

SEEC Magazine

A KINGDOM PERSPECTIVE

VOLUME 23

ISSUE 6

DECEMBER 2019 / JANUARY 2020

SHIFTING UP TO A NEW
LEVEL IN A NEW YEAR

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CHRIST IS KING

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IN 2020

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UNCONVENTIONAL

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AUTHORITY
WITH HONOR
Larry Burden

STRENGTHEN
ENCOURAGE
EQUIP
CHURCH
MINISTRIES

1Co 14:3, Eph 4:12

KINGDOM CONGRESS MAR. 4-6, 2020

"God is my King from of old, Who works deeds of deliverance in the midst of the earth."Ps.74:12



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SEEC Magazine is a bi-monthly publication. It is for the purpose of presenting teaching on the subjects of the Kingdom of God, prophecy, five-fold ministry, dreams and visions, and intercession. Though each of these subjects may not be covered in each issue, they will be covered through the course of the year's publications.

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Editor: Marty Gabler

mail@seecministries.org

Office 936-653-4108

Website: seecministries.org

martygabler.com

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ON THE COVER:

"Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. (Isa. 1:18, ESV)



Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

*

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Seeing clearly with our natural eyes is called 20/20 vision. I believe as we head into the new year, 2020, that we are in a God-planned time in history to see more clearly than ever before. I declare that understanding and clarity are coming to both physical eyes and the eyes of our soul and spirit. I truly expect keener vision and perceptivity in the months ahead that will equip us for successful and effectual days of walking out the purposes of God in our lives.

Equipping for understanding and clarity was the theme for the Annual September Dreams, Visions and Prophecy conference. The following is a summary of some of the notes from that meeting.

I'm sure we have all wondered at times why everybody does not dream literal, plain dreams with clear communication and no search and discovery needed. Joseph in the New Testament saw the angel in a dream and understood clearly that the instructions were to flee to Egypt with Baby Jesus and Mary. Those were literal instructions that they could act on and they did. However, if we consider other scriptural examples of how God communicated, He often communicated with the prophets of the Old Testament in symbolic language. The dry bones in Ezekiel and the feet of iron and clay on the statue in Daniel were symbolic. Even Jesus often spoke in parables instead of literal details, and you know He was communicating with the crowds that kept gathering. Yet sometimes even the disciples had to ask Him for clarity later. So, I suspect that having to pursue understanding is part of God's plan and purpose, probably for rea-



sons like, 1) seeking God for wisdom builds relationship with the Lord, and 2) pursuing understanding is how we develop an ear to hear, and 3) every time we pursue God's wisdom and clarity, we always discover more than we went looking for.

I learned some surprising things on my first search for the meaning of a symbol. 1) My first surprise was how God answered my specific questions and then offered to confirm those discoveries. 2) When I look back now, I'm also shocked that I could hear Him because I was nervous about asking. 3) Another surprise was that He directed me to an Encyclopedia instead of the Bible or an obvious Christian source. 4) Another surprise was how one symbol discovery could open so many dreams. These were things I discovered back in my twenties because I'd gotten a call out of the blue from a lady I didn't know well. She called to ask me if I interpreted dreams and I was stunned. I had prayed to be able to interpret dreams since childhood, but to that point, I could count the dreams I had interpreted on one finger! So, I hesitated and stuttered, "I think I can, but how did you know?" She said she knew because the Lord told her to call me. Well, that phone call was both confirming and scary. It was my first step toward committing to follow through with the task of understanding symbolism and interpreting dreams.

As it turned out, the lady who called had twenty-two years of dreams and most of her dreams had elephants in them. After sitting with her for hours, I couldn't interpret even one of her dreams! The only thing I could see clearly was that the elephant was a symbol. So, I went home and in desperate prayer I asked the Lord what the elephants represented. In my inner hearing, I heard, "A religious spirit." His answer came so quickly that it left my logic in the dust! I was dumbfounded and totally doubting my ear to hear. I thought, 'Lord, how can I say that to that lady? How can I explain that to her when it doesn't even make sense to me?' He said, "You look up the characteristics of an elephant in the Encyclopedia and I'll show you how they parallel a religious spirit." So, I did, and He did. My point is that if you have to search for understanding, He will make it worth the effort.

Thankfully, there will also be times that Father accelerates our understanding with a gift of the Spirit, (a word of wisdom from 1Cor 12), and the symbols and the meaning of the dream just become clear! That's exactly what happened the first time I interpreted a dream. It happened at the breakfast table when I suddenly understood Marty's dream. I had no idea that was a "word of wisdom" in operation. All I knew was that God had finally answered my years of prayer to be like Joseph, Daniel and my

Great Grandpa who were able to interpret dreams.

Genesis 40:8 says, "It is God who gives the ability to interpret dreams." I grew up thinking that interpreting dreams was a specialized gift and a calling that God only gave to certain people, but the scripture doesn't really say that. When we consider Daniel and Joseph, they pursued wisdom. They knew that God had answers and they were confident they could go to God to enlighten them, (and they both said as much.) We too can go to God and ask for wisdom and understanding, and we know that God can release a gift of His Spirit that opens understanding with a word of wisdom or a word of knowledge or discernment or prophecy, etc. So, I'm beginning to realize that pursuing God's wisdom and understanding is more the heart of interpretation than seeing it as a specialized or rare gift. Since clarity and connecting the dots is the goal of communication, then pursuing God for wisdom is evidently what He had in mind for us to do. If we remember the definition of wisdom is *sage advice or the act of interpreting dreams and the ability to discover the meaning of a mysterious number or vision*, then when we ask for it, we know we are asking for the ability to interpret and discover meanings. And James 1:5 tells us that if we ask for wisdom, God will give it. Even if God doesn't give you a gift with a bow on it like a word of wisdom, He will give you wisdom that leads you in the search and discovery process. Then you will be able to find answers or find resources or references with answers, and once you understand a dream, you can ask for wisdom also to know how to respond to it.

I encourage you not to get frustrated if a dream has to wait and open over time. There may be elements in it that are in process and not yet reachable, but the dream can still be a landmark or confirmation later. One dream I had over 25 years ago just opened to me the first week of September this year. In the dream, Marty and I turned off a major four-lane road onto a dirt road. It lead to an old country house. There was an elderly lady sitting in a rocker on the porch. No words were spoken but we knew the old home place was ours and that she had been overseeing it and waiting for us to get there. She was a watchman (angel) guarding our destiny and heritage.

When I got out of the car, there was a wooden fence a few feet from me and a huge bull was standing on the other side of it. He came as close to me as he could get with only two boards separating him and me. He lowered his head and glared at me. My legs felt weak as water. I sensed the bull and I were facing off and I could not cower to his silent bullying. I took a deep breath, crossed my arms to stop the trembling, and I stared into his eyes and said, "I'm not afraid of you." I turned my back on him, let my breath out slowly and walked away.

There was a bag that was full of seed when we got up to the house. The bag seemed to be moving as though the seeds were active and alive within it. Marty was suddenly urgent to get the seed planted, and I felt compelled to help him. There was a tangible sense of sowing for a specific harvest that would be fruitful and have powerful impact in the future. As the sun set, we ended up in the house, sleeping in a small room, like a parlor off the living room (where the lady now sat). Melissa was also there with us then. I remember thinking she must be part of the ministry call we were realizing in this destined time and place.

