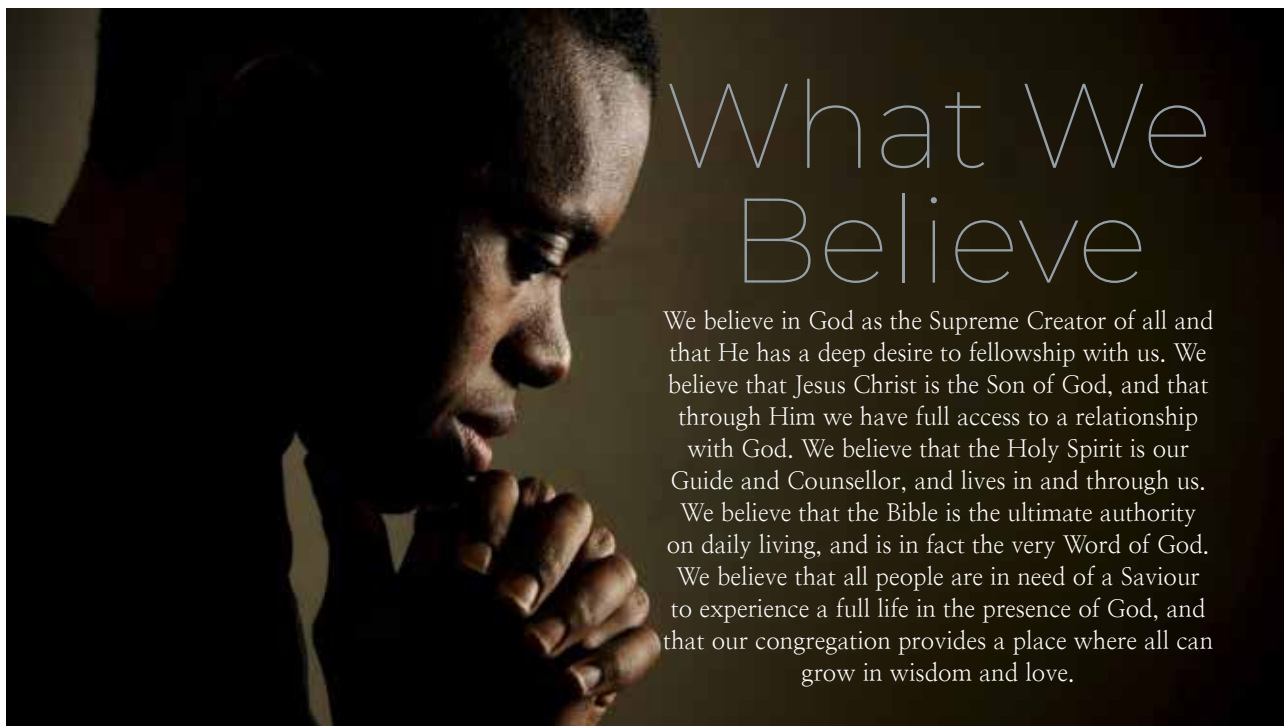


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THANKFUL



What We Believe

We believe in God as the Supreme Creator of all and that He has a deep desire to fellowship with us. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that through Him we have full access to a relationship with God. We believe that the Holy Spirit is our Guide and Counsellor, and lives in and through us. We believe that the Bible is the ultimate authority on daily living, and is in fact the very Word of God. We believe that all people are in need of a Saviour to experience a full life in the presence of God, and that our congregation provides a place where all can grow in wisdom and love.

