myFaith magazine
YOUR HOME OF VARIETY CHRISTIAN ENTERTAINMENT
DECEMBER 2018

JOY to the world
I don’t even want to venture down the track that says, “Can you believe the end of the year has come so quickly?”, but that is exactly what I find myself doing time and again, conversation after conversation. This year has seemingly sped by in a blur of activities, happenings, editorial challenges, operational demands and design up-and-downs. But in all this blur we’ve had tremendous fun, learning on the run and finding the privilege of presenting you with each issue truly amazing. So, from all of us at MyFaithMagazine, a great and heartfelt “Thank you” for supporting us by reading all we had to say; know this, that your encouragement through emails, letters and the odd phone call has made the world of difference to us and, in fact, keeps us inspired to continue into the new year. Over this festive season, we wish you true peace and prosperity, a time of rest, recollection, regrouping and strategizing for the tasks lying ahead!

In all the hustle and bustle of this ‘Christmas Fever’ I would like to encourage each of us to find those quiet moments of reflection. Some call them Selah-moments. Let us remember the outcome of this humble birth, planned before the foundations of the earth, and remember the phenomenal impact it has on our lives! May this also be a time of raucous celebration in honour of the King Who has our every heartbeat collected as a symphony in heaven.
Merry Christmas

Because of God’s great love, we can know and experience a life of peace, joy and abundant blessing in His Son.

Make this Christmas the perfect opportunity to celebrate the life we have in Him by sharing it with others!

As you do, His joy will rise up in your hearts and overflow with the fullness of His goodness!

1 John 5:11

“And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.”
The Greatest Spiritual Law
In this teaching we will learn how our thoughts; words; attitudes and actions all play a vital role in establishing God’s blessing in our lives. May this message inspire you to take God’s word to heart and actively apply His kingdom principles to your every day life.

Stand Strong
In this compelling message, Pastor Jenny encourages us to Stand Strong in the Lord and the power of His might! You will learn about the explosive, supernatural power that is inside every believer to withstand any attack from the enemy.

Release the Steward in You
For the most part, humanity is preoccupied with “self-service” as opposed to “selflessly serving”….. reflects a mindset influenced by society, politics, education and peer pressure, is fundamentally ignorant to the purposes of God. The truth is that there is an extraordinary life experience literally moments away, accessed by a decision to follow Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour of your life, characterized by a life of stewardship over everything that He has made available. It is about kingdom living, it is a journey where the experience is breathtaking. The best news of all is that you are exactly the right person for the position, are you interested?

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In The Beginning God...
In this inspiring teaching, you will learn through the scriptures not only what the name God means, but you will discover His will and His ways.

Living For Eternity
Do you live life with an eternal perspective? Scripture teaches that every moment we spend here on earth counts towards our eternity.

Living The Higher Life
4-part series: He has placed inside your spirit the very issues of life that will cause you to live in heavenly places whilst being here on earth!

Fear Not
In this 4-part series you will learn how to expel fear from your life and subsequently embrace the abundant victory Christ secured for you on the
The countdown to Christmas has begun. This is the time of year where the Christmas frenzy is in full swing. Every shopping mall is decked with Christmas decor, and shoppers are literally running from store to store to collect their gifts to be put under the tree. The juggle seems whether to go with one valuable gift, or many insignificant ones. Quality verses quantity... and so, they go, scratching their heads, considering the tight budget, and scrambling along desperately, trying to find something inexpensive, yet meaningful to buy. All this, just to tick off another item on their long, ‘Things To Do for Christmas’ list. It’s madness I tell you.

Jeremy and Sarah Pearsons once spoke about their decision to keep Christmas ‘simple’ when it comes to the topic of gifts. Quantity is not necessarily quality, especially when you recognise the value of the gift to the person and how, when they receive it with love, it will bring them great joy. Really, this is based on God’s gift to us in John 3:16.

Jesus is the one gift God only had one of, and He chose to give Him to us! The minute Jeremy mentioned it, this truth hit its mark in my heart! In a world where there are so many pressing needs, there is one gift that meets them all, and His Name is Jesus.

God knew that when He was giving us His only Son, He was in truth, giving us all the wisdom, peace, protection and every spiritual, mental, and physical blessing we will ever need in this life. When we recognise the gift Jesus is to us, and draw near to Him every day, embracing Him, clinging to Him, trusting and relying on Him, something miraculous happens. We receive His flow of supernatural, everlasting life. Not just a promise of life in heaven with Him when we leave this earth. No, we receive His life in us now. The fullness of all that is Jesus, is coursing in us every time we step aside and choose to draw near to Him. Just like drinking deeply from the well of Living Water.

Isn’t that what Jesus said He was, when He spoke to the Samaritan women at the well in John 4:10? “Jesus answered her, If you had only known and had recognized God’s gift and Who this is that is saying to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him [instead] and He would have given you living water.”

And so, dear reader, that is what I want to leave in your heart and mind today. Will you recognise God’s gift to you today, and every day as Jesus. Will you see Him as your Living Water. And will you drink deeply of Him, every time you draw near. He will fill you, and satisfy your spirit, soul and body. Oh what a gift, what a treasure we have in Jesus.
Jesus is the one gift God only had one of, and He chose to give Him to us!
There’s nothing more valuable than the presence of God in our lives. And my goal for teaching about God’s presence and anointing is to increase your desire to completely and promptly obey Him. Because the more we love, trust and obey God, the stronger His anointing will be in our lives. Now, God’s love for you is perfect, complete, and unconditional. He couldn’t love you any more than He does right now, and His love for you never changes. But we can grow in our love for God.

As we learn more about His character and have experience with Him through a personal relationship with Him, our trust in Him and love for Him grows. And this causes more of the anointing of the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us.

The Anointing Abides in You
Jesus Christ is the Anointed One, and when we are born again, His anointing abides in us. The word anoint means “to smear or rub all over.” It’s wonderful to think about how in Christ, we are “rubbed and smeared all over” with the Holy Spirit.

In one way the anointing is a free gift from God that comes by His grace and mercy, and in another way, there is a price to pay for it.

First John 2:27 (AMP) says, “As for you, the anointing [the special gift, the preparation] which you received from Him remains [permanently] in you….” Notice how this scripture says that the anointing remains permanently - it won’t go away.

The terms “special gift” and “the preparation” indicate having Holy Spirit “umph!” or power to do what God is calling us to do. And it’s the gentle promptings, urges and leadership of the Holy Spirit in us that shows us how to live.

When we follow the anointing, we feel peace and joy because we’re making wise decisions. It’s so valuable for us, and more than anything else, we need to protect the anointing in our lives.

Pay the Price to Have More Power
While the anointing abides in us through our salvation, it can’t work through our lives until we are broken before God. That’s when the oil of the Holy Spirit in us is poured out and can be a benefit to others.

So, what is it that needs to be broken in us? Things like rebellion, stubbornness, pride and a spirit that’s
God’s love for you is perfect, complete, and unconditional

independent from God are a few areas of disobedience that can keep the anointing from working through us. This is because the vehicle that carries the anointing is the soul - our mind, will and emotions. And when we are led by our natural carnal or fleshly impulses, we are not being led by the Holy Spirit.

But as we grow up and mature in Christ, we can be what God wants us to be and live every day empowered by the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

It’s Not Just for Spiritual Things
It’s important to understand that we need God’s anointing every day, in everything we do. And there’s an anointing for everything we need to do. It’s not just for ministers or for spiritual areas of life.