The whole dream was an allegory about our family and how our calling and purpose and heritage is pre-destined by God and already in place. However, the dream was a loud message for me personally to keep in mind the potential danger of my strong will (the bull). While I am not to yield in fear of its strength, neither can I ignore it. The bull didn't just lie down or go away because of that face-off, but neither did it break out of bounds. I'm sure the Lord intended my will to be an asset and would not want it weak or useless, but neither should it be allowed to do damage or dominate my life if I am to walk out the destiny God has planned.

I had never forgotten the dream and often wondered why it did not open in my understanding for so many years. Now I see that timing was the key. Had I squared off with my will at the time of the dream, I would have been determined to conquer it in my own strength. Ironically, that would have built more muscle in the "bull" and beefed-up the problem in the process. Instead, the Holy Spirit has been saving and sanctifying my soul (and that strong) will for 25 years, and that was the wise way to keep it within necessary boundaries. I am grateful for this understanding now and so very grateful for His faithful tending of my soul.

I pray 2020 becomes the year of clarity and courage to walk into God intersections and see His Kingdom come on earth as in heaven.

(Kathy will be speaking at Kingdom Congress 2020 which is March 4-6, 2020. For all information about KC2020 go to this link: martygabler.com/KC2020/ and check out Marty's Facebook page for updates.)

Among the details of the Advent are the orchestrated movements of the heavenly bodies and the timely placement of illustrious people. Mary was none of the above; and much like Mary, the great majority of us come from somewhat obscure backgrounds with reputations and merits that require Divine intervention if we are to be included in the well-designed purposes of Jehovah. It would seem, however, that most people qualify for inclusion in the Divine intentions of history simply because all the glory must go to God and not the participants. *"For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;"* (1Co.25:26) — MG.



In the Christian walk we are not only gradually and incrementally maturing, but there come times, seasons or occasions when we shift up somehow to another level. I believe the Lord wants all of us in the Body of Christ to go to a new level [in this new year]. We can go for the max that God wants to do through us. Life is too short to go for less than the maximum in God and His purpose. I would like to provide a foundation for motivating us to go to a new level. We are all under mandate to do all the Lord said do, including what we find in 1Jo 2:12-14 *I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake. I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.* One mandate here is to become spiritual parents.

If we are going to aspire to something, let's go for the max. We won't get there in one leap, but we can get on a journey to become all the Lord called us to be. If I understand something, the Lord desires that all of His



children mature, but beyond that He desires that we come into a place that we are maturing spiritually and thereby able to reproduce what God wants to see in the earth, namely a harvest that glorifies His name and is worthy of the sacrifice of His Son's blood on the cross. We can cast vision as John challenges every believer in Christ to become a spiritual parent. The need for maturity in the American church is rather evident. Paul cries out in Ephesians 4 that we would become mature and come to the unity of the faith, to a mature corporate man to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. This is not just individually but all of us together becoming mature in the Lord so that we have a corporate maturity so that we are able to fulfill everything God said needs to happen in the history of the earth. Surely we have lived in God long enough to realize that we are not always distracted by demons. Sometimes it is our own immaturity that hinders us and delays God's agenda in the church and in the earth. Becoming parents is not easy, but we are destined to grow up and become parental in God.

The gospel of John reveals God the Father through the life and ministry of Jesus the Son of God. It also gives us insight about the relationship between God the Father and God the Son. However, in 1 John, the emphasis is on believers having a relationship with God, both Father and Son. Somehow we are interjected into the fellowship of the Godhead. As much as humanity can fellowship divinity, we are brought into a relationship that is eternal and that is perfect. And that is our hope because life is full of imperfect relationships. But our hope in Christ is that we are not just loving God, but we are fellowshiping, participating in the divine nature of both Father and Son. Remember in the incarnation of the Son of God, He and the Father would relate a little differently than they had before because God, the Eternal Son, relates to the Father as the Son of Man and the Last Adam. Before the incarnation it was divinity relating to divinity through the power of the Holy Spirit who is divine. Born of a virgin, Jesus never stopped being the Son of God, but now Father in heaven is relating to Him as Son of Man because to prove that, the Son of God on this planet says, "I will only do what I see the Father doing." So it is divinity relating to humanity (without Christ losing any of His deity).

The emphasis in 1 John is about how we as believers relate to both father and son. We see here believers are referred to in three ways: (1) little children, (2) young men/women and (3) fathers/mothers. (1) Little children are those conscious of God as their father and that their sins are forgiven. (2) Young men are stronger believers who know the word of God and have overcome the enemy. The "word" here is logos. Jesus as the logos overcame the devil not just through verbal statements. He over-

came by being the Word Himself. We also overcome the devil by letting the logos live through us. We overcome by being and by speaking. (3) The fathers are believers who know Him who was from the beginning. In order to mature in the future like we must to become a spiritual parent, we have to understand our spiritual past. Spiritual parents have to understand the past and new beginnings in God.

We need new encouragements, new seasons and new beginnings to stay fresh in the Lord. So spiritual parenting is about getting a revelation of beginnings, and if you see the beginnings well, the ending will be well. (1) Little children are learning the word, receiving it like milk to be sustained. (2) Young men are taking in meat so that they have strength to war with the word. No one should stay in the nursery forty years. We have to get strong and use the word to overcome the adversary. (3) Then fathers are sowing the word in others so they experience new beginnings. We have to have mothers and fathers in the House of God so people will have hope for a good or new beginning. We receive the Kingdom by being childlike. We receive strength and become zealous to accomplish things as a young man. Fathers receive and share strategies, wisdom and eternal perspective with others to bring them into maturity in Christ. Little children are focused on what they can receive from Heavenly Father. That “little children” level means you have life in God but what is with churches that are filled with people who are still little children only focused on what they can receive from God? That is not to be our forever perspective because the young men rise up and they are focused on what they can accomplish for God. Spiritual parents are focused on raising up mature sons and daughters through whom God can accomplish His purpose in the earth.

The following is an analogy of how to walk out these levels. Back in the Bible days there was a procedure that Hebrew boys would have the goal of coming under a rabbi to learn the Word of God. Families thought their sons needed a foundation of the Word of God in their lives. Only the best of the best made it through this procedure to become a rabbi themselves. By age six, a boy had to memorize the entire book of Leviticus. At age six, he entered into the “school of the book,” where he had to memorize the whole Pentateuch, the first five books of Moses. This sheds some light on how Jesus was wowing the leaders of the temple at twelve years old. He not only could quote the book, but He also asked questions they could not answer. At twelve to thirty, they entered the school of discipleship. Like Jesus, the priests of the Old Covenant entered the ministry at the age of thirty. There is no reference in the scriptures of Jesus being under a rabbi through these years, rather He was in carpentry under

step-dad Joseph, and I believe, He was disciplined by the Holy Spirit. At age 30, if a boy became the best of the best, he would take on the yoke of his rabbi that trained him. The yoke was the rabbi's particular interpretation of the Old Testament. As an act of honor, the disciple began to teach his rabbi's interpretation of the scripture. However, on occasion, someone would rise as a rabbi with unusual authority, which meant he was not limited to the teachings of his mentor but could teach his own interpretation of the word.