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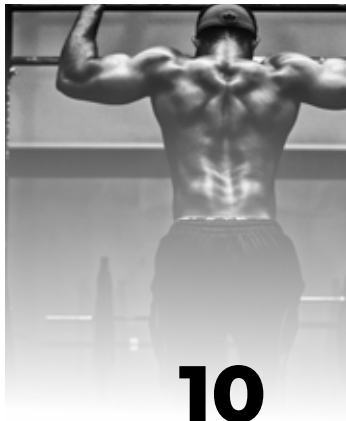
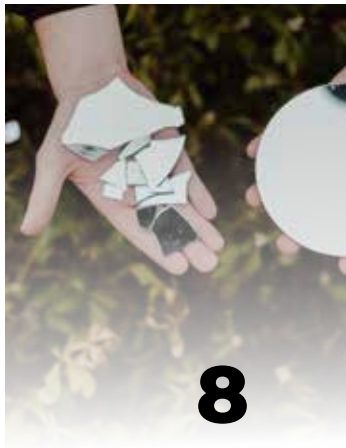
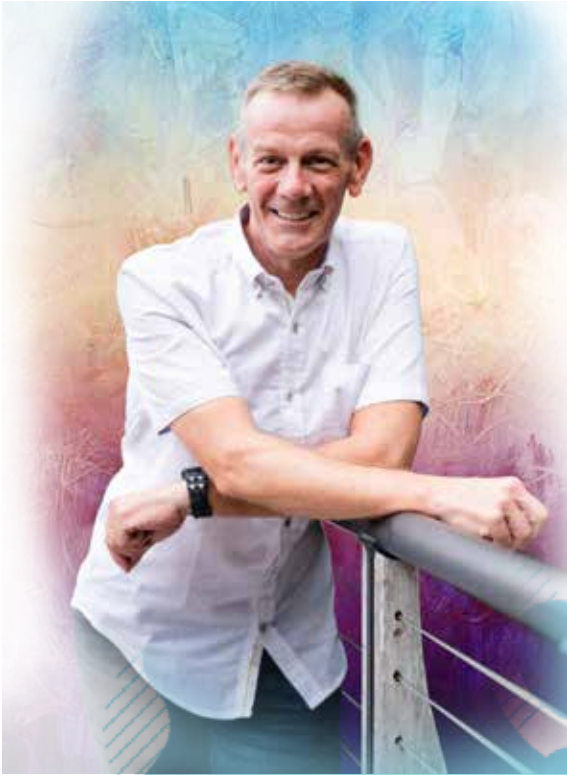


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EDITORIAL

Waldo Malan

of our future leaders) we have a tremendous responsibility towards training our children in the art of sportsmanship. Sportsmanship, like charity, starts at home!

But sportsmanship extends into all arenas of life, doesn't it? Would you not consider it good sportsmanship when people obey the rules of the road, stopping at a red traffic light for example? A gentleman standing up when a lady enters a room, a guy standing back to allow a lady first entrance into a room (Western culture), or a guy walking into a room first to make sure the lady following him will be safe (African cultures).

And then, of course, I think good or poor sportsmanship extends even into the spiritual realm; I equate sportsmanship with attitude, so the extent to which you approach life will yield the desired results. Spiritually speaking our lives can either be ruled by fear or by faith – there is no middle ground in life. When we are ruled by fear, our attitudes will tend to display the negativity and poor sportsmanship (rudeness, impatience, anger) will result. However, the flipside is when we approach life with a positive attitude that is based in faith. Now faith for me is a two-way street; it is firstly the faith we have in God and ourselves to accomplish things, and secondly (and equally important) the faith that God has in us! God's faith in us should be a motivating factor for a good attitude, after all, He entrusted us with the message of hope and love to give to a world lost in fear and insecurity.

There is a great word in the English language, that when practically implemented, make for an extremely civilized society. That word is of course "sportsmanship." Now, sportsmanship really speaks of an attitude we display to our fellowmen (and for those among our readers who are very PC minded, fellowmen includes ladies as well). We've all heard the oh-so-British expression (and hear it with the Queen's accent), "Be a sport, old boy!"

But more than this, sportsmanship speaks about the respect we have and display for one another, whether on the sports field or off. Good sportsmanship speaks about our consideration for those who occupy our space, and also for the space of others we occupy.