The anointing is what enables and equips us to do what God asks us to do. You have an anointing to be a parent, husband or wife... to be in business or some kind of organization... whatever you are gifted to do with your life. And it’s amazing when God uses someone to do something that you know they don’t have the ability to do on their own. That’s the power of the anointing!

Jesus Is Our Example
Philippians 2:10 (AMP) says, “At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow [in submission], of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth.” He is God, and He is all-powerful! Yet, He is also our example in humility.

Verses 5-8 in this same chapter tell us we are to have the same attitude that He demonstrated: Although He is one with God, He stripped Himself of all privileges and became a servant; He abased and humbled Himself and was obedient even to the extreme of death on the cross.

Power is connected to obedience. The anointing is released when we get rid of our selfish, self-centered, independent attitudes and humble ourselves before God. As you choose to be radically obedient to God, you will have the same power that raised Christ from the dead working in and through you. And you’ll be amazed by the anointing of the Holy Spirit in your life!

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s four-CD series Learning to Be Led by the Holy Spirit. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 100 books, including BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND and HEALING THE SOUL OF A WOMAN (FaithWords). She hosts the Enjoying Everyday Life radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.
The book of Luke 5:27-28 (NKJV) says, “After these things He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “Follow Me.” So he left all, rose up, and followed Him.” When Jesus called John, James, Peter and Andrew, they immediately left their nets and followed Jesus. These were good men who dedicated their lives to helping the poor, taking care of the widows and orphans, and preaching the acceptable year of the Lord.

I feel in my heart that we need to be so careful in these last days that we don’t marginalize men. At the moment, there is a move all over the world for women’s rights and speaking against gender abuse. I want to make it very clear that I’m supporting that movement one hundred per cent, in terms of standing up against men who abuse women. If there is one thing in life that really upsets me, it’s when I hear about a man who beats up a woman and abuses children. There is nothing that is more disturbing to my soul then to hear those reports!

I have been privileged to speak at several Mighty Men conferences. I’ve been so encouraged to see thousands of men worshipping God; repenting before God; promising to be the prophet, priest and king in their home – to direct their families, to put bread on the table and to lead from the front when it comes to worshipping and spending time with the Lord.

I really want to bring the balance today.

Not all men are evil. Men have a role to play in the home. Yes, I agree that there are men who are not pulling their weight… That is the purpose of the Mighty Men movement: to teach men to be good fathers, husbands and citizens. It is to teach men to love, respect and cherish women; to bring up children and discipline them in the ways of the Lord. The Bible tells us very clearly that if we bring our children up in the ways of the Lord, when they grow old they will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6).

Whenever a man introduces me to his wife, within a couple of minutes I can see whether that man is taking his rightful role in the home or not. If his wife is looking beautifully turned out, at peace and she is content, I know that her husband is loving her, protecting her and providing for her. Unfortunately if I see a man whose wife is looking haggard, nervous, uptight and fearful, I know that man is probably neglecting his wife. If his children are out of order and bad mannered, I know that man is an absentee father. But I have had the privilege of meeting so many wonderful men, who are masculine and strong physically, spiritually and mentally; men who are stable, who respect women, and who are determined to see our beloved South Africa change for the better.

I ask all ladies that are reading this article to please pray for your men; build them up and encourage them in the ways of the Lord. Nothing breaks a man down more than a woman who continually nags. The Bible talks about a nagging woman, who is like a dripping tap. Rather speak
to your husband, explain to him your situation and work through it together.

The strength of this nation, South Africa – and indeed the world – is dependent on the strength of the family. When the family unit is restored, strong and progressing, the country does so also. My prayer is that we would all – as men, women and children – take our rightful positions at home. Putting God first, living according to the Word of God, and then we know without a doubt that things will change from the family right up to the president of the country.

As the saying goes, “Don’t throw the baby out with the bathwater”. Not all men are evil; not all men abuse women and children… Unfortunately, there are those that do, but they are not in the majority.

Let us esteem our men, make them the head of the home; let the women be the heart of the home; and let the children be the life of the home – and God will do the rest.

May God bless you as you really start to look at the family unit through the eyes of God!
FULL & HALF YEAR OPTIONS
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JANUARY - JUNE   |   JULY - NOVEMBER

THE CONCEPT OF ‘EXTREME EDUCATION’ WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO DISCOVER AND DEVELOP THEIR LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL

THE MOST EXTREME LEADERSHIP GAP YEAR OF YOUR LIFE
What makes your programme extreme and adventurous?
We offer students a wide range of extreme activities to participate in such as: sky diving, bungee jumping, scuba diving, mountain biking, abseiling, kayaking etc.

What is the value of a gap year programme?
A gap year gives young people time to reflect on what they think would be the college/varsity or career choice best suited to their needs. It allows them to clarify their interests and become aware of their strengths and weaknesses.

We also believe a gap year allows them to take advantage of learning that takes place outside the classroom and apply these skills in real life situations, within a protected environment. It is imperative that youths experience life in communities different from those in which they have been living and our extreme gap year programme offers them this experience. We further believe that gap years allow students to learn about a variety of careers before making a critical decision and to gain maturity, initiative and resourcefulness, all valuable life skills.

What outcome do you hope is achieved in every student’s life once completing your programme?
Our programme is designed to meet, challenge and grow the complete individual, body, soul and spirit, as we train tomorrow’s leaders today. Our desire is for the young person to have fun and ‘discover themselves’ as they are developed into a person with vision and purpose. We endeavour to take boys and girls and to mould them into young men and women that will have a positive influence on our society and the world.

Describe how the programme works - when is your intake, how long does it last and how much does it cost?
The Beyond Adventure Extreme Leadership Gap Year Programme was launched in 2001. We are located 100 kilometres north east of Port Elizabeth in Alcedale. We are situated close to some of the great game reserves such as Addo Elephant Park and Shamwari. Our programme runs from the last week in January till the middle of November. The students are accommodated in rooms where they will learn to live with three other students. Cost enquires and further info can be obtained from our offices as well as our website www.beyondadventure.co.za, under the download section.

What makes your programme unique as opposed to other Gap year courses?
We believe the Beyond Adventure concept to be unique in South Africa. The concept of ‘Extreme Education’ was designed to provide a challenging environment for young people to discover and develop their leadership potential. Leadership deals with direction, vision, purpose and principles and our leadership programme focuses on building the students up, making them aware of other cultures, helping them with emotional bank account building and strengthening them as individuals functioning in a group context.

Most importantly, we run a programme that is founded on Biblical principles with Jesus Christ as the foundation stone.
I’m starting to see a couple of disturbing behaviours among leaders out there, and it’s happened so much recently I thought I would bring it to your attention. Both come about from over-earnest leaders who are trying to do the right thing but end up taking inappropriate advantage of people. Take a hard look at how you engage with employees, prospective employees, and vendors, and see if you’re making this mistake:

1) Leaders who exploit job hunters – The founder of a non-profit called me recently looking for a new president to lead the organization. I immediately suggested an excellent candidate that had the exact experience and expertise the founder was looking for. He scheduled a call with my suggested candidate and spent more than an hour asking him very specific questions about how he would run the organization. Then, they scheduled a follow up call to discuss it in more detail. Then another!