How were these exceptions decided? Every rabbi was baptized at 30 into his rabbinical responsibilities. At the baptism, there had to be two witnesses that this young man had unusual authority. So, at Jesus' baptism, there were two witnesses, John the Baptizer and Father from heaven. Then He said, "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, I am meek and lowly of heart." (Matt. 11:29) The yokes of all other rabbis put burdens upon people, not just the burden of legalisms but that they were limited to parrot their rabbi only. Religious systems can put yokes on people that people were not meant to bear. But the yoke of Jesus is easy and sets us free. It is pure truth based on the perfect interpretation of the Word of God. Jesus, as a rabbi, did not go to young Hebrews to get disciples. He went to grown men, most of whom had not been rabbinsized. They evidently didn't memorize Leviticus and learned to fish instead. "Follow me," was a rabbi's call to the disciples. It was built into them as a Hebrew boy to heed the call of a rabbi, even though they probably thought their time was past to be chosen. With all due respect to all rabbis and their interpretation yokes, Jesus is the only one that had the perfect interpretation of the Word of God because He is the Word. The Holy Spirit has become our eternal rabbi. We respect other yokes because they labored long and studied hard, but all those yokes are limited because none of those rabbis were the Word Himself. At the little children level, we learn, memorize, familiarize ourselves with the Word. At the young men's level we learn to interpret the Word of God to apply it to our lives. (This corresponds to the level between 12-30.) At the father level, having stepped into a Spirit-filled baptism at your Jordan and following Jesus Christ, your rabbi whose yoke is easy, you begin to sow the Word into others and equip them and raise them up. This corresponds to Jesus fathering and discipling the twelve who then became world-changers.

We are called to spiritual maturity and spiritual parenthood. The Apostle Paul told the Corinthian church that he spoke to them as a spiritual father. He told the Thessalonians that he came among them as a tender nursing mother. Paul saw himself as a parent. This is not an age thing. Teenagers could parent some people in God. The chronology is laid out there in the Old Covenant, but the New Covenant relates to time differently. The New Covenant is not so much about measure in chronos time but about kairos time, opportune prophetic times and moments in God when we can accelerate to another level. It is amazing, what we have at whatever level, we can give to someone else and develop in our spiritual parenthood. We need to seek to implement strategies which accelerate this agenda in our lives and the Body of Christ. It is not easy, but it is imperative. As in Romans 8, it is mature sons and daughters of God who liberate the Crea-

tor's order. If we are under religious yokes in the House of God, we will not fulfill God's mission in society, in culture or in nations. We are under Jesus' yoke, which is not a burden. Rather, it is awesome direction by the Holy Spirit in how to apply the Word. We will meet the challenges ahead just by growing up.

(Jim Hodges will be speaking at Kingdom Conference in March. He is the founder of the Federation of Ministers and Churches International, a relational, apostolic network of ministers, apostolic teams and local churches across the nation. Having ministered in over 40 nations, Apostle Hodges serves the Body of Christ internationally as a teaching apostle with a passion to see the Body of Christ fully established. Apostle Jim Hodges' new book *WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THE CHURCH TO DO?* This book and other materials may be found at his website: fmci.org or call the office 972-283-2262.)



The government and powers-that-be do not care if we gather and talk about going to heaven or getting people healed, but the moment we declare Jesus is King, there is trouble. The government in power at the time of Jesus didn't care about anything He did. Rome had so many gods that one more was no issue. The trouble started when He was declared King and the Only Way. If we declare Jesus Christ came as King, Merry Christmas, we have a problem in the schools and the marketplace today, but everyone can freely mention Islam or Buddha or any other religious figure. The call to bow your knee in submission to Jesus Christ the King is the point of offense and conflict and war with the carnal mind.

When we are not being bothered or persecuted by the powers-that-be, it is because we are not a threat. That means we are preaching a gospel to get people into heaven instead of getting them into the Kingdom to

change the culture of America. The message isn't only that Jesus came to save you but that He came to take over your life. That's more than receiving Him as a Savior and going to heaven. We have to first bow our hearts in submission to the King. You never find in scripture that He is Savior first. He is King and then He saves you. Jesus came to conquer the carnal mind that is at enmity with God. Our part is to submit to His rule and order in the Kingdom of God. I weep over the cities where crime and corruption are increasing and little children continue to be abused in their own homes and yet the Church is meeting in buildings and singing, "Kum by Yah, Lord," come by HERE, Lord.

Joh 18:33, Therefore Pilate entered again into the Praetorium, and summoned Jesus and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" The reason Pilate confronted Jesus was because He was called a King. No one was bothered by Jesus riding into town on a donkey, but the shouts got the authorities' attention: BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, even the King of Israel." The Jews thought He would come and set up a kingdom that would overthrow the Roman kingdom. Many people await the second coming of Christ today hoping likewise. They don't want to bow their knees or their lives to the King, they just want a turn-about in earthly government.

In Joh 18:34, Jesus answered, "Are you saying this on your own initiative, or did others tell you about Me?" Joh 18:35 Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests delivered You to me; what have You done?" Joh 18:36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. Just wanting Jesus to return and take up a sword to avenge is the thinking of people who do not believe the Gospel is powerful enough to change a nation. His sword comes out of His mouth and His Gospel is powerful enough to shake and change nations and bring His government order in the earth. His Kingdom is ever increasing and the government is upon His shoulders, and of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end. The only one-world order coming is the Kingdom of God where Christ is King. The attempted one-world order that evil is trying to build, is just a carnal counterfeit to the real Kingdom of God coming to earth as in heaven. *If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."* Jesus said His kingdom comes to get into the hearts of men to govern them from the inside. The Kingdom of God within us brings His order to our life, to family, to finances, to business and to the Church.

We have the Gospel, the good news of the Kingdom of God and of

salvation by faith in Jesus Christ. We cannot limit the Gospel to just enough grace and power to save the Gentiles and get them into our church buildings until the Second Coming. If we limit the power of the Gospel like that, people will just live miserably and get tired of church meetings. We need the power of the Gospel, the power of the Kingdom. The Holy Spirit came in power on the Day of Pentecost to set up the government of God in the hearts of men.

The ekklesia was a group of people assembled to legislate government. We should realize that we don't meet together just to encourage one another. We should be assembling to legislate and govern. We have the keys to the Kingdom, so whatever we permit or stop should be what is happening in our cities. We have the name that is above every name. Demons tremble at the Name of Jesus. Sickness has to flee when confronted with the government of God. The culture of a city has to change under the government of God. Being aware of a mandate to legislate as the ekklesia makes us realize churches cannot stay confused. God intends His Kingdom to come down here in the earth. He intends that we participate in His governmental changes in the earth. Mat 6:9, "Pray, 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.'" He obviously wants His order there to come down here. We should be the mightiest force on the face of the earth.