The origin of the word (I assume) would have been from the sports arena where, even in a highly charged and competitive surrounding, one could accept defeat with a certain amount of grace. With any match, game, or competition we have great examples of both good sportsmanship as well as poor displays of attitude and behaviour. I also think that as parents (and as teachers

So the next time we find ourselves in a situation where we are tempted to display poor sportsmanship, perhaps it would do us well to remember that our real task on earth is to support, encourage and build up the people around us with a positive and love-filled message of hope.

**THEREFORE IF YOU HAVE ANY ENCOURAGEMENT FROM
BEING UNITED WITH CHRIST, IF ANY COMFORT FROM HIS
LOVE, IF ANY COMMON SHARING IN THE SPIRIT, IF ANY
TENDERNESS AND COMPASSION, THEN MAKE MY JOY
COMPLETE BY BEING LIKE-MINDED, HAVING THE SAME
LOVE, BEING ONE IN SPIRIT AND OF ONE MIND.**

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-2



THE BLESSING AT WORK

André & Jenny Roebert

It is always good to remember that attention always precedes desire. When we delight ourselves in God's Word, giving it the attention, it deserves, our desire for the things of God begins to increase. Feeding our spirits with the Word, and delighting in its truth and hope, increases our understanding of Who God is to us, His marvellous ways and His promises concerning us.

Kenneth Copeland writes, "God's WORD will take you from living outside that BLESSING - where storms, disasters and hard times tear up and destroy things, to living inside it, appropriating THE BLESSING in your own life and replenishing the earth around you with it" (*The Blessing of the Lord Makes Rich and Adds No Sorrow with It*).

Here is how the BLESSING goes to work! While we are filling our hearts and minds with the truth of God's Word, by His Spirit that indwells us, at the very same time, His presence encamps around us! Psalm 34:7, says, "The Angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him [who revere and worship Him with awe] and each of them He delivers. O taste and see that the Lord [our God] is good! Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) is the man who trusts and takes refuge in Him."

I recently read a friend's blog on this very scripture. That word encamp is a military term meaning to settle. So, because we choose to settle into the Word of God, with a heart of love and respect for Him, He surrounds us, with His fortress of protection and peace! This, my dear friend, is part of the BLESSING! We are placed in the centre of His settlement, the safest place there is! You see, while we are centred on the Word of God, the enemy cannot infiltrate our minds with thoughts or fear or discouragement or failure! Psalms 32:7 says that He becomes our hiding place and surrounds us with songs of deliverance! That's what happens when we are surrounded by the Lord!

Now, watch how this works: Through the day, while we are going about our areas of responsibility, because we have invested our time in God's Word, it is first and foremost on our minds and in our hearts. So, we find ourselves constantly meditating on its wisdom and perspective, which begins to influence the way we think, the words we speak, our attitudes and our actions. Do you want to know what the BLESSING is doing while this takes place? The Word of God says in Psalm 5:12, that the Lord surrounds us as a shield! But this shield isn't just a form of protection. The word says, "... as with a shield, the Lord surrounds us with goodwill - which is pleasure and favour!" (Amplified version).

The blessing of God goes to work as our minds are filled with the thoughts and purposes of Him, and from our time spent delighting


in His Word, we begin to respond to circumstances from that state of mind. Our first response becomes God's response and when we stick to that response, the BLESSING "works" to bring supernatural pleasure and favour every time.

What about the times we miss it, when our emotions and frustrations get the better of us and we don't respond from the wisdom of God's Word? Like Adam, do we forfeit the BLESSING too? Absolutely not! Jesus secured the BLESSING for us with His blood. It's ours to appropriate and enjoy. However, when we choose to not walk in it, it doesn't remove itself from us, we simply walk away from it. But there is nothing stopping us from realising our error, turning around, and walking straight back into it again! That's called repentance - it simply means to deliberately change our minds and go in a different direction from where we were heading. God's mercy has secured that freedom for us! And Psalm 32:10 says that God's mercy surrounds us too! So all we need to do is repent and direct our thoughts and attitudes right back to the Word of God again. That's the BLESSING!