Then the candidate never heard from the founder again. Apparently, the founder was just squeezing as much information as he could with no intention of actually hiring him. In my friend’s well-intentioned desire to show his experience and expertise, he probably shared hundreds of thousands of dollars’ worth of advice, only to see the founder walk away with it for free.

I’ll never recommend another candidate to that organization, because you should never exploit a potential employee just for your own benefit. Even if you think you’re saving money for the non-profit, or you think since he or she is willing to share, it wasn’t exactly coerced – it still doesn’t matter.

It’s taking advantage and it’s incredibly bad form.

2) The second example is when a leader directly asks employees or vendors how to replace them - I know this sounds preposterous, but I’ve had multiple people call me recently who have had this happen (and it’s happened to me as well). It’s usually a case of a leader who’s trying to save money. In my case, our team at Cooke Pictures was doing great work and hitting the target time and time again, but the leader simply wanted to save money and bring the work in-house. But instead of doing the hard work of exploring the marketplace, he took the shortcut of asking me how to replace me.

It’s an incredibly awkward situation because it puts the employee or vendor in a very vulnerable position. They don’t want to damage the relationship by being unwilling to help, but they’re essentially helping you fire them.

Once again, it’s very poor taste, shows a leader’s inexperience, and takes advantage.

Great leadership isn’t about taking advantage of vulnerable employees, job applicants, freelancers or vendors. It’s about inspiring them to accomplish things you never dream of doing.

Be that kind of leader.
What About #MeToo And Pornography?

PHIL COOKE

One of the surprising things about the #MeToo movement is how little has been said about pornography. One of the great ironies of a movement created for the safety of women is that one can find very little being discussed about the incredible threat of online porn. I mentioned this in a social media post some time ago and was promptly chastised by an angry feminist who lectured me that pornography isn’t a problem for feminists because it’s voluntary. The problem with that thinking is twofold: first - it often isn’t voluntary, as leaders working to prevent sex trafficking will quickly tell you. And second - even when it is voluntary, the impact porn makes on men’s behaviour should be a serious threat to anyone concerned about women’s safety.

For instance, here are the results of a number of studies:

- Over 40 million Americans are regular visitors to porn sites.
- The porn industry’s annual revenue is more than the NFL, NBA, and MLB combined. It’s also more than the combined revenues of ABC, CBS, and NBC.
- 47% of families report that pornography is a problem in their home.
- Pornography use increases marital infidelity by more than 300%.
- 56% of divorces involve one party having an “obsessive interest” in porn.

And what about the next generation?
- 1 in 10 kids under 10 years of age have been exposed to porn.
- It’s a problem for 10% of 7th graders.
- Pornography is just 2 clicks away on some of the most popular sites and apps your child may be visiting.

Pay close attention to those last few points. Kids today are being exposed at a younger and younger age due to their growing use of computers and mobile devices. And social media may be the gateway drug. Twitter is probably the worst, but Pinterest, Instagram, and other social sites have massive amounts of porn, and anyone can search for the most violent and bondage related material simply through a social media search. The Huffington Post reports that 80% of porn scenes contain some type of physical aggression, and many of those scenes are extremely violent and rape oriented.

So what will happen when a generation of young men who have grown up with this pornography start dating? What happens when they assume that the violent sex they’ve been watching online for years is what women actually want?

The question becomes: Why aren’t we pressuring social media companies to filter pornographic sites and searches? Google and the major social media sites have already started deleting pages they don’t agree with politically, so what could be more timely than filtering porn in an effort to assure the safety of women? (Not to mention the mental health of young men.)

If we refuse to act, I believe the greatest #MeToo crisis is yet to come.

Perhaps that’s the next step for #MeToo. If so, I say the sooner the better.
“My fellow believers, when it seems as though you are facing nothing but difficulties see it as an invaluable opportunity to experience the greatest joy that you can! For you know that when your faith is tested it stirs up power within you to endure all things. And then as your endurance grows even stronger it will release perfection into every part of your being until there is nothing missing and nothing lacking” (James 1:2–4 TPT).

Outward pressure is always an opportunity to be inwardly transformed.

An experiment was done in the Arizona desert called Biosphere 2. The goal was to create perfect growing conditions for trees, fruits and vegetables, as well as humans. A huge glass dome was constructed to house an artificial, controlled environment with purified air and water, healthy soil, and filtered light.

For many months at a time, people lived in the biodome and everything seemed to be going well … with one exception. When the trees grew to a certain height, they would topple over. It baffled scientists until they realized they forgot to include the natural element of wind. Trees need wind to blow against them because it causes their root systems to grow deeper, which supports the tree as it grows taller.

Who among us doesn’t long for a perfect growing environment for ourselves, with no disruptions from outside influences? Often, we attempt to create a controlled environment, striving to avoid any form of adversity or challenge. When confronted with hardship, the normal tendency is to find the quickest route of escape - choosing rather the path of least resistance. However, what if our trials and challenges were working for us rather than against us? With this consideration, listen to what the apostle Paul had to say on the matter:

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (2 Corinthians 4:17 NKJV).

If trees could talk, would we hear them complaining whenever the wind blew against them? When you carefully consider how a tree gracefully bends and sways when the wind blows against it, you will notice it does not stand rigid, resisting the flow of energy. It does not push back. The tree accepts the strong wind as a gift that helps it...
grow stronger while its roots dig deeper. If we allow the winds of adversity to work for us rather than against us, God can use the adversity to develop our character and deepen our spiritual roots. When our roots grow deep, we can remain standing. Just as the trees which grew in the biodome toppled easily once they reached a certain height, likewise, without a strong foundation of godly character, we too can experience a great fall.

Remember, outward pressure is always an opportunity to be inwardly transformed.
What's your kryptonite? For many years, mine was porn. I was introduced to pornography at a young age from a friend whose dad had some magazines, and I quickly became addicted. It just had a pull on me. By the time I was in high school, the battle with lust had begun to consume me. Even after becoming a Christian in 1979, I just couldn’t shake it. I was leading campus Bible studies, studying the Word, praying frequently - even winning people to Jesus. But in spite of all of that, I just couldn’t get free.

Then, when I was twenty-three, I thought I finally caught my big break. I married my dream girl, Lisa Bevere, who I considered to be the most beautiful girl in the world. I thought that would alleviate the problem, but instead of making it easier, it actually got worse - and now it was having devastating consequences on someone else as well.

Then, when I was twenty-three, I thought I finally caught my big break. I married my dream girl, Lisa Bevere, who I considered to be the most beautiful girl in the world. I thought that would alleviate the problem, but instead of making it easier, it actually got worse - and now it was having devastating consequences on someone else as well.

I continued to struggle for several years into our marriage, and it was affecting us in the bedroom and beyond. It didn’t seem to matter how much I hated it. Something about it just kept drawing me back, and I’d eventually find myself falling into it again.

It was killing me.

At one point, I was so desperate to be free that I confessed my struggle to a world-renowned minister. I thought if anyone could help me, he could. I didn’t know anyone with a stronger deliverance ministry! Like a good father, he rebuked me strongly, saying, “Stop it! You just have to stop it!” Then, he prayed a strong prayer over me for deliverance from this addiction. Still, I remained in bondage. It seemed that no matter how hard I tried, nothing worked to break free.

Then, nine months later, I went on a four-day fast - and everything changed. I’ve been totally free now for thirty years.