We must seek Him as our King who has a Kingdom. Joh 18:37 *Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born . . .* Notice Jesus did not say He was born to save or to heal or to meet needs or to overcome the devil. He was born to be King. By being King with all government upon His shoulder, all authority in heaven and earth is His. Therefore He saves, heals, provides and overcomes all. Jesus Christ came to be a revelation of the Father and to be a revelation of the Father's Kingdom. When we preach Christ, we preach the Kingdom. When we preach the Kingdom, we preach Christ. Biblically, we cannot separate Christ from the Kingdom. In Matt. 4, Jesus came on the scene and preached the Gospel of the Kingdom. He said, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." There He was, the embodiment of the Kingdom. Scripture confirms He cannot be separated from the Kingdom: 1) He said in John 14, if you see me then you see the Kingdom. The Kingdom is God's will being done. Wherever you find the will of God being done, you find the Kingdom. 2) John 14:6 says that Christ is The Way. In Acts 19, Paul said the Kingdom of God is The Way, and they persecuted The Way. 3) John 14: 6 says that Christ is Life. Mark 9:45-47 says the Kingdom of God is Life. When you find the Kingdom, you find Life. 4) Christ the son of God was a son of the Kingdom according to *Mat 13:38*. And we are the good seed. We are sons of the Kingdom. 5) We were created for Christ according to *Col.1:16*. Then *Mat 25:34*, says we were created for the

Kingdom. Every fiber of our being was created for the Kingdom. If we will get in the order of the Kingdom, we will find the reality of life in every fiber of our being. Where we go contrary to the Kingdom, we get broken. Your family gets broken, your finances get broken, buildings and businesses get broken. 6) 1Cor 3:11 says Christ is the foundation. In Hebrews 12, it says the Kingdom of God is the foundation, and it is unshakeable. Wherever our life is shaking, we can get into the Kingdom. 7) Col 1:18 says in everything give Christ pre-eminence. Matt 6:33 says the Kingdom has to have pre-eminence. 8) In Acts 8, they preached Christ and in Acts 12 they preached the Kingdom. When Phillip went down to Samaria, He preached Christ and He preached the Kingdom. Paul preached Christ and he preached the Kingdom. You cannot separate Christ the King from His Kingdom. Genuine worship always comes from a heart that is in submission to The King.

(This article was taken from a teaching given by Simon Purvis. He is the lead teacher at the Word of Life Teaching Center in Lufkin, TX. Training is at 10:00am each Sunday. To contact him about speaking engagements or to purchase his 160 page study manual on the Kingdom of God, call Word of Life Teaching Center at 936-639-2000; Email: wol-luf@consolidated.net)

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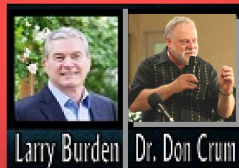
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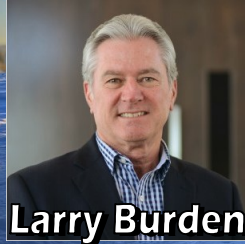


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Theme: The Ekklesia and the Kingdom

AUTHORITY WITH HONOR



It is often said that life is a journey, and there is no greater journey in this life than the one we have with Jesus. He orders our steps, gives us meaning and purpose, establishes our destinies, and releases full power and authority to accomplish our mission. All of this is to ultimately bring His glory and kingdom advancement into the earth through us, His Church. That said, we are always to conduct ourselves with authority and honor.

No one models this better than the Apostle Paul. In Acts 18:1-2 he arrives in Corinth and meets a couple named Aquila and Priscilla. They are converted Jews who have been expelled from Rome because of their faith in Jesus, and now they make their home in Corinth. The three quickly discover that they share the tent making trade as well as a fervent evangelist-heart for Jesus. So, the couple invite Paul to stay with them in their home. They become lifelong friends with Paul and ultimately become the nucleus of the Corinthian church.

Paul lives with this couple for a year and a half while he preaches the gospel of salvation to the Jews and the Gentiles. He establishes a training center in the home of Justus, *teaching the word of God among them* (Acts 18:11). No doubt Aquila and Priscilla sit under the teachings of Paul where I believe they receive great impartation of Paul's spiritual DNA. This couple becomes a reproduction of Christ through the influence of Paul.



When Paul determines that it is time to move on to Ephesus, Aquila and Priscilla join him. They settle in Ephesus and once again Paul lives with them while he preaches the gospel to the Jews in the synagogue. Paul soon exits Ephesus, but he leaves Aquila and Priscilla behind to oversee the church. Their home now becomes the meeting place for new believers. Most certainly, they preach and teach what they have been taught and have caught from the Apostle Paul.

In Ephesus, a fiery young evangelist named Apollos arrives on the scene. He is described as *an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures ... instructed in the way of the Lord, and ... very fervent in the Spirit, and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus* (Acts 18:24-25). He speaks boldly in the synagogue demonstrating by the scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

Aquila and Priscilla listen to Apollos' preaching and are very impressed with his eloquence, passion, and grasp of the scriptures. They also recognize that while he is accurate in his teaching, he is also deficient in his understanding. He only knows the message of repentance as John the Baptist taught. He has not heard the message of salvation union through Christ and the baptism in the Holy Spirit. So, while Apollos is passionate about what he knows, he doesn't have full revelation.

I love what happens next! Aquila and Priscilla take this young man aside into a private meeting out of public view. They sit down with him and share with him *the way of God more accurately* (Acts 18:26). They do not publicly ridicule him. They do not criticize him for his deficiency. They do not brand him a heretic. They shift his deficiency by releasing current revelation. Wow! What a picture of AUTHORITY with HONOR! Aquila and Priscilla honorably help Apollos see the new-era-truth more accurately.

In this recorded account in the Bible for ALL of us to see is a pattern of relationship that is founded upon honor. There is an exchange of mutual honor between these individuals; one giving out and one receiving with a mutual respect and passion for Kingdom purpose.

So, what gives Aquila and Priscilla the authority to address this with Apollos in the first place? How is it that they feel qualified to speak into this man? The answer is threefold. First, they have the greater understanding through the current revelation teaching and demonstration of Christ through the Apostle Paul. Second, they HAVE operational authority because they are UNDER Paul's authority to oversee the church, and thirdly, Apollos embraces them relationally. It is a winning encounter for Jesus, and AUTHORITY with HONOR is at the core of the success of Apollos gaining a higher order understanding and a fresh impartation of current revelation truth. He will go on and preach the full gospel of Christ.

In this new era of the Kingdom Church, we are required to walk in authority with honor. All authority originates from God and is delegated to us by the Lord. Proverbs 29:2 declares that *when the righteous are in authority the people rejoice*. We have both the permission and the responsibility to exercise the rule of

God within us in our assigned spheres of influence and assignments. It is our operational authority. It is God's authority that is delegated to man (Romans 13:1-2) for the purpose of advancing the kingdom of God.

Authority does not imply superiority, but rather responsibility and accountability. It operates more effectively through character than through position. It is best exercised relationally through love and respect for others. Just because one can speak into a matter does not mean that one has permission to do so. The primary purpose of authority is for blessing and protection. When Aquila and Priscilla encounter Apollos, their divine assigned authority is activated by the Holy Spirit to bring a course correction in Apollos for the purpose of blessing and protecting both him and those to whom he preaches his fiery messages. They exercise their assigned authority with honor and the result is blessing to both the servant Apollos and the body of Christ.

Honor is a word that is translated **glory** in scripture. It is used 45 times to describe the visible presence of God. It speaks of the self-disclosure of God in His desire to dwell with man whom He lovingly and carefully created. It is the reality of His splendor made visible to us. Nowhere is the reality and splendor of His presence and character seen as it is seen in His Son. It is that same glory that He desires to display through US, His spiritual sons and daughters. We are the containers of His glory!

Authority and honor have been given to us as a means to value and respect one another as members of God's family. It is meant to be used in a manner that is loving and kind. When used properly, authority with honor brings deeper revelation, healing, course correction, and blessing to one another. No better example of this is found in 1 Corinthians 3:1-11. The church had divided into factions based upon the influence of leaders. One group claims to be followers of Apollos while others claim to be followers of Paul. Apostle Paul addresses the issue with honor and authority. He establishes the order of God in the situation by making it clear that both he and Apollos are simply ministers of the gospel who serve together as a team. *I have planted, Apollos watered: but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that plants anything, or he that waters, but God who gives the increase.* (VS 6-7).