So far, we've learnt that in The BLESSING, the Lord Himself protectively encamps around us, His favour and goodness and mercy surround us, but that's not all! when we choose to make spending time in God's word a priority and allow His wisdom to influence and transform our lives, Psalms 125:2 says that as the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people! Just like those mountains, God Himself is an ever present, immovable strength and fortress around our lives. He is our protector, our provider, our comfort, and our strength!

Renewing our minds to the Word of God is not a retreat from our problems or an escape from reality! It's choosing to place ourselves in a state of mind where we perceive our circumstance as God does and respond to them from a perspective of faith and victory, rather than hopelessness and defeat. It's being aware of the supernatural BLESSING we have received from being in Him, more than being aware of the limited, natural circumstances that surround us.

Once we have decided to receive God's gift of love and have chosen to make spending time in His Word a priority, so that our hearts and minds are in tune with His ways - He is completely and intricately involved in our journey through life. His BLESSING empowers us in all we do and enables us to influence the world around us with His power. That's the greatest gift we could ever dream of a life filled and overflowing in the grace of His BLESSING!

A close-up, high-angle shot of a light-colored wicker basket with a dark brown rim, filled with fresh, ripe strawberries. The strawberries are bright red with green leaves and are piled together. The basket is resting on a dark wooden surface. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light brown color.

His BLESSING
empowers us in all
we do and enables
us to influence the
world around us
with His power.

THE BEAUTY OF BROKENNESS

Joyce Meyer

There's a story about a little boy who was very poor and needed shoes. He was standing in front of a shoe store, barefoot and shivering with cold. A woman approached him and asked him why he was standing there, looking through the window. He told her, "Well, ma'am, I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes."

The woman took the boy into the store, washed his dirty, bare feet and put new socks and shoes on them. The boy was so touched by her compassion that he asked her, "Ma'am, are you God's wife?" He assumed if she showed him that kind of love, she must be related to God.

This story is one of the best examples of what it means to walk in love. And our goal as Christians is to show God's love so people see Jesus shining through us.

It Starts with Communion

Matthew 26:26 (ESV) says, "Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.'" It's interesting to see here that Jesus blessed the bread, broke it, and then gave it to the disciples.

We usually refer to this scripture when we have communion to remind us of the sacrifice He made for us. And just as He gave His life and was broken for us, we must be broken so we can live for Him.

We don't like to think about God breaking us, but it's really a wonderful thing. See, when we're born again, the seed of God's nature—all that He is—is planted in our spirits.

First Peter 1:23 says, "You have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God." And 1 John 3:9 tells us that as believers, "God's seed [His principle of life, the essence of His righteous character] remains [permanently]" in us (AMP).

This means we have what it takes to be like Jesus and love others the way He loves us. But we all need God to do a work in our souls for us to be able to walk in love. We have to grow spiritually for our soul—mind, will and emotions—to be molded into the image of Christ.

We don't need to pray for God to give us love, because we already have His love in us. We need to pray for Him

to show us how to walk in love...for God to do whatever He needs to do in our lives so His love can flow through us to others. When we do, He will deal with whatever is in us that is standing in the way: pride, unforgiveness, selfishness, insecurity, fear or any other ungodly attitude or behavior.

How Brokenness Works

Isaiah 64:8 says, "O Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You our Potter, and we all are the work of Your hand" (AMP). I know what it's like to be broken and molded by God. I used to have so many problems; I was hard to get along with and harsh. There were a lot of things I didn't understand because I had been mistreated, and I thought it was good to be hard and not let anyone push me around. I believed everyone else had a problem, not me.

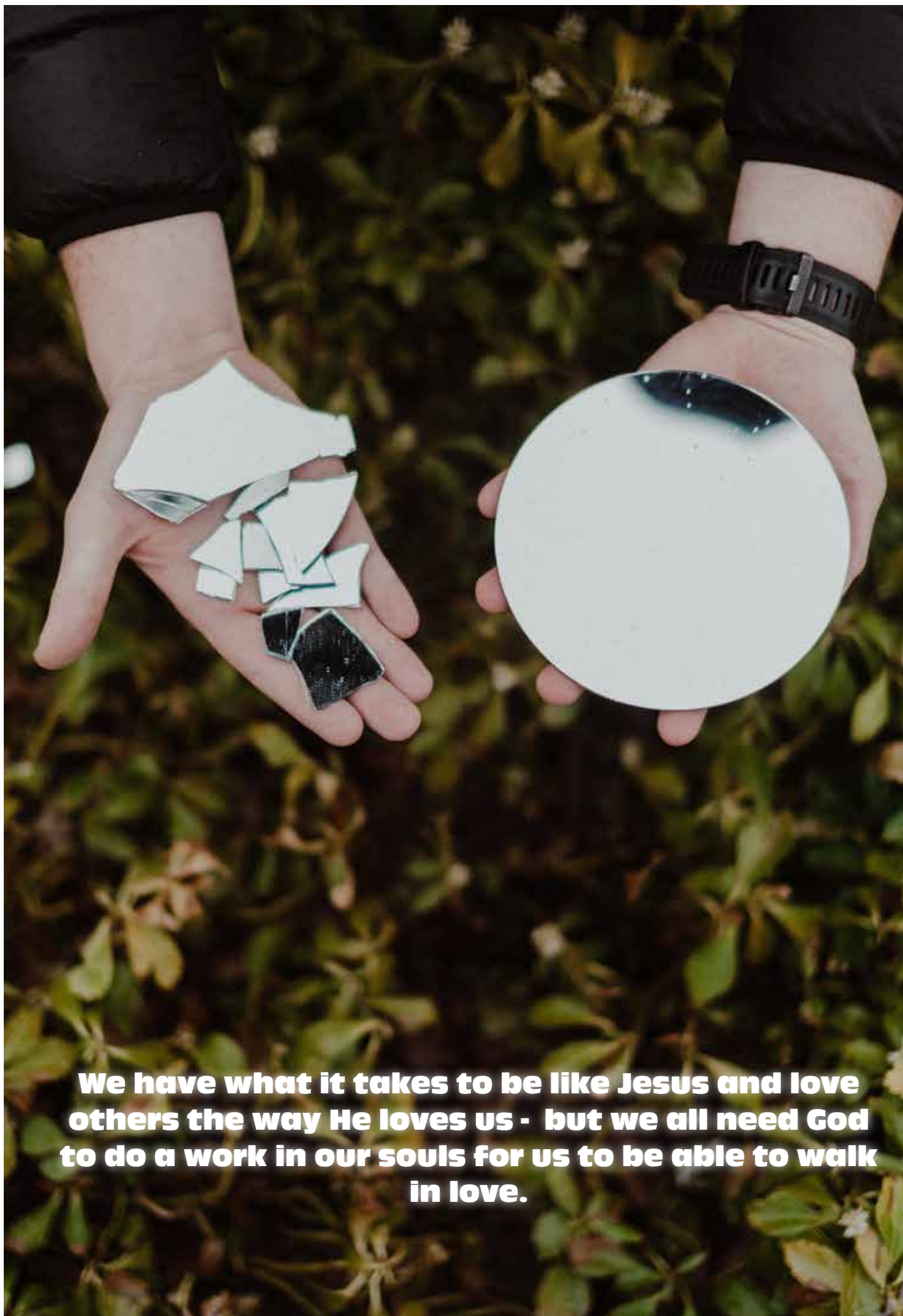
I remember praying so diligently for God to change my husband, Dave, because if he would just be the way I wanted him to be, then I would be happy. But one day God spoke to my heart so strongly and said, "Dave is not the problem." My response was, "Well, who is? It's just me and him. What do you mean Dave is not the problem?"

It was devastating to realize I was really the problem, but it was also the beginning of a beautiful work God wanted to do in me.

Even though I was hurting and hard to get along with, I really loved God and wanted to live for Him, but I had to give Him control so He could mold me into His image. I began to pray things like, "God, do whatever You need to do in my life to change me. I'm the clay and You are the Potter. Romans 8:29 says you foreordained me to be molded into the image of Jesus, and I want to be everything You created me to be."

The journey hasn't been easy, but I can honestly say that the hardest times in my life became blessings because God used them to bring me close to Him so I could really know Him and grow spiritually. That's His plan for all of His children.

I want to encourage you today to spend time with God and search out the promises He has for you in His Word. Trust His wisdom and do what He shows you to do. As you put your faith in God to break you, mold you and make you what He's created you to be, the Potter will make you an amazing work of His hand!



We have what it takes to be like Jesus and love others the way He loves us - but we all need God to do a work in our souls for us to be able to walk in love.

FIT FUNCTIONAL FAITH

Jade Narainasamy

There is most certainly an intriguing correlation between physical and spiritual fitness. This article endeavours to encourage you to pursue a holistic lifestyle, while establishing a well-balanced and fulfilling life in Christ.

Consider this for a moment: Imagine having all the faith to do great things for God and not having the physical ability to do it because you disregarded your physical fitness.

With that in mind, the Bible does not explicitly focus on exercise regimes or diet plans, however, the scriptures provide insights that encourage believers to care for their bodies, recognizing them as temples of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NLT

Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

Achieving and maintaining anything always requires dedication, discipline, and perseverance.

As a believer, one could argue that the only attainable achievement to strive for is: "Well done my good and faithful servant." While that is the ultimate goal, we are present here on earth where God desires for you to live a long, healthy and prosperous life.

Psalms 91:16 TPT

I will satisfy you with a full life and with all that I do for you. For you will enjoy the fullness of my salvation!

3 John 1:2 TPT

Beloved friend, I pray that you are prospering in every way and that you continually enjoy good health, just as your soul is prospering.

Let's explore some Biblical components that I believe will greatly benefit you as we strive for fit functional faith.

Self-Discipline

This is a core virtue that is emphasised all throughout the Bible. The Christian life takes hard work, self-denial, and persistent preparation—simply put, self-discipline. In the scriptures below the apostle Paul illustrates it aptly:

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 NLT

Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.

This analogy can be applied to your physical fitness where self-

discipline is necessary to maintain a consistent exercise routine.

Balance Basics

The balance between physical and spiritual well-being is mentioned in the Bible for good reason. God's desire for you is to be mature and complete, a visible representation of the effulgence of His glory on the earth. I could think of no better way to do this than to be fit and faithful.

1 Timothy 4:8 NLT

Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come.

There are two kinds of exercises being contrasted here. Physical training has certain values for the body, but these values are limited. Godliness, on the other hand, is good for man's Spirit, soul, and body, and is not only for time but for eternity as well.



So, there's value in physical training but spiritual growth holds ultimate significance.

Faithful Stewardship

The Bible encourages us as believers to be good stewards of the gifts God has given to us. This principle extends to the care of our physical body'. Just as individuals are entrusted with resources and talents to be used wisely, they are also entrusted with their bodies to be nurtured and kept healthy.

Integrating these components into your life can lead to a holistic approach to well-being, where physical fitness is seen as an aspect of honoring God and living out the values outlined in the Bible. While the Bible doesn't prescribe specific exercise routines, its teachings provide a foundation for individuals to make choices that prioritise both your Spiritual fitness and your physical fitness.

So, whether you have a daily faith-fitness routine or currently scrambling to hold it all together, I want to encourage you to start where you are, use what you've got and do what you can, because done is better than perfect.

Remember, have FUN, FIT, FUNCTIONAL FAITH!

SIMPLE WEEKLY ROUTINE

adapt it accordingly to best suit your goals, lifestyle and preferences

- MONDAY**
 - 1 hour Devotion/ Bible Study & Prayer.
 - 1 Hour Upper Body Training.
- TUESDAY**
 - 1 hour Devotion/ Bible Study & Prayer.
 - 45 min Core Training.
- WEDNESDAY**
 - 1 hour Devotion/ Bible Study & Prayer