Now I was happy to finally be walking in freedom, but as I looked back on things, I was somewhat puzzled. So I asked God why I wasn’t able to get free when I opened up and confessed my struggle to the minister nine months ago. I wanted to know what was different, because I was at a loss.

What God revealed to me was profound. The entire focus of my prayer life had changed dramatically over that time period - and the results were that my life followed suit.

When I couldn’t get free, my prayers sounded something like, “God, use me to reach nations. Use me to impact multitudes for Your Name.” My prayers were about what I would do for God. I was scared that my sin would get in the way of my ministry - that eventually, it would rear its
ugly head and take me down like I’d seen happen to many others. I feared that.

But in those nine months leading up to that fast where I got completely delivered, the language of my prayers changed. I started praying, “God, I want to know You the best a man can know You. I want to walk intimately with You. Keep me from doing anything that hurts Your heart.”

In other words, the focus of my prayers had pivoted from being self-centered to other-centered. My primary concern was no longer the fear that my sin would limit me from my calling. It was that I didn’t want to hurt the heart of the one I loved - neither God, nor my beautiful wife, Lisa. Where my primary motivation before had been fear, my new motivation was love. That was a game-changer.

Fear will always keep you a slave. It lacks the power to set you free. It is a tyrant. And while it may operate under the guise of protection, it stems from selfish roots. That was at the heart of my problem to begin with! At the core of my ongoing struggle with pornography was self-centeredness - so how could fear, which focuses one’s attention inward, possibly lead me to freedom? It was taking me in the exact opposite direction!

What set me free was love - love for God and love for others.

Up until that point, I desired to be free because I feared the negative personal consequences of my sin. Fear is never a strong enough reason. It won’t lead you closer to God.

When my prayer life shifted, getting free became about something so much more. The driving force for change was that I didn’t want to hurt the heart of the one I loved. It wasn’t a worldly sorrow focused on myself. It was a godly sorrow that led to true repentance. When I saw how much God loved me, it pained me greatly that I would ever do anything to hurt Him. How could I possibly go on grieving the One who loved me so deeply?

If you’ve been trying to get free for a while and feel like you’ve been spinning your wheels, I’d encourage you to really examine your motivation. Start praying differently. Begin crying out to know God intimately. Ask Him for a deep sorrow over things that grieve His heart. Make it about genuine love for God and others rather than fear of personal loss. When you do, you’ll find the power to walk out what you couldn’t walk out before.

Remember, love never fails.

P.S. If this blog post helped you, I go into much more detail about getting free from strongholds so you can have a powerful relationship with God in the Killing Kryptonite Course.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
John Bevere and his wife Lisa are the founders of Messenger International. A minister and best-selling author, John delivers messages of uncompromising truth with boldness and passion. His desire is to support the local church and resource leaders regardless of location, language, or financial position. To this end, his resources have been translated into over 90 languages, and millions of copies have been given away to pastors and leaders worldwide. When he's home, John tries to convince Lisa to take up golf and spends time with his four sons, daughters-in-law, and grandbabies.
BEING ONE FOR CHRIST
How do we break free from Hate and Anger?
Hatred might seem to have many forms but there’s only one way to forgive. And for some, this ‘hatred’ becomes ‘visible’ from any distance. Whether it moves as a stray bullet, or slithering snake. We can’t have one without the other. It is like rain and snow. Although it’s evident we live in a devastating era where many are aware of Christ, and sadly not attracted to Him. People we need to draw closer to Jesus, we’ll always be slaves to anger and hatred if we don’t! We have to repent and seek Jesus every day. Only so, would we be able to see Jesus in everyone. And the first step in doing so is acknowledging we’re sinners. If we don’t do this, then who are we? What are we?

LOVE IS THE ANTIDOTE FOR HATE
Be led by the spirit
God loved both the world and His Son, Jesus Christ so much that He had to sacrifice the one, for the other one to survive. And since God loved the world so much, don’t you think we are expected to love this world and take care of it? We are also taught personally by Jesus that we should love one another. He didn’t teach hatred. Nor did He allow His anger to lead the way. You see Jesus knew we’d struggle with this, so He sent the ‘Comforter’ and that’s really what the Holy Spirit does. He comforts. But do we ever call upon Him?

Our bodies and minds are fueled by hatred, lust and greed and through this we’re led away from the Spirit, and not drawn to it. Not led by it.

‘We should be like remote controlled cars, where the Holy Spirit is the only one in control. For just as the car cannot function without the controller...so we too are lost without the Holy Spirit.’

‘But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgement.’

MURDER BEGINS IN THE HEART
At times you’ll find people who assume instantly that you hate them, either by the look on your face or the choice of your words. And although at times hatred are seen through the facial expression of a person, but bear in mind that hatred forms in the heart. (Matthew 5: 22)
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"As we care for the needy, we honour the Lord"
On a Sunday morning in 1971 my husband, Danie, and I first met Joop and Mia Versteek who introduced us to the Gideons, an association of Christian business and professional men whose purpose it was to promote the Gospel of Christ. They were first and foremost in the soul winning business and achieved this by placing New Testaments in hotels, hospitals, motels, prisons, medical rooms, armed forces, colleges, universities, school students, and nurses.

My husband and I filled out the membership application form on that morning. A week later Joop informed Danie that a school placement had been arranged at Forest High School and enquired whether Danie would like to accompany the two other Gideons doing the placement? Danie agreed, where upon Joop asked whether he would be kind enough to collect the boxes of school Testaments which were stored at his home, on his way to the school. Danie collected the boxes the following morning, drove to the school and parked in front waiting for the other two men to arrive. Time passed and he realised the school would be starting soon, yet no trace of the other men.

Perhaps he should report at the Office to make sure about the day. He did, and was informed that the placement was arranged for that morning, where upon the Secretary called one of the porters to assist Danie with the boxes to the Assembly hall. Here the porter neatly placed them on the platform and arranged a chair for Danie to sit on while he was waiting for the school staff.

By this time, it was obvious that no other men were going to come to his rescue in this venture, so he opened one of the boxes with his car keys, took out a little Bible, and started paging through it, hoping to discover help. In the front was the history of the Gideons, the index of help Scriptures and at the back the way of Salvation as well as the prayer to receive Jesus Christ as Saviour. The bell went, the children filed in and the Headmaster and staff trooped in wearing black cloaks and mortarboards.

When Danie was introduced he felt like fainting, but gritting his teeth and praying for God’s help he stood, and looking down on the little open New Testament still in his hand, he took a deep breath and spoke. First, he thanked the Headmaster and staff for the privilege afforded to be there, then he read from the first page, the history and purpose of the Gideons, as well as drawing their attention to the last page of the Way of Salvation, and the prayer to receive Jesus Christ as Saviour. Now he invited the children to come forward to receive their own personal copy of the Word of God.

It was when the first little Standard Six girl stood before him with her open hand, and with such expectancy on her face and shiny eyes looking up at him, that something happened to Danie. A joy flooded his heart and he realised this was a divine appointment of the Lord, specially arranged for him. He spoke an encouraging word to each pupil and shook their hands, as if he had been doing this all his life. After the last Matric boy received his New Testament, Danie turned to the Headmaster and thanked him again for the great privilege of being able to hand each of the pupils their own copy of God’s Word.

The Headmaster smilingly nodded at him, and as everyone was leaving, one of the teachers asked him if he could have a little Testament. At this, two other teachers followed suit and Danie gladly gave each their own copy. As the porter assisted Danie again with the boxes back to
his car, Danie enquired from him whether he would like a little New Testament, and the man was very pleased. This time Danie went through the Way of Salvation with him as well as the Prayer, and the man accepted Jesus there and then with much joy. This was the beginning of a new vision for Danie, and school placements became his priority.

Danie discovered that Soweto fell in our jurisdiction, so he approached the necessary Authorities to obtain their permission to distribute Bibles to the school pupils, but this was denied him. Danie would go every three months, but always received a “No”. He requested all the other members of Gideon camps to pray for the opening of these doors, trusting God to open them.

In the beginning of 1976 he went again only to receive the usual “No”. However, the next day he received a telephone call from a Principal of one of the schools who explained to Danie that he and two other Christian Principals regularly have prayer meetings together and have been praying for years that the Gideons would bring Bibles to their schools. It came to their attention that Danie had requested permission the previous day and was refused. “Please Mr. Brink, we need these Bibles desperately for the children. Is it possible that you could come to our three schools? We will meet you outside Soweto and escort you to our schools for the placements.”

Danie was overjoyed and agreed to come in two days’ time. He organised two other Gideons to accompany him and two days later, armed with the necessary boxes of Bibles over which much prayer had been uttered they arrived at the border of Soweto, where their escorts were awaiting them. They were welcomed with open arms and joy - teachers had in each case, arranged for the pupils to be in the assembly halls, in order that the placements would go smoothly. The pupils could choose in which language they wanted their Bibles, in their own mother tongue or in English. Several requested one in the mother tongue, but the majority wanted one in English.

On 16 June 1976 history in South Africa was altered forever when school riots broke out over the whole of Soweto. We all prayed for the pupils and teachers of the three schools whom we knew had received the Word of God just three months before. A week after this Danie received an urgent call from the Bantu Authorities requesting his presence in their office. When Danie arrived the gentleman to whom he had all these years requested permission, spoke, “Mr. Brink, I think you know why I have requested you to come and see me. We knew you went to Soweto three months ago to those three schools that had requested you to bring them Bibles, and now I must tell you that those three schools were the only ones where no protests of any nature occurred; not a single window pane was broken, no lessons were interrupted, everything went smoothly and peacefully. That is why you are here. Now we are asking you to please come and flood all the Soweto schools with Bibles. Could you please come every day?” Danie was more than willing to distribute Bibles to all the pupils; and so began regular Monday visits to schools in the strife-torn area.

One morning after a placement an Inspector of schools was present and seated next to him. After paging through the New Revised Standard version, she requested extra Bibles to be placed in schools as readers for the pupils. So, it happened that for a while the Word of God was for several pupils in Soweto, the media through which they were taught English.

“For the word of God is quick and powerful and sharper that any two-edged sword (or stones) piercing even to the dividing as under of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is their any creature that is not manifest in His sight; but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we have to give an account to” (Hebrews 4: 12-13).
A System that will Never Fail

Previously I described the futility of the world economic system, the incredibly magnetic attraction of mammon and the quiet desperation that many feel in pursuing the world’s concept of success and financial achievement. In this article, I wish to concentrate rather on the alternative which God provides for those who have accepted Christ as their Saviour and are actively seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteousness with every fibre of their being.

We know that one of the principle priorities in God’s plan for man is for us to seek the Kingdom of God His righteousness with all our hearts. It is only in this manner that we can really contemplate exercising and enjoying the dominion authority that He promises us in Genesis 1 V 26-28. The axis therefore that the world revolves on in God’s Kingdom is the pursuit of the principles and priorities of His Kingdom and not the pursuit of material things. God concentrates on the pursuit of life as a priority and then “things” will follow. This was the promise of Jesus in Matthew 6 v 33. In this way God intends a life of deep satisfaction as opposed to quiet desperation.

The journey of life can be tough and, really, God’s system is designed for us to use our energy efficiently and protect our talents, abilities and gifts as opposed to the world system, which tends to use them up. God’s system is so simple. When we realise that we are children of the King in a Kingdom, we are entitled to the blessings of the King. We do not have to strive for these by effort, as is the way of the world system. We are entitled to the blessings of the King because we begin to operate in the dynamic of the favour of the King. The world system concentrates on the accumulation and ownership of material things whereas in the Kingdom, we are entitled to stewardship of unlimited provision and we have access to it as opposed to ownership. God’s thinking is fundamentally different to that of the world. We need to begin to think as he does.

In the world system, possessions tend to dictate our sense of self-worth. We accumulate these things by effort and strife. Our care and welfare are our responsibility. We achieve success by effort. Essentially, the pursuit of our
purpose requires that we provide for our success. Many times, we seek a career and tend to dominate others.

In God’s system Jesus and citizenship of His Kingdom represents our self-worth. We access provision by right and not strife. Our care and welfare is the King’s responsibility. Our success is determined by favour. God funds His purpose for us and our lives are characterised by servanthood as opposed to domination. Our lives are a calling!

What a wonderful plan. The requirement? – Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness with every fibre of our being.
I think I may ramble on. I think I may be all over the show. But as I share these disconnected yet connected thoughts I hope you will agree with me: “Grace Follows Amazing”. I was given a list of suggested topics to write about and this one grabbed my attention the most. I guess the main reason being; is that it reminded me of a song by this band called The Almost; their song called: “Amazing Because It Is.” That got me thinking; try & follow my thoughts if you can: “Awesome!” Now that word is pretty cool to use but you’d have to agree with me that it has been overused. “I had an awesome day!” “God is awesome” “Oh, that’s so awesome!”

So, if I asked you why is God awesome and how is life with God awesome for you? It’d probably be one of those questions where you would give a quick un-thought about reply. BUT if I asked you, how is God amazing? How is your Christian (Christ following) life amazing? I would like you to actually think about that. How would you answer that? Because grace follows amazing:

If we know how to answer the amazing question then we can think of grace. There is something about God that draws you to Him. That draws me to Him. It’s because He is amazing!

You’ve probably heard the classic hymn “Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me” so many times that sadly it has lost some of its intended meaning. Yet for me over the last 3 years I have come across 2 songs that have a different take on that familiar song, which actually inspire me in a huge way. (I hope it does the same for you.)

The Almost-Amazing Because It Is
I was so scared of everything you put in front of me / I’ve been arching every part of me / Just to see, See / Why you need me to be / The boy you need me to be

Amazing grace / How sweet the sound / That saves a wretch like me / I once was lost / And now I’m found / Was blind but now I see / I just wanna see

I’m the type of person who lets fear drive / I’m the type of guy who lets it drive / Cause I’m addicted, I’m needy, / I’m lost without you / I need you / I need you”
I think it is also the emotion of which Aaron Gillespie (frontman of The Almost) sings the song. Yet take a look at the words. You may find yourself in them: “I was so scared of everything you put in front of me” or “I’m addicted, I’m needy, I’m lost without you.” This song talks of being real with God. We come to Him afraid, not having it all together. We come to God Amazing seeking His grace. Grace that will teach us to see and grace that will save us.