Paul makes it clear that while our roles may be different, we are all son-servants of Christ who are both due and must demonstrate love and respect toward one another. We must honor others in the same manner that we honor God Himself. We must be intentional about this. We must not allow our gifts to be mistaken as status symbols or our positions as platforms to promote self or become a misinterpretation of our worth. The greatest among us are the ones who are yielded and surrendered to the Father and thereby exercise great authority with great honor. Let this be our ever-increasing testimony as we move into this new era and let us be instruments to spread the fame of Jesus through our example of exercising authority with honor.

(Larry and Kathy Burden are the founders of KingdomLife in Frisco, TX. Larry's latest book

is titled *The Orphan Heart* and has impacted many lives. A number of churches have used the book as a study guide for weekly classes. He is also the author of *Kingdom Life—Finding Life Beyond Church*. In that book you will discover why current church models are failing in America, why your church experience often leaves you empty inside, the true freedom and blessing that is found in the kingdom of God. Contact info: www.kingdomlife.org)



**ADDICTION
RECOVERY
CARE**

“We create opportunities for people to discover hope and live out their God-given destiny.”

Addiction Recovery Care was founded by a man who was once a barely functioning alcoholic. He couldn’t see past the deep sea of addiction he was drowning in. That man was me.

My name is Tim Robinson. I grew up in rural Eastern Kentucky in Inez where President Lyndon B. Johnson declared the war on poverty in the 1960’s. The house I was born in didn’t have indoor plumbing and the odds of overcoming poverty were stacked against me. Growing up, I was a good student and after school I spent time in the county courthouse, watching and admiring my dad, the county tax assessor. Through his encouragement and a local banker mentoring me, I was the first person in my family to earn a degree.



I later was accepted into the University of Kentucky College of Law. As I started law school my mother was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. I started drinking to cope with the pain of my mother's illness and death. I continued to drink heavily the entire time I was in law school, and by the time I finished, I was an alcoholic.

By 2006 my alcoholism had caught up with me. I was miserable and wanted to die. I was working as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Lawrence, County, Kentucky and a court bailiff named Rick May, who was also a pastor, started building a relationship with me. On December 11, 2006, Pastor Rick came into my office as he usually did. "Pastor Rick," I said. "I'm tired of Hearing about Jesus. If He's not real and able to save me, I want you to just take your pistol and blow my brains out!" In a moment of complete despair, Pastor Rick began praying with me at my desk at the County Attorney's office. That was day one of my recovery journey. When I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, I began praying, studying the Bible, and was disciplined by Rick May as he nurtured my new-found faith.

I quit practicing law to open a recovery center in 2008. I began by helping men get into a recovery center, even driving them to the facility. In 2010 God led me to open Karen's Place, a treatment center for women. I opened the doors to Karen's place in December of that year, and Vanessa Horn Keeton was the first client to walk through the doors.

Vanessa grew up as a normal girl. She was rather outgoing and funny. Academics came easy for her. She was a straight-A student throughout school. At age 15, she was offered a job at a gas station and accepted it. It was there she would meet everyone she didn't need to know. At age 17, Vanessa was fully tangled up in the party scene. She would get high to go to school and work. She was selling marijuana to her classmates for some extra cash. Despite her newly found lifestyle, she still managed to graduate with honors. After high school, she went to a local community college and started working as a dental assistant and taking night classes. Her partying lifestyle continued, and she was soon introduced to cocaine, ecstasy, and OxyContin. Within a year, Vanessa had dropped out of college and moved to Columbus, Ohio, with a drug dealer. Together they transported OxyContin from Canada and Michigan to Kentucky and West Virginia. She soon became an IV drug user and life as she knew it ended. Vanessa wound up in trouble with the law. She received a DUI, possession, possession of paraphernalia and theft charge. The judge ordered her to treatment, thus becoming the first resident of Karen's Place.

(Vanessa's testimony) "In the middle of what I thought was my end, God saw it as the beginning. I asked Jesus into my heart after being in treatment for a few weeks, and I have never looked back. At that point, my mind wouldn't slow down enough for me to be able to read and comprehend what I was reading, but I

knew that I needed a savior. I can remember sitting in the big room upstairs at Karen's Place and repeating 2 Timothy 1:7—*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

I would almost scream, sound mind. I didn't even know Jesus like I do today, but I knew enough to believe that the Bible was real and that if it was written in there, then I could have it. Today, I have a sound mind, and I am no longer tortured by my past or my thoughts. I am capable of being a wife, mother, college graduate, and a business owner. I am no longer a drug addict who is dealing and stealing to get a fix. I am free!"

That is Vanessa's testimony, and it's only one of the hundreds that have been realized through Addiction Recovery Care's ministry in the last ten years.

Today, Addiction Recovery Care (ARC) operates a network of state-licensed and nationally-accredited residential and outpatient addiction treatment centers in Kentucky and has pioneered the state's addiction treatment industry. The network includes 36 facilities in 14 Kentucky counties. ARC treats over 1,000 patients daily for substance use disorder. ARC is also a provider for vocational rehabilitation services for the regional workforce development board in Eastern Kentucky. With 635 employees, and half of those employees being in recovery from addiction, ARC is leading the way when it comes to providing solutions for the addiction epidemic.

Philippians 1:6 says, "*Being confident of this very thing: He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it and more till the day of Jesus Christ.*"

The good work God started in 2006 in a county attorney's office in Lawrence County, Kentucky, is still producing fruit today. Opportunity, hope, and destiny await those who are suffering from addiction. You can walk into any of our centers and meet 200 of over 600 employees who are graduates of our program and are the living proof.

[Editor's note: When I was there with Apostle Jim Hodges (ministering to ARC staff and some clients) in October, ARC only had 600 employees. They now have 635 (that has happened in less than a month). I have witnessed what the power of God is doing in the mandate God gave Tim. He started ministering to one man and now heads a program that ministers recovery to a thousand at a time. God can do it again!]

(Tim Robinson is the founder and CEO of Addiction Recovery Care, LLC (ARC), which operates a network of over 35 addiction treatment centers in 14 Eastern and Central Kentucky counties. ARC is based in Louisa, Kentucky. The organization offers a continuum of care including centers for detox, residential, transitional, IOP, outpatient, MAT, vocational rehabilitation and job training. The treatment centers are holistic with CARF-accredited clinical programs, medical services directed by an addictionologist and a spirituality emphasis that includes the 12 steps and pastoral care. Robinson is a former prosecutor and is a recovering alcoholic since December 2006.

Tim graduated from Cumberland College with a BS in Political Science and the University

of Kentucky College of Law with a Juris Doctorate. Tim was a partner at Hogan & Robinson, PLLC before founding Addiction Recovery Care. Tim and his wife Lelia, consider it their mission to help those with substance abuse issues. They have dedicated their lives to offering opportunities for treatment throughout Kentucky.)



God has his ways of surprising us when we leave our own nation and travel for the exclusive intent of Missions. I'm not saying God's manifested power is only for other nations, God forbid, but when you "Go" as an Ambassador for Christ, He shows up!

I would like to recount two particular amazing events in these trips from two different nations. In all of these, I give God the Honor and the Glory. Story #1 started in September, 1982 when I was invited to minister in Nigeria. As I started on this trip I was a man who had never traveled outside of the USA. So I got my passport, got all my shots but no one had told me I would have to have a VISA. I boarded a flight to Heathrow (England) as the first leg of my journey. Now I have to tell you this, I was as excited as a child to go to Africa to minister there, so my expectations were high. I had not been able to contact the pastor there for over a week, so he did not know my date of arrival. (Don't ask me why I went anyway—it will become evident.) In England, I was asked my final destination and I replied Lagos. The lady told me, "You will never get to stay in Nigeria because you don't have a VISA"...so you better gather your luggage and return to America. You know there are protocols for traveling



and I was breaking the 1st commandment. I said thank you ma'am but I believe I am supposed to go, so unless you make me turn around I'm going. She said, "It's your waste of money and by the way NO-ONE can get into another country without a **VISA**." I thanked her and boarded my flight. As soon as the plane climbed high enough for the seat belt light to go off, I hightailed it to that tiny restroom and hit my knees! Now it had sunk in and UNLESS GOD intervened my hopes of ministry there would become fruitless.

We landed and as I lined up, my passport was examined and I was asked for my **VISA**. Of course, I replied, "I have no **VISA**". The guy thought I was kidding and then he started making fun of me and began to wave my passport from one agent to another speaking in a language I didn't understand. There were at least 8-10 agents in this Secure area who were openly laughing until the original guy came back and got me out of line and told me to separate my luggage to a certain spot and he was putting me on the next flight back. A few moments passed and I stood next to my luggage and as I turned to my right I saw, IN THE SECURE AREA the pastor who invited me. Tears jumped from my eyes as he asked me what was wrong! As I was explaining, he went to a large glass cubicle that oversees the whole secure area. (GET READY FOR THIS) A Nigerian comes up to me and says, give me your bags. I'm taking you through security. I said, "Who are you?" He said, "**I AM THE PRINCE OF PEACE**." By this time, I was somewhat dazed and amazed. Now Bro. Okeke joins me at the line to go through customs and tells me I am the ONLY person their country has allowed in without a **VISA**. I was granted a 10 day **VISA**. Now remember when I said I was on my knees in the potty area? It seems, since Bro. Okeke didn't know my exact day of arrival, he drove 150 miles that day to look at buying a vehicle with his brother. They had hired a taxi, so after looking at the vehicle, decided against it. Now he is getting into the taxi, to return home, and he hears The Lord say, "Go to the airport" at which point his brother asked why are you hesitating getting all the way in? He shook it off and this time The Lord speaks again, "Go to the airport and check the Manifest." Now this is how this works, if you go to the airport and ask for the Manifest they will NOT release the names of any one on the flight for security reasons, UNTIL THE PLANE IS SAFELY OFF THE GROUND IN THEIR FLIGHT PATTERN. That was when I was praying in the restroom. God proved He still can get his people in anywhere safely at anytime. That was the exact moment he was asking to see the Manifest of flights originating from America and he was surprised to see my name. If you have experienced "A CALL TO GO", then you will go and be successful. By the way,

when Bro. Okeke came back from the authorities who granted a 10 day visa, he asked me how and why I was in line for clearance BEFORE I KNEW IT WAS APPROVED. I told him **THE PRINCE OF PEACE** INSTRUCTED ME TO GET IN THE LINE. Can you hear me SHOUT?!

Now to #2. In 2016, I was on my third trip to India, so wherever the Apostle wanted me to minister I went. He was over nearly 500 pastors and we ended up in a church of about 250 in North India close to the Pakistani border. Just the week before, their Seal team had made incursions there and reeked havoc, so the people were on high alert. It started as a typical Sunday service at 8:00 A.M. The church gathered to worship. Some of the most lively and sincere worship I've ever seen. This was the culmination of a three day meeting night and day. I FINALLY got the pulpit around 11:45 A.M. (DID YOU HEAR THAT?) That's around three and one-half hours of worship! The reason I point it out is because of the results that followed. I announced that I would not give the title of the message until the end. In all my years of ministry, being a participator or an attendee, I was not prepared for the manifested results.

I ministered on Jonah and at the end I asked the question, *"WHAT IS YOUR NINEVAH?"* The two brothers who were with me witnessed an outpouring on individuals confessing their faults, asking forgiveness for offenses, even the pastor of the church and his wife who were very legalistic began to ask for forgiveness and it lasted for around two hours as myself and the two who traveled with me laid hands on nearly all the people. This was a genuine move of God. I prophesied to two young teenage girls that God had set them aside for full time ministry and many were baptized in the Holy Spirit. I could go on and on but the most incredible was yet to evolve from this one service.

Finally the local pastor had folks prepare food for my team so we broke for early dinner, because we had a train to catch at 10:30 P.M. As we made our way over and around the people still slain in the Spirit and some in trances, we finally made our way to the train station. Not ONE PERSON had YET left the service that started at 8:00 A.M. As we boarded the train for a 7-hour ride back to the pastor's home, we urged him to call the church and ask the pastor how things were going. Now it's 24 hours later and he replied, "NO ONE HAS LEFT." In fact most were still out, slain or in trances." There was no small rejoicing on our part, we were all ecstatic. So now comes Tuesday morning. We called again and asked "How did it play out?" He replied, "THEY'RE ALL STILL HERE, NO ONE HAS GONE HOME!" We called again WEDNESDAY MORNING, this time expecting a different result. He said, "THEY ARE ALL STILL HERE!" By this point, it has been like this Sunday through Wednesday. Now comes Thursday morning and we receive a very excited phone call. Again the pastor said, "Finally about one-half have left."

The fruits of this one service are now plainly seen. An EXPLOSION of men and women of Christ convicted simply because of not being inclusive like JO-NAH. Thousands have been touched by this one VERY UNUSUAL service. P.S.-Remember the two teenage girls I prophesied to? Well what was I to do?

They wanted to go to Bible College, so my wife and I sent the two of them for three years and they have just graduated and are now serving in full time ministry. I'm not sure we have heard the end of this yet. **JUST GO, IF YOU CAN'T CROSS THE SEA, YOU CAN SEE THE CROSS.** Help send someone in love and honor to our Lord.

(Lynn Burling pastors Christian Faith Church in Bellville, TX. He is Texas Bishop for the Association of Evangelical Gospel Assemblies and President of From The Heart Ministries. His teaching CDs are available at CFC Church phone: 979-865-5464. Kathy and I have enjoyed staying at their lovely bed and breakfast: www.somewhereintimebb.com. Lynn & Linda are gracious hosts.)



This time of year, especially when headed into a new decade, the norm is to start looking ahead. There's an anticipation of what is coming and what could be. And on the spiritual side of things there is a buzz with numbers like 2020 in our reach. We have plenty to be excited and anticipatory about, but due to the nature of what is ahead I believe we need to stay present in 2019 to finish it well.

If you are like me, and a lot of people I know, this has not been the nicest decade for us, particularly this last stretch. So that makes it even more understandable why we want to look ahead. I personally would rather call it a wash, and finish the year on the couch watching holiday movies. Can I get a witness? The thing is there are assignments to be completed and lessons to be learned that are necessary for the 2020's.

What I keep seeing is the last stretch of earning our stripes for, dare I



say it, the battle ahead. There is battle coming, but our training and equipping is gearing us up to take it head on. I just have such a sense that even though the battle will be hot we will experience it like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, "... saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them. Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who had sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him," (Daniel 3:27-28) In order to be like these fire walkers we need to stay in our lane so the finishing touches can be put in place.

God has been preparing us, adding to us, delivering us, and training us for this moment. We start by being aware of that so that we don't skip ahead unarmed. That awareness I'm talking about is a state to live in for the last bit of 2019. Simply put, we can't allow ourselves to shut down and finish the year on auto pilot because the holidays are too busy. This awareness is something we can remind ourselves of when we get out of bed in the morning, "God is working something in me today that is propelling me victoriously into this decade I was born to affect." Something along these lines would be a good verbal reminder each day.

Staying aware and present in 2019 are keys to entering 2020. If we don't stay aware there is a possibility we may miss or won't be able to get through the doors of opportunity and promotion ahead because we lost the keys at the end. What's coming is something quite spectacular, but it requires resolve to embrace what Father is doing right now to acquire the fullness of what is just ahead of us.

This does not require a formula, perfection or works. It simply requires walking in the grace that is completely surrounding us right now. Let's finish out 2019 being present and aware of God's grace that is the key to a dynamic ending and beginning. What a time to be alive.

(Melissa will be leading worship and speaking at Kingdom Congress Mar.4-6,2020)

A prophetic mindset doesn't merely consider present circumstances but looks into the future to see what shall be. When Isaiah prophesied the birth of JESUS, he did not say, "For unto us a child *shall* be born." He said, "For unto us a child *IS* born." (Isa.9:6) He spoke in the prophetic perfect tense which declares an action already completed. His prophetic mindset was deep within him and came out of his mouth declaring that what Jehovah intended would, indeed, come to pass (Rom.4:21). The prophet got into agreement with God in spite of present circumstances (Rom.10:16; 2K.6:15-17). Only in agreement with God (the mindset of the One Who stands above it all), and His purposes for the advancing of His Kingdom, is there hope that overcomes the impossibility of the challenges of a generation. All those who are born again of THE Prophet have some degree of THE Prophet in them and so, are prophetic. —MG



The wine had run out. It was common in those days for a Jewish wedding feast to last for as long as seven days. To run out of wine was frowned upon and would cast the bridegroom in a bad light, as it was his responsibility to provide the wine. This wedding in Cana that Jesus and his disciples had been invited to was probably like any other - there was the solemn ceremony uniting the bride and groom, and then there was the celebration to follow, where there would be music, dancing, laughter, food and wine.

While there are many applications and symbols found in this account of Jesus' first miracle in John 2:1-11, I would like to focus on one in particular – participation.

This should go without saying, but we are, by nature, relational beings. Not only were we created for relationship, but we were created out of relationship. Besides the obvious physical relationship between a man and woman that we all began from, there is a higher relationship from which we all sprang forth. It makes sense that we would be such relational beings, having been created in the image and likeness of the triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. “Let Us make man in Our image, according to our likeness...” (Gen. 1:26). This relationship between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in whose image we were created, has always existed. We are created to walk with Him, relate to Him, and to participate with Him in whatever He is doing.

John 2:1-11: *On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee and the mother of Jesus was there; and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.” Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each. Jesus said to them, “Fill the waterpots with water.” So they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, “Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter.” When the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the*

bridegroom, and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when the people have drunk freely, then he serves the poorer wine, but you have kept the good wine until now." This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and He manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

It is obvious from the very beginning of creation that God has desired our participation in his activity and Jesus made that crystal clear during His earthly ministry. Many of His miracles involved the participation of other people and it is no small thing that this one in particular did.

Jesus could have very well spoken to the waterpots and said, "Be filled with wine" and it would have left everyone awestruck. He chose instead to involve those around Him. One day I was out in our backyard with my 2 year old granddaughter, Norah. I started picking up some small limbs that had fallen from the trees. Norah began picking them up too and bringing them to me, dropping one and tripping over it along the way. In this precious moment of cuteness, I heard Holy Spirit say, "That's how I feel about my relationship with you and everyone else. Regardless of how it may look, I love that you want to participate with me."

When Mary told Jesus the wine had run out, He was hesitant to do anything, saying "my hour has not yet come." Jesus did something anyway! Could it be that he valued His mother even more than any appointed time? Mary seemed to be so confident about it that she doesn't even reply to Jesus, she just turns to the servants and says "Whatever He says to you, do it." Now, even the servants get to participate. The water is turned to wine, the party continues, and everyone is happy. Can you imagine being in their shoes and telling that story to your grandchildren one day?

Think about who participated in this miracle. We have Mary the mother of Jesus, one of the most highly esteemed characters in history, and we have servants who were least esteemed. In fact, we are not even told their names, yet they participate.

That day in the backyard with Norah I got a glimpse of what God thinks about our willingness to participate with Him. I was caught up in the sheer delight of our Abba who smiles as we stumble toward Him with limbs in hand.

There were numerous other miracles Jesus performed that required the participation of willing people, so what makes this one stand out at this particular time? The wine of our own self-effort has run out and Jesus is filling up the waterpots with new wine. He has saved the best for last. Let us, with willing hearts, be like those servants who responded when Mary turned to them and said, "Whatever he says to you, do it."

(Kevin Sherman and his wife Becky live in Conroe, TX. Kevin is the father of four sons. He serves at Grace International Church as a teacher and EYC staff member. He is also currently a teacher and mentor at Fresh Start in Conroe. Kevin writes a weekly blog. To subscribe go to: asyouthink.org)



Unconventional is a word that has been in my thoughts over the past few months. Holy Father is preparing us for the unconventional of 2020 and the decade it is ushering in. The Lord has put Kathy and I in unconventional situations to minister to people. We didn't think up unconventional things to do and then go about the business of trying to do them in an unconventional manner. The dictionary defines *unconventional*: "different from what is usual or from the way most people do things; being out of the ordinary; not based on or conforming to what is generally done or believed." We are taught from the time we are small children to pray "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." More than ever in the history of mankind we need, require, must absolutely have that which is in heaven moved from heaven into the earth, into our nation, into our lives. If it looks the same way and if "it" operates exactly the same way in heaven as "it" does here, why would "it" need to be transferred from heaven into earth? We don't need anything like we already have here. We need that which is absolutely radical and totally unconventional in comparison to what is already not working here, or that which we have settled for yet is woefully inadequate.

Who would ever think or suggest that an angel bump Peter (Acts 12:3-19) on the hip in the middle of the night and wake him up, and, after the chains fell off him, simply walk him right past two sentries and out of a prison? They freely walked out of the gate because the gate opened all by itself! It was so unconventional that Peter (although he was going through the physical actions) thought it was just a vision. Verse 11 shows us that Peter suddenly realized that it was all unconventional in comparison to what everyone expected to happen. Although there had been an intense prayer meeting in progress praying for Peter's deliverance, they thought the girl was crazy when she announced (in the middle of the prayer meeting) that Peter was at the door wanting to come into the prayer meeting. They likely prayed for someone like Jay Sekulow to get an audience before

Herod and conventionally use the law to show him how unconstitutional his decision was to throw Peter into prison. However, even though Almighty God greatly desires to use people in His Kingdom purposes, He doesn't absolutely have to have a human being to get it done. The angel even had to tell Peter to get dressed and how to do it step by step (v.8). The whole scenario was unconventional and was more than those in the story could imagine. *This is why the Scriptures say: Things never discovered or heard of before, things beyond our ability to imagine—these are the many things God has in store for all his lovers.* ¹⁰ *But God now unveils these profound realities to us by the Spirit. Yes, he has revealed to us his inmost heart and deepest mysteries through the Holy Spirit, who constantly explores all things. (1Cor.2:9-10,TPT) God can do anything, you know--far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us. (Eph.3:20, Msg)*

The Bible is full of it and presents the unconventional in such a way that we cannot walk away from it without being drawn into the possibility-thinking of our Lord. He sees that we are continually spending money and effort (Isa.55:2) on that which does not get the job done. It is conventional (that which everyone does, that which is expected by everyone) but it can only deliver that which is inadequate.

When Yahweh tells us in Isa.55:8 that His thoughts and ways are above our thoughts and ways, those are the areas in which He is expecting us to take action. He sees that we are continually spending money and effort (v.2) on that which does not get the job done. It is conventional (that which everyone does, that which is expected by everyone) but it can only deliver that which is inadequate. He has already given us the action He desires in v.2—*listen to me, listen to me well* (Msg) and in v.3—*Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live* (NASB). We listen for the purpose of taking action upon what we hear. What Father is communicating to us in these verses is that although our thoughts and ways are not what they should be, they can be. That which is conventional to man is not what Yahweh is wanting to do with us and among us. He desires to bring His will in heaven—the unconventional—into earth to bring about Kingdom (will of God, authority of God, rule of God) results.

The unconventional of Yahweh is not meant to be foreign to the sons of God (as Peter can testify). I prophesied in a meeting where people did not even believe in prophets or prophecy or gifts of the Spirit. I prophesied to five people who had just accepted Jesus as Savior and then I ministered several words of knowledge. People had been told that there would be a prophet in the meeting and that he would prophesy to individuals. Several persons attended the meeting who had already made up their mind that there was no such thing for today but after I prophesied and ministered words of knowledge they said it blew their minds and instantly began to believe in prophecy and the gifts of the Spirit. So much about the meeting was unconventional. It was in an old theater instead of a church building; the only lights were the stage lights with small theater lights on the sides of the walls; it was on a Saturday night; the pastor/leader was wearing cut-offs and flip-flops and using cool, now terminology instead of Christianese; the worship team was a really loud rock band; the crowd was all young people but an

80 year old man spoke for 20 minutes; the band leader gave an altar call and five people accepted Jesus. That may be unconventional beyond what most are willing to embrace but what kind of results is the conventional getting in comparison?

There is a young man who is a superstar. His background and career have been very dark and perverted. He accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior and King and he is having pop-up church services all over the country. His first release after accepting Christ is titled "Jesus is King". He takes a choir of 100 professional singers and a full band complete with Hammond B3 organ and upright piano and sets up in stadiums, fields, prisons and even churches. They don't even cancel the outdoor services if it rains. The services draw upwards of 18,000 people. The songs glorify the Lord and continually mention the name of Jesus. He gives time for a pastor to bring a message from the Bible right in the middle of the concert/service. At the end of a service the choir director gives an opportunity for people to accept Jesus. The typical response is usually around 1,000 people receiving Jesus. That has been happening every Sunday afternoon for the last nine months. Now that is unconventional! It is so unconventional that a number of "Christians" are getting on the internet and calling it demonic. However, all he has to do is announce a service time and place and tens of thousands of people show up and worship for two hours and get saved.

The unconventional even happens in neighborhoods. In April a man walked up to our door. He said, "I have been told that you are a preacher." He was concerned about people in the neighborhood who are ill or elderly and can't get to a church. He asked me that if he got some people together at the pavilion next to the neighborhood pool if I would preach to them. The man is Catholic and didn't know how to read the Bible. One of the lady's in the Bible study group told me that God woke him up at 3:00am one morning after being turned down by two ministers in town. The Lord said, "You have a preacher right here in your neighborhood". These are times that we must have the unconventional of God and respond to that divine unconventional open door of opportunity.

Kathy and I have been interviewed by several pastors in recent months. On a Sunday morning we sit on the platform with the pastor while he/she asks us questions people are dealing with in the congregation. People are putting reports out on social media about how they have been helped and how they appreciate the format of discussion. At first, we were not so enthusiastic about the interview format because it is unconventional for a church service, but we are seeing good fruit and people who now believe in the gifts and five-fold who did not before.

I'm not trying to say that you have to have a rock band that wears cut-offs nor do you have to have meetings in fields or by swimming pools. But it would be wise to not reject something simply because it is unconventional by your standards. 2020 and the new decade will be filled with the unconventional of Yahweh. Let's be ready to move with His thoughts and His ways. 18 *Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history.* 19 *Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it? There it is! I'm making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands.* (Isa.43:18-19)

Thank you for praying. After each issue is mailed, more dates get added to the calendar. Bless you for praying for us.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dates are subject to change. Call before traveling.
Check Marty's FaceBook page for updates or our blog page: martygabler.com
PLEASE PRAY FOR US

We have been putting dates on the Calendar after the magazine goes out. Please Check Marty's Facebook page and martygabler.com for dates. We also serve on presbyteries, councils and prayer groups during the week that we don't post. Thank you for your prayers and support as we travel.—Marty & Kathy

Dec.8 * Houston, TX
Global Advance Church
Pastors: Luis y Korey Gomez
2:00 * 281-580-8574
luis1gomez@hotmail.com
Bilingual Service*Spanish/English
www.globaladvancechurch.org

Dec.12 * Coldspring, TX
Terrace Bible Study

Dec.24 * 8:00pm Central USA
Beside Still Waters
Christmas Eve Family
Communion

Dec.25 * The Whole World
Christmas Day
MERRY CHRISTMAS Blessings!
Jesus is born King of kings!

Dec.29 * Willis, TX
Grace International Church
Pastors Joe & Virgie Bogue
Marty giving 2020 Declarations
10:00a.m.
936-856-2455
Map & info: www.graceic.org
Service will be live streamed on
Grace's Facebook Page

Dec.31 * New Year's Eve
Beside Still Waters
Live on Marty's Facebook Page

Jan.5 * Seguin, TX
New Life Fellowship
Chris & Chelsea Larson
10a.m.
Marty giving 2020 Declarations
Info: 830-372-1200
www.newlifesequin.com

Jan.19 * Buffalo, TX
Celebration Church
Pastors Chuck & Lynn Davis
1984 Hwy 79 W
Buffalo, TX 75831
Phone: 903-322-3997

Have a blessed, loving and
peaceful Christmas!

KINGDOM CONGRESS 2020

March 4-6, 2020

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martygabler.com
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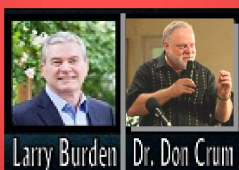
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Kingdom Congress March 4-6, 2020



**PRAYER
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FOR 2020**



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All Info: martygabler.com/kc2020/

Theme: The Ekklesia and the Kingdom



As Marty is traveling down the road he will be live on his Facebook page with an inspirational word for living victoriously in Christ. Watch for it, tune in and be inspired as you are "on the go".



SEEC Ministries International PO Box 298 Coldspring, TX 77331-0298

seecministries.org * Email: mail@seecministries.org * martygabler.com