not only rule over the earth, but He also has a wonderful plan for this world! We read this especially in the book of Daniel, in the Gospels, as well as in Revelation.

It is with great interest that I follow the green environmental debate, noting how the scientists and rulers of the world are struggling with the challenges of a human population explosion that is exceeding the sustainable potential of the earth's natural resources to support its population. Global warming, climate change, an exploding world population, pollution, and diminishing natural resources are threatening the future existence of mankind as never before!

But you know what — I'm not a bit worried — for God has a perfect plan. God is holding the history of this world in the palm of His hands. If only the world understood that God is preparing this world for judgement!

While NASA and Space Agencies around the globe are searching the universe and have yet to find signs of human life and other habitable planets in outer space, Jesus promised His disciples: *"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."* (Joh 14:2,3)

Jesus is preparing His bride for a new earth and a new heaven. The Bible teaches that Jesus is coming again soon to be united with His Bride. The book of Revelation tells us all about the ultimate destiny of this earth and the judgements of God upon this world of sin and unrighteousness. However, God has a perfect plan for His Bride and He is in the process of writing the history of every nation and the world!

The Story of a Nation's History is Written by the Story of it's Christians — the Church!

An important fact to understand is that the history of the world and a nation revolves around the Church of Jesus Christ! As we have mentioned before, the Greek word for Church in the Bible is "ekklēsia", meaning literally, "a calling out".¹ The Church is not a building or an organisation, but the

collection of born again Christian believers, called out of this world to be followers and messengers of Christ.

If only the Church understood that the history of their nation revolves around them, what difference it would make to their commitment. The history of a nation is determined — not by its preachers or the number and size of its churches — but by the prayer-life, witness, moral standard (holiness) of Christians, their faith in action and the love of Christ reaching the world through them!

Joh 3:16 reads: *"For God so loved **the world** that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* (Emphasis mine.)

God has a world vision! The primary objective in God's plan for the Church is to evangelise the world! God is not impressed with a holy Church unless their holiness drives them to reach a lost world for Christ! God is not impressed with a loving Church unless their love drives them to reach a lost world for Christ! God is not impressed with large churches or warm groups of Christians gathering together unless they become so hot that they need to cool down in a world without Christ!

God's Purpose and Plan in World History is World Evangelisation.

Let's cover some familiar ground again. God's primary job for the past 2000 years was to get the Church to reach the entire world with the Gospel, and the only reason Jesus Christ has not returned yet is because the job is not finished!

This does not mean that every person will be saved — we know this will never happen and millions have already died without Christ. However, what it does mean is that every nation and group of people must have the opportunity to hear the Gospel. *"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in **all the world** as a witness to **all the nations**, and then the end will come."* (Mat 24:14) (Emphasis mine.)

An interesting observation about the Church of Jesus Christ before globalisation is that most Christian revivals, including the Protestant Reformation, was followed by a dispersion of Christians to other parts of the world that was not previously reached with the Gospel. In fact this

happened from the earliest history of the Church and we first read about this in the book of Acts. In Acts 1:8 we read: *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

As we know, shortly after Jesus' ascension the Holy Spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost and 3000 men and women of different nationalities came to Christ. Ironically we read in Acts 8:1: *"... At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles."* And in verse 4 we read: *"Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word."*

It seems therefore that persecution is a method used by God to get Christians to evangelise the world, if they do not do so voluntarily. The same thing happened after the Protestant Reformation. We read for example that 200,000 French Huguenots fled for their faith to countries like Switzerland, Germany, England, America, and South Africa, taking the Gospel with them.²

In some cases Christians fled to countries where the Gospel was never preached, and in other cases heathen fled to countries where they were confronted with the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the first time. I think we will stand in awe in heaven one day when God reveals to us His purpose behind the writing of world history!

Another observation one cannot help to make is that together with the Gospel, civilisation, development and prosperity followed. One cannot help to observe that civilisation, development and prosperity followed the Gospel through the western world, through Europe, America and also South Africa.

Food for Thought ...

Dear fellow Christian, do you understand that you are God's history-maker! Where do you spend the most time — in front of the television listening to the news, or behind the television on your knees — making the news? Will your name one day appear on God's History of the Nations Timeline? Or do you view yourself as the victim of history?

How sad to discover one day that you have missed your entire life mission simply because you thought you were the victim of history, while you were in fact destined to be the maker thereof in God's hand!

A Prayer

Lord, I want to be a maker of history — not a victim of history! I fully surrender my life to You for Your purpose, and Your purpose alone!

Take a few minutes of prayer to express the prayer burden on your heart to God right now.

Chapter Five

God's Purpose With the Church in South Africa

K P Yohannan makes the following statement in his book, *Revolution In Missions*: "... the United States is the only nation in the world founded by believers in Christ who made a covenant with God — dedicating a new nation to God." ¹ I want to correct him, South Africa was also founded by believers in Christ who made a covenant with God.

We said in the previous chapter that the story of a nation's history is written by the story of its Christians — the Church! The story of South Africa's history up to now, was written by the story of its Christians — the Church in South Africa! You may draw your own conclusions from here!

The Church in South Africa's calling and God-given Mission

I am of the persuaded opinion that God has a very special plan for the Church in South Africa! South Africa is a source of hope for the rest of Africa and the world — through the Church! I believe God wants to bless Africa and the world through the Church in South Africa! South Africa possesses a unique historic Christian spiritual heritage that has never been fully understood and appreciated by the Church.

We protect and cherish our historical, cultural, natural, economical, intellectual, and agricultural heritages, but our most important and pivotal heritage — our Christian spiritual heritage — we ignore and neglect!

You may be wondering, how can I say a thing like this? Is South Africa not one of the most Christianised countries in the world? Are there not more than 30,000 Christian churches in South Africa, and do 75% of the population not profess to be Christian? What do I mean by neglecting and ignoring our Christian heritage?

By our Christian heritage I do not mean the religion and religious culture we have inherited from our forefathers — I am referring to the Mission that was entrusted by God to the Church in South Africa when we were called.

Our Christian heritage as a nation, but in particular as the Church in South Africa, originates from our calling and God-given Mission on the Day of the Covenant, 16 December 1838.

Wait a minute, you may be thinking, the battle of Blood River 16 December 1838 represents an event in the history of the Afrikaner and the Covenant of 16 December 1838 is of relevance only to the Afrikaner — it is an Afrikaner cultural event. No, no — this is exactly where we are mistaken, and this is exactly where we have missed the boat for all these years!

The Covenant of 16 December 1838 is not primarily an Afrikaner cultural event and is not only of importance to the Afrikaner — it is primarily a South African Church event and is of primary importance to the Church in South Africa of all races, Black, White Coloured and Asian! As a matter of fact, the Covenant of 16 December 1838 represents the calling and God-given Mission of the Church in South Africa! Let me explain.

On 16 December 1838 God spared the lives of a handful of people of all races in a miraculous way from certain death — 468 'Voortrekkers' (white Afrikaners), 3 Englishmen, 60 Black warriors and an unknown number of servants (Blacks and Coloureds). Let's answer a number of questions about this event.

1. Who were these people?

The Voortrekkers were Protestant Christians who came to South Africa from various European countries, especially Netherlands, Germany and France. Jan Van Riebeeck and his company were the first to settle in South Africa and arrived at Cape Town in 1652 together with 90 Protestant settlers. Many of the settlers who came to live in South Africa came against the backdrop of widespread persecution in Europe by the Roman Catholic church in the wake of the Protestant Reformation. Two hundred and one French

Huguenots fled to South Africa from France for their faith between 1688 and 1692. It is a commonly known fact that the settlers were a people of practising Christian faith. Do you see Acts 8:1 in practise again?

During 1803 Britain occupied the Cape and in 1836 the Voortrekkers moved northwards to escape British rule in what is known as the 'Great Trek'. Once again the Church was on the move — into Southern Africa! (Acts 8:1)

So then, who exactly were they? They were Christians — the only Christians in an entire subcontinent without Christ! Not all of them may have been truly born again, but the Bible was in their possession and they represented the early Church in South Africa, in an otherwise unevangelised subcontinent of the world!

On 16 December 1838 the Battle of Blood River occurred and God miraculously spared the lives of more than 531 people of different races.

2. Why did God spare their lives?

One could rightly ask, why did God spare their lives? In Europe Protestant Christians were killed in their thousands, why did God not spare their lives? Were these Christians more holy or better than those in Europe? By no means! God had a plan for the evangelisation of Africa and Southern Africa in particular, and this group of people represented the Church. They were the carriers of the Bible and the Gospel! They were about to receive the Church's calling and God-given Mission for Southern Africa and Africa.

3. What is the significance of The Covenant?

The Voortrekkers made a covenant with God before the battle of Blood River, that if He would protect them they would do the following:

1. They would honour this day every year as a Sabbath.
2. They would build a church to the glory of God wherever it would please Him.
3. They would tell their children and future generations to share in the Covenant to the glory of God.

It is of course clear that the Voortrekkers did not at the time understand God's calling and Mission for them, nor did they understand the true

significance of the Covenant. Firstly, they saw themselves and God's dealing with them as a nation — not as the Church. Secondly, they did not understand the prophetic significance of the Covenant.

What then is the true significance of the Covenant? The Covenant represented God's calling and Mission for the Church in South Africa. The Covenant has a deep prophetic interpretation. The fact that God spared the lives of the Church at the battle of Blood River, firstly means that God has called the Church in South Africa to reach Southern Africa and Africa with the Gospel.

The second element of the Covenant promises to build a church to the glory of God. God is not concerned about, nor does He dwell in buildings! God would not save the lives of Christians because they promised to build Him a church building! But God is concerned about the building of His Church — and the Church we have already defined as the “ekklēsia” — the collection of born again Christian believers, called out of this world to be followers and messengers of Christ.

The significance of this part of the Covenant is that God saved the lives of the Church because they were commissioned to build His Church in Southern Africa — they were commissioned to evangelise Southern Africa.

Secondly, they promised Him to keep the 16th of December every year as a Sabbath. Here we have a major problem. A large segment of the church today does not even believe anymore in the keeping of the Lord's day as a holy day. They argue that the 4th commandment was fulfilled in Christ.

If the Covenant represents God's calling and Mission for the Church of today, how will the Church be able to fulfil it? It is interesting to note that apparently the Voortrekkers believed that the 4th commandment was still applicable to Christians. What is the truth? More about this in the following chapter.

4. What do the Battle of Blood River and The Covenant NOT represent?

At this stage it is important to remove a number of misunderstandings and misconceptions about the history of 16 December 1838.

Firstly, as already mentioned, the history of 16 December 1838 does not exclusively belong to the Afrikaner — it belongs to the Church! It certainly

does not belong to unbelieving Afrikaners! If you are an Afrikaner but you do not have the testimony that you are born again by the Holy Spirit of God and washed in the Blood of the Lamb, you have no share in the Day of the Covenant — except that the door of grace is still open to you!

The Day of the Covenant is not an Afrikaner cultural event — it is a South African Church event! Although the Battle of Blood River is pivotal to the history of the Afrikaner, it is firstly pivotal to the history and commissioning of the Church in South Africa.

As an Afrikaner I want to address myself to Christian Afrikaners for a moment. Dear fellow Afrikaner nationalist (volksgenoot), I understand that what you are reading here may be difficult for many of you to digest. It may feel as if I am shaking the very foundation of your existence. Our nationhood was depicted as central throughout our history. Although we have throughout been acknowledged as a religious people, our nationhood always featured as top priority. Our order always was, the Afrikaner and God — but I want to introduce you to God's order — God and the Afrikaner!

A Godly Patriotism

Please don't misunderstand me — there is nothing wrong with being proudly Afrikaner, African, English or American! There is nothing wrong with a patriotic feeling towards our own nationality. However, the question is on what level your patriotism lies.

The apostle Paul had a Biblical patriotism. We read in Rom 9-1-3: “... *For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, ..*” Paul was proud to be a Jew, for we read in Phi 3:5: “... *circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; ..*” But in verse 7 and 8 he says: “*But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ...*”

Paul had a Biblical patriotism. So what's the difference? His patriotism was crucified with Christ. Paul had a crucified, and therefore a sanctified patriotism. In other words, Paul's patriotism did not revolve around the earthly survival, identity and prosperity of his nation, but his patriotism

focussed on their eternal well-being and whether they were part of the ekklēsia. Paul's primary level of patriotism was with Christ and the ekklēsia, secondly with his nation, the Israelites — not the other way round.

Please allow me to briefly repeat myself. God is primarily concerned with the ekklēsia, and the history of 16 December 1838 firstly and foremost concerns the ekklēsia. We have also said that the ekklēsia is the collection of born again Christian believers, called out of this world to be followers and messengers of Christ.

Where does one find members of the ekklēsia? You find them among the Afrikaners, the English, the Zulus, the Xhosas and every other ethnic group in South Africa. You find them in the Reformed churches, the Baptist churches, the Pentecostal churches, the Charismatic churches, and all the different Christian denominations. You find them among the ANC's, the DA's, COPE, the VF+, and the different political groupings of our country.

However, are all the Afrikaners, English, Zulus, Xhosas, etc., members of the ekklēsia? Definitely not! Are all the members of Christian churches in South Africa members of the ekklēsia? Definitely not! Are all the members of any political party members of the ekklēsia? Certainly not! Only members of the ekklēsia are members of the ekklēsia — and you require a heavenly identity to qualify as a member — you require a testimony of regeneration and a living relationship with Jesus Christ.

Dear fellow South African, like Paul I am testifying “... *I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart ... for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh ... that they may be saved.*” (Rom 9:2,3; 10:1) If your religion and your culture are synonymous and on the same level, I have to tell you that you are busy with a formalistic religion and that you are building your faith on a false foundation!

I want to lovingly, yet urgently petition you to thoroughly investigate your spiritual foundation! You may be very religious and your religion may be of primary importance to you, but if your patriotism and culture are not subservient to your Christian patriotism, I have a strong suspicion that you are busy with a formalistic and powerless religion.

Do you have the undeniable witness of the Holy Spirit in your heart that you are born again of the Spirit of God? Do you have the testimony of a changed life? The Bible says that someone who is in Christ is a new creation — the old things have passed away — the new has come. (2 Cor 5:17) Have your Afrikaner nationalism, your culture and your politics that

used to occupy the primary position in your life, passed away? Has Jesus Christ taken in the most important position in your heart and life? Are you a member of the ekklēsia? Or are you still playing religion-religion?

My heart aches when I see and hear some of my fellow Afrikaner brethren still struggling with racism. My soul cringes within me when I hear someone at church still using the “k” word for a black person. This is inexcusable! There can be no place for racism in the heart of a born again Christian!

The Focus of Blood River is Blood Hill!

The second misconception I want to address is the idea that the history of 16 December 1838 belongs to whites only, and is a symbol of white supremacy. The history of 16 December 1838 belongs to, and is equally important to Christians of all races! The Battle of Blood River was not a victory of good people over evil people — it was a victory for the Church of Jesus Christ of all races.

The fact that they were mostly white Voortrekkers was of secondary importance — what was of primary importance was that they represented the Church of Jesus Christ! As previously mentioned there were 60 black warriors and an unknown number of black and coloured servants included with the group of Voortrekkers.

The history of Blood River does not point to the blood of the Zulus or the blood of the Voortrekkers — blacks or whites. The blood of humans that flowed on both sides prior to, during, and after Blood River is of no relevance in terms of The Covenant! Blood River points to Blood Hill — Calvary, where the Blood of the Son of God flowed as an eternal sacrifice for the immortal souls of men — Black, White, Coloured and Asian — to redeem them from eternal death!

Blood Hill treats all people equal and without prejudice, because in terms of Blood Hill all people, Black, White Coloured and Asian, have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are in need of salvation. Have you ever come to the realisation that you are a sinner and in need of salvation? Have you ever repented from your sin?

On Whose Side is God?

I have previously addressed myself to white Afrikaners, I now want to address myself to the Black, Coloured and Asian Christians of South Africa.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ of other races in South Africa, will you allow me to take you beyond the borders of your comfort zone for a moment? Just like Christian Afrikaners it is vitally important for you to see and understand your roots correctly!

However great the earthly freedom was that you gained in 1994, your roots as Christians are not in the freedom struggle! However often you may have heard and made to believe that God is on the side of the oppressed, this was not your calling and the freedom struggle was not the Church's God-given Mission! God is not on the side of the oppressed — God is on the side of the *ekklēsia*.

Are you a member of the *ekklēsia*? Do you have the testimony that you are born again by the Spirit of God? Do you have a living relationship with Jesus Christ?

Your calling was the day God opened the door for the Gospel to reach you, and your Mission was to take the Gospel further. Your calling was 16 December 1838 and you were included in the Mission God gave to the Church in Acts 1:8 and the Covenant! Because of the history of 16 December 1838 you were reached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and when you were reached you were given the Mission to evangelise your own people and the rest of Southern Africa and Africa.

As by-product of the Gospel followed civilisation, development and prosperity. South Africa developed into one of the most prosperous countries in the world and the new government of 1994 inherited a highly developed industrialised land that overflowed with milk and honey.

If it wasn't for the Covenant you would not have known the industrial and economic development and prosperity of our day as it was brought to South Africa because of the Covenant. If it wasn't for the Covenant you would not have been educated, as education was brought to South Africa because of the Covenant. But most importantly, if it wasn't for the Covenant, you would still be lost in your sin and spiritual darkness because the Gospel and the Bible would never have reached you! Because of the Covenant you today have the Bible translated and in print in every indigenous language of South Africa!

How sad that because of our sin and disregard for God's Word, calling and mission, we seldom experience the outcome of God's plan as He intended it to be. If the Church in South Africa understood and obeyed their calling and God-given mission, the injustices during the apartheid years would never

have occurred, there would have been no freedom struggle, and the South Africa of today would have been without crime, corruption, HIV and AIDS, broken families and broken lives.

The Gospel is the Only Solution for a Fallen World

The Gospel of Jesus Christ changes people's hearts and lives! The Gospel changes hate into love; the Gospel removes racism; the Gospel sets criminals and sinners free; the Gospel prevents corruption; where the Gospel triumphs in the world prisons run empty; the Gospel delivers from alcohol and drug abuse; the Gospel prevents HIV and AIDS; the Gospel addresses poverty and inequalities. The Gospel is the only perfect and lasting solution to all the problems South Africa have been facing in the past and are facing in the present!

Is the Church of our day and age once again going to miss God's plan for South Africa? Just think of the possibilities if the Church in South Africa, Black, White, Coloured and Asian, could unite in our calling, mission and purpose, and as one mighty army conquer South Africa, Southern Africa, and Africa for Christ! Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I beg you, return to the roots of your calling and Mission — return to God's calling, purpose and mission for the Church!

Food for Thought ...

Dear fellow South African Christian brother and sister, do you understand God's purpose for your life? Will your name be listed on God's History of South Africa Timeline in heaven, or will your name perish together with all the heroes listed in Freedom Park and the history books of the Afrikaner when Jesus Christ returns?

A Prayer

Oh God! Forgive my spiritual myopia — that I did not see Your great hand in the history of South Africa. Please keep me from a wasted life! Help me to live Your purpose for my life to the full! I want my name to be listed on God's History of South Africa Timeline in heaven!

Take a few minutes of prayer to express the prayer burden on your heart to God right now.

Chapter Six

God's Message for the Church in South Africa

Is The Covenant of 16 December 1838 Applicable to the Church Today?

Yes! The Covenant is applicable to the Church today! The Covenant is God's calling en Mission for the South African Church today! The Covenant is not an Afrikaner cultural affair, The Covenant concerns the Church and is applicable to Christians of all races — Black, White, Coloured and Asian. I want to go even further, and address myself to the world-wide Church of Jesus Christ — the prophetic content of The Covenant of 16 December 1838 is applicable to the Church world-wide! The Covenant is simply a practical example of the Great Commission to a particular group of Christians in history and is God's mission for the Church in every country of the world throughout history!

For example, look at America's history in the light of Acts 1:8 and you will come to the same conclusion. The Great Commission was given directly by Jesus Christ to the Church universal in Acts 1:8!

What About the Sabbath Issue?

Sadly, sections of the same church that was represented by the Voortrekkers in 1838, now rejects the view that Sunday is a holy day and day of rest in terms of the fourth commandment. They argue that the fourth commandment was fulfilled in Christ and that it is "un-Biblical" to impose Sunday (or any other day for that matter) as a mandatory day of rest on New Testament Christians.

Sadly, it is not only this church that holds this view, but a view that has spread through the church universally like a wild fire. There are exceptions, but generally speaking the church of today has exchanged commitment to the Word of God for human convenience — Divine truth for humanistic theology! *“Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge; ... always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”* (1 Ti 6:20; 2 Ti 3:7)

Sunday has become our day of sport and shopping par excellence. When an important sports event is broadcast on a Sunday morning, the church is empty! I even heard about a church who screened a particular sports event on a big screen at church and postponed the morning service until the event was finished! How tragic that a church can fall so low! This is not only a transgression of the fourth commandment, it is a transgression of the first commandment!

It is not the purpose of this book to comprehensively debate the Sabbath issue from a theological point of view. However, for the sake of ordinary lay Christians it is nevertheless important to briefly clarify what I believe to be the Biblical view.

The First Blessing of the Sabbath

Many Christians apparently don't understand or appreciate the blessings connected to keeping the Day of the Lord. The first blessing involves a **basic human right**. In South Africa it is a “human right” in terms of labour law to have at least one day off in every working week. Everybody knows that a person needs at least one day of rest in every week — that's simply common sense! The fact of the matter is that this idea came from God in the first place: *“but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your ox, nor your donkey, nor any of your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you.”* (Deu 5:14) (Emphasis mine.)

So then, why do we have a problem to acknowledge that this idea originated from God? Let me tell you why ... because it is a command of God and it is embedded in man's human nature to rebel against God's commands.

“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.” (Rom 8:7)

The Second Blessing of the Sabbath

The second blessing concerns a **basic Divine right** — the honour of God. In Isa 58:13,14 we read: *“If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, From doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a delight, **The holy day of the LORD honorable, And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking your own words, Then you shall delight yourself in the LORD; And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the LORD has spoken.**”*

Some modern day theologians have mastered the art of manipulating the Word of God to say what they want it to say. They honestly (some probably dishonestly) believe there is a Biblical explanation for not having to honour the Day of the Lord in terms of the fourth commandment. For this reason I briefly have to take you a little further.

Two Covenants

The question that many Christians are confused with is, does the ten commandments apply to Christians or not? In order to understand the position of the law in the New Testament, one firstly needs to understand the difference between the two covenants in the Bible — the old and the new.

The Old Covenant has the physical nation of Israel and the law as centrality. The New Covenant has the spiritual Israel, or the Church, and Jesus Christ as centrality. The message of the Old Covenant is: you shall or you shall not; the message of the New Covenant is: you will want to, or you will not want to — if Jesus is on the throne of your heart. The power behind the Old Covenant is punishment for disobedience; the power behind the New Covenant is the love of, and love for Jesus Christ.

The Old Covenant has been fulfilled in the New Covenant — but not replaced by it! The **moral basis of the Old and New Covenants have remained exactly the same — nothing has changed! So then, what does fulfilment of the law mean?**

The fact of the matter is that the entire law has been fulfilled in Christ — not only the fourth commandment. If the fourth commandment has been uplifted in the

New Testament, so has the other nine. The fact of the matter however, is that the law has not been uplifted at all — nor has the fourth commandment!

The Three-dimensional Character of the Law

The law consists of three dimensions — the moral law, the ceremonial law, and the judicial law. The moral law (in a nutshell) consists of the ten commandments; the ceremonial law consists of the entire system of rules and ceremonies with regard to the temple duty, bringing of sacrifices and atoning for sins; while the judicial law consists of the rules governing punishment for transgression of the law.

The Bible teaches that the law has been fulfilled in Christ. What does that mean? Let's begin with the judicial law. It means that Jesus Christ has been punished in your and my place for transgression of the law. He carried our punishment on the cross of Calvary and that is why there is salvation from the punishment of sin and eternal life in Christ Jesus.

What about the ceremonial law? Here also Jesus perfectly fulfilled the law, for in stead of an animal without blemish, the perfect Lamb of God gave Himself as a perfect sacrifice on the cross of Calvary to die and shed His blood as an eternal sacrifice for the sin of the world. You and I therefore never need to sacrifice an animal again for the atonement of our sins.

The question now is, may I continue to transgress the moral law and live in sin? Did Jesus Christ do away with the ten commandments? Not at all! Rom 6:15 clearly says: *"What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!"* Why not? Because Jesus also came to fulfil the moral law! How did He do that? The Bible explains that also perfectly well. He writes His law on the table of my heart by the indwelling Holy Spirit — when I enter into the New Covenant with Him! *"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."* (Heb 8:10)

The implication hereof is that I now keep the ten commandments, not because I have to, but because I want to as it has been written on my heart! I am not driven by the letter of the law anymore, but by the Spirit (Holy Spirit) of the law.

Not the Letter of the Law, but the Spirit of the Law

"But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of

the letter." (Rom 7:6) What does that mean? The law that is written on my heart in fact means that it is the Holy Spirit dwelling in my heart who teaches me right from wrong through the Word.

It further means that Jesus' standard of the law is infinitely higher (not lower) than the standard of the ten commandments. Jesus taught us this in the sermon on the mount: *"For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire."* (Mat 5:20-22)

The implication hereof is that even though I would keep the ten commandments according to the letter, I would still be falling short of God's standard, for the standard He wrote on the table of my heart is infinitely higher than that of the ten commandments. The moment I nurture a wrong attitude or feeling of bitterness or unforgiveness in my heart, the Holy Spirit in my heart tells me I have transgressed the sixth commandment. The moment I nurture a thought of lust while watching an improperly dressed woman on TV, the Holy Spirit in my heart tells me I have transgressed the seventh commandment; and the moment it is more important to me to prepare food for my guests coming to lunch, or watching sport on TV, than spending the Day of the Lord around the Word with my fellow Christians at church, the Holy Spirit in my heart tells me that I have transgressed the fourth commandment.

Is the law fulfilled in Christ, or Christ in the law?

This brings me to my final thought on the subject of the law, namely, is the law fulfilled in Christ, or Christ in the law? Here we find a truth that is vitally important to understand — the law has been fulfilled in Christ, not Christ in the law! This simply means that Jesus Christ must continually be our focal point — not the law! A real danger exists that I may become so pre-occupied with the law and sin that I lose my focus on Christ. The result is legalism with its different jackets and all its dangers. But this is a separate subject.

The Sabbath — Seventh or First Day of the Week?

I believe it is appropriate to say something about the division among Christians concerning the first day of the week and the seventh day of the week Sabbath.

We will achieve nothing by ignoring this division, or denouncing each other as heretics. The only one who laughs in the process is Satan. It is of course impossible to discuss this subject in any depth here, but I believe it is important for both camps to make room for one another without having to compromise your own view.

I believe there is an argument to be made for both views. Just like the debate around the subject of infant or believer's baptism, there are no winners. May God help us to tolerate each other in love and not tear the Body of Christ apart. I don't believe we will solve the problem of denominationalism here on earth, but I do believe that we are able to unite around the common purpose of reaching the whole world for Christ. I will say more on this subject in Chapter 13, A Common Purpose.

What is God Saying to the Church of Today Through The Covenant ?

Let's return to our subject: Is The Covenant of 16 December 1838 applicable to the Church today? We have already said that the answer is yes, but what is God saying to the Church of our day, and in particular the Church in South Africa through The Covenant?

Firstly, God calls us to repentance.

1. To repent of our failure to understand and implement our calling and mission, and to carry out Jesus' Great Commission effectively.
2. To repent of our dishonouring of the Day of the Lord and our breaking of God's moral laws.

Secondly, God calls us to action.

1. Christians of all races must unite in purpose and mission and recommit ourselves to fulfilling Jesus' Great Commission in reaching the whole world for Christ. To take up our mission to evangelise our country and our continent with renewed vigour and purpose.
2. To reinstate, preach and proclaim the ten commandments and moral law of the Bible, including the Sabbath, as God's minimum standard for Christian morality and morality in our country, continent and the world, through the Church.

Food for Thought ...

Dear fellow Christian brother and sister, pastor, minister and church leader, do you want to be used by God as His instrument? Then you will have to surrender yourself fully and unconditionally to God for His exclusive purpose and plan in and through your life!

Just think what God can do through you when you are fully and unconditionally committed to Him and available for His purpose! God does not need your qualifications (although He may use that) — He wants your availability!

A Prayer

Oh God, please forgive me that I have transgressed your fourth commandment! Cleanse me and deliver me from this sin! I promise to keep Your holy day holy in future. I once again offer myself for Your purpose, to reach Africa and the whole world for Christ!

Take a few minutes of prayer to express the prayer burden on your heart to God right now.

Message Two

The Christian Warfare

Chapter Seven

The Christian Life is a War

Dear brother and sister in Christ, the Christian life here on earth is not a Sunday School picnic or a blessing and prosperity trip — it is a war, and our primary battlefield is prayer!

Prayer Warriors ...

My father was a prayer warrior. He was my greatest prayer supporter, and I never fully realised the importance of his prayer life until after his death. Since his death we have experienced one trial and failure upon the other in our ministry, our business and our finances — to the extent that it felt as if God had deserted us. I only understood why this happened many years later — we were trying to work for God without a solid prayer support base.

In the first chapter of this book I have already mentioned to you about our years of suffering and struggle. It was so depressing at times that I, like Elijah, went sulking underneath a broom tree, expressing to the Lord my desire to die. It felt as if my life was passing away unproductively and I was achieving nothing for God. But God continually admonished me: 'Hold on, stay on, move on!'

One day during my prayer time while I was once again crying out to God, the Lord began revealing to me the truths I am going to share with you in the following chapters. These truths are not new at all. In fact I have read them many times in many books and I am not claiming ownership thereof. However, up to then this was to me only intellectual knowledge, but God changed it into revelation.

The Reality of My Spiritual War

The focus of God's revelation came to me through a verse that I (and I am convinced you too) know by heart, namely Eph 6:12: *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."*

I have always known this, but for the very first time God began revealing these truths to my own heart like never before. I think Christians in general have an extremely poor understanding of the role that Satan and the demonic spirit world play in the lives of Christians and the Church. My prayer is that God will reveal these truths to your own heart as you are reading these chapters.

During the course of writing this contents I was at times under heavy attack of the devil. Believe me — Satan does not want the Church to have this knowledge! I cannot describe to you the severity of the demonic oppression and all the stumbling blocks I experienced during the writing of this manuscript.

One particular day I was ready to quit. I just could not endure the satanic oppression any more. As mentioned earlier, I felt like Elijah who asked the Lord to take his life after the destruction of the Baal priests on Mount Carmel. Then the Lord directed my attention to Paul Billheimer's life story, and I want to share this with you as an encouragement.

Paul Billheimer and his wife had a fruitful evangelistic ministry in Indiana USA, when during 1957 at the age of 60 his ministry came to an abrupt end when his energies collapsed. For the next 20 years the Billheimers experienced nothing but sorrow, disappointment and a shattered vision. During this time God taught them the same truths I am going to share with you in the following chapters, and in 1975, when Paul Billheimer was 78 years old, his book, *Destined For The Throne*, came off the press. God restored both him and his wife's health and at the age of 80 God led them into the most fruitful season of their entire ministry with Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN). Since then Paul Billheimer had published many more books, some of which are of the most precious Christian classics available today. These include: *Overcomers Through The Cross*; *Destined To Overcome*; *Don't Waste Your Sorrows*; and *The Mystery Of His Providence*.¹

Called to Conquer

When I read this I took courage. I knew God wanted me to finish what I was doing. Jesus Christ wants to teach us how to conquer, how to conquer in prayer — conquer in our personal Christian lives, conquer in our family lives and marriages, conquer in service for God, and to conquer in reaching the world for Christ. God wants to teach us how to open and take mission fields for the Gospel through prayer. Conquering can only be learned in battle!

I want to state this categorically, Jesus Christ died on the Cross of Calvary to give you and me and the Church of Jesus Christ a life of victory — victory over sin and the power of sin — victory over Satan and his kingdom — victory over the world — victory over our circumstances and our trials — and victory in our service and our work for the Lord! Are you experiencing and living in this victory?

Prayer is not a popular subject, and I can understand why. I can totally understand why most church prayer meetings are poorly attended. I can totally understand why it is so difficult to mobilise the church to pray! The reason is that very few Christians really know how to pray. Very few churches really teach their congregations how to pray effectively!

The fact of the matter is that unless you understand prayer warfare, prayer is hard work for little reward! Why is this? Because Satan and his demons will ensure that your prayer-life remains ineffective and you remain in the dark with regard to your authority in Christ for as long as possible!

Prayer, as most Christians know prayer, really doesn't pay! Unless a prayer meeting results in visible or experiential answers to prayer, it is hard work for little reward! Christians don't pray because they don't experience answers to prayer! But why do we experience so few answers to our prayers?

Understanding Our Delegated Authority

Imagine a Police Officer arriving on a scene where a crime is being committed. On arrival the Police Officer immediately pulls out his mobile phone and connects to the State President's office; and this is a rendering of the conversation that follows:

"Hallo, hallo — is that the President's office? ... Thank you mam. May I speak to the President please! ... My name is officer Peter Brown Thank

you, thank you mam. Good morning Mr President, thank you for being available to take my call ... Mr President I am an officer in the Police Force! ... The enemy is attacking one of our citizens ... Please come and overpower him — I am weak but you are strong! Please set this person free ... You are in full control ... I know that you are much stronger than any enemy ... You are the strongest President there is ... I know you will never disappoint the one who trusts in you ... Nothing is impossible for you and I believe in you. Thank you Mr President. ..."

This is how most Christians react in a world ruled by Satan and his demons. We think we impress God with our misplaced humility. But in the same way the State President will not react to such a call, God does not react to such a prayer. Because in the same way the State President has delegated his power and authority to the Police Officer, and have issued him with a weapon to apprehend the criminal on behalf of the state, God has delegated His power and authority to the Christian to overcome Satan and his kingdom.

When Christians learn how to pray effectively and begin to experience answers to prayer, prayer becomes an adventure, something exciting, something productive, something powerful — in fact much more than that — prayer becomes the centre of my spiritual life — and so it should be! Prayer is the very core of the Christian life, and a Christian who does not treat prayer as such, really has good reason to put a huge question mark over his Christianity!

Prayer is Not Overcoming Reluctance in God

Paul Billheimer made a statement that radically changed my prayer-life. This is what he said: *"Prayer is not begging God to do something which He is loath to do. It is not overcoming reluctance in God. It is enforcing Christ's victory over Satan. It is implementing on earth Heaven's decisions concerning the affairs of men."*²

May I warn you, the following chapters are not going to be a Sunday School lesson — this is advanced Christianity — this is post graduate Christianity — this is not for the timid and the fearful. But don't be discouraged, the opposite is equally true — this is going to be glorious for everyone who means business with God! This is going to be enlightening, liberating, adventurous and powerful stuff for every Christian who is serious about seeing God manifested in this world, and will advance your Christian experience to a higher level.

May God bless you as you open yourself to learn deeper truths from His Word.

Food for Thought ...

Paul Billheimer made another profound statement and it is my prayer that this statement will pierce the heart of every pastor, minister and church leader: *"Prayer is where the action is. Any church without a well-organised and systematic prayer program is simply operating a religious treadmill."*³

A Prayer

Lord, teach me to pray effectively! I pray for a powerful prayer-life.

Take a few minutes of prayer to express the prayer burden on your heart to God right now.

Chapter Eight

Effective Prayer — Two Vital Qualifications

As a young Christian I thought I understood the mystery of prayer. During the years that followed my conversion I experienced a dynamic prayer-life and many answers to prayer. I thought I knew all the answers, but alas, I must admit that I have learned more about prayer during the last few years prior to writing this book than during the previous twenty altogether.

There are many qualifications for effective prayer and we are going to touch on some of them during the course of the following chapters. But if I have to reduce the qualifications for effective prayer to the two most pivotal, I would arrive at the following conclusion.

1. Knowing the Ultimate Purpose of God in Creation and the Ultimate Plan and Will Of God for the Church and the Believer.

The first vital qualification for effective prayer is that it must be about what God wants! I have to pray about things God wants done in this world! This is the reason why we have spent the first number of chapters in this book explaining in depth God's purpose and plan for the believer, the Church and the world.

This knowledge is pivotal to an effective prayer life. As we will see later, effective prayer is praying the plan, purpose and will of God into action!

How Do I Know What God Wants?

I know what I want! I want success in my ministry, business, or career, a good income, health and prosperity for myself and my family. So, I pray, 'Lord please bless me and my family.' 'Lord, please supply our needs.' 'Lord, we need a new car.' 'Lord, please bless so and so.' 'Lord, please heal my daughter.' 'Lord, please bless my business, ministry and our church.' The question is, am I in tune with God's purpose, plan and will for me, my family, and the world around me? Is my prayer-life effective? Many Christians, if they are honest, will have to answer no to this question.

Let's step back for a moment. What exactly is prayer and why pray? Prayer is interaction with and on behalf of God, who is the Creator and Maintainer of the world and the universe. God is the origin and the destiny of humanity and creation. Prayer is interaction with God, who holds your and my destiny, and the destiny of the whole world in His hands. If that is so, it follows that God has a plan and a purpose for this world, for you and me and every other human being. We have already discussed this at length during the first chapters of this book.

Knowing God's Will For Your Life

Let's ask the question, how do I get to know God's plan for my life?

The very first and basic step to know and understand God's plan for my life, is to stand in an intimate and personal relationship with Him! This can only happen through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ on the Cross of Calvary and begins with a spiritual experience called regeneration or the second birth. Joh 3:3: *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

The second step to knowing God's will for my life is to submit unconditionally to His authority and to present myself to Him in unconditional surrender for His purpose alone! *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."* (Rom 12:1,2)

If you believe that He is God and that He holds your destiny and the destiny of the world in His hands, why continue to want to do your own thing? Why

continue struggling to live your own life? Why continue living under the burden and stress of this world? Why continue to try and live up to your own morality or the morality of your society? Why continue to struggle meeting the demands of success in your home, job, ministry, business, or career, while trying hard to cope with the failures of life?

God wants to lift the yoke of self-effort from your back! Jesus says: *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."* (Mat 11:29)

The secret of a lifted world-yoke is an absolute and unconditional surrender of your entire life to God through Jesus Christ! This is also the basic condition for understanding the purpose, plan and will of God for your life as we have read in Rom 12:1,2.

Now let's get the prayer connection.

Praying God's Purpose, Plan and Will for your life and the world

If I want to pray effectively I have to pray into action God's purpose, plan and will for my own life and the world. It is totally ineffective if my prayers revolve around my own perceptions and needs and those of others. The entire Christian life is about executing the purpose, plan and will of God in and through my life, and unless my prayer-life reflects that, I am wasting my time praying. Can this be one of the reasons why our prayers have so little effect?

2. Prayer is the Battlefield of a Spiritual War!

The second vital qualification for effective prayer is the clear understanding that prayer is the primary battlefield of a spiritual war. Satan and his kingdom opposes the purpose, plan and will of God for our lives and the world through people, circumstances, and every other possible means; and if we are fighting our battles on a physical level, we will never win the war. Eph 6 states this categorically. Verse 12 quoted previously says: *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."*

Prayer is the only way one can effectively engage and overcome in battle with spiritual hosts of wickedness. This reminds me of the priest who had built himself into an enclosure without any windows or a door in order to escape from the devil, only to discover that he had shut in the devil with him.

Prayer is the battle field for spiritual warfare! The reason why prayer is not part of the armour of God in Ephesians 6, is because it is the primary battle field. In Eph 6:13-17 where we read about the armour of God (which we are going to discuss at a later stage), verse 18 continues with the following words: *"praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints;"* which by implication means that prayer is the primary area of application of God's armour.

Prayer is not Only Talking to God

Prayer is two-way communication — speaking and listening. Furthermore, prayer is not simply communication between me and God.

There are four major role players in prayer — one, the Tri-une God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; two, my soul (which is my self-consciousness and comprises of the faculties of my Will, Intellect and Emotion); three, my spirit (which is my spiritual consciousness and the faculty through which I commune with God and the spirit world); and four, the spirit world (which includes Satan and his demons). (The reason why I have listed my soul and spirit separately is because my soul and spirit are separately engaged in prayer. I sometimes think about something which is not what I want to pray about. My spirit may have one prayer burden, while my thoughts are going in another direction.)

In prayer these four role players will interact in different ways depending on the situation. However, this is a subject on its own. What is important to understand here is that there will always be a conflict of interest — at the most basic level between the demonic spirit world and my spirit.

For this reason one of Satan and his demonic hosts' primary objectives is to render my prayer-life ineffective. They do this in various ways, through manipulation of my thoughts and emotions, by averting my attention and making my thoughts wander, stealing my time, placing stumbling blocks in the way of prayer such as weariness, keeping me too busy to pray, placing an emotional oppression on me when I pray, trying to reduce my consciousness or concentration during prayer or praise, trying to serve me with a counterfeit manifestation, and many, many more!

We said that the first vital qualification for effective prayer is that prayer must be about what God wants! I have to pray about things God wants done! However, this brought me to the question, if God wants to do it anyway, why do I have to pray before He does it? It is the answer to this question that revolutionised my prayer life! I discovered that prayer is not only talking to God, but it is much more than that — it is also talking on behalf of, and with the authority of God in the spiritual realm! I discovered that I have the authority to enforce God's will in my area of conflict through prayer.

My Will plays a pivotal part in prayer warfare. Firstly, my Will has to be free to operate, oppose and reject every satanic and demonic activity and suggestion, while enforcing the will of God in prayer in the Name of Jesus Christ. For this to happen I have to be fully conscious and alert in prayer.

This Is A Real War!

The truth is that every Christian is a soldier in a very real spiritual war that is waging in this world — whether we acknowledge this or not — and this war is won or lost (on individual level by the Christian and as a whole by the Church) in prayer! This is spiritual warfare! There is only one way a Christian can avoid this war, that is by not praying! But then you are already a victim of Satan — that's why you don't pray.

Many Christians don't want to know anything about spiritual warfare because they say, Jesus Christ has overcome Satan and his demons on the cross of Calvary, and I am already a victor in Christ! That is absolutely true! However, that's just part of the truth.



A friend posted the picture on the left on my Facebook wall. In my country, South Africa, demonstrations are a regular occurrence. People toy-toy and dance in the streets whenever they cannot get what they want. Often they become quite violent, overturning trash cans and littering the environment, burning tyres in the streets, stoning passing vehicles, intimidating colleagues and looting shops. They do this

because they truly believe that the power of the people is stronger than the people in power!

What I don't understand about us Christians is that while the unsaved world around us apparently have discovered how to enforce their will on the people in power, we have no idea of the spiritual war we are engaged in and stand as passive onlookers while the world around us is speeding towards a Christ-less eternity — while we possess a much greater power — the power to enforce God's will in this world through prayer!

Enforcing the Victory of Calvary in this World is the Task of the Church!

Enforcing the victory of Calvary in this world is the task of the Church and it is done through prayer! God has already defeated Satan on the cross of Calvary. Jesus has ascended into heaven and is sitting at the right hand of the Father on the throne. Satan has been cast out of heaven and is the prince of this world. God is not at war with Satan — he has already been conquered at Calvary — but we are at war with him, and Jesus has given us the power and authority to overcome Satan in this world.

God will not override the Church and do our work for us. If the Church and Body of Christ do not take up their authority and overcome Satan, God will not do it for us! The purpose of these chapters is to show the Church how to become effective in our prayer-lives and how to use the authority and armour of God effectively.

Once again, imagine a Police Officer arriving on a scene where a crime is being committed. This time the Police Officer reacts differently. Dressed in his uniform with his rank clearly visible, he now confronts the enemy and points his firearm: "I am a Police Captain under command of the State President and I command you to drop your weapon and raise your hands!"

Just imagine what can happen in our world when Christians begin to understand and use their authority against Satan and his kingdom. Our country would look different, our family-lives would look different and our mission fields would look different. I think the world would have been reached for Christ a long time ago!

Food for Thought ...

Dear fellow Christian brother and sister, which place (symbolically) do you frequent the most:

In front of or behind the television?

On your feet or on your knees?

The family room or the inner room?

The conference room or the upper room?

Table Mountain or Mount of Olives?

The Rose garden or garden of Gethsemane?

The Caribbean or Calvary?

A Prayer

Lord, I want to fulfil Your qualifications for effective prayer. Please teach me how to be effective in prayer warfare and reveal to me my authority in Christ Jesus.

Take a few minutes of prayer to express the prayer burden on your heart to God right now.

Chapter Nine

Knowing Your Enemy

Who is the Enemy?

In order to be effective in spiritual warfare, we must know our enemy. There are several things we have to know about our enemy. We have to know who our enemy is, and we have to know his tactics. Have you ever heard of a sports team who enters into a league game without any knowledge of their opponents? Or a country entering into a war without any knowledge of their enemy? Yet Christians believe they can win the Christian war without knowledge of their enemy!

Some reason, I don't want to know more about Satan, I'd rather know more about God. It sounds very saintly, but it's like a soldier being willing to learn everything about his weapon and armour, but doesn't want to know anything about his enemy. How foolish!

The Christian has three enemies and it is of vital importance that we should be able to distinguish them if we want to be successful in our Christian lives and service. Our first enemy is sin. Jesus says in Mat 5:29: *"If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell."*

Our second enemy is Satan and his kingdom. In Matthew 13 we read the parable of the sower and in verse 39 Jesus said: *"The enemy who sowed them is the devil, ..."*

Satan and sin are not synonymous. Satan is the originator of sin, and where Satan is, there is sin; and where sin is, there is Satan. But Satan is not sin and sin is not Satan! Furthermore, Satan is not simply an evil force —

Satan is a real person, served and supported by a host of real demonic personalities!

The Christian's third enemy is the world. In 1 Jn 2:15 we read: *"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."* The world is the entire world system with its people that are tainted by sin.

Satan is the prince of this world and the world is in the power of Satan and sin. These three, Satan sin and the world are joined in an evil partnership. Where the one is, is the other, with one exception — Satan is also where sin and the world sometimes are not — with and around dedicated Christians and the body of Christ.

This brings us to the subject of war. There are two types of spiritual wars. The first is the war with sin and the sinful nature or the flesh. This is a civil war. Then there is the war with Satan and his kingdom — this is the conventional war.

The Civil War

In Romans chapter 7 we have a very real description of the civil war. The apostle Paul describes this war vividly where he says: *"For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me."* (Verses 14-20)

Why do we call the war with sin, the sinful nature and the flesh, a civil war? Because this war is fought within the heart of man. It is a struggle for the dominion of your and my heart. This is largely the area within which all Gospel preaching fall. This book assumes that you are fully acquainted with the Gospel and we will therefore not dwell on this subject, except to say that if someone is still engaged in a civil war, he or she will never win the war against Satan and his kingdom.

There are especially two misunderstandings among Christians I want to address on this subject. The first misunderstanding is that if I cannot find victory over some or other sin in my life, whether it is an addiction, hatred, envy, a bad temper, a foul tongue, or whatever, Satan is automatically the culprit. No, no, no! It is a problem of the heart! My problem is an unclean heart. It is a matter of civil war. The problem lies within the area of my sinful nature or my flesh — the problems lie within my unsanctified heart. I am at war with my own sinful nature.

Let me once again say this unequivocally — there is full deliverance at the Cross and in the Blood of the Lamb for my unsanctified heart!

But having said this, the second misunderstanding among Christians is when a saint (I am talking about a sanctified Christian) falls into sin, we automatically apportion the blame to sin or a problem of the heart. This may not be so at all! This brother or sister may be under satanic attack, and no remorse or repentance will keep them from falling again and again unless they recognise the source of their conflict and are able to engage in conventional war with Satan and claim the victory in the spiritual realm!

No country that is involved in a civil war will survive a conventional war. So it is in the spiritual realm, as we have mentioned before. At the same time, all Christians are automatically involved in a war with Satan — whether they know or understand this or not. So the moral of the story is simply, if you are still involved in a civil war — go to the Cross of Calvary and obtain victory over your own sinful nature at the very first opportunity because Satan will ensure that you are completely ineffective in your witness and service for God, for as long as you are in this condition. He has a legal right to do so!

The Conventional War

We are now moving to the conventional war, so let's take a closer look at Satan, his kingdom and the spirit world.

The Reality of Satan, his Kingdom and the Invisible Spirit World

In God's creation there is a physical and a spirit world. We all understand what the physical world is. This is everything we can see, feel, hear and taste with our senses. However, the spirit world cannot be seen or heard and we cannot communicate with the spirit world through our senses, although the spirit world is as much a reality as the physical world.

We read in Joh 4:24: *"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."* However, God is not the only one in the spirit world. Angels, Satan and his demons are also part of the spirit world. Occultism is the medium through which people communicate with the demonic spirit world. Although we cannot hear or see the spirit world with our senses, the spirit world can see and hear us in the physical realm.

It is important to emphasise the reality of Satan and his kingdom! Satan and his demons are real living spiritual personalities. This is no science fiction! Have you ever seen these digital games and science fiction movies of monster type creatures created by Hollywood and others. People think these creatures are the creation of people's imagination. However, we may be surprised to find out one day how much of these so called science fiction programs are in fact simply impressions of what their producers perceive in the spirit world.

Satan and his Demons are no Science Fiction

The fact of the matter is that Satan is a real person, heading a real kingdom — he is not science fiction, nor just a force as some believe. Many books have been written on this subject and I do not intend to cover all that ground again. If you want to read more on the character and work of Satan, I recommend for reading, *Winning The Invisible War* by E M Bounds, *War On The Saints* and *The Warfare With Satan* by Jesse Penn Lewis, *Destined To Overcome* by Paul Billheimer, *He Came To Set The Captives Free* and *Prepare For War* by Rebecca Brown.

E M Bounds writes in his book, *Winning The Invisible War*: *"The Bible reveals the devil as a person — not a mere figure, not simply an influence. He is not only a personification, but a real person. ..."*

"Many myths have gathered around the person of the devil throughout the ages. Much poetry, tradition, and even our fears have caricatured his person, exaggerated his character, and coloured his conduct. But there is truth in regard to him, naked and simple truth. ..."

"We need the knowledge about the enemy, his character, presence, and power in order to arouse men to action. This knowledge is vital to victory."

*"When the devil fell, others fell with him. ... The Bible clearly states that the devil has a host of angelic followers who are ready and eager in their efforts to hurt man and defeat God's Kingdom on earth."*¹

Demons are Eager Church-goers!

I want us to focus on one extremely important fact about Satan and his kingdom.

It is important to know that all of us are surrounded by an audience of demonic spirits in the unseen spirit world day and night. They hear and see every audible word we utter and every movement we make. They have the freedom of the city, this world and every place on earth, even the church (except where, and to the extent that they are prevented, resisted or rendered powerless by the Church) — they are even around us right now and they hear every word you and I say.

Demons are eager church goers! Demons are everywhere Christians are! I believe there are more demons where Christians are than in any other place because they have very little work to do elsewhere. Where sin reigns they have no work to do. Every empty seat in the church is filled by a demon — Bible-believing and evangelical churches are more well attended. Every prayer meeting is well attended by demons. Every Christian home is covered by demons — especially where there is a faithful and praying mother or father, husband or wife.

E M Bounds writes: *"Satan is always at church before the preacher is in the pulpit or a member in the pew. He comes to hinder the sower, to impoverish the soil, or to corrupt the seed. He uses these tactics only when courage and faith are in the pulpit, and when zeal and prayer are in the pew. But if dead ritualism or live liberalism are in the pulpit, he does not attend because they are no danger to him."*²

What is Their Modus Operandi and How do They Operate?

E M Bounds writes the following about the devil's business:

"A spiritual character can work through other agencies or directly on the human spirit. Satan infuses thoughts, makes suggestions, and does it so deftly that we do not know their origin. He tempted Eve to take the forbidden fruit. He put it into David's mind to number Israel ... He influenced Ananias and Sapphira to lie to God."

*"Peter's yielding to presumption was instigated by Satan. Judas' betrayal was from the same source. The temptation of Christ was a typical masterpiece of Satan's craft."*³

1. Demons Tempt

We all understand temptation. In 1 Thes 3:5 Paul writes: *"For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain."*

Satan even tried to tempt Jesus in the wilderness. Let this be a warning to every Christian. No Christian is so advanced spiritually that he or she is beyond the danger of temptation.

2. Demons Mislead or Deceive

We read in Rev 20:8 *"Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations ..."*

And in 1 Ki 22:23 we read: *"Therefore look! The LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours,"*

Demonic deception is rife in the Christian Church of our time. Deception is one of Satan's most successful strategies in rendering the Church powerless. Demons can counterfeit every single spiritual experience, from conversion to the infilling of the Holy Spirit. They can even counterfeit Jesus himself. There are demonic spirits who call themselves Jesus. There are religious demons who specialise just in counterfeiting every work of the Holy Spirit. For this reason we are warned in 1 Jn 4:1: *"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."*

3. Demons Manipulate and Incite

We find an example of satanic manipulation and incitation in 1 Chr 21:1: *"Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel."*

Demons manipulate people's thoughts and emotions and incite people to sin. Demons are masters at wrecking relationships. Demons concentrate especially on Christian marriages and families. Many a Christian marriage, church and personal relationship have been wrecked through demonic manipulation and incitation. I am persuaded that the majority of Christian marriage and family breakdowns are caused by demonic manipulation and incitation.

4. Demons Oppress

Demonic oppression is the chronic activity and pressurising of demons on a person from outside. Demonic oppression must not be confused with demonic possession. When demons cannot possess, they try to oppress. Oppression may be legal or illegal, in other words, they sometimes have no legitimate right to do what they are doing but they are doing it anyway for as long as they are not stopped, while at other times they do so because they are instructed by God.

We see an example of an oppressive spirit in the life of Saul in 1 Sa 16:14. This spirit was sent by God and therefore legitimate: *"But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him."*

Paul also had an oppressing spirit. We read in 2 Co 12:7: *"And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure."* This was also a legitimate demonic oppression.

Therefore we must never associate demon oppression with a lack of holiness, or God's judgement over sin. Demon oppression is in fact more common among holy and dedicated Christians than others, because they are a greater threat to Satan's kingdom. The fact of the matter is that the least a Christian is troubled by Satan and his demons, the least threat that Christian is to the kingdom of Satan.

5. Demons Attack

Demons strike people with various afflictions such as diseases, accidents, obstacles, destruction, death, torture, failure, poverty, financial ruin, crop failures, family disunity, marriage failures and divorce, rebellion in children and many more — you name it, demons do it! A classic example of this is the case of Job.

However, we must be careful to attribute every affliction to demonic activity. There can be many other reasons for the above phenomena. When we suspect demonic activity we should ask God to reveal the true source of affliction to us. When we get to the subject, Moving Into Battle, you will see how we handle this aspect when we are uncertain what the source of the affliction is.

6. Demons possess or control

Demon possession is when a demon takes up dwelling inside a person within his spirit. We find ample examples of demon possession in the Bible. One of the more well known is possibly the demoniac of Gadara. *"And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit..."* Mar 5:2.

Demonic possession is a subject on its own and is beyond the scope of this book. It is generally accepted that a born again Christian cannot be demon possessed, or should we rather say, a demon possessed person cannot be born again unless he or she is simultaneously delivered from demon possession.

On What Basis do Demons Operate?

As you have already noticed, demonic activity can either be legal or illegal. How must we understand this, considering the fact that Satan and his demons have legally been conquered on Calvary?

Satan has been legally defeated and has no legitimate right to operate in any life or area where the Cross of Calvary and the Blood of the Lamb is applied by faith. In the following chapter we are going to expand on Satan's defeat by Jesus' redemption on Calvary. But the principle to understand here is that the victory of Calvary has to be applied by faith in our lives through a voluntary act of our will before it becomes effective in our lives.

God will never override the human will in enforcing the victory of Calvary. As you will see in the following chapter, God has created man in His own image as a sovereign entity with a Will of his own. Adam sinned by a choice of his own free will, so the restoration from the fall must also occur by a choice of man's own free will. God will never force Himself on anyone! On the contrary, that is exactly how Satan and his demons operate — they force themselves upon their victims. Salvation is a matter of free individual choice! You either have to accept it voluntarily, in the absence whereof you reject it.

So then, enforcing the victory of Calvary in this world is the task of the Church, as we have pointed out already! In failing to do so, Satan will continue to operate freely without any resistance in spite of Calvary's victory. But what is the difference between Satan's legal and illegal activity?

Satan's Legal Ground

Satan can operate legally anywhere in a Christian or unbeliever's life where he has legal ground. What gives Satan legal ground to operate? The following is a list of the most common, although there may be more:

- Unrepented sin,
- The flesh (meaning any area of a person or Christian's life that has not been surrendered to the control of the Holy Spirit),
- Hateful attitudes and unforgivingness,
- Anti-Biblical or unholy cultural and ancestral bondages,
- Anti-Biblical human philosophies such as the Evolution Theory,
- Unchristian and unholy symbols and dress,
- Occultic practises, objects and symbols,
- Unbroken curses,
- Unbroken sins of the fathers

Where the victory of Calvary and the Blood of the Lamb has been proclaimed in the absence of the above, satanic and demonic activity do nevertheless occur, but they occur illegally. That means that Satan has no right to operate in that particular area and he can effectively be overcome. We will learn more about this in the chapters to follow.

Food for Thought ...

If you believe Satan is currently bound on earth — just imagine what hell must be like!

If you believe hell is on earth — just think what heaven must then be like!

If you believe heaven is on earth — then you have no hope!

A Prayer

Lord, help me to know my enemy. I pray for a spirit of discernment and wisdom in the knowledge of God.

Take a few minutes of prayer to express the prayer burden on your heart to God right now.

Chapter Ten

The Victory of Calvary

When we look at our own lives, our families and the world around us, we must be honest, it doesn't look like Satan is a defeated foe. There are some Christians who believe that we are currently living in the thousand years of peace the Book of Revelation is talking about and that Satan is currently bound. But one must have an extremely vivid imagination to really believe that!

Hal Lindsay many years ago wrote a book with the title, *Satan Is Well And Alive On Planet Earth*, and my spirit agrees with that! In fact I would put it in even stronger language: *Satan Is Well And Alive And In Full Control Of Planet Earth!* The question that immediately comes to mind is that if this is true, what is the significance of Jesus Christ's work of redemption on Calvary and the fact that He was raised from the dead? Was Satan really defeated, and if so, how come he is still in control of planet earth?

Seeing the Big Bible Picture

In order to understand this anomaly, it is vitally important for the Christian to fully see and understand the overall Bible and Gospel picture. We began this book by explaining God's purpose in creation and God's purpose with the Church. Let us now expand this picture until we have a broad and full vision of the Bible message. All the misunderstandings, errors, false doctrines and fallacies preached in the Church of Jesus Christ over the ages can be traced back to a poor vision of the big Bible and Gospel picture. It is possible to be able to recite the entire Bible by heart without a sound understanding of its overall message.

I previously used the illustration of the Gospel sandwich. Let me now take this idea a step further. The message of the Bible is like a large jig-saw puzzle. (Technology is developing so fast that in our age of electronic take-over, I sincerely hope my readers will still know what a jig-saw puzzle is. On the other end of the scale I discovered that there are underprivileged people who have never seen a jig-saw puzzle. If you don't know what a jig-saw puzzle is, ask either your parents or grand parents, or your children or grand children. One of them is likely to know what a jig-saw puzzle is.)

The message of the Bible is one big picture consisting of a multitude of individual pieces - Bible books and verses. Whenever you use any one of these pieces or verses, it must be done in the context of its position in the complete picture.

Apart from the fact that the Bible is the best-selling book in history with approximate sales estimates at the time of writing ranging from 2.5 billion to 6 billion¹, one of the greatest wonders of the Bible, and to me one of the most important evidences that the Bible is the inspired Word of the Living God, is the fact that it is the only Book in the world that is made up of 66 books, consisting of 1,189 chapters and 31,173 verses², and was written by about 40 authors³ over a period of approximately 1600 years⁴, that forms together one coherent message, while not one single verse contradicts another in its overall context, and is universally accepted by the Church as the inspired Word of God. (This is possibly also the longest sentence you have ever read.)

When you begin building a jig-saw puzzle, it is of paramount importance to have the picture you are building in front of you, otherwise you will not know where the individual pieces fit. Have you ever tried to build a large jig-saw puzzle without its picture? It is almost impossible. Yet many Christians use individual Bible verses without properly understanding where they fit in the total Bible picture. It is possible to justify any doctrine or belief — right or wrong — by quoting a verse or verses from the Bible.

So then, what is the big Bible picture? What are the major scenes of the Bible picture? Here it is in a nutshell:

1. Scene One: God's Ultimate Plan and Purpose in Creation.

We have already covered this subject extensively in previous chapters. However, let's recap briefly. God created the human race for a purpose.

What purpose? We read in Gen 1:26-28: *"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, ... Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the ... earth.'"*

Firstly, God created mankind in His own image, as a sovereign entity, with a SPIRIT, SOUL and BODY, and a WILL, INTELLECT and EMOTION, of his own. God created man as a trinity, like Himself.

God reveals Himself as a Trinity to man; SOUL — God the Father which is His character and personality; BODY — Jesus Christ, God revealed to man in a human body; and SPIRIT — the Holy Spirit. So He created man — spirit, soul and body — a spiritual being in a human body in the image of God.

Secondly, God wanted an offspring, a posterity, in His own image! God wanted a Royal family! For this reason God commanded mankind to become fruitful and multiply. In the New Testament this offspring is called the Church and Body of Christ, and at completion it will become the Bride of Christ.

Thirdly, God appointed His family, the human race, with the authority to represent Him and to rule over the earth! Let me repeat this statement, as this is fundamental to an effective prayer-life! The human race was created to be God's representative and to exercise His authority on earth. There is a deep seated truth revealed here. God's purpose is that His family as a group should reign over His creation.

2. Scene Two: Fall of the Human Race.

In Genesis 3 we read about the fall. Sin entered the world and mankind became subject to Satan, his demons and sin. Mankind inherited a tarnished and fallen image of God; and Satan obtained legal authority on earth through the fall to rule the world instead of mankind, which he passionately executes, albeit illegally, to this day! We will explain this statement further on.

The rest of the entire Scripture is devoted to God's story of the restoration of creation from the fall.

3. Scene Three: The Message and Significance of the Old Testament.

The Old Testament is a prophetic message pointing towards, and which would be fulfilled in the New Testament. The Old Testament is the story of

how God prepared a people in His own image through a man called Abraham, against the back-drop of the fall and introduction of the law, in order to pave the way for ultimate fulfilment of God's purpose in creation.

The Old Testament is the story of how God produced and prepared a Messianic race that would in the maturity of time, give birth to the Messiah in perfect fulfilment of the law.

4. Scene Four: The Message and Significance of the New Testament.

The New Testament and the Gospel tells us the story of man's redemption from the fall, from sin and Satan's rule. It tells us the story of how God, in the maturity of time, overturned Satan's legal authority over this world, and reclaimed the world and all the nations of the world for God and His Kingdom through the victory of the Cross of Calvary, the Blood of the Lamb, Jesus' resurrection from the grave, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit!

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the Divine history of God's restoration plan of creation. The Gospel of Jesus Christ restored humanity's purpose and God's plan in creation. Through the Gospel of Jesus Christ the human race can once again take in his position and purpose for which God created him, namely:

1. To become part of the family of God through regeneration. Joh 1:12: *"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name."* Ultimately, to become part of the Bride of Christ and to reign with Him in eternity. Rom 8:16,17: *"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs; heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, ..."*
2. To partake of the image of God, and to become more and more like Jesus through heart purification and sanctification. Rom 8:29: *"For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren."*
3. To reach and win the world for Christ, and to establish and expand the Kingdom of God on earth through the Church. Act 1:8 *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

4. To represent God in this world through our lives and our witness, through the indwelling and the control of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

I want to expand slightly on this point. In 1 Co 6:19 we read: *"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?"* Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, do we as Christians really understand what God is telling us here? Do we really understand what it means that the Holy Spirit lives within us?

My observation is that many, if not most Christians are completely indifferent to this fact. It does not make any difference to them whether the Holy Spirit lives within them or not! How sad! The result is that they are not only completely oblivious to their position in Christ, but they have no power in their Christian lives and they make no impact on this world!

Dear friend in Christ, the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Tri-une God lives within you! He is not there far away in heaven! He is within you! God is representing Himself to the world through you! You have God's heavenly power at your disposal here on earth! The authority of God over Satan, sin, and the world, have been delegated to you through the indwelling Holy Spirit here on earth!

When Christians begin to understand and appreciate something about representing God through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in their lives, many things in this world will change. Firstly, Christians themselves will change — their conduct will change, their conversations will change, their perspectives will change, their priorities will change, even their dress, appearances, and lifestyles will change. In short, the entire way they present themselves to this world will change, for they will be representing God. Secondly, the world and other people's lives will change because the authority of God will be going out from them.

5. The fifth position and purpose for which God created humans that we can once again take in through the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to rule and have dominion over sin, the world, and Satan and his kingdom — to be conquerors. In Rom 8:2 we read: *"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death."* And Rom 8:31: *"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"* And Rom 8:37:

"Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

5. Scene Five: Consummation and Fulfilment

God's purpose in creation will be fulfilled when Jesus Christ returns to be united with His bride. Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God will never be in majority rule this side of Jesus' return! Countries and cities will never be "taken" for God this side of Jesus' return! In fact the Bible teaches us: *"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ..."*

The Kingdom of God will be revealed at the second coming of Christ. The Church will be glorified at the second coming of Christ. The Bride will be revealed at the second coming of Christ. The second coming of Christ is the next major event in history that must occur soon. Until the return of Jesus Christ the Church is still imperfect, the Bride is still incomplete, and the task of the Great Commission is still unfinished.

It is important at this point that we understand very well that not everybody, or not even the majority in a particular country, city, town, or tribe will necessarily be saved for the Great Commission to be completed. Millions of people have already died without Christ without once hearing the Name of Jesus Christ.

The principle behind Jesus' great commission is that God created man with a Will and choice of his and her own. By implication many (perhaps the majority) will not accept the Gospel message, but the Church of Jesus Christ will be held responsible for all the people that are lost because they have never heard the Gospel! The mission of the Church is to take the Gospel to the whole world so that every person on earth may hear and be able to exercise a choice for Jesus Christ or not!

What many Christians and even pastors apparently don't understand, is that the longer it takes for the Church to reach the whole world with the Gospel, the longer it will take for Jesus Christ to return and the more people will die without ever hearing the Gospel message once! The longer it takes for Jesus Christ to return, the more people will die without Christ! Will God hold the Church of every generation responsible for the number of people that died during that generation without hearing the Gospel once?

The task of finishing the Great Commission will be completed when every nation, tribe and tongue had an opportunity to hear the Gospel. It is

therefore generally understood that when there is (or was) a witness of a Christian church (however small) in a particular community, Jesus' Great Commission is fulfilled for that community.

For this reason it is inexcusable for the Church to focus the majority of their time, presence and resources in evangelising a country, nation, or tribe that has heard the Gospel for many ages or centuries, while there are some who have never once heard the name of Jesus Christ! If the Church in the evangelised civilised world would rechannel all their resources to take the Gospel to the unreached people of our day, the Great Commission could be fulfilled in a matter of a few years!

The problem is a self-centred Church without a Bridal Vision, busy with her own agenda, believing she is glorifying God with her purposeless religion. For as long as this situation continuous, millions of souls will continue to die without Christ year after year!

The Centrality of Calvary

Let us for a moment take our focus away from the failures, imperfections and incompleteness of the Church and focus our attention on the reality and centrality of the Cross of Jesus.

Paul Billheimer describes it like this: *"The center of history is not its great empires like Egypt, Babylon, Greece, or Rome, nor their modern counterparts such as Russia, China, the United States of America, or any other which may yet appear. To locate the centre of history one must bypass all these vast empires and the glittering names associated with them and find his way to a tiny land called the navel of the earth, the geographical center of the world. And in that tiny land is a tiny hill called Calvary, where two thousand years ago a Man named Jesus was lifted up to die. And this writer submits that that tiny hill in that tiny land is the center of all history, not only of this world, but of all the countless galaxies and island universes of outer space from eternity to eternity."*⁵

The fact of the matter is simply that on the Cross of Calvary Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, died a substitutionary death in your and my place, and in place of the entire world, through which God legally redeemed mankind from the penalty as well as the power of Satan, sin and the world. Through the shedding of His Blood there is now forgiveness, cleansing from, and victory over sin, Satan, and the world; and through His resurrection from

the grave He destroyed the sting of death, securing the victory over Satan who held the power of death, providing eternal life for every person in the whole world, who is willing to accept it by faith.

This is a simple fact that I'm not even going to try to defend or prove to anyone. There is an overwhelming resource of evidence to this fact as well as millions of people all over the past 2000 years, and millions all over the world living today who will experientially testify to this truth.

The fact of the matter is that Satan is a legally defeated foe! The fact of the matter is that Satan has been legally stripped of his power! The fact of the matter is that Satan has legally no power over a child of God!

How then is it possible that a child of God can be under Satanic attack and oppression? At the start of our chapter we asked the question: If the above is true, what is the significance of Jesus Christ's work of redemption on Calvary and the fact that He was raised from the dead? Was Satan really defeated, and if so, how come he is still in control of planet earth?

Enforcement of Redemption

The answer to our question is found in our lack and failure to enforce the redemption of Jesus Christ and the victory of Calvary in our lives, the Church, and the world! This is the area where we as Christians fail the most. We fail to understand our role in the spiritual realm with regard to the enforcement of God's Kingdom on earth.

Remember the Kingdom of God on earth is not a physical Kingdom — it is a spiritual Kingdom. Jesus said to Pilate: *"My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."* (Joh 18:36) In other words, this battle will never be won in the physical realm — it can only be won in the spiritual realm.

We witness, we preach, we plant churches, we hold gospel rallies, we spread the Gospel — and all these things are vitally important — but all these activities are done in the physical realm. The most important of all — enforcing the victory of the Cross in the spiritual realm, we neglect or omit altogether. This can be done only through prayer. The redemption victory of the Cross is implemented and enforced in prayer. The victory on the mission field is won or lost in prayer.

Praying Effectively

I know this sounds very simplistic. Theoretically, or shall I say, theologically, we all know this, and we do pray! We believe that the results in our churches and on our mission fields are the consequences of prayer, and I am not belittling our current prayer efforts. In evangelical circles one often hears the plea, we must pray more, we must pray more. But the secret is not to pray more — the secret is to pray more effectively! The secret is to pray in such a way that I know when I have prayed, something has happened in the spiritual realm and my prayers are being answered.

I am asking again, why do Christians pray so little? Well, let me speak for myself. For a substantial number of years until God intervened in my prayer life, prayer was hard work to me! Let me be honest with you, I didn't really look forward to my prayer time because I experienced it as a spiritual exercise draining my energy, with very little or no visible results. Prayer was a laborious effort to me, trying to persuade God to do things I believed was His will to do. I knew prayer was important, and reminded myself continually of the parable of the persistent widow Jesus told that men always ought to pray and not lose heart. So I persisted in prayer — but I must be honest, it was not a pleasure — until I discovered these truths.

I really fully understand why Christians pray so little. I fully understand why church prayer meetings are empty! I myself withdrew from many a prayer gathering because I experienced it as a boring and laborious religious exercise with little or no visible results.

Effective Prayer is Powerful and Exciting!

Dear friends in Christ, when we pray as God intended prayer to be, it should be a spiritual event characterised by power, exhilaration, joy, adventure, fulfilment, victory — and results! Every time we pray — something should happen as a result somewhere — even though we may not know about it — we should be experiencing it in our spirits! It is an event that we should be looking forward to every day. It is an event that we should be looking forward to in great anticipation. We should be experiencing something happening in the spiritual realm every time we pray, not only sometimes and under certain circumstances. We should experience being effective in the spiritual realm.

We may not always see the immediate results in the physical realm — in fact sometimes the satanic attacks may intensify around us because Satan

is not going to accept defeat without a fight! But we should always experience the immediate results in the spiritual realm! We should experience victory over Satan and his kingdom in the spiritual realm over our families and ministries, over the people we pray for, over the mission fields we pray for — and we should expect to see spiritual breakthroughs!

The Secret is Embedded in God's Purpose in Creation ...

So, what is the secret? The secret is knowing how to enforce the redemption and victory of the Cross of Calvary in our own lives, that of our families, our fields of service, and the world around us through prayer!

As we have pointed out previously, God will never violate the sovereignty of mankind, because He created us in His own image, like God — with a sovereign WILL, INTELLECT, and EMOTION of our own! Adam and Eve sinned by an act of their own Will, Intellect and Emotion! Furthermore, He appointed man to rule the earth, and He has never retracted that command!

In the same way we have to engage our own Will, Intellect and Emotion to implement and enforce Christ's legal victory over Satan and sin in our own lives and the world around us in prayer!

The Scope of the Christian's Authority

You will remember that in the previous chapter we said that Satan and his demons are active on legal as well as illegal territory. By now we all understand that Satan can be overcome when he operates illegally. But what about legal territory? Can I overcome and stop him on his own legal ground?

This is a very interesting question, because although we have said that Satan has a legal right to operate where elements of sin, the flesh, and the occult are present, he always only has a limited legal right. Satan will always contest an illegal area pretending that he has a full legal right to be there. However, there are areas where I only have to defend, while in others I have to attack.

Here is an example of defence. If one of my children becomes involved in drugs or alcohol and is living a licentious lifestyle, Satan has a legal right in his or her life, but only a limited right. His right is limited by the fact that as

my child's father, I possess God's authority over my child. Satan has no right in my child's life on the basis that I have dedicated my child to God at birth and my child is under my priestly authority. Therefore, Satan only has a limited right in my child's life in so far as he or she has yielded to his pressure. But I can negate that right on the basis of my authority in Christ, and my authority over my child. (Also see Article 5, God's Delegated Authority.)

Here is an example of attack. On what basis can I challenge Satan's right in an area or mission field where Satan and sin reigns supreme? For example, the lawlessness and licentiousness in the my child's school, or the location God sent me to preach the Gospel? On the ground of Calvary I can challenge and oppose Satan's right in any place on earth — on the strength of my faith! Joh 3:16 says *"For God so loved **the world** that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* The victory on Calvary was won for the whole world and every person on this earth has the right to hear and respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. However, this is where faith comes into the picture.

The scope of the Christian's authority over Satan is limited only by our faith. The fact of the matter is that Satan and his kingdom was legally defeated at the Cross of Calvary through the precious Blood of the Lamb and this victory is a reality and absolute fact that cannot be disputed or undone by all the forces of hell!

The Vehicle of Enforcing Redemption

This finally brings us to the vehicle through which the redemption is enforced, namely faith. How can I implement the victory of redemption in my life and in the world? By faith! The Bible says that faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Heb 11:1) Faith is something dynamic; faith is much more dynamic than positive thinking! Positive thinking tries to think something unreal into reality through the power of my own brain on the basis of nothing. Faith is transforming an unseen fact into reality through the power of the Living God on the basis of His infallible Word! Yet, people still choose to exercise positive thinking rather than faith. How foolish!

Faith in God and His Word changes what previously appeared fiction to me into reality. Faith changes the unreal into reality! *"By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are*

seen were not made of things which are visible." (Heb 11:3) *"By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days."* (Heb 11:30) And so we can continue quoting examples all day!

Without faith I will accomplish nothing in prayer — in fact prayer without faith is like religion without God. It has no substance — it is void of its primary ingredient — it is purely a religious ritual. In fact, thinking about it carefully, one can actually conclude that prayer without faith is idolatry! It is better not to pray at all than to pray without faith.

Prayer is faith in action — and faith is prayer in action! That's why a soul is saved and born again in prayer. That's why a Christian is filled by the Holy Spirit in prayer. That's why a person is Divinely healed in prayer. That's why spiritual victories are occurring in prayer. That's why spiritual warfare is won or lost in prayer. That's why the world is changed through prayer! In fact, only now do I really understand that nothing changes in the Christian's spiritual world outside of prayer!

Faith and prayer are inseparably connected to each other — they cannot be separated. If you want to know how strong your faith is — measure it by your prayer life. And if you want to know how effective your prayer life is — measure it by your faith.

"Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." (Heb 11:6)

This is the reason why I have taken time to emphasise the reality and the absolute certainty that Satan has been legally defeated and disarmed at the Cross of Calvary! If you are not absolutely convinced about this in your mind, and if you are uncertain whether you are in a position to enforce the victory of the Cross in your life and your world, you won't have faith for effective prayer.

In summary then, on the Cross of Calvary Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, redeemed the human race from the penalty as well as the power of Satan, sin and the world. Through the shedding of His precious Blood and His resurrection from the grave He secured the victory over Satan, sin and the world — and I believe this with my entire heart!

I have surrendered my entire life to this fact — and if this fact fails, I fail with it! If the Word of God fails, I fail with it! With Esther I proclaim — I shall enter into the presence of the King to intercede for a lost world — and if I perish, I perish! What about you?

Food for Thought ...

Just imagine how many Christian marriages we could have saved, how many family breakdowns we could have prevented; how many Christian church schisms would never have occurred; how many Christian leaders, pastors and missionaries would never have fallen; how many of our children would have been saved; how many souls would have been won for Christ; how many mission fields would have been taken for Christ; how many nations, tribes and tongues would have been reached for Christ; if we and the Church universal had simply been praying effectively!

Maybe the task of the Great Commission would have been completed and Jesus Christ would have returned a long time ago and we would already have been seated in glory!

A Prayer

Lord, help me to be effective in prayer. Teach me how to enforce the victory of Calvary in my prayer-life. Increase my faith that I may experience breakthroughs in the spiritual realm for Your Kingdom's sake.

Take a few minutes of prayer to express the prayer burden on your heart to God right now.

Chapter Eleven

Preparing for Battle

Now we are moving into the preparation phase for battle. Remember this message is about prayer warfare. We have acknowledged that we are engaged in a war, and we have also said that every Christian is involved in this war — whether he likes it or not, whether he acknowledges it or not! The Christian life in this world is a war against Satan and sin and it will be so until Jesus returns.

The very first thing a soldier must do before he leaves for the battle field is to prepare for war, and so must the Christian. There are four areas of preparation a Christian must engage to prepare for war, the first is to report for duty, the second is to confirm our allegiance, the third is to take up our rank in God's army, and the fourth is to put on our armour.

1. Reporting for Duty — Confirming my Relationship with Christ

1 Jn 1:7 says: *"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."*

Before I can engage in prayer warfare I must be sure about my relationship with Christ. The first and most basic thing I have to be sure about, is my salvation; secondly I must have a pure heart. There must be no unconfessed sin in my life, otherwise Satan will take me out straight away. Therefore, before I engage in prayer warfare I must take time to humble myself before God and confess and repent from any known or conscious sin in my life.

Beware of Imbalances

Maybe I should share a word of warning on this subject. Remember that Satan is a sly foe. If he cannot keep you from reaching the top of the spiritual victory mountain, he will try and push you across the other side. He knows your and my weak spots better than we often know ourselves. There are especially two ways he seeks to render a Christian powerless in prayer. The first is to blind a person to his own sin. He will encourage you to rationalise your sin away through righteous reasoning, making you believe that it was not actually your fault, it was actually the other person or party's fault. If there is unconfessed and unrepentant sin in your life, your prayer-life will be ineffective.

But secondly, and this is quite common among well meaning dedicated and sensitive Christians. If he cannot keep you from confessing and repenting from your sin, he will try and bring you under a false conviction of sin. He will try and make you introspective — that means looking inwards towards yourself — and all you see is your own (and others') fallibility, your own (and others') failures, your own (and others') faults and inability to please God, while he pours over you either a false sense of guilt or a false sense of humility before God.

Remember, forgiveness and cleansing, and a right standing before God is obtained by focussing on Jesus and the Cross through (repentant) faith — with the emphasis on faith — not by looking inwards, not by the amount and intensity of my tears and repentance! This is a tactic of Satan to keep you occupied with yourself all the time, while diverting your focus away from Jesus Christ and the victory of the Cross of Calvary. So, when you need to, and have confessed your sin, don't dwell on your sin — move quickly to the power of the Blood and the Empty Grave — otherwise Satan will keep you ineffective in prayer-warfare!

Seeing Sin for What it Is

What would you say is the greatest sin? Murder, idolatry? The Lord recently showed sin to me through a different lens. I have always thought I lived a holy life because I do not indulge in the things of this world. However, God showed sin to me through different spectacles.

God showed me that nursing of inflexibility, insensitiveness, and impatience, were manifestations of the sin of self-love. Nursing of resistance,

insubmissiveness, discontentment or rebelliousness, were manifestations of the sin of rebellion. Nursing of hurt, defensiveness or touchiness, were manifestations of the sin of pride; and nursing of negativism, dejection and depression, were manifestations of the sin of unbelief.

All sins are equally abominable in God's sight, but apart from plain disobedience, I believe these four sins are at the root of the lack of power in the Church of Jesus Christ: self-love or self-interest, pride, rebellion and unbelief!

The Greatest Sin ...

I want to share a few thoughts about some of these sins with you.

In Heb 11:6 we read: *"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."* And in Rom 14:23 we read: *"for whatever is not from faith is sin."*

Somehow in the back of my mind I had the idea that God would reward me for my righteousness and holiness. I was constantly looking inward to try and identify what sin in my life was displeasing to God, until one day I somewhere heard or read the following words: "The only thing God rewards is faith." This stuck in my mind and I realised that this was absolutely true! God does not reward me for my good deeds or holiness — the only thing He rewards is faith!

I then came to realise that my greatest sin is unbelief! Unbelief is the sin I have to confess to God more frequently than any other sin. Unbelief, or lack of faith, limits the power of God in and through our lives. Until we begin to treat lack of faith as sin, the power of God will be limited in and through our lives, including our prayer lives. When we begin confessing our unbelief as sin, we will find God at work in our lives.

Most Christians are quite content when they have sufficient faith for their own salvation, but few Christians have sufficient faith to claim their families and the world around them for Christ! We tend to treat our lack of faith as human weakness, and sometimes we even boast about our lack of faith when we utter doubtful and negative words about other people or the world around us! We don't see unbelief for what it is — namely sin! Unbelief, or let me rather use the term 'lack of faith' — is sin — and I am of the opinion that lack of faith is the mother sin and greatest sin of all sins!

But another great (Christian) sin is the sin of rebelliousness. In 1 Sa 15:22,23 we read what Samuel said to Saul when he disobeyed the command of

God: *"Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. ..."*

A Personal Testimony

For a long time we were plagued by a shortage of income and a demonic financial oppression to the extent that it literally almost brought my work to a standstill. I didn't have transport; the power service provider had cut our electricity because of unpaid bills; my computer needed repairs I could not afford; my phone service provider issued me with a defective cell phone when I renewed my contract and refused to replace it; my internet reception was too poor to get my work done, with the result that I was paying for a data contract I could not use; we could not mail out our newsletter because of a lack of funds; my wife Nansie had to work long hours for poor remuneration; in addition the number of children attending her after-school care centre had dropped by more than 50% from the previous year resulting into an even greater financial crisis for us; we simply didn't have enough income to cover our monthly expenses and many a bill went unpaid.

One morning during my prayer time, my spirit was once again very heavy as a result of our financial situation. The Lord revealed to me that there was rebellion in my heart and that this was limiting God's power in my life. There was rebellion in my heart towards my wife's employer and the institutions that contributed to our financial suffering, but most of all, there was rebellion in my heart towards God because He had not yet come through for us financially.

I broke before God and confessed my rebelliousness, and I forgave everyone that contributed to our financial suffering. I forgave my wife's employer; I forgave the bank; I forgave the municipality; I forgave my phone service provider; but most importantly, with all respect, I forgave God! This was difficult, because I knew God was not really at fault — but I nevertheless had to forgive Him to set myself free!

The Importance of Forgiveness in Prayer Warfare

King David understood what it meant to submit unconditionally to the authority of God. We read in 2 Sa 16:9-11: *"Then Abishai the son of*

Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Please, let me go over and take off his head!" But the king said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? So let him curse, because the LORD has said to him, 'Curse David.' Who then shall say, 'Why have you done so?'" And David said to Abishai and all his servants, "See how my son who came from my own body seeks my life. How much more now may this Benjamite? Let him alone, and let him curse; for so the LORD has ordered him."

Who do you have to forgive today? To whom are you still pointing a finger? Perhaps you also have to forgive God. Maybe you have to forgive a criminal or someone who has harmed you or your family. Maybe you have to forgive your husband or wife, or ex-husband or ex-wife, or perhaps your children, or maybe you have to forgive the government, or a political party or leader, or the system, or maybe you have to forgive apartheid.

Who do you have to forgive? Until you have allowed God to cleanse you from every shade of insubmissiveness or rebelliousness in your heart, the power of God will be limited in your prayer-life.

Also read Article 5, 'God's Delegated Authority' in the Article Section.

What is Hurting?

The third sin I want to lift out is the sin of pride. I never realised that pride was a factor in my life until God sent me through His school of humility. One trial and failure upon the other struck me to the extend that I felt God had forsaken me. At the time I found it difficult to understand what God was doing in my life, until I realised that the thing that hurt most, was my ego! If God is dealing with your ego, don't resist His dealings in your life — He is preparing you for higher service!

It is time that we confess our negativism, depressiveness and depression as the sin of unbelief. It is time that we confess our resentment, self-pity and touchiness as the sin of pride. It is time that we confess our insubmissiveness and rebelliousness towards the wrongs in the world around us as the sin of rebellion. For as long as we do not allow God to deal with these sins in our lives, the power of God will be limited in and through our lives and prayer-lives in particular. When we are honest with God and confess our weaknesses as sins to God, we will begin to experience the power of the Holy Spirit in and through our prayer-lives.

2. Taking the Oath of Allegiance — Confirming my Covenant with Christ

The second area of preparation a Christian must engage before he enters into prayer warfare is to confirm his allegiance to Christ.

God is a covenantal God! This means that God has chosen to arrange His relationship with mankind in terms of a covenant. Another word for a covenant is a contract. The Bible is divided into two covenants or contracts, the Old and the New. We read about God's covenant with Noah. Then we read about God's covenant with Abraham and his offspring, Israel.

We read about the New Covenant especially in the book of Hebrews. For example in Heb 10:16: *"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,"* and in Heb 9:15: *"And for this reason (Jesus) is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance."*

The important thing about the Covenant we have to understand is that it has two sides like every other contract! God's side and man's side! God's side of the Covenant was fulfilled on Calvary and sealed in His own blood. However, before this Covenant comes fully into force in someone's life, a person not only has to accept it — but he or she has to be fully committed thereto! I have to make a covenant with God! God wants me to stand in a covenantal relationship with Him!

What does that mean? That simply means that I have to commit my entire life unconditionally to Him! God expects from me a complete, total and unconditional surrender of my entire life! God expects from me an oath of allegiance!

Where do I read that in the Bible, you may be asking. Apart from the fact that this truth runs like a golden thread right through the Bible, one of the most explicit verses in the Bible we find in Rom 12:1: *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."* We also find this truth in the first commandment: *"You must love the Lord your God with **ALL** your heart."* (Emphasis mine)

God's hates a half hearted religion. This is the reason why he vomited the Laodicean church in Revelation 3:16 out of His mouth. My covenant with

God prevents me from falling away when temptation, persecution, trouble and hard times come. My covenant with God prevents me from putting my hand against the plough and looking back. My covenant with God prevents me from doubting the love and grace of God when His face is hidden from me for a time. My covenant with God prevents me from shying away when He leads me through the lion's den or the fiery furnace. My covenant with God makes me faithful unto death!

My covenant with God qualifies me for study and training on the campus of Adversity and Affliction in God's Eternity University. Most importantly, my covenant with God qualifies me for war against Satan and his kingdom!

Have you entered into a covenant with God? Is your covenant with God intact? You have to confirm your covenant with God in preparation for war with Satan before you go into battle, or you may be tempted to yield to surrender! War with Satan is no Sunday School picnic!

3. Taking Up my Rank, my Position in Christ

There are two positions a Christian must take up in Christ Jesus. Your position with God determines your rank in the spiritual realm. It determines your spiritual authority! The higher the rank of a police officer, the greater his authority to uphold the law. It's the same in the spiritual world. The higher a believer's rank with God, the greater his authority over Satan, sin, and the world.

My Position as Crucified With Christ

The first position I have to take up is my position as crucified with Christ.

You will remember that we said earlier there are two wars, civil and conventional war. To ensure you are not involved in a civil war, you have to take up your position in Christ as crucified with Him. Let me emphasise, to be born again and to be crucified with Christ are two different things! It is possible to be a born again child of God without having the testimony of being crucified with Christ, and I will dare to say that in my opinion the majority of Christians fall into this category. It is sad to observe that many Christians have no idea what it means to be crucified with Christ.

Before you are able to take in a position of conventional war, you must have the testimony in your heart that you are indeed crucified with Christ!

Paul testifies in Gal 2:20: *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."*

What is Paul saying here? Paul says that his old sinful nature, the nature with which he was born, that nature that continually wants to satisfy his sinful desires — has been crucified with Christ. Paul says he is dead to sin and the world of sin, because his sinful nature is no longer in control of his life. He now lives in victory over temptation, the world, and sin because the Holy Spirit is in control of his life. He is in fact free to say no to Satan and sin!

Are you really free? Are you free to say NO to Satan and sin? If not, you are not ready for spiritual warfare — you are still engaged in civil war. You are ineffective in prayer.

If you cannot testify that you are crucified with Christ, I briefly want to explain to you how you can receive this testimony. There are basically three conditions a Christian has to comply with in order to receive this testimony. The first is a radical and complete turning away from sin. (We have covered this in preparation area one.) You will never receive this testimony unless you are prepared to break with every known and conscious sin in your life!

The second is a total and unconditional surrender of every area of your life to God for His glory, purpose, and use. (We have covered this in preparation area two.) Many people pray, Lord, give me the Holy Spirit in all His fullness, but God says, my child, you already have the Holy Spirit in all His fullness. Now give yourself to the Holy Spirit in all your fullness! That's the simple secret of a Spirit-filled life and obtaining the testimony of being crucified with Christ.

But there is a third condition I have to comply with in order to receive the testimony of being crucified with Christ — and this is faith. This testimony is received by a simple act of faith in prayer. Faith is the catalyst. Faith changes the theology into reality. How do I know I have been crucified with Christ? By faith! Simply and purely by faith on the basis of the Word of God!

If you need to, settle this issue with God straight away. Maybe you have never understood this message as clearly before and this is your first time. Or maybe you want to settle this issue with God by renewal. Do it now in silent prayer. I repeat, you've got to confess and break with every conscious sin in your life. Secondly, you have to make a full and unconditional surrender of your entire life to God and enter into a covenant of faithfulness with Him. Thirdly, you have to take the promises of God in His Word with

regard to the fullness of the Holy Spirit and the crucified life — by faith. (For example in Rom 8:1,2, Ef 5:18, Gal 5:16, Gal 2:17).

If you can testify with Paul that you are crucified with Christ, then fasten that position with God in prayer by renewal right now.

My Position as Raised With Christ

I said earlier that there are two positions a Christian has to take up in Christ Jesus. The first was my position as crucified with Christ, and the second is my position as raised and conquered with Christ. Although it is true that you and I will only be bodily raised at the second coming of Christ, we have already been spiritually raised. Dear Christian brother and sister, as surely as you have been crucified with Christ, you have also been raised with Christ! Let's examine the Scriptures on this issue:

Rom 6:4 *Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

Rom 7:4 *Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another; to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.*

Col 2:11,12 *In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.*

Col 3:1 *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.*

But do you know what? You were not only raised with Christ, you are also seated with Christ in heavenly places!

Eph 2:4-6 *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus ...*

How do I take up my position as raised and conquered with Christ? Once again, by faith! Simply by faith!

What is the implication of this fact? The implication is that as a Christian crucified and raised with Christ, I have authority over Satan and his demons in the all-victorious Name of Jesus Christ!

4. Putting On the Armour of God

Now my armour is ready. In fact my armour has already been put on, it is simply a matter of checking everything before I move into battle.

Let's briefly go through the checklist of Eph 6:13-18:

1. The Belt of Truth (verse 14).

The waist girded with truth means that I am fully committed to the truth of God's Word. I fully accept every promise of God as truth and the whole Bible as the infallible Word of God, and I reject everything that is in conflict with the Word. Is your belt fitted? If not, Satan will quickly knock you out of battle!

2. The Breastplate of Righteousness (verse 14).

The breastplate of righteousness means that my standing before God is based on the righteousness of Jesus Christ through the Cross of Calvary and the Blood of the Lamb. I don't come before God on the basis of my own righteousness, therefore Satan has no basis upon which to accuse me before God of any unrighteousness. My sins are forgiven and my heart washed in the Blood of the Lamb. Have you put on your breastplate? If not, the darts of Satan will penetrate your heart and destroy your standing before God!

3. The Boots of the Gospel of Peace (verse 15).

My feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace means that I am ready and available to be God's messenger and witness, and to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ into all the world. Are your boots on? If not, don't worry, you'll probably not come into conflict with Satan! But you will also have missed God's plan for your life.

4. The Shield of Faith (verse 16).

In the battlefield you will surely come under Satan's attack and he will fire his darts of doubt, temptation, fear, intimidation, oppression, depression, anger, failure, and disease at you. Faith is your shield. Without the shield of faith, his darts will certainly wound or fell you down. Is your shield in hand?

5. The Helmet of Salvation (verse 17).

The helmet of salvation protects my thoughts and my emotions. Where the breastplate of righteousness protects my standing before God, the helmet of salvation protects my status before God. The helmet of salvation involves my position as crucified and raised with Christ as discussed in the previous section. Is your helmet fitted?

6. The Sword of the Spirit (verse 17).

The Sword of the Spirit is defined for us by Scripture itself, which is the Word of God. The Sword of the Spirit is the only part of my armour that is a weapon of attack! The only effective weapon of attack against Satan is the Word of God! Forget about complaining, forget about arguing, forget about shouting, forget about striking, forget about toy-toying, forget about dancing, petitioning, marching or demonstrating!

When Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, he defended himself with the Word of God! Only the Word of God! Do you know your Bible; can you use your Sword? May God help you to use your Sword effectively.

Now we are ready to move into battle.

Food for Thought ...

Dear fellow Christian brother and sister, pastor, minister and church leader, are you ready and equipped for battle? If not you are of no use to God! It is the will of God that you and every Christian be fully equipped with the armour of God!

May I challenge you — stop playing church-church and missions-missions and offer yourself fully to God to be *“a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.”* 2 Ti 2:21. (Read the whole of 2 Timothy chapter 2.)

A Prayer

Lord, forgive my unbelief, my pride, self-interest, and rebelliousness. Deliver me from every sin and especially from the sin of unbelief. I surrender myself unconditionally to be crucified with Christ, and I take up my position as raised from the dead and seated with Christ in the heavenlies by faith, in the Name of Jesus Christ!

Take a few minutes of prayer to express the prayer burden on your heart to God right now.

Chapter Twelve

Moving Into Battle

Moving into battle against Satan and his demons is no light thing. As we have seen in Chapter Nine , Knowing Your Enemy, we must not take Satan and his demons lightly. The fact that Satan has been conquered on Calvary does not render him powerless, and until God finally judges Satan as we read in Revelation 20, he will be a strong foe to reckon with and we will need wisdom, knowledge and power to overcome him in our lives and the world.

The purpose of this chapter is to help the Church in a practical way to engage in spiritual and prayer warfare. Many Christians simply don't know how to engage in prayer warfare and in this chapter I purpose to become practical. I don't offer my advice as doctrine and if the Lord has led you in a different way, please don't feel intimidated.

Get Your Focus Right

I have tried different tactics in my battle against Satan with varying results. However, one of the greatest challenges in our warfare against Satan is to remain focussed on Jesus Christ, our Victor and Lord. One of the most successful strategies of Satan in spiritual warfare is to get Christians so occupied with himself that they lose their focus on Jesus and become demon-conscious. That's the reason why some people say, 'don't look for a demon under every bush.'

The fact of the matter is that there IS a demon under every bush — we just don't know about them — but believe me, they are there! However, our challenge is to be successful in spiritual warfare without becoming devil-conscious. The moment that happens to you, you will be unable to keep it up in spiritual warfare because your focus is in the wrong place. It is like

balancing a walking stick on the point of your finger. When you put your focus on the bottom of the stick where the contact with your finger is, the stick will never balance. You have to focus on the top of the stick to be able to balance it.

I prayed much about this and I asked God to reveal to me how to be successful in spiritual and prayer warfare without becoming devil-conscious and having to challenge Satan and his demons face to face. God, in His grace then revealed the strategies to me I am about to share with you.

I don't often address Satan directly, I seldom talk to him directly. Although I believe there is a place and a time to do this, I don't recommend anyone do this lightly unless you have experience in spiritual warfare. Paul Billheimer on the other hand makes a strong point of addressing demons directly by name, and if God has led you this way, I have no argument with you. However, be on your guard for devil-consciousness.

Furthermore, nobody should ever belittle or slander Satan. We read in Jud 1:9: *"Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you!'"* " You must treat Satan with respect, even though he is your enemy.

There are two strategies I use very effectively in battle against Satan and his kingdom, and I believe that if the Church of Christ only use these strategies, huge breakthroughs will occur in families, mission fields, and this world.

The first strategy I use very effectively in prayer warfare is praise and worship.

The Power and Value of Praise and Worship

Paul Billheimer makes the following statement in his book, *Destined For The Throne*:

"A program of prayer without faith is powerless. The missing element that is necessary to energize prevailing prayer that binds and casts out Satan is triumphant faith. And the missing element that is necessary to energize triumphant faith is praise — perpetual, purposeful, aggressive praise. Praise is the highest form of prayer because it combines petition with faith. Praise is the spark plug of faith. It is the one thing needed to get faith airborne, enabling it to soar above the deadly miasma of doubt. Praise is the

detergent which purifies faith and purges doubt from the heart. The secret of answered prayer is faith without doubt (Mark 11:23). And the secret of faith without doubt is praise, triumphant praise, continuous praise, praise that is a way of life. This is the solution to the problem of a living faith and successful prayer."

*"The secret of success in overcoming Satan and qualifying for the throne is a massive program of effective prayer. The secret of effective prayer is a massive program of praise."*¹

Paul Billheimer further states: *"To be most effective, then, praise must be massive, continuous, a fixed habit, a full time occupation, a diligently pursued vocation, a total way of life."*²

I must be honest with you, I still have a far way to go in God's school of praise and worship. I have previously thought that the purpose of praise was to make me feel good when I worship. I then thought, no, surely that can't be — it must be to make God feel good. However, it is neither of the two. True praise is a manifestation of faith!

God has been dealing with me on the subject of praise lately, and I must admit, I have not yet passed this subject in God's Eternity University.

A Personal Testimony

A while ago I had to take my daughter to the bank to open a bank account and then to the university campus to arrange for the payment of her study bursary. When we arrived at the bank they informed us that there was a corruption warning against her name and that they could not open an account for her. Apparently there was an attempt of identity theft against her ID number. We were living some 30 km out of town and I didn't have a car so I had to borrow someone else's vehicle every time I wanted to go to town. The bank promised to phone us as soon as the case had been clarified.

They phoned the next day to say that we could come in and open the account, but after arriving and waiting a long time, the system wouldn't allow the administrator access to her name and we once again had to return home purpose unaccomplished. I felt disgusted that we once again had to travel all this distance and waste precious time for nothing, and I jumped up and walked out of the office with an attitude just short of being rude.

The following day the bank phoned us again to say that the problem had been solved and we could come in to sign. From the bank we drove to the university campus some 20 km further to find out that the admin office closed early due to the 2010 soccer match at Loftus, and once again we had to return home purpose unaccomplished. By this time my blood wanted to boil but I knew it was going to be an exercise in futility to yield thereto.

On our way home we collected our mail from the post office and this was just the cherry on the frustration cookie. Some of the newsletters with invitations to my seminar were mailed to our own post box (the return address) in stead of to the addressee. My subconscious kicked into overdrive and I remembered the boxes and boxes full of undelivered Christian Educator magazines that were returned to us undelivered a few years back, some as much as two and more years after we mailed them. At that time my sanctification hydraulic breaks failed and I let out my frustration steam against the lack of efficiency and service delivery in our country.

At the time I thought my reaction was quite justified, but soon afterwards the Lord began talking to me in my spirit, and I realised that I have just failed the praise test for the umptieth time!

A friend of mine once told me about a friend of his who is a perfect example of continuous praise as a way of life. He told me that this brother continually and constantly praised God in his conversation. This is an example of how he would speak (the example is my own): He would say: "I had to go to town today to take my car in for a service — praise the Lord! When I received the bill I nearly fell on my back — it was R10,000 — praise the Lord! On my way back home I had a flat tyre — praise the Lord! When I got back home at 10 that night I discovered that my wife was sick in bed with flue — praise the Lord!"

When I thought about this brother's example in relation to my own reaction I felt guilty and ashamed and wished I could rather tell you my story as follows: "When we arrived at the bank again the next day, they again could not help us and we had to drive 60km once again the following day — praise the Lord! When we arrived at the campus on our third trip in to town the admin office was closed due to the soccer and we had to return 50km back home purpose unaccomplished — praise the Lord! When I collected my mail some letters were mailed to the return address in stead of to the addressee — praise the Lord!"

Some say we must not praise the Lord for adversity as this amounts to giving praise to the work of the devil. However, it is important that we

understand that we do not praise God **FOR** the adversity (although there is a time to do this), but we praise God **IN** (or in spite of) adversity. I should praise God, not primarily for **what** He is doing, but for **Who** He is! I should praise God in success as well as in failure — in health as well as in sickness — in prosperity as well as adversity!

Why is Praise so Effective?

Let's just briefly look at the reasons behind the effectiveness of praise in prayer and spiritual warfare. Have you ever wondered why praise and worship is such an important element of the Day of the Lord's service? Have you thought about the reason why praise and worship changes the atmosphere in a church gathering or Christian meeting? Let me explain.

Firstly, praise and worship is an expression and proclamation of the Lordship and reign of Jesus Christ in the spiritual realm. As we have seen in the chapter, Knowing Your Enemy, demons are eager church goers! Demons are everywhere where Christians are! In fact there are more demons where Christians are than in any other place because they have very little work to do elsewhere.

Where sin reigns they have no work to do. Every empty seat in the church is filled by a demon — Bible-believing and evangelical churches are more well attended. Every prayer meeting is well attended by demons. Every Christian home is covered by demons — especially where there is a faithful and praying mother or father, husband or wife.

What do they do there? They try to interfere, block, blind, divert, dampen, mislead, and tempt in any possible way in order to obstruct the truth of God's Word and render prayer powerless. Demons steal Christian's faith by creating a deadly atmosphere in worship, prayer, and in my quiet time.

What does praise and worship do? Firstly, praise and worship generates faith, as we have seen in the quotation from Paul Billheimer. But secondly, as we will learn in more detail in the following strategy, the proclamation of the authority, Lordship, reign and victory of Jesus Christ through the Cross of Calvary and the Blood of the Lamb is something demons can't endure! Where the Lordship of Jesus Christ is proclaimed in the spiritual realm they flee! Demons cannot stand the atmosphere! That is why the atmosphere changes where Jesus Christ is praised and worshipped.

A Practical Example

Let me share an example with you. The funeral service of previous State President P W Botha on 31 October 2006 was a classic example. The funeral service was attended by then State President Thabo Mbeki, government dignitaries and officials from various walks of life and opposing political views. P W Botha was seen by the ANC government as one of the last pillars of apartheid, while he was viewed as a remarkable leader and statesman by most of the Afrikaner guests. The tension was tangible.

The first part of the service was solemn, stiff and sombre. Then Dr Bahjat Batarseh, who was a guest speaker, began his address. The very first thing he did before he began speaking was to lead the audience in an evangelical worship song, "Oh, the Blood of Jesus ..." — without any music!

I think it was the very first time many of the audience even heard the song and obviously most of them did not even know what they were singing. But a miracle happened. The atmosphere changed immediately as hordes of demons fled the church building. The atmosphere melted and Dr Batarseh delivered a powerful Gospel message and even led the audience in a sinners prayer to the glory of God!

Praise and worship is a most effective strategy in prayer- and spiritual warfare. When you read through the Psalms next time, notice how often and effectively the Psalmists use praise and worship. Therefore, collect for yourself hymns of praise and worship to sing and pray during your personal prayer times.

A Word of Warning ...

However, I want to warn against a number of deceptions of the devil regarding praise and worship. One thing we must understand is that praise, worship and prayer are the three elements of Christianity that Satan fears and hates most, because there is no other element of Christianity that does more damage and is more dangerous to his kingdom than praise, worship and prayer. The reason being that where praise, worship and prayer are practised correctly, God is at work — the mighty right hand of God comes into action! Therefore there is no Christian activity that Satan opposes more than praise, worship and prayer.

You will find that the areas of Christianity where the greatest satanic opposition, deception and demonic activity occur, are in the areas of praise,

worship and prayer. It is in these three areas where all kinds of strange phenomena, such as falling, laughing, demonic speaking in tongues (no reflection on the genuine gift), and other strange things "in the Spirit" often occur. Satan is a master of deception and counterfeit — watch out and be warned! (See also Article 3, 'Notes on Praise and Worship')

In summary, if you are not sure how to act or react in a situation of demonic conflict, simply start praising the Lord. When you are experiencing a demonic oppression, begin singing: "He is Lord, He is Lord, He has risen from the grave and He is Lord. Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord!"

Proclaiming the Authority, Victory, Lordship and Reign of Jesus Christ in the Spiritual Realm

The second strategy I use very effectively in prayer-warfare is audible proclamation of Biblical truth.

In the chapter, Knowing Your Enemy, we have learned that Satan and his demons dwell in the air around us and we cannot escape their presence while we are still here on earth. We have also learned that they can hear every word we say audibly. Our audible words therefore, play an important part in spiritual warfare. Our words can either open doors for Satan and his demons to use against us, or our words can block their activities and make them flee.

Like we have said before, proclamation of the Lordship and authority of Christ in a particular area of conflict, will make demons flee. Proclamation of the authority, Lordship, reign and victory of Jesus Christ through the Cross of Calvary and the Blood of the Lamb is something demons cannot endure! Where the Lordship of Jesus Christ is proclaimed in the spiritual realm they are rendered powerless! Where the Lordship of Jesus Christ is proclaimed in the power of the Holy Spirit demons have to flee!

We can see the power of audible proclamation in various Biblical and practical situations. For example, in the Psalms we often read that the Psalmist proclaims the Name of God in public. Ps 22:22 for example says: **"I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You."** And in Ps 40:10: **"I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth From the great assembly."**

In Rom 10:9 we read: **"if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."** And in Rev 12:11 we read: **"And they have overcome (conquered) him by means of the blood of the Lamb and by the utterance of their testimony, .."** (Amplified)

There is power in the audible confession and proclamation of the Word and truth of God! From personal experience I can confirm to you that there is great power in audible proclamation of the Lordship and authority of Jesus Christ!

A classic example to me in the Word of God is contained in the story of Gideon in the book of Judges. Gideon and his three hundred men did not use any weapons when they routed the Midianites. All they had in their hands were a trumpet, a pitcher and a torch. We read in Jdg 7:20-22: **"Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers; they held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing; and they cried, 'The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!' And every man stood in his place all around the camp; and the whole army ran and cried out and fled. When the three hundred blew the trumpets, the LORD set every man's sword against his companion throughout the whole camp; and the army fled ..."**

Let us now answer a few further questions in this regard.

What is a Proclamation?

The word proclaim means to cry aloud, to publish abroad, or to announce officially. A proclamation is an official notice given to the public. When a law comes into force, it becomes legal through proclamation in the Government Gazette. To proclaim a law means to bring it into enforcement. A new law is enforced through proclamation.

So when I proclaim the Lordship and reign of Jesus Christ, I enforce His Lordship and reign in the area of proclamation.

To Whom do I Have to Proclaim?

Let's first say to whom I do not have to proclaim. I do not proclaim the Lordship of Jesus Christ to God. It is totally unnecessary to proclaim the Lordship of Jesus Christ to Himself — He knows that — in fact He Himself is

the Lord. I worship Him as Lord, yes, but I do not proclaim His Lordship unto Him.

I proclaim the Lordship of Jesus Christ in the spiritual realm where Satan and his demons are the prime audience. Although I do not address Satan and his demons by name, they are my main audience by simple virtue of their presence!

Where Can I Make Such a Proclamation?

In every area or person's life where Satan and his demons are operating illegally, or where the Lord has given me faith to take a satanic stronghold or demonic ground for Christ.

You will remember that we have previously said that Satan has been legally defeated. The fact of the matter is that he still has legal right to operate under certain circumstances. You will remember we have also said that the following give Satan legal right to operate in an area or a person's life:

- Sin, sinful practises, and sinful objects
- Occultic practises and objects

All satanic and demonic activity in the absence of the above are illegal activities. I may therefore proclaim the Lordship of Jesus Christ in and over every area or person where Satan and his demons are operating illegally. In addition I may proclaim the Lordship of Jesus Christ in every area or person where God has given me faith to take possession of for His Kingdom!

What Authority do I Have to Make Such a Proclamation?

We have partially covered this aspect in the previous chapter where we discussed taking up my position in Christ. You will remember that we said that my position in Christ determines my authority. The Christian has authority over Satan and his demons by virtue of his position in Christ. The Bible is crystal clear about this. Let's look at a few examples:

In Mar 6:7 we read: *"And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits."*

In Luk 10:17 we read: *"The seventy returned with joy, saying, Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name!"*

And in verse 19 Jesus says: *"Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."*

In Eph 1:16-21 Paul prays for the Ephesian Christians as follows: *"I do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers. [For I always pray to] the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, that He may grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelation [of insight into mysteries and secrets] in the [deep and intimate] knowledge of Him, By having the eyes of your heart flooded with light, so that you **can know and understand** the hope to which He has called you, and how rich is His glorious inheritance in the saints (His set-apart ones), And [so that you can know and understand] what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His **power in and for us** who believe, as demonstrated in the working of His mighty strength, Which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His [own] right hand in the heavenly [places], **Far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named** [above every title that can be conferred], not only in this age and in this world, but also in the age and the world which are to come."* (Amp) (Emphasis mine)

And in Rev 12:11 we read: *"And they have overcome (conquered) him by means of the blood of the Lamb and by the utterance of their testimony, ..." (Amp)*

So then, when I proclaim the Lordship of Jesus Christ in a person's life or an area for which God has given me faith, I do so on the authority of my position in Christ Jesus!

What do I Have to Proclaim?

1. **Firstly, I proclaim the basis of my authority.** I call on the Blood of Jesus Christ — the Lamb of God. There are many misgivings among Christians about pleading the Blood of Christ. Pleading the Blood of Jesus Christ is no magic phrase for protection.

When I call on the Blood of the Lamb, I proclaim that my relationship with, and as such my authority, is based on the Blood of Jesus Christ through whom I have been reconciled to God, saved, cleansed from my sins, and sanctified. I therefore do not confront Satan in my own strength or on the basis of my own righteousness

or merits, but in the power of the living God and on the basis of Christ's righteousness through the Cross of Calvary! (You can of course only make this proclamation if it is both experientially and legally true in your life, otherwise you will have no authority over Satan.)

2. **Secondly, I plead the Blood of the Lamb over the person or area of conflict.** This person or area of conflict may not qualify for the protection of the Blood, as Satan may have a legal right to operate there or in his or her life, as explained earlier. However, I plead the Blood over that person or area on the basis of my own standing with Christ and on the principle of intercession. In other words I claim this person or area for Christ on the basis of my faith and authority in Christ.

What does it mean when I plead the Blood of the Lamb over someone else or an area? It means that I am making this proclamation on the basis of the Blood of Jesus Christ that flowed at Calvary for the sin of the whole world, and not on the basis of that person or area's own merits.

Envisage the subject of your intercession standing trial in a court of law. God is the judge. Satan is the prosecutor for the state (in his capacity as prince of this world) and you (as the intercessor on the authority of Christ) are the prosecutor for the accused. Satan wants this person found guilty and imprisoned for life, while you, as the intercessor, plead for this person's salvation, freedom and deliverance on the basis of the fact that Jesus Christ has paid his penalty with His own Blood.

3. **Thirdly, I then proclaim and enforce:**

- The all victorious Name and the Lordship of Jesus Christ the Lord,
- The victory of the Cross of Calvary, the Blood of the Lamb, and the Empty Grave

over the person, persons, area, or areas of conflict — in the Name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

I do this proclamation audibly, aggressively (decisively), and purposefully, (as Gideon and his three hundred men did when they routed the Midianites) and I use my hands and point them in the

direction of the subject of my intercession, leaving no doubt to my audience that I literally mean every word I say and that I am enforcing this proclamation by faith in Jesus' Name! We read in the Gospels that when Jesus drove out demons from the demon possessed, He rebuked them. He addressed them aggressively and decisively.

What does it mean when I proclaim and enforce the all victorious Name and the Lordship of Jesus Christ the Lord over the person or area of conflict? Firstly, it means that on the basis of my authority in Christ, I refuse and bind any satanic and demonic activity in and over this person or area. I prohibit any demonic activity that can or will prevent or obstruct Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit of God to have free access and reign in the person's life or area of conflict — without using these words. I am removing any demonic obstacle to, and releasing the perfect will of God over this person's life or area of conflict.

When I proclaim and enforce the victory of Calvary and the resurrection of Jesus from the grave, I am simply calling into action everything the Cross of Jesus Christ and the resurrection stand for, in and over the person's life or area of conflict, prohibiting Satan and his demons to continue with any obstruction to the work and perfect will of God in the area of conflict. Even when I don't know what God's will for the person or object of my intercession is, the proclamation of the victory of Jesus Christ on Calvary removes any demonic hindrance and releases the perfect will of God over that person or area of conflict.

I can assure you, when you do this in faith, you will experience the power of God in your prayer! You will experience a release of demonic oppression over you! You will experience that something is breaking in the spiritual realm! You will experience your spirit being lifted up with Christ and you will experience the victory of the Cross in your own prayer-life! Prayer will become an uplifting and glorious experience and you can't wait for the next session of prayer to begin!

How Often do I Have to Proclaim?

Firstly, let me ask the question, how many times do I have to pray about, or ask God for an answer on a subject? The answer is, until He has answered

you, or you know what God's will in the matter is. So then, if you have prayed about a matter once and you know that it is God's will to grant your request, there is no need to continue asking God to answer your prayer. But that does not mean that God will immediately execute your request. Why is it that we often times do not receive an answer to our prayer immediately in spite of the fact that we know that it is in God's will to grant our request?

In Dan 10:12,13 we read: *"Then (the angel) said to me, 'Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.'"*

Here we can see that God heard Daniel's prayer immediately, but He could not immediately execute it because there was a spiritual war in progress. You see, more than often our prayers are not answered immediately although we know the will of God in the matter, because the battle first has to be won in the spiritual realm. There is a war in progress!

This then brings us to the question, how often do I have to proclaim the victory of Christ over a person or situation? The answer is continually — at least until the particular issue is resolved and then I move on to the next area of conflict. If I am praying for a spiritual leader or a loved one that is vulnerable to demonic attack, I must continue to proclaim the victory of Christ without ceasing. Remember this is a war. I must initially "take" the ground, but then I must continue to "occupy" the ground! Don't think that once you have taken the ground, Satan will sit back without a fight! He will come back as soon as you relinquish the battle!

Can I Effectively Pray Alone?

Yes, you can effectively pray alone. But the battle will be more intense, more gruesome and could be much longer than when you pray together with other believers or as a group. I believe we have yet to see the power of prayer released from a group of prayer warriors united in prayer warfare!

Remember this is a war! One soldier going to battle will hardly win the war — although this is not impossible! Remember the promise of Mat 18:20: *"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."* There is power in effective prayer and intercession of a group of believers. If you have a special prayer need in your home, find a prayer friend — begin a prayer group.

In the Introduction I told you that I was part of a prayer meeting in our home at 6 am every Friday morning for revival in our local church that lasted for ten years, without visible results. Now I understand why our prayers remained unanswered. We had no knowledge of the spiritual war we were engaged in and we expected God to do for us what He has delegated and commissioned us to do. We were simply ineffective in prayer.

God's Primary Concern is with the Church as His Body

What we have to remember is the fact that although God is concerned with the individual and every person needs to enter into, and maintain a personal relationship with Christ in prayer, God's primary concern is with the Church and Body of Christ as a whole. So, when the Church and Body of Christ in a particular area or congregation unites in effective prayer, there is an awesome gathering of power! That's why revival begins with prayer groups and prayer gatherings of believers!

Just imagine what can happen when churches begin to engage in prayer warfare! I think we have yet to see what God will do when a whole church gathers to engage in prayer warfare! Oh, may God give us a vision for prayer warfare! May God reveal to the Church what authority has been delegated to her to reach the world for Christ!

In Mat 28:18 Jesus said: *"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 'Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, ...'"* Have you ever understood what Jesus was actually saying? Jesus by implication said: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth — and this authority is yours through Me — Go therefore ..."

I want to appeal to every local church and congregation — set up a prayer warfare group in your church with a special emphasis on reaching the world for Christ. I am convinced that we have yet to see what God will do within the borders of such a church!

Begin a prayer group in your home, mission, area, or church. That's where the action will begin! Begin right in your home together with your spouse or another prayer friend, and extend into a group until you have ignited your area and your church for Jesus Christ!

In Closing

In closing then, there are two 'magic' words in spiritual and prayer warfare, they are faith and perseverance! In Rev 2:2 Jesus says to the church of Ephesus: *"I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have **persevered** and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary."* (Emphasis mine)

When your faith falters, switch to perseverance; and when your perseverance falters, switch to faith. With every one of the seven churches in the book of Revelation, Jesus ended with a promise *"To him who overcomes .."* You are destined to overcome!

To Him Who Overcomes ...

I want to close with a story that has made a life changing impression on me and I was confronted with during the heat of satanic attacks. If you have seen the movie, 'Fighting The Giants', you will know what I am talking about. The story of this movie is about the football coach of a Christian school who just couldn't achieve success with his team. For a number of years he failed to lead his team to victory until he was under pressure to resign as coach. However, he refused to surrender. God met with this man and showed him that their priorities were all wrong. Football and winning had become their focus instead of focussing on Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

The coach then began teaching his team Biblical principles in football and especially the principles of faith and perseverance. He managed to re-engage the captain who was on the point of resigning from the team. He began with fitness exercises and they had to piggy back each other across the sports field. The coach began pushing them beyond the limits of their own perceived limitations, and this was no joke. The captain had to take the lead.

As the captain was crawling across the sports field with someone else on his back, he came to the point where his previous limit was, but the coach spurred him on to go further. As he reached what he thought to be his ultimate limitation, the coach spurred him on even further. The coach actually got onto his knees himself and crawled alongside him to encourage

him, stretching his perseverance to the limit, while spurring him on with the words: *"Please don't quit on me now! Please don't quit on me now!"*

When I saw this, I saw myself on the training ground of spiritual and prayer warfare on the Adversity and Failure campus of God's Eternity University. It felt to me as if I had reached my limitation — I just could not endure anymore. I was ready to quit! Then Jesus came crawling alongside me on the field, slapping his hand on the ground every time I take one more step, saying: *"My child, please don't quit on me now! Please, don't quit on me now!"*

Maybe you are experiencing the pressure of satanic and demonic oppression in your life, your marriage, your family, or your service or ministry. I want to encourage you, Jesus is crawling alongside you on the training field, saying: *"My child, please don't quit on me now! My child, please don't quit on me now!"*

"To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." (Rev 2:7)

Food for Thought ...

God's purpose in revival through all ages was and is firstly and foremost, to train and mobilise the Church to conquer — to conquer sin, Satan and the world; and to conquer the world for Christ in finishing the Great Commission!

Do you still want revival? Are you willing to pay the price for revival? Are you and your church willing the fulfil God's purpose in revival? Can you and your church be trusted with revival?

A Prayer

Oh God! Teach me to overcome! Teach me to pray effectively!

Teach my church to overcome and mobilise us to prayer. Please ignite a flame of prayer in my church. Teach me how to intercede for my church in order that we may unite together in effective intercession for a lost world!

Take a few minutes of prayer to express the prayer burden on your heart to God right now.

Message Three

A Call for Biblical Unity

Chapter Thirteen

A Common Purpose

The problem of division in the Church of Jesus Christ is as old as the Church itself, while many books have been written, many sermons preached, many conferences held on the subject, and numerous creeds seen the light. Can anything more of value be said on the subject?

One of well known the passages in the Bible on this subject is Joh 17:20,21: *"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me."*

Have you ever asked the question, why is it so important for Jesus Christ that the Church be one? What is wrong with a divided Church? Well, part of the answer is given by Jesus in verse 21: "... *that the world may believe that You sent Me.*" The Greek word for 'world' used in this verse is the same word used in John 3:16 — for God so loved the 'world'. In John 3:16 what would you say the word 'world' means — 'the unbelievers out there' or 'all the people of the world'? Surely 'all the people of the world', or the whole world. It is therefore reasonable to believe that what Jesus meant when He said *"that the world may believe"*, He meant the 'whole world'.

It is interesting to note that unity and reaching the whole world with the Gospel have everything in common. What Jesus is saying by implication is that the Church will only be effective in reaching the entire world with the Gospel if it goes to the world as a united body! The Great Commission will hardly be completed by a divided Church! It stands to reason therefore that, apart from all the other reasons, if it is important for us to complete the Great

Commission and reach the whole world with the Gospel, we will be forced to place Church unity high on our spiritual agenda!

Wholeness, Fullness, Completeness and Unity — a Divine Concept

There is another very important reason why it is so important for Jesus Christ that the Church be one. The reason is because there will be only one Bride! You will recall that we have said that the difference between the Church and the Bride is its completeness. The Bride is the complete Body of Christ, while the Church is the incomplete Body of Christ, the Bride in the making. God's purpose in creation is the Bride — the complete Body of Jesus Christ that will be united with Him at the marriage supper of the Lamb, and will be represented by every nation, tribe and tongue — and incidentally, by every true Christian denomination and movement.

We often have the idea that a local congregation is a Church and a Body of Christ. However, Jesus Christ has only one Body — the Church. Although there is only one Body, the Body has many members and the members differ greatly in appearance and function. Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12 are at pains to explain this to us. A single congregation and even a denomination can at most represent a member or part of the Body — but never the whole Body!

God looks at the Church as one body — God looks at the denominations as one Church — God looks at the Reformed, Baptist, Pentecostal, Charismatic and all Christians as one Body! God looks at Christians of different denominations, doctrinal views, races and movements as one Body! Jesus Christ is concerned with His Body — and there is only one! Whether we are successful at unity here on earth or not — God is only concerned with one Body — His Body, the Bride in the making!

It is time that we face this truth — whether we like each other or not — whether we agree with each other or not! Our human nature (and of course Satan and his demons) compel us to choose — you're in, you're out, you're in, you're out; but God only sees the in — in one Body! Let's leave the judgment part to Jesus Christ when He returns.

Unity in Diversity

One of the most difficult lessons for the Church to learn is that of unity in diversity. The hand wants to do his own thing independently from the foot.

The arm wants to do his own thing independently from the leg. The leg believes he has all the truth, while the arm thinks the same. The arm, leg, hand and foot just can't seem to accept that they are only members of the body and not the whole body. They find it so difficult to work in harmony with the Head because they all want to function independently.

A spirit of independence is probably one of the greatest stumbling blocks to unity. Independence allows us to make our own decisions, to do our own thing, to operate the way we want or believe is right; and probably not outwardly but discreetly, to build our own kingdom.

I don't for a moment believe that Jesus wants all His children to be duplicates. I can just imagine how boring, and probably challenging it would have been if all five my children were identical in looks, character, personality, needs, preferences, tastes, talents and shortcomings. The wonder of God's creation is that although every single person ever born on earth were born (apart from the fall) in the image of God, no two persons share an identical DNA and fingerprint, and each and every person is different in looks, character and personality. That's amazing — I wonder how on earth God manages to achieve that without ever making one mistake!

In His Image ...

We must therefore never confuse unity with uniformity. But having said that, we must never underestimate God's objective and purpose in creating a family in His own image! The Church must be conformed into the image of God — and unity is part of that image!

As we have said, independence is probably one of the greatest stumbling blocks to unity. A Spirit of independence says, we can make it on our own, we don't need you!

Independence is a characteristic of the sinful nature — by nature the sinful nature wants to be independent — independent from God, and independent from one another. We are quick to say, we are absolutely dependent on God. But we read in 1 Jn 4:20: *"If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?"* Where does that leave us?

So what is the solution? We must exchange our spirit of independence for a spirit of interdependence! God does not want us to be photocopies of each

other, but He does want us to be interdependent because as much as we would like to believe differently, we are not the Body on our own.

The Story of an Unfinished House

In the Introduction I related some aspects of my conversion and calling to you. In His amazing grace God again gave me a soul partner — someone who loved Him and He had hand picked and raised just for me. This is a testimony on its own, but I will skip this story for another opportunity.

My wife Nansie and I were happily married for 22 years at the time of writing this book, and God gave us five lovely children, two boys and two girls from our marriage who are still in the house with us. My eldest daughter is married and living with her husband in Kwazulu-Natal. With this as background I want to relate to you a story from our family life God used to prepare me for the task of writing this book.

During the time of God's preparation for our ministry we were living on a small farm outside Pretoria, South Africa. Part of God's preparation program was to release us from the place we all loved so much as a family. Although we were forced to sell our property, God in His immeasurable grace gave us another lovely large home in a country estate at an affordable price, where we would be happy as a family. (There is an amazing story behind this which you may read in Article 1, 'The Unfinished House — Place of Purpose' in the Article section.)

The only problem was that this new house was unfinished and neglected, and we did not have the capital to hire a building contractor to finish it. We vowed never to incur debt again, and the only way we could possibly buy this place was if we restored and finished the house ourselves.

I was very apprehensive at first because I realised that it would take an enormous effort to complete this house without using contractors and outside labour — especially having to live in the house at the same time. However, this was our only option — and besides, we knew this was God's choice and provision for us. (See Article 1, 'The Unfinished House — Place of Purpose') We had two strong and extremely capable boys who were enthusiastic about doing everything ourselves, and my wife Nansie and the girls offered to help with the painting and decorating.

This house was also ideal for conducting our internet missions ministry and the formal living area was large enough to accommodate small gatherings

and do presentations. I was keen to get the work done in the shortest possible time in order to focus my attention on our ministry. It subsequently transpired that my enthusiasm about the house's potential for ministry purposes was not shared by the whole family.

During the first few weeks we all worked very hard, and visible progress was made. (We had some dramatic stories to tell.) Although there was still no kitchen, and the largest part of the house still had bare concrete floors, part of the stair railings, two timber floors, and a large build-in cupboard were amongst the projects completed.

After having to wash our dishes in a dish basin inside the bath for a time, we eventually also had a kitchen zinc and some kitchen cupboards installed. At least we were making progress. After a number of months our house was liveable, although still far from complete. The family became sufficiently comfortable and completion of the house less and less a matter of urgency.

It actually soon became apparent to me that everyone in the family had their own priorities which were conflicting with the priority of finishing our home. Our children became more and more involved with their own agendas and activities and less and less time became available to finish the house.

All our children's activities were legitimate and noble activities and I could hardly criticise our children for being so busy. In fact I was thankful that our children were all engaged in constructive activities while many other youth of their age were hanging around entertainment centres and gaming malls.

However, deep in my heart I felt betrayed. I could hardly complete the work on my own as I did not have the strength or the time. The main purpose for moving to this house, God's calling and ministry for our lives, apparently was not a priority to the family at large. I tried to keep our focus on track by means of a task schedule for completion during school and university holidays, but this was not taken seriously and the objectives I had set remained unmet. Everyone of the children had their own priorities and programs during holidays.

This was a stressful time for me as I realised that if we could not rely on our children to help us finish the house, we would have had to take drastic decisions, which included the possibility of moving again — possibly back to town where none of us wanted to live, and for which I had no strength. At one point I came close to burn-out and for several weeks I was so tired that I could hardly do anything.

I realised that we were in the centre of a massive demonic onslaught. Satan knew exactly what God was busy doing and he wanted to prevent this at all costs. If it wasn't for the fact that the Lord had taught Nansie and myself how to engage in spiritual warfare, the devil would probably have managed to stop God's work completely, and this book would never have been written.

However, there was another problem. Satan had a doorway. Deep in my heart I held our children responsible for this situation. I had a pointing finger. I experienced my children's lack of commitment as a sign of veiled rebelliousness and it showed in our mutual relationships — until one day.

One day I was as usual talking to the Lord about our situation, knowing very well that we were in the centre of His will for our lives. In spite of this there was no peace in my heart. But this particular day the Holy Spirit convinced me that there was only one solution to our problem — I had to die to my own objectives and expectations! I gave all my expectations and objectives for our house over to the Lord, and I died to my personal priorities for our home and ministry! I also forgave my family in my heart and set them free unconditionally!

The peace of God flooded my soul and it did not matter to me anymore whether I stayed in an unfinished house until the day I die or Jesus returns. It did not matter to me anymore whether our bedroom and bathroom floors remained bare concrete and our bathroom untiled until I die. It did not matter anymore whether our home had no burglar proofing, no garage and outbuildings and whether our house remained unplastered on the outside for the rest of my life. It didn't matter to me anymore if the animals ruined our garden because there is no fence, and that the chickens were messing all around the house and on the verandas because they were not kept in a pen. I was quite willing to live like this for as long as God's house and the Great Commission remained unfinished. I was quite willing to live like this until Jesus comes back! I had died to my personal expectations and objectives for our home.

This peace of God in my life transcended through to my relationship with my children, but the most important consequence was that God was busy with something immensely greater than I could think or imagine.

Firstly, this testimony forms the backdrop to the writing of this book. When I had died to my personal expectations and objectives for our home, God commissioned me to write this book. I first had to die to my preconceived ideas about how God wanted to work in our ministry and that a nicely finished home and ministry base were not part of God's priority for us.

God's Unfinished House

Secondly, God gave me a vision of His unfinished house and a message for the Church. We read in 1 Pet 2:5: *"you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."* (Emphasis mine)

In exactly the same way I, as the head of my home had the primary purpose and objective for my family to unite with me in finishing our house, God's purpose is to fulfil His ultimate plan in creation by finishing the building of His house, the Church on earth. Jesus Christ wants to return to fetch His Bride and He desires His children, the Church, to cooperate with Him in taking the Gospel to every nation, tribe and tongue! He wants to finish His house!

But, God's family, the Church, have their own priorities! These are often not bad in itself — in fact they are often very good! The Church is very busy winning souls on her own doorstep — she firstly wants to build her own church! She is very busy with TV and radio broadcasts to her own people and often also cross-culturally and even far away; reaching out to the poor and afflicted in her area and elsewhere in the world; ministering to the youth and the elderly — which are all very good. She is even busy with world missions — albeit selectively and with limited and left-over resources!

The Church is often something God can be very proud of. But! *"Nevertheless (but), I have this against you ..."* Rev 2:4. But, because she is busy with her own agenda, God's house, the Church, remains incomplete! The fact of the matter is that the Great Commission is still unfulfilled after almost 2000 years because the Church is pursuing her own agenda!

Supporting a few missionaries somewhere in the world for the sake of being involved in missions and silencing our consciences, is not good enough. This is what is referred to in the marketing world as a shotgun approach. The Church will never succeed in fulfilling the Great Commission this way. Every church should be part of a properly coordinated plan to reach the whole world for Christ and His Gospel.

How does God feel about His unfinished house? How does God feel about our lack of commitment and urgency? Is it possible that God feels betrayed because of our independent agendas and self-seeking priorities? Do we really understand how God feels about His incomplete house? Has He perhaps turned His back on our church until we once again urgently seek His primary purpose? Is God perhaps saying to the Church, 'Alright, have it

your own way! But I will restrain My Spirit, or alternatively send you a deceiving 'holy' spirit; and I will not return again — even for the next 2000 years — until you seek My primary purpose and focus on finishing My house! '?

Has God perhaps turned His back on your church because of your independent spirit, independent agenda and your preconceived ideas, while His house remains incomplete?

Is the reason why Jesus Christ has not yet returned in spite of so many end time prophecies being fulfilled, not perhaps because of our independent agendas and our preconceived ideas, while His house remains incomplete?

Identifying the Fundamental Cause

I believe a fundamental cause of division in the Church is an independent agenda — a spirit of independence! Independence manifests itself in many different jackets. Independence and self-centredness are soul mates.

Denominationalism is probably the most well known symptom thereof. We have come to accept denominationalism as an integral part of the church, although we all know that it cannot be part of the Church. However, the problem of denominationalism will probably never be solved this side of Jesus' return and doing away with denominationalism will not necessarily bring us any closer to Biblical unity. The real cause of division lies much deeper.

Can a creed serve as a standard for Biblical unity? After I read the history of Christian creeds on Wikipedia I came to the conclusion that if creeds could not achieve unity in the Church over the past 2000 years, the chances that it will do so now is just about zero! I am not against creeds, in fact I believe they serve an important purpose. But I don't believe that a creed will ever form the basis of unity in the Church universal!

For many years now the debate concerning unity among the Reformed Church in Africa, The Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa and Nederduits Gereformeerde Kerk, with special reference to the Belhar Confession, continues. Should this pursued unity materialise, will that bring the Church in South Africa any closer to Biblical unity?

This brings us to the point where we honestly want to ask: Unity — How?

Unity — How?

It is of course true that we must be able to discern truth from untruth. Unity can never be at any cost. Unity can only be if Calvary is at the centre! I am sure that my readers understand that I am talking about Biblical unity and not a unity across religious barriers! I am not talking about worldly or carnal unity! I am talking about unity of the Church, and we have already defined the Church as the 'ekklésia' — the called out ones.

What must the standard of our unity be and how can it be achieved?

Unity will never be effected through a program, organisation or creed. Unity can only be effected by the Holy Spirit of God and is an attitude of the heart. If we want the Holy Spirit to work unity within us we have to remove what is preventing Him from doing so.

I believe the following four guidelines are pivotal.

Begin in Prayer — Not in Conference

Firstly, unity will begin in prayer and nowhere else! Unity will not begin in the conference room — but in the inner room — not in preaching, but in prayer — not by standing on our independence, but kneeling in total dependence. Church unity is going to be a matter of prayer warfare because Satan and his demons are experts in causing disunity and is the author of division in the Church. We will have to learn how to take a stand against Satan and his demons in prayer, preventing them from succeeding with a spirit of disunity.

Confession of Sin — Not a Creed

Secondly, we must begin with confession of sin. We must confess our own disunity and spirit of independence as sin and put it off to be crucified with Christ. We will have to die to our independence! In exchange the Holy Spirit will give us a spirit of interdependence as a gift from God, without having to lose our unique identity and function!

What is preventing the Holy Spirit from working unity in us? Every sin that causes division prevents the Holy Spirit from working unity among us. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to us what sin in our lives and the life of our church is causing division. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to substitute our spirit of independence with a spirit of interdependence.

Unity in Purpose — Not Identity

Thirdly, we will have to unite in submission to God's fundamental purpose for the Church. We will have to unite in bringing the Bride to completion and advancing the return of Jesus Christ. We will have to unite in finishing the Great Commission and reaching the whole world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

One of the sad realities of the Church of Jesus Christ is "churchsm". "churchsm" (with a small letter) is the phenomenon where 'my church' occupies the front seat of my Christian priorities, while I treat "Churchsm" (with a capital letter) with contempt. (See 'Definitions' in front of the book for a description of "churchsm" and Churchsm".

The word 'interdenominational' is treated as a swear word by some pastors and Christians. "Churchsm" (with a capital letter) can possibly best be described by the word interdenominationalism. It simply refers to a vision of the Church of Jesus Christ at large — across denominational borders. Is it not interesting, thinking about it carefully, that much (if not most) of the progress in missions made in the world today can be attributed to interdenominational organisations?

Pastor and leader, you will have to die to your own church and denomination if you want to fulfil God's purpose and plan for your life and your church. You will have to die to your "churchsm". That does not mean that you must unite denominationally, it simply means as in the case of your national patriotism, your denominational patriotism (or our "churchsm") must be subject to your "Churchsm".

United in Focus

As we have already said in Chapter Two, the return of Jesus Christ should and must be the primary vision and focus of the Church. The eyes of the Church must be fixed on the clouds!

It also follows that the Church should have no other objective and purpose greater than accelerating the return of Jesus Christ! The one common purpose that should unite the Church of Jesus Christ across denominational, racial, national and international boundaries is the return of Jesus Christ — pushing our differing eschatological viewpoints to the back seat!

United in Purpose

One thing I truly believe does have the potential of uniting the Church of Jesus Christ, is the pursuit of the common purpose of fulfilling Jesus' Great Commission. I believe that nothing short of a united effort by the Church of Christ across denominational borders will succeed in reaching the whole world with the Gospel! No one single denomination will be able to do it on their own! The completion and fulfilment of the Great Commission requires a co-ordinated, combined and united effort by the Church as a whole to reach the remaining unreached people groups with the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

There are existing mission agencies doing a tremendous job of reaching the unreached but they need the support of the Church as a whole! I am appealing for denominational missions to network with interdenominational missions and ministries, and missions and ministries of other denominations with the view to follow a coordinated approach to world missions.

When Revival Tarries

I want to close this book with it's title, When Revival Tarries. In Chapter Ten, The Victory of Calvary, we explained that not everybody, or not even the majority in a particular country, city, town, or tribe will necessarily be saved for the Great Commission to be completed. Millions of people have already died without Christ without once hearing the Name of Jesus Christ. It is said that 67% of all humans from AD 30 to the present day have never heard the Name of Jesus Christ.¹

The principle behind Jesus' great commission is that God created man with a Will and choice of our own. By implication many (perhaps the majority) will not accept the Gospel message, but the Church of Jesus Christ will have to take responsibility for all the people that are lost because they have never heard the Gospel and never had an opportunity to make a choice! The mission of the Church is to take the Gospel to the whole world so that every person on earth may hear and be able to exercise a choice for Jesus Christ or not!

We also said that many Christians and even pastors apparently don't understand that the longer it takes for the Church to reach the whole world with the Gospel, the longer it will take for Jesus Christ to return and the more people will die without ever hearing the Gospel message once! The longer it

takes for Jesus Christ to return, the more people will die without Christ! The task of finishing the Great Commission will be finished when every nation, tribe and tongue had an opportunity to hear and respond to the Gospel.

For this reason it is inexcusable for the Church to focus the majority of their time, presence and resources in evangelising a country, nation, or tribe that has heard the Gospel for many ages, while there are some who have never once heard the name of Jesus Christ! The problem is a self-centred Church without a Bridal Vision, busy with her own agenda, believing she is glorifying God with her purposeless religion. For as long as this situation continuous, millions of souls will continue to die without Christ year after year!

It is said that annual church embezzlements by top custodians exceed the entire cost of all foreign missions worldwide. It is also said that Christians spend more on the annual audits of their churches and agencies (\$810 million) than on all their workers in the non-Christian world.¹

When Revival Tarries

For as long as revival and the return of Jesus Christ tarries, millions of souls will continue to die every year without Christ!

- ♦ During 2012, at least 37,3 million people will die without Christ of **which 24 million would never have heard the Gospel!**
- ♦ During 2013, at least 38 million people will die without Christ of **which 24,5 million would never have heard the Gospel!**
- ♦ During 2014, at least 38,7 million people will die without Christ of **which 25 million would never have heard the Gospel!**
- ♦ During 2015, at least 39,3 million people will die without Christ of **which 25,5 million would never have heard the Gospel!**
- ♦ During 2020, at least 43,3 million people will die without Christ of **which 28 million would never have heard the Gospel!**²

**Unless, unless the Church wakes
up to her God-given purpose!**

Do you really believe John 3:16? Then you and your church will want to make it your primary life-purpose to unite with the Church of Jesus Christ universal and reach the whole world with the Gospel as quickly as possible!

Do you want revival? Are you willing to pay the price for revival? Can God trust your church with revival?

What are You Going to Do?

In Acts 2:37 we read: *"Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?'"* I sincerely trust that after you have read this book your response will be the same.

My personal response is contained in the last article at the back of this book. At the back of this book you can read more about Project CyberWorld, which is an attempt to put our money where our mouth is — to practise what we preach. We invite you to join us in this effort!

Food for Thought ...

The outcome of revival should be a massive mobilisation of the Church, together with a manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit to reach the unreached of the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, with one objective — to finish the task of the Great Commission, and complete the Bride of Christ for the return of our Lord and Saviour!

We are not trying to manipulate revival! We are simply preparing for it. Do you want to be part of this? Pray for revival!

Are you looking forward to Jesus Christ's return? Enlist yourself and your church for active duty in reaching the whole world with the Gospel!

Are you praying for revival? Unite with the Church in advancing Jesus Christ's return!

A Prayer

Oh God! Visit me and my church with revival! I am willing to pay the price for revival — I am willing to surrender myself fully to You for the fulfilment of Your purpose in and through my life and my church.

Take a few minutes of prayer to express the prayer burden on your heart to God right now.

Appendix to
Chapters

Articles

Article 1

(Appendix to Chapter 13)

The Unfinished House — Place of Purpose

Our family was living in the city of Pretoria until May 2002. During this time I had the habit of driving out of town for a prayer-walk in the country for an hour or more before sunset every afternoon. I would then seek out the most quiet and tranquil walking trails during which I would talk to the Lord, meditate on His Word, and memorise Scripture.

At some point I discovered this new country estate development, approximately 20km out of town, consisting of 4.5 hectare smallholdings, and with many kilometres of quiet gravel roads, absolutely ideal for prayer-walking. Because it was a new development there were very few houses and the area was tranquil with a lovely natural bushveld atmosphere. I had spent many hours of fellowship with God here.

One afternoon when I arrived there it began raining and I could not get out of my car ('automobile', for my American friends). So I parked my car at the top of a slope at the end of my hiking route overlooking the estate, while sitting in my car praying.

After some time I opened my eyes and could not believe what I was seeing. Almost right above me (I had to push my face against the windscreen looking up) was the most beautiful rainbow I have ever seen in my entire life or in any picture. It was so bright that I immediately sensed this was something supernatural. It was so low and so close to me that it felt as if I could touch it if I had a very tall ladder. It was a full half circle and I could see exactly where both ends touched the ground.

In addition there was a second full rainbow in exact association with the first, slightly less bright but also with both ends on the ground, separated by a solid band of dark grey sky.

This was the most beautiful sight I have ever seen. I sensed the presence of God and knew that God was saying something to me, although I did not understand the meaning at the time. Suddenly I realised something. The date today was 25 August 1995 — to the day exactly seven years after God

called me into full time missionary service (refer Introduction), recognising that the number seven was God's perfect number! God created the earth in seven days, resting on the seventh! God's purpose in creation also being the central theme of this book.

It was only after I had written this book that the true meaning of the rainbow experience fully dawned on me. It in fact contained the central theme of the message of this book! The exact seven year interval represented the completion of the Bride. The number seven being God's perfect number was a reference to the finishing of the task of Jesus' Great Commission and the return of Jesus Christ.

The rainbow is a reference to God's Eternal Covenant with humanity after the great flood. The prophetic meaning of the Eternal Covenant is that God vowed to restore His creation from the fall, to bring His Bride to glory, and never again to destroy the world with water. We see the fulfilment of the Eternal Covenant in the book of Revelation with the vision of God on the throne with the twenty four elders on their thrones around God's throne. Rev 4:3: *"And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald."* This is a reference to the consummation and fulfilment of God's grand plan in eternity which we have explained in detail in the first two chapters.

During 2002 God miraculously made it possible for us through the combined estates of our deceased parents to buy a small farm of 50 hectares, not far away from "Rainbow Estate", and on 25 August 2002 (exactly seven years later to the day) I paid a memorial visit to the place where God had given me the sign of the rainbow seven years earlier. To my amazement it once again began to rain, and another double rainbow appeared in the sky in the exact same position of the one seven years ago. This one was not quite as bright as the first, as if God just wanted to say — I have not forgotten my covenant with you!

Fourteen years had passed since God called me into full time missionary service and little did I know that the following seven years would involve the strictest and most demanding period of Godly training and preparation I could have imagined. During 2010 the light of God once again broke through for us after God in His immense mercy and grace set us free from our attachment to the farm and made us willing to move on.

After we sold the farm we had to find another place we could afford without incurring any debt. The very first place the estate agent showed us was the

house we are now living in. However, the price of this place was too high for us as it was an unfinished house that required a lot of work. But there was one thing about this house that immediately struck me — it was situated exactly underneath the position of the rainbow God showed me on 25 August 1995 and again in 2002. The picture of the rainbow and the thought that this was God's choice for us could not leave me, but we could not afford it.

The house was subsequently sold to someone else. However, the buyer was unable to raise sufficient mortgage finance to purchase the property and the sale fell through. Shortly afterwards the property was once again sold to another buyer.

In the mean time we became interested in another bank repossessed property that stood empty for several years. We submitted three different offers to the bank to purchase the property, our last offer being as high as we could possible go, but the bank refused them all.

Shortly afterwards an estate agent friend of mine who loves the Lord, Rudolph v d Berg, phoned me and told me that the unfinished house was once again back in the market as the new buyer also failed to raise sufficient mortgage finance to buy the property. It subsequently transpired that the banks were not willing to lend the full amount a buyer qualifies for on this house because it was unfinished. The next buyer therefore had to be a cash buyer and cash buyers were not plentiful.

To cut a long story short, the Lord gave us this house for an amount substantially less than what it was sold for previously and approximately R300,000 less than it was originally offered to us. I don't think Rudolph earned any commission on this sale, but as an estate agent he played a huge part in fulfilling God's purpose.

The rest of the story I have told in Chapter 13 in the paragraph, 'The Story of an Unfinished House'. The miracle of the unfinished house is that God had a specific purpose with my life from the day He called me on 25 August 1988, which eventually manifested in the writing of this book 24 years later!

On the next page is a picture of the Unfinished House. Do you see the Church of Jesus Christ? — Amazing Grace, but unfinished!

God wants us to finish the task of the Great Commission! Are you available? In the article on Project CyberWorld right at the end of this book, you are challenged to partner with us in reaching the whole world with the Gospel.

The Unfinished House



Amazing Grace!

Do you see the Church of Jesus Christ? —
Amazing Grace, but unfinished!



Article 2

(Appendix to Introduction and Chapters 1,2,12 & 13)

God's School of Adversity and Affliction

One of the greatest misunderstandings among Christians is the belief that apart from eternal life, which is only a distant and long term advantage, the main purpose and advantage of being a Christian is to improve my quality of life and personal circumstances here on earth. The Corinthian church was the first church to believe this error. For we read in 1 Cor 4:8 that Paul admonishes the Corinthians: *"You are already full! You are already rich! You have reigned as kings without us; and indeed I could wish you did reign, that we also might reign with you!"*

If prosperity, health and wealth is your primary Christian focus in this life, God will give it to you — but that's all you will have, unless you understand that God gives wealth to you for one purpose only — to finish the Great Commission! How sad that you may be missing God's purpose for your life on earth, while missing your training for brideship and kingship in eternity!

In contrast to the earthly prosperity of the Corinthian church, the apostles had a different experience: *"For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men."* 1 Co 4:9.

Although it is true that being a Christian brings great rewards here on earth, this should never be the Christian's focus. The fact of the matter is that our real reward will only be revealed in heaven, and the main purpose of our earthly life is preparation for Eternity! Every Christian is in God's Eternity University, and here on earth we are being shaped and equipped for Heaven! We are being trained and prepared to become the Bride of Christ at the marriage supper of the Lamb!

Here on earth we have to learn to conquer. We are destined to be conquerors, and conquering is only learned in battle. We have to learn to conquer sin, Satan and his demons, the world, our circumstances, and life in general. Ultimately, we have to conquer the world with the Gospel!

God wants you to overcome temptation and sin. God wants you to overcome hatred. God wants you to overcome hurt. God wants you to overcome depression. God wants you to overcome the wrongs of this life without retaliation or bitterness. God wants you to overcome problems, difficulties and adversity. God wants you to overcome in witness and service. You are destined to overcome!

Are you in God's school? You will be studying the subject of Overcoming on one of the following campuses of God's Eternity University: Suffering, Tribulation, Trials, Adversity, Failure, Temptation and Persecution! During your earthly Christian life you will be studying Overcoming on one or more of these campuses in preparation for brideship and kingship in eternity.

On one occasion I heard a speaker say: "A Christian learns nothing from tribulation." Strangely, when I opened my Bible I found an entire book on the subject of tribulation — the book of Job — the only subject in the Bible on which an entire Bible book of 42 chapters was written! Tribulation must therefore be a very important aspect of the message of the Bible. This view is confirmed by the many references thereto in the New Testament, of which the following is but one: *"And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope."* Rom 5:3,4. The fact of the matter is that a Christian learns little of eternal value except through tribulation!

Just this morning I listened to a service broadcast on the radio from a large church in Pretoria. The preacher preached an entire sermon just on prosperity, and I wondered by myself, have this preacher ever read the whole Bible? How sad that millions of sincere Christians have no idea of God's true purpose for their lives because the pastors and leaders have no idea of God's purpose for their lives!

The sad fact is that many Christians never learn what God intended them to learn from their adversity and affliction. Some Christians view tribulation as something that only happens as a result of lack of faith. Lack of faith is only applicable if you fail to see God's purpose in, and fail to conquer your circumstances. God has a very important lesson and test for you to pass in every tribulation. I strongly recommend the following book for reading on this subject: 'Don't Waste Your Sorrows' by Paul Billheimer.



Article 3

(Appendix to Chapter Twelve)

Notes on Praise and Worship

- Praise and worship must be conscious and rational. Praise and worship must never lead you into a subconscious or unconscious state of mind. The subtle slow down in volume and tempo of a hymn together with the constant repetition of a certain word or phrase, is a spiritistic method that leads to the creation of a mantra that may result in some people falling into an unconscious state.
- The words we sing must be Biblical and theologically correct and true. There are many songs that are sung by churches all over with words that are superficial or not Biblically sound. Satan knows the truth of the Bible and the Gospel better than any theologian in this world! He is not deterred by words that are not absolute truth!
- Effective praise and worship must be spiritual as opposed to emotional! It is vitally important that Christians should be able to distinguish between emotional (which is carnal), and spiritual Gospel music. My view is that 90% or more of the so-called "Gospel" music out there, is not Gospel at all. It is simply religious words cloaked in worldly and carnal music.

True praise and worship does not need a band! Where praise and worship is dominated by loud music it becomes emotional and carnal. During praise and worship the instruments should never overpower the congregation's voices. The power of praise and worship does not lie in the music or the emotion, but in the words uttered by those who sing. The instruments should simply lead the congregation into harmonious melody — nothing more! That is why in times of revival congregations break out in spontaneous worship and praise — without any instruments!

Why exactly is there so much power in joint praise and worship? The answer lies in the unity of believers. An important Biblical promise is fulfilled when believers unite in praise and worship. Jesus says where two or three are gathered in My Name, or where two or three unite in prayer — I am there with them! Joint praise and worship

unites believers' words in a harmonious sacrifice of praise which is well pleasing to God. The only function of the instruments are to facilitate the harmony and the unity! Where the instruments purpose to generate or whip up emotional feelings, it becomes a facility for demonic deception.

That does not mean that praise and worship is without emotion — but there is a vast difference between carnal emotion and spiritual emotion. Sadly, many Christians apparently can't differentiate between the two. Demons love carnal emotion and counterfeits spirituality with emotional experiences supported by carnal music. True praise and worship that focuses on Jesus Christ as Lord and leads them to the Throne of Grace, does result in holy emotion — and that makes demons flee. But carnal and false praise and worship works up carnal emotion that demons love!

Watch out for so-called Christian rock music! There is no such thing as Christian rock music. It is either Christian music, or it is rock music — whether the words are Christian or not! Christian words alone don't make a song Christian! Demons love any music that diverts the believers focus to his emotion, rather than his spirit.

- Praise and worship must uplift Jesus Christ as Lord, and must focus on the victory of the Cross of Calvary, the Blood of the Lamb, and Jesus' resurrection from the grave. Satan is not at all offended by hymns where only the Name of God is used with no reference to Jesus Christ, the Lamb, the Cross, Calvary, the Blood, or the resurrection. Satan does not care if God is praised all day long — as long as Jesus is not the Lord. Satan himself views himself as God, and even carries the title, god of this world. So any worship song that omits the name or any reference to Jesus Christ the Lord, he simply applies to himself, and accepts the worship for himself even though it is not aimed at him.



Article 4

(Appendix to Article 7)

Thoughts On Leadership.

One of the areas that I believe requires a refocus in the Church universal is our perspective of the role of leadership. I believe an unhealthy focus on leadership exists in the church of our day. Although I acknowledge the importance of leadership, the Church's emphasis should be on discipleship rather than leadership. Our emphasis should not be on leadership, but on followership. Jesus did not call us to be leaders, but to be followers of Him.

One of the problems of the civilised Church is that we have a leadership-heavy church-structure. Everything is done for us by a minority of members called the leaders, so all the majority members have to do is to be in church on the Day of the Lord. On Monday we continue with our secular life until the next Day of the Lord. I don't think this is how Jesus Christ meant the Church to be!

The Church is supposed to be a movement of disciples and discipleship! After three years of discipleship every member should become a leader and be sent out to make disciples and to reach his or her world for Christ! Shouldn't we conduct more followership seminars and train more followers of Jesus Christ instead of leaders?

When a follower is fully trained, Jesus will make him a leader. Jesus did not train leaders, he trained followers. He called twelve simple men to himself who would be willing to follow Him and learn at His feet. After three years of training they were sent out into the world and they became apostles (leaders of you wish), not by virtue of their training, but by virtue of their calling and mission!

We have Sunday School and catechisms for our children, after which they may become members of the church if or when they are baptised — and then we preach to them on the Day of the Lord for a life-time to become disciples, which many (most?) never become. A huge percentage of members have never even once read through the entire Bible!

How about placing every church member on a disciple course for three years, meeting for lectures or presentations twice or three times during the

week, (alternatively throughout Sundays), during which they will be taught how to be effective witnesses for, and overcomers in Christ, and how to pray effectively; and during which each member must read through the whole Bible in one year for three years? After three years every member must be equipped to go out into the world, be witnesses for Jesus, and ready for a specific calling and mission — either full time, or part time.

We all understand the importance to prepare ourselves after school for a career and the demands of the secular world out there. We all understand that every person, must prepare for a career after school, but somehow we don't think it is important for every Christian to be prepared and trained to live and serve effectively as a Christian in the demanding world out there!

The simple fact of the matter is that every Christian has a calling to become a leader — in its most basic form, to lead someone else to Christ. Every disciple is a leader — and every Christian must become a disciple!

It is true that some are called to a more responsible leadership task than others and that they must be properly trained therefore, but this is a matter of calling rather than leadership.

Someone once said that the mark of a leader is whether he or she has followers. This immediately implies that most Christians in the church must be followers — which sadly, is true. By implication the Church is a flock of sheep with a shepherd. Although this a Biblical picture, we forget that the Shepherd is Jesus Christ and every leader in the church also part of the sheep! The moment we elevate a church leader to that of shepherd, the rest are quite happy to remain sheep — because that is the picture they have in their minds of how a church must be.

This definition of leadership may be correct for the secular world, but in the Church of Jesus Christ the mark of a leader is whether he or she is a true disciple and has answered to his or her calling — whether he or she has a single follower or not! A disciple is a follower of Jesus — and that automatically makes him or her a leader!

The problem in the Church today is that we produce followers of leaders instead of followers of Jesus! That is the root problem of divisions in the Church and the feeding ground for denominationalism. No wonder there are approximately 38,000 different Christian denominations in the world.¹



Article 5

(Appendix to Chapters Ten and Eleven)

God's Delegated Authority

In Genesis 1 verse 26 to 28 we read that God created man in His image and gave him authority to rule over creation. This is God's delegated authority. God delegated His authority to man to rule over creation.

God's delegated authority is important to understand because God works through lines of authority. Although the Holy Spirit was poured out on every believer at Pentecost, and works equally in the life of every believer, the Holy Spirit never violates God's lines of delegated authority.

In the same breath, Satan and his demons take advantage of every breach in delegated authority. Every breach in God's delegated authority provides an opening for demonic activity.

We read in Rom 13:1-5: *"Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. ... Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake."* We also read in 1 Cor 11:3: *"But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God."*

We cannot discuss this topic in any detail here, but I nevertheless want to share a few thoughts with you as this subject has an enormous bearing on the effectiveness of prayer. Where God's delegated authority is in breach, prayer will be ineffective! It is therefore extremely important that the believer examines his or her lines of delegated authority above, ensuring that these are not in breach. Otherwise the believer will have no power in prayer warfare.

What are the lines of God's delegated authority? Here are a number of examples:

- ♦ In the home: Husband → wife → children
- ♦ In the local church: Pastor → church leadership → church members
- ♦ In the Church universal: Spiritual leaders (God's specially called and anointed) → local church leaders → others
- ♦ In the school: Principal → teacher → learner
- ♦ In the work place: Manager → supervisor → worker
- ♦ In the country: Laws of the country → Central, Provincial and Local Governments → law enforcement officers → citizens

When is a line of God's delegated authority in breach? When I rebel or refuse to submit to God's authority over me. Submission to God's delegated authority is an important precondition for power in prayer and authority in prayer warfare!

An important reason why Christians are ineffective in prayer is because a line of God's delegated authority is broken in their lives. A husband is not in total submission to Christ; a wife is not in submission to her husband; a teenager rebels against his or her parents; a teacher or staff member is in insubordination to his or her principal or boss; there is rebelliousness in your heart towards the government or the authorities; you are knowingly and purposefully in breach of the law or the traffic rules; a pastor does not recognise God's delegated authority in a specially called and anointed member of his church. These are but a few examples.

On the positive side it is vital to understand my delegated authority in Christ in prayer. A husband has authority in prayer over his marriage in prayer. A father has authority as king, priest and prophet over his family in prayer. Parents have authority over their children in prayer. A pastor and his co-leaders have authority over their church in prayer. A group of believers standing in the right relationship with Jesus Christ as their Head have authority over every situation within the will of God in this world! Just think what can happen in our world when the Church wakes up to her authority in Jesus Christ!

An excellent book to read on this subject is one by Watchman Nee, *Spiritual Authority*.



Article 6

(Appendix to Introduction)

Why Many Business and Fund-raising Ventures by Pastors, Missions and Christian Organisations Fail.

I know of missions and ministries that have tried to establish a business or farming income and have failed. Many pastors who became involved in business and MLM projects have failed. I have personally for many years tried to raise funds for God's work through business projects and failed every time.

Why is this? Should one not expect the Lord to bless such ventures for the sake of extending His Kingdom? Can I not trust God to bless my business — especially if I am primarily doing it for Him?

I am sorry to disappoint you, but God does not want to bless your business! He has no interest in your business! Why is that?

If You are not Called to be in Business, You are in the Wrong Place

God is only interested in His business, not yours. Therefore, if you are called to be a pastor or missionary and you involve yourself in business, you are stepping out of God's business and calling for your life. Get back as quickly as you can to the place where God had called you to, and be faithful in that calling until God leads you differently. *"No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier."* (2Ti 2:4 NKJV)

To be in business is a calling, just like a calling in any other area of God's service. A business person, like a pastor or missionary, is a calling — not a job, and if this is not your calling, stick to the task God has called you to. This is an important reason why many pastors and missionaries fail in business.

A Lack of Business Training and Experience

A second reason why many pastors and missionaries fail in business is because of a lack of business training and experience. If a layman could fulfil the role as pastor just as well, there would be no need for training as a pastor. Likewise, if a pastor could fulfil the role of businessman just as well, there would be no need for business training. However, both assumptions are wrong, as both tasks require specialised training and experience. Although there are exceptions to the rule, don't count on them as they are few and far between.

Divided Focus

A very important secret of success in every sphere of life, and particularly in business is focus. Focus means to concentrate and maintain your attention fully on your subject or object. Using a magnifying glass to light a fire is a good example. The magnifying glass focuses the rays of the sun onto a specific point, with the result that the intensity of the concentration of rays causes such intense heat to light a fire.

This truth also holds for a spiritual ministry. *"O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep this forever in the intent of the thoughts of the heart of Your people, and fix their heart toward You."* (1Ch 29:18) (Emphasis mine)

The third reason why many pastors and missionaries fail in business is because their focus is divided. In order to be successful in business requires your undivided attention — and as a matter of fact, also your ministry. I knew of a full time pastor who also ran his own restaurant. I must admit I don't know which task he did best, but I will be very surprised if he did both equally well.

Multi Level Marketing projects are great for dividing pastors' and missionaries' focus. I know, as I have personally targeted many pastors with my own MLM projects. I now realise that this was a mistake.



Article 7

(Appendix to Chapter 13)

Stop Raising Funds for Missions!

I trust that I have succeeded in showing from the Word of God that fulfilling the Great Commission and taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every nation, tribe and tongue is the primary task of the Church. It is not some ad-on or auxiliary function that the Church may be involved in on a voluntary basis! It stands on an equal footing with local church growth! If a church does not treat the Great Commission as such it is simply missing God's purpose for them as church!

Why then, is it necessary to raise funds for missions? It is so sad that missionaries and mission organisations often have to raise their own funding in order to do God's work! What a tragedy that the main work, task and responsibility of the Church is not fully financed by the Church! What a disgrace that missionaries and missions, who are called to take the Gospel to the unreached, have to spend time and effort to raise funding and financial support for the main work of the Church! What a disgrace that the most important work of the Church has to rely on collection tin projects and second hand clothing and cake sales to do God's work!

Some years ago the faith promise concept was introduced in many churches to support missions. The idea of a faith offering was to trust God to enable me to give something for missions over and above my normal tithe. While the concept of a faith offering was good, I was absolutely appalled to discover that many churches were using the faith offering as their total contribution to missions, relieving themselves from the responsibility to support missions out of their general church funds.

What a disgrace that missionaries, who are fulfilling the main task of the Church, have to beg for money to do the Church's work! What a disgrace that a church is satisfied to give its left-over money to mission! What a slap in the face of Jesus Christ that churches have to raise funds in order to be able to execute Jesus' Great Commission, while the local church's pastors and ministers enjoy fully paid salaries, medical aid, and pension funds — sometimes even living in luxury! I am convinced in my own heart that I am expressing the heart of God when I express my

absolute disgrace and sadness about this situation in the strongest terms!

I recently heard the pastor of a church suggest that pastors and ministers should offer to exchange their lifestyle with the missionaries supported by their church. I take off my hat to this pastor — I think this pastor understood something a great many pastors and ministers don't!

Why the Church Should Spend at Least 50% of its Income on World Missions

I am offering the following contribution as my personal conviction and not as Biblical truth. You are free to differ with me and I will still love you with the love of the Lord! But I am offering no excuse for it.

I still want to be introduced to the church who calls a full time pastor or minister on condition that the pastor is willing to raise his own support above the level the church is able to support him from the 50% of church income they have available for local church expenses, since their policy is that the first 50% of church income goes to world missions! I believe this is the correct and Biblical norm, and I am fully convinced that God would bless such a church, including their finances! The promise of Jesus in Mat 6:33: *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you"*, applies not only the individual Christian but also to the local church

If I was the pastor of a church I would be ashamed to know that the missionaries my church support (if any) have to raise their own additional support to survive, with no medical aid and pension fund, while I am fully supported by my church!

Pastor, just imagine what God can do in your church when you are willing to follow Him in this regard! Are you praying for revival in your church? Stop immediately — until you are willing to pay the price and fulfil God's conditions for revival!

Fully conscious of the fact that I am putting my head into a beehive, I want to declare that it is my humble but persuaded opinion that a church who does not allocate the first 50% of its income from tithes and offerings to reach the whole world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, is missing out on God's purpose for them as a church and cannot be trusted by God with revival. A church that cannot survive by giving 50%

of its income for world missions has no right of existence, because it is missing its purpose.

I found the following statistics on the internet that confirmed my own suspicions.¹ Although these statistics are applicable to the USA and as at the time of writing, I am convinced that the picture does not look any different in South Africa:

- ⇒ 95% of all church budgets in the US are spent on our own comforts and programs. Less than 1% is spent on evangelism to the most unreached.
- ⇒ 40% of the church's entire global foreign mission resources are being deployed to just 10 oversaturated countries already possessing strong citizen-run home ministries.
- ⇒ More than 90% of all Christian materials are in English, but only 8% of the world speaks English.
- ⇒ All costs of ministry divided by number of baptisms per year. Cost per baptism in India - \$9803 per person. Cost per baptism in the United States - \$1,550,000 per person.
- ⇒ 91% of all Christian outreach/evangelism does not target non-Christians but targets other Christians in already-evangelised countries or people-groups.

I believe we need a new approach to church. We need a paradigm shift in our thinking about church. After I have read K P Yohannan's, *Revolution In Missions*, I came to realise how many luxuries we simply take for granted in our prosperity. We are quick to cry, recession, recession, but we have no idea how spoilt we are.

I always thought that we as a family were living very modestly, when God showed me how spoilt I was and that I should never take His blessings for granted. For seven months, right through winter, our family went without electricity. Our oldest son had to study for his matric exam by candle light. For two years we had no vehicle of our own while living 30 kilometres out of town and our children often times had to walk home seven kilometres after school.

The most traumatic day of my entire life was the day I had to send my children to school with empty stomachs. By the grace of God this happened

to us only by exception, but now I know what a missionary family close to us, who was working on the outskirts of Namibia must have gone through when they had to live on only maize meal without milk or sugar for fourteen days because of lack of support.

Thinking Outside the Box ...

Let me introduce you to a new way of thinking about church. Firstly, a church does not need a building of its own. Small churches can be accommodated in homes or outbuildings. We as Christians in the civilised world have become so self-complacent and convenient that we cannot for a moment imagine that God may ask us to sacrifice our personal garage, outdoor facility or home for His purpose. The only reason a church has to be larger than what can be accommodated in a home, is because such a small church cannot support a pastor or minister. However, that brings me to my next point.

A church does not need a full time pastor! Churches can share pastors. In our day and age technology, such as DVD,s, the internet and television are making it possible to share sermons, teaching and discipleship materials anywhere in the world through the press of a button. In fact the best teaching and sermons are available on electronic media! An abundance of excellent teaching and discipleship resources are also available.

All that is needed to run a small church is a mature Christian on fire for God! Why not send out your pastor as a missionary, and let him preach the Word to you through the electronic media on the Day of the Lord, while the elders are running the church? If the elders and deacons cannot run the church without the pastor, send them on a discipleship training course! (See Article 4, *Thoughts On Leadership*.)

Are You Willing to be Called as a Missionary?

Just imagine what can happen in the world if we send fifty per cent of the pastors and ministers of our churches out to the mission fields of the world? Dear Pastor, are you willing to be called by God to a mission field? Or are you too convenient and comfortable in your salaried position where you are? How about having to raise your own financial support if God sends you to beam the Gospel via the electronic media

from somewhere in the middle east, or to teach English to Muslim immigrants in France?

Next time you are prompted to raise funds for missions, call a prayer meeting and ask, Lord, what do You want us to sacrifice to enable our church to come in line with Your purpose for the world and the Church?



Article 8

(Appendix to Chapter One)

The Blessing of the Faith Offering

In Chapter One you have learned what God's purpose for you as Christian here on earth is, namely, firstly to become more and more like Jesus in the image of God, and secondly, to be His instrument in taking the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

Knowing what God's purpose for your life is, does it not follow that you would want to arrange your priorities in life in such away that you fulfil God's purpose for your life? How can you do this?

Firstly, you must fully give yourself. God wants your total availability. God Himself will show you where He wants you to serve Him, but there are especially two aspects of your life He will lay claim on. These are firstly, your time; secondly your wealth.

Living Your Purpose ...

Firstly and foremost your time with Him. Your personal quiet time and time with God in the Word and prayer comes first. Together with this goes time for intercession for God's work and for mission fields, which every Christian should be offering. If you don't have time for the Word and prayer, you are too busy — find out from God whether you are in the centre of His will, you may have to change your job.

Then depending on your calling, He will ask some of your time in service. If you have a full time job you will obviously have less time available to give, but make sure that there is no idol in your life (e.g. sport) that steals God's time! On the other hand, it could be that God calls you into full time service, in which case you will be offering all your time to Him.

Secondly, God needs you to support His work financially. He asks from each and every believer at least our tithe! I repeat — at least our tithe! Our tithe is not the maximum, it is the minimum! If you do not give your full tithe to the Lord, you are simply missing out on God's purpose for your life. You are also missing out on God's blessing on your life.

Let me explain something to you. For many years I struggled to give my tithe. I knew God expected me to give my tithe, but somehow my money just didn't always stretch that far. I fell into the habit of borrowing from God — you know what I mean! I'll pay God back as soon as I can. Until God revealed the things to me I have shared with you in this book, namely, God's purpose for my life. I began to realise that God does not expect me to give a tithe — He simply wants me to live my purpose! When I grasped that truth the very first thing I did with every bit of income I received, was to ensure that God's purpose for my life was met. Before anything else I deduct God's portion and then simply trusts Him for the rest — and our finances works out every time!

Blessed for A Purpose ...

God may bless you financially and enable you to contribute more than your tithe. If God blesses you financially it is primarily for the sake of serving His purpose on earth! How tragic that the first thing some Christians think about when they are financially blessed is to improve their own standard of living.

Remember, if you are financially blessed by God it is for a purpose — and that purpose is that you are a special instrument in the hands of God to finance his work on earth. Blessed is the man who when his wealth increases, is so sold out to God's purpose for His life that he will not even think of spending anything extra on himself without explicit permission from God! This Christian will understand that nothing belongs to him — it is God's wealth, all of it! It is not a question of how much I must give to God — it is question of how much I am allowed to use for myself.

R G LeTourneau

Consider the following inspirational quotation:

"R.G. LeTourneau became the greatest obstacle-mover in history, building huge earth-moving machines. During World War II he produced 70% of all the army's earth-moving machinery. He spoke of God as the Chairman of his Board.

As a multi-millionaire, LeTourneau gave 90% of his profit to God's work and kept only 10% for himself. ... LeTourneau said that the money

came in faster than he could give it away. LeTourneau was convinced that he could not out-give God. "I shovel it out," he would say, "and God shovels it back, but God has a bigger shovel." "1

Without Faith it is Impossible to Please God ...

The point I am driving at is that when I truly understand God's purpose for my life, I will want to give as much of my income to God for the fulfilment of His purpose through me as is humanly possible. It is simply a matter of priority! If something is truly important to you, it is obvious that you will want to invest as much time and resources into that priority as is humanly possible!

What is actually important to understand in this regard is that if you are honest and sincere with God in this matter, you can trust Him to enable you to give more than your tithe — and God will honour your faith. This is the principle behind the faith offering.

You are a Steward of God's Money

There is something else I want to draw your attention to. I am sharing the following paragraphs with you as my own personal view and not as Biblical theology. Please feel free to differ with me!

Because the second purpose of God for your life as we have mentioned earlier, is to be His instrument in taking the Gospel to the ends of the earth, it follows that at least 50% of your giving to God should go to world missions!

I want to encourage you to give your full tithe and faith offering to your church, but on condition that 50% or more of your church's income from tithes and offerings are invested in world missions! If you have the slightest doubt whether 50% of your church's income go to world missions, my advice to you is to only give 50% of your offering to your church and to give the other 50% directly to world missions.

If your church does not support world missions from its own budget, it is only fulfilling 50% of God's purpose for them as a church and are therefore eligible for only 50% of God's money. If your church is using all its income from tithes and offerings just to support itself, it is actually

defrauding God! If you are giving a faith offering for missions through your church and this is the only contribution your church is making to missions, I recommend that you give your faith offering directly to the mission or missionary it is intended for, and give 50% of your tithe directly to world missions.

It is possible that your church will be up in arms because of my advice and they may even preach against this advice. But don't let that disturb you. Your offering does not belong to the local church. The local church is merely stewards of God's money, and if they cannot be trusted with how it is invested, God will hold you responsible for where you give it!



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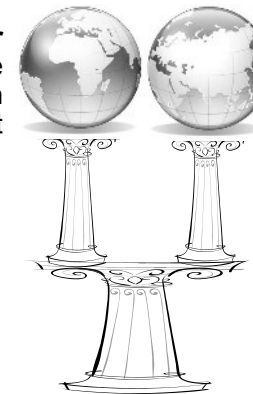
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Sending and Supporting
churches and individuals

Project CyberWorld is a world missions ministry broadcasting the Gospel of Jesus Christ from South Africa to every country and in as many languages as possible across the world by means of the internet; together with a program specifically targeting the unreached world; driven and supported by participating South African and African churches.

As was pointed out in the Introduction, one of the most important signs of the fast approaching return of Jesus Christ is the fact that for the first time in the history of the world it is possible to reach every country in the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ by means of the internet! The internet is developing into the world's largest business and social meeting place. God is creating an instrument for the Church to effectively reach the world with the Gospel!

We herewith invite you and your church to participate in Project CyberWorld by winning thousands and thousands of people for Christ across the world through the internet every year!

In addition, we are actively targeting the unreached peoples of the world through sending and supporting of indigenous missionaries throughout the world in partnership with indigenous missionary movements, missions and churches.

We can only do this with your support and the support of your church.

Every sponsorship of R20,000 per month will enable us to win and care for approximately 1,200 new converts coming to Christ via the internet every year, and in addition will enable us to send and support one indigenous missionary to an unreached people group somewhere in the world.

This means that for every R200 you sponsor, one new Christian on average is added to the body of Christ somewhere in the world!

This is one of the most cost-effective investments you can make in the Kingdom of God! As mentioned in Chapter 13, the total cost of Christian outreach averages \$330,000 (*approximately R2.5 million*) for every newly baptised person.¹ The average cost to add one person to the Church of Jesus Christ in India is \$9,803 (*approximately R73,000*) and in the United States \$1,550,000 (*approximately R11.6 million*).² If you want to know how cost-effective your church's missions investment is, divide your missions investment by the number of new Christians added to the Church on the mission field every month.

Admittedly, this is not always a reliable measurement if applied to individual ministries, as it may take a long time before breakthroughs are experienced in raw mission fields. The Bible teaches us that some sow and others reap. However, make sure that your missions investment is not simply poured into a bottomless pit!

What are the advantages of participating in Project CyberWorld?

- Through a single contribution you are certain that you and your church is actively involved in taking the Gospel to the ends of the earth.
- Your missions investment is maximum cost-effective.
- You can see and evaluate the results of your investment monthly.
- You can keep your congregation involved and interested through active participation in prayer and reports of a regular stream of conversions throughout the world.

This is how your contribution will be invested:

Fifty per cent (50%) of your contribution will be invested into reaching the unreached of the world, while fifty per cent (50%) will be used to broadcast the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every country and winning people for Christ all over the world via the internet.

For more information contact:

<p>Project CyberWorld P O Box 31014, Waverley, Pretoria. 0135. South Africa</p> <p>Email address: admin@sepprograms.com</p> <p>Phone: +27 (0)72 202 2744</p>	or	<p>Action 1:8 P O Box 15769, Sinoville, Pretoria. 0129. South Africa</p> <p>Email address: aksie18@mweb.co.za</p> <p>Phone: +27 (0)12-8191574</p>
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Notes

Introduction

- ¹ Internet World Stats. (<http://www.internetworldstats.com/stats.htm>)
- ² Google Keywords Tool
- ³ Internet World Stats. (<http://www.internetworldstats.com/facebook.htm>)
- ⁴ Facebook Adverts Targeting

Chapter 1 God's Purpose in Creation

- ¹ Jameson, Fausset and Brown,
- ² Paul E Billheimer, *Destined For The Throne* by (© Christian Literature Crusade, Inc., 1975) p 15

Chapter 2 God's Purpose With the Church

- ¹ Paul E Billheimer, *Destined For The Throne* by (© Christian Literature Crusade, Inc., 1975) p 21
- ² <http://frontierharvestministries.net/WorldMissionStatistics.dsp>

Chapter 3 God's Purpose in History

- ^{1,2,3} SermonIndex.net, Moderator - Greg Gordon
(http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id=8463&forum=40&3)
- ⁴ Wikipedia - Free Eyclopedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_Christian_missions
- ⁵ Wycliff. <http://www.lastlanguagescampaign.org/LLC.aspx>
- ⁶ Wikipedia - Free Eyclopedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bible_translations_by_language
- ⁷ Wycliff. <http://www.wycliffe.org/>
- ⁸ K P Yohannan, *Revolution In Missions*, (© K P Yohannan, 2004) p 206

Chapter 4 God's Purpose With the nations

- ¹ Strong's Dictionary G1577
- ² Wikipedia - Free Eyclopedia. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Huguenots>

Chapter 5 God's Purpose With the Church in South Africa

- ¹ K P Yohannan, *Revolution In Missions*, (© K P Yohannan, 2004) p 85

Chapter 7 The Christian Life is a War

- ¹ Paul E Billheimer, *Destined For The Throne* by (© Christian Literature Crusade, Inc., 1975) pp 71-87
- ² *ibid.* p 17
- ³ *ibid.* p 18

Chapter 9 Knowing Your Enemy

¹ E M Bounds, *Winning The Invisible War* (© Whitaker House, 1984) pp 11,12

² *ibid.* p 32

³ *ibid.* p 31

Chapter 10 The Victory of Calvary

¹ Wikipedia - Free Eyclopedia. (www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bible)

² ChristianAnswers.net. (www.christiananswers.net/bible/about.html)

³ Bibleinfo.com. (<http://www.bibleinfo.com/en/content/facts-and-trivia>)

⁴ Amazing Bible Timeline with World History. (www.agards-bible-timeline.com)

⁵ Paul E Billheimer, *Destined For The Throne* by (© Christian Literature Crusade, Inc., 1975) p 21

Chapter 12 Moving into Battle

¹ Paul E Billheimer, *Destined For The Throne* by (© Christian Literature Crusade, Inc., 1975) p 18

² *ibid.* p 121.

Chapter 13 A Common Purpose

¹ Frontier Harvest Ministries. (<http://frontierharvestministries.net/WorldMissionStatistics.dsp>)

² These are calculations I have made based on certain criteria, e.g. the current world population, current world birth and death rates, reported percentage of Christians to world population, and reported deaths in unreached people groups. Statistics sometimes vary from source to source, especially with regard to deaths in unreached people groups. It should therefore be understood that these figures are only estimates and far from accurate, but nevertheless paints a reliable picture.

My information came from the following sources:

- ♦ <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/reach.htm>
- ♦ <http://fastestgrowingreligion.com/numbers.html>
- ♦ <http://www.wholesomewords.org/missions/greatc.html#birdatrate>
- ♦ <http://frontierharvestministries.net/WorldMissionStatistics.dsp>
- ♦ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/xx.html>
- ♦ <http://www.prayforup.com/statistics.cfm>
- ♦ <http://public.imb.org/globalresearch/Pages/default.aspx>
- ♦ <http://www.joshuaproject.net/>

Article 4 Thoughts on Leadership

¹ About.Com.Christianity. (<http://christianity.about.com/od/denominations/p/christiantoday.htm>)

Article 7 Stop Raising Funds for Missions!

¹ Scary Statistics by Doug Perry. (http://www.the-tribulation-network.com/articles/scary_statistics.htm)

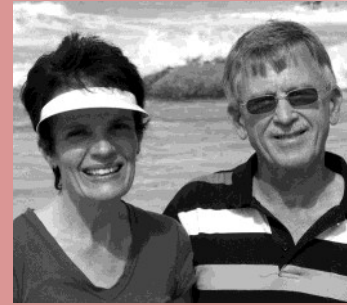
Article 8 The Blessing of the Faith Offering

¹ Addicted to Follow Up. (<http://daviddemangos.wordpress.com/2009/10/30/a-man-who-gave-90-of-his-income/>)

Project CyberWorld

¹ Frontier Harvest Ministries. <http://frontierharvestministries.net/WorldMissionStatistics.dsp>

² Scary Statistics by Doug Perry. (http://www.the-tribulation-network.com/articles/scary_statistics.htm)



Elmer and Nansie Grobler



The Grobler Extended Family

When Revival Tarries

Called out of the business world as a missionary, Elmer Grobler found himself in a unique preparation school of God for a special ministry! He thought that God could use his business background to help organise and raise funds for missions, which was his primary vision. Little did he realise that his business mindedness was a stumbling block to God rather than an asset.

Twenty two years later God led him to the point where he vowed to bury every business project and focus solely on his calling as a missionary. Immediately God began using him to win souls for Christ all over the world via the internet. But more than that, God revealed to him the great purpose of his calling, namely to mobilise the Church to finish the task of Jesus' Great Commission.

Together with the message of this book, God used him and his family as a prophetic sign to the Church which is vividly portrayed in the story of an unfinished house.

In this book Elmer effectively bridges the gap between revival and finishing the task of Jesus' Great Commission. This book will challenge the way you think about revival, about prayer, about the return of Jesus Christ, about missions, about church, and about your purpose in this world as Christian!