Or consider the words of this song:

As Cities Burn - Thus From My Lips, By Yours, My Sin Is Purged
Oh how sweet the sound / I know it saved but is it changing a wretch like me
oh my God how sweet is the sound / I once was blind but now I just look away

And this song comes from the opposite direction. Amazing God has saved us, but how come we still look away from His grace? So back to the question: How is God amazing to you? What brings you to your knees in worship of God? And if God is so amazing in our lives; what then? And how do we live in the grace He gives us? Because remember Grace Follows Amazing.

So with all this back and forth between grace and amazing, you may ask what now? The question posing is “where are you”? What place are you in with God? This is a time to take stock of your life, and I want to ask you: How are you and God? With this magazine in your hand; stop for a bit and think upon Him. You know He is amazing. You know of His grace. (You are forgiven and growing in freedom) But has this all been taken for granted. Today, I urge you... to sit right where you are with God. Listen, do you hear it: Grace Follows Amazing and you are invited to follow Him.
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There are many ways through which we discover and learn to know God. It is said that enduring difficulties and encountering tragedy sometimes triggers an awakening through which people often gain peace of mind or insight into life, their purpose in this world, as well as a renewed connection with God. For some this comes in the form of a terminal illness, tragic loss or having survived a life threatening situation. For others this process is not as dramatic, but rather finds them as God reveals His beauty in the crimson sunset, or a whisper on a sleepless night which instigates a gnawing feeling that something is not quite right, steering them to seek a deeper relationship with God.

For me it has come in different forms throughout my life – sometimes as a rare joyous experience where the world reveals to me a glimpse of the essence of God and other times in the form of challenges, hurt and loss. These times unfold as the struggle against the daily challenges, the struggle for sanity in the midst of chaos and the constant search for some sort of connection with that which is sacred. Like many people, I have fallen prey to disappointment, failure, rejection and heart-break. The beauty of these struggles is that, as difficult as it was to endure at the time, each such incident has intensified my desire to know, understand and experience God. In each of these experiences one becomes more intimately acquainted with the character of our Creator.

The character of God is diverse in nature. When one considers what the character and being of God comprises, it is apparent that God is both complex and simple. Often because we experience life and our connection with God differently, we have different perceptions of what God is like. William Young in his book The Shack presents God as an aged African-American woman. This fascinating novel challenges our ideas of what God is like in many ways. But nonetheless, whether one believes that God is male, female or neither of the two there are particular characteristics that remain consistent for all of us.

The perception that God is love is widespread. We have all experienced His loving and nurturing nature through the blessing and miracles that flow into our lives. God’s love ensures we are provided for, comforts us and gives us the strength to journey through this life on the physical plain and fulfill the work set out for us to do. Our Creator embodies light, and is an expression of true goodness and wisdom. In the moments when we are distracted from what is important, or led astray, it is the glimpse of this light that illuminates the path back to God and back to destiny. Another characteristic of God is that He is omnipresent. God is present both within us and outside of us, is present in nature and present in all creation. Bearing this in mind, it is an indicator that we are never alone, because everything that we look at, touch, feel and experience channels our Heavenly Father, and therefore we will always be one with God. Our Creator is eternal. Great solace is found in knowing that although our lives, our experiences, and the people around us are impermanent and ever changing, when everything else stops or changes, God remains a
constant in our lives. Just as God is eternal, so is His love. The magnificent beauty of our Divine Creator is transcendent. Being a purposeful Creator, everything in the Universe was created with an intelligence that is beyond our comprehension. There is a profound order in all existence. There is an unseen order in the space between two clouds and the spaces between each petal of a flower. This divine order exists in the way we play out our lives and in the manner in which a poet is inspired to string together words to create a unique work of art.

Some believe that God is vengeful, unforgiving, jealous and ruthless. I beg to differ, for my experiences continually reinforce that Our Creator is merciful. God exercises patience with us when we make mistakes, and is always willing to forgive us when we are ready to repent. I’m pretty convinced that God must have a wonderful sense of humour, and frequently partakes in the joys and laughter that comes with it.

Along with the characteristics that we are able to identify in God, are also the more complex ones that our limited human minds are unable to transcend and comprehend. Once, a good few years ago, while waiting for the bus home in Johannesburg city one evening, two homeless men who I often saw at the bus stop walked pass me. They seemed to be having an intense conversation. As they walked by, I heard one saying to the other – “It is a concept so broad, it’s broader than the horizons, too big for them to understand.” I was taken aback by the profound beauty of his words. Reflecting on these words now, I think they capture the true and honest essence of God.

Fiona Mountain, author of Lady of the butterflies wrote that in the 16th century, the process of metamorphosis was still a mystery, and was cause for much speculation. At the time it was believed that caterpillars were ‘birthed’ by leaves, by way of ‘spontaneous generation’. In current times, thanks to scientific advancement, we have a clearer understanding of how metamorphosis transpires, but can you imagine how confusing and mysterious this process must have appeared to the unknowing minds back then. This story reminds me of our ability to understand God. God is the greatest mystery. He works and exists in ways that are completely beyond us.

We spend our whole lives unravelling and getting to know the Heavenly Father a little bit more each day. When we keep our hearts and eyes open, we are constantly presented with opportunities to enhance our relationship with God and through making use of these opportunities we deepen our understanding of the character of God.
Christmas in Tinsel Town

KALEB WILLEMS

Have you heard what Britney got her kids this Christmas? Do you know about the massive party that Kanye threw? Or how Zac spoilt Vanessa? The eyes of the world seem to be fixed on Hollywood, but even more so this time of year as we watch how the rich & famous try outdo one another in extravagant giving.

What Beckham buys Victoria this Christmas will probably be worth more than what you or I will accumulate in a lifetime of stockings! And while many of us can only dream of receiving or buying these gifts, we often write off the value and uniqueness of their gifts, because of their wealth. But indulge yourself for a second, and put yourself in their shoes – how do you buy a meaningful gift for someone who already has everything they want?

It is easy to buy your child the Wii that he has been begging for since he was born, or you fiancé something expensive to let her know how much she means to you. But in the world of red carpets, Botox, and bulging bank accounts, celebs often need to go the extra mile to convey sincere feelings of love, appreciation and generosity. This has caused Brangelina to create a family rule that everyone has to make something for someone else, and invest time – not just money. But for most celebs, they will dip into their wallets and display extravagant spending to express love. Take the Beckhams or example - refusing to be outdone by her husband, Victoria Beckham gave David a gleaming Rolls Royce Phantom on the same Christmas that saw him bestow a £1.2 million necklace on her neck.

And while it may be over the top, there is something about it to be admired. Celebs will go to extravagant lengths to find a unique, one-of-a-kind gift that will express love to their more-than-happy recipient.

While we think we are living in a unique age where this extravagance takes place, the same thing happened around two thousand years ago. Some wise men - imagine George Clooney, LeonardoDiCaprio, and Will Smith dressed in brown robes - were led by a star to the birth of a boy named Jesus. And instead of giving him a rattler, some puffy toys and a sugar-coated dummy, they lavished, in true celebrity style, gifts of gold, perfume, incense. You might say that’s extravagant – but it depends who you’re giving to.

Most of us associate Christmas with giving to our families & friends, yet Hollywood goes the extra mile. Take Paris Hilton for example – last year the hotel heiress received delivery of a customised Pink Bentley - a Christmas present to herself worth an estimated $200,000 - fulfilling a childhood fantasy of owning a vehicle like the children’s toy doll Barbie.
The wise men gave their valuable and costly gifts to what appeared to be another baby boy. It’s bit overboard considering He was just a baby, but completely appropriate considering whom He was.

They must have known something more about this Child in order to splash out gifts usually reserved for kings. They must have known that this Child would not only become a Ruler, but a Shepherd, a King and a Saviour. And the gifts were not given because it was that time of the year, nor because it was the appropriate thing to do. Rather it was given in admiration.

Hollywood has got so much right! They are extravagant in their giving. They’re using their wealth in generously - but they’re giving so extravagantly to the wrong people. What if the same generosity was channelled to a person who is actually worthy of it - what if it was given in appreciation for something priceless?

Every year this time we have the opportunity to be extravagant in our giving. Yet we get the opportunity every day to give out of gratitude and to One who shows us unconditional love. The gift: ourselves (the most costly gift we can give); the recipient: Jesus!
Hmm…a bit of an oxymoron huh? Well guess what - that’s exactly what we really are. “Say what?” I am guessing all of you reading this are thinking. Think about it, Christ (who is perfection itself) came to earth to save us all (an imperfect world). The word of God speaks of how we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, but that through the lamb’s blood, we have been redeemed again in God’s sight.

The other day I went to visit a good friend of mine, and before I left she handed me a book, that she told me I definitely had to read. Well, I love reading but I never really have the time to do so, except when I am on break from varsity. So, to be honest, as I took the book from her it was just to please her. As I read the book cover (just to get a sense of what the book was about), my interest was (without a doubt) perked. So, contrary to what I had thought (when I initially took the book) I began to read the book.

The name of the book is “Captivating”, written by John and Stasi Eldridge - and I believe that this is a book that every woman ought to read. It’s about helping women understand the vision and purpose God had when He created us. It highlights the fact that when God created Eve - it was the embodiment of a very delicate and significant characteristic of who He is, and that is His beauty. Both John and Stasi guide and illustrate in this book how this is so.

Now being a young lady myself, I know how tough it can be. Most of us struggle with our physical appearance (for the most part of our lives), and emotionally - finding peace and rest is like “moving mountains”, but entirely possible. Unfortunately, most of us go through life without knowing that there is a way to live an awesome and fulfilling life, and becoming all that we were created to be. As a result, we fail to fulfil that “specific purpose” that God created us for. I say this, because only through understanding how precious and capable we are, can we even begin to imagine the treasure within us, that is waiting to be unleashed to the world.

So, how do we even begin to grasp and live this out? How do we, as women begin to shred the lies that have “defined” our lives for so long, and start living out something so “foreign” to us? Well Christ says He came that we may have life - and have it more abundantly. This in itself is proof that we should not be living in bondage of a life that was never meant for us to live.

Now I know that it’s no fun living a miserable and unfulfilling life. We desire to be happy, fulfilled, appreciated, and to live with purpose. That is exactly how God wants us to live our lives. The only way to do so - is to look to Him for redemption, for comfort and for acceptance, and everything else will follow. For His word says we should seek him and all else will follow.
Although I have concentrated on women, this does not exclude men. God also created man with a specific plan in mind. He did not create you to be a mediocre character without vision or purpose. God did not create you to settle for an unfulfilling life in which you are constantly discouraged. He did not create anyone to be disillusioned by the lies the enemy constantly berates us with, resulting in us going through life aimlessly.

There is hope for all of us. The answer lies in looking to Christ for all the answers to the questions we may have. We can do this by heeding to His word as guidance, for it says in Psalm 37:4 “Delight yourself in the Lord and He shall give you the desires of your heart”.

The treasure within us is waiting to be unleashed to the world.

Christ came as perfection itself, into an imperfect world - and it was only to restore that which has been tainted into imperfection - us.
What do you see when you look in the mirror? The obvious answer of course is your reflection! Do you like what you see? When you take a good look at yourself, would you consider changing any part of you if you could? Changing the shape of your nose maybe – or possibly lifting your cheekbones a little – or maybe pinning your ears back a bit and of course as time ticks away possibly the consideration to lift and stretch and smooth out those inevitable lines. Or are you totally one hundred percent satisfied even if your nose is a little skew!

I was watching a TV series that follows the journey of a few people who have chosen to change their appearances – for some it was purely a cosmetic decision and for others it was a necessary change due to a trauma incurred. Whether one would condone some of their decisions or not, the thing which amazed me was how the trained surgeons could literally resculpture someone. Almost nothing was impossible! Need bigger eyes with fuller lips but less skin on the cheeks – no problem. The surgeon would explain the procedure to the patient and a couple of TV minutes later the once dissatisfied person was smiling as they viewed their new face. One such lady had already undergone a few surgeries and was in the final stage of her new look; the ‘before’ and ‘after’ photos were like looking at two different women. She spoke afterwards of her newfound confidence because of her new face and how she could look people in the eye now and not feel ashamed. Her story really moved me. My heart was touched by the fact that this lady now felt accepted by the world around her. My immediate concern though was how long would she feel that way? What happened when her new face was not good enough to keep her feeling happy? Would she go for another treatment and change something else?

Possibly not - but this lead me to realize something we all know. Changing your image can and does change your life, however, your external image will fail you at some point. It does not matter what you look like everyone eventually finds fault with some part of their external image. This is human nature – think about it. A beautiful tall woman may wish she were shorter. Then you find the opposite as well. If you blond you want to be brunette. If you have dark hair, you try to lighten it. Dark skin and you go for skin lighteners. Light skin tone and you use self-tanning options. Curly hair straight and straight hair curly! The list can go on – come on you know what I am talking about. We always want to “improve” our image that often can lead to short-lived happiness and then inevitable disappointment. Now I am all for looking good and improving oneself but when I look into the mirror there must be something other than my external appearance which makes me feel beautiful and confident. There must be something deeper which causes me to be satisfied with who I am. I cannot purely rely on my skin tone, hair colour and overall looks to give that to me. So when I look in the mirror I therefore must see something more than me! If all I ever see is an exact reflection of my actual appearance, it will eventually cause me to be unhappy.
I saw a picture the other day of this little scrawny kitten that looked like it had not had a bath in a long time. It’s hair was filthy, it’s little body looked beaten up but it had this content look on it’s face. It was standing in front of a mirror but it’s reflection did not show this low-down and filthy kitten but rather it’s reflection was a big, beautifully groomed, powerful lion! This little kitten may have looked like a street animal but inside the kitten felt like a lion. With this analogy in mind I would like to dare you to dig deep down within you and find your “lion.”

Allow me to assist you in this - as woman we too were created in the image of God. We are daughters of the creator of the Heavens and Earth. We are therefore princesses in His kingdom and have every reason to see ourselves as valuable, precious and worth more than rubies, diamonds or any gem stones. We are loved with an unconditional love by the One who made everything we see. So, when we look into the mirror, we do not just have to see the parts of us which we believe are imperfect but we can see a princess with every beautiful trait and characteristic which we admire – Ladies basically what I am saying is that even though you may believe that your reflection is awful or in need of great change, the fact is that you are not what you see on the outside. You cannot value yourself according to your hair colour or shape of nose. Your beauty is something that comes from within – from having a relationship with the One who made you and therefore has made you acceptable and beautiful and lovely in every way. When we can get that into our hearts, your inner beauty will start shining through and captivate those around you.

The word of God says that, “Charm can mislead and beauty soon fades but the woman who is admired is the woman who lives in the fear of the Lord.” (Proverbs 31:30) External beauty is temporary. Eventually everything does start moving in a southern direction, wrinkles do appear no matter what creams you use, skin blemishes, pigmentations and greying of hair does often happen. But an inner beauty can last forever. If maintained in the Word and in relationship with the Lord, your inner beauty will only intensify through the years. 1 Peter 3:3 says, “What matters is not your outer appearance – the styling of your hair, the jewellery you wear, the cut of your clothes – but your inner disposition. Cultivate your inner beauty, the gentle, gracious kind that God delights in.” Every woman longs to be beautiful and to see a reflection in the mirror which is pleasant to all – and there is nothing wrong with that. We should look after our skin and bodies, as we are the temples of the Holy Spirit. But at the same time, we must be beautifying ourselves internally. Just as we go to the spa for treatments, we should go to God’s spa to have our souls rejuvenated and cleansed and toned.

You are beautiful not because of any other reason than because of the One who made you! Ladies, its high time we start putting more time and effort into cultivating our relationships with the Lord and getting to understand how He sees and loves and values us. Then despite any natural imperfections, the face we see in the mirror will be captivating beyond words!
The word Christmas comes from Cristes maesse, or “Christ's Mass.” There is no set date for his birth in scripture and it wasn't celebrated on any particular day. However Christmas was first celebrated on the 25th of December in Rome in 336AD with an aim to replacing the popular pagan winter solstice celebrations.

J.C. Horsley designed the first Christmas card in 1843.

The twelve days of Christmas are the days between Christmas Day and Epiphany (6th of January) and represent the length of time it took for the wise men from the East to visit the manger of Jesus after his birth.

If you received all of the gifts in the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas”, you would receive 364 presents.

Christmas trees become popular in the UK from 1841 when Prince Albert erected a tree in Windsor Castle following a German tradition. Fir trees have been decorated at Christmas time in Germany since the 8th century. Electric lights for trees were first used in 1895.

There are two types of tradition that each culture carries when celebrating Christmas; religious and secular. The religious tradition is the core or the root of the holiday's existence and carries much stronger history and stability than those of its counter part. Christians throughout modern time have worshiped the Lord for His coming to humanity in the form of a babe. Regarding secular traditions one may remember the dilemma in the classic Christmas time cartoon – A Charlie Brown Christmas (1965). His dilemma, answered later by his close friend Linus was that the true meaning of Christmas was being diluted by all the commercialization he seemed to find everywhere he looked. Over time, Christmas celebrations have grown and become more commercialized and secular. Those in the world who do not connect with the life of Christianity have spurred this on as they continue to observe Christmas for all its joy, togetherness, and tradition; but they simply remove the Christian value and replace it with positive secular imagery and verbalization. They attach no religious value and thus it changes with the whims of every human desire.
Trees were first used in 1895. Germany since the 8th century. Electric lights for trees have been decorated at Christmas time in Windsor Castle following a German tradition. Fir from 1841 when Prince Albert erected a tree in Christmas trees become popular in the UK. Twelve Days of Christmas”, you would receive If you received all of the gifts in the song “The manger of Jesus after his birth.

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Empowering believers in the promises of God – health; financial provision; faith; peace and identity! Terradez Ministries has a firm belief in the supernatural power of God with a mandate to empower believers in the promises of God. “Why live a normal life when you can live the Abundant LIFE”.

Finding strength and healing after brokenness... Bloom Today is a Christian talk show whose vision is to foster a culture where people choose redemption and healing in Christ Jesus so they bloom despite darkness and pain. The show raises awareness about the damage caused by secret pain and abuse, and demonstrate the hope and healing found in Christ Jesus through ex-victim testimonies, connections, and tools.

Wishing all our Partners a blessed Festive Season!
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**Channel 341**

**MONDAY**
- **The 700 Club Nigeria**
- **Believer's Voice Of Victory - Kenneth Copeland**
- **Pressing Matters - Afika Mhlohe [R]**
- **Abba's House - Ron Phillips**

**TUESDAY**
- **REAL with Diego Mesa [R]**
- **McKee's TV**
- **Reigning as Kings - Basil Teyn**
- **Now Faith - John Torrens [R]**

**WEDNESDAY**
- **Believer's House - John Torrens [R]**
- **The Secret Place - Christopher Lynn**
- **Elijah's List - Steve Shultz**
- **The Hope Connection**

**THURSDAY**
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- **Elijah's List - Steve Shultz**
- **The Secret Place - Christopher Lynn**
- **Believer's House - John Torrens [R]**

**FRIDAY**
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*Pacific Standard Time (PST)*
**Science & Faith TriCord Media**

**SUN 2ND 05:00 AM**

Can Science and Religion coexist? Science is the pursuit of knowledge about the physical world through observation and experimentation. Religion is the pursuit of meaning and purpose through a belief in God.

**Adlan Cruz Christmas Special**

**SAT 22ND 08:30 PM**

Renowned pianist, Adlan Cruz, hosts this 1 hour Christmas Special.

**Christmas Eve Special Ben Courson**

**SAT 22ND 09:30 PM**

Your spirits will be lifted and your soul encouraged as you take this in. When we know who our loving Heavenly Father is, it literally changes EVERYTHING!

**Rediscovering Christmas Billy Graham Ministries**

**FRI 28TH 05:30 PM**

In the midst of our struggles and pain, Christmas is a reminder that Jesus came into our fragmented lives to redeem us. Experience the true meaning of Christmas through three people facing a broken world.
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And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11, KJV

Help the three wise men find Jesus

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BOOK YOUR 5 NIGHT STAY FOR 2 ADULTS AND 2 CHILDREN UNDER 12 FOR THE UNBEATABLE PRICE OF R8 860!

- 5 nights accommodation
- Breakfast
- Dinner
- A 1 hour paddle boat or canoe hire
- A day pass at our Mansfield Game Reserve

Available 27 November – 21 December 2018 / 04 January – 11 January 2019
*Terms and conditions apply, subject to availability. Contact us to enquire.

The Halyards hotel in Port Alfred lies in the heart of the Sunshine Coast and is set along the waterfront of the stunning Royal Alfred Marina. The Port Alfred River Spa is situated on the property.
Starting from as little as R 730 per room per night for 2 adults & 2 children (u/12 years)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resort</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tenahead Mountain Lodge &amp; Spa</td>
<td>Eastern Cape Highlands, Drakensburg, Rhodes, Naude’s Nek Pass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Royal Guest House</td>
<td>Eastern Cape, Sunshine Coast, Port Alfred</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matingwe Lodge, Private Game Reserve</td>
<td>Vaalwater, Limpopo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mansfield Reserve</td>
<td>Eastern Cape, Sunshine Coast, Port Alfred, Kowie River</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tsitsikamma Lodge &amp; Spa</td>
<td>Eastern Cape, Garden Route, Tsitsikamma, Storms River</td>
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<tr>
<td>Halyards Hotel &amp; Spa</td>
<td>Eastern Cape, Sunshine Coast, Port Alfred, Royal Alfred Marina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bushman Sands Golf Lodge</td>
<td>Eastern Cape, Frontier Country, Alice Dale</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Lodge &amp; Backpackers</td>
<td>Eastern Cape, Sunshine Coast, Port Alfred</td>
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</tbody>
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• T&C’s Apply • Minimum stay of 2 nights

Central Reservations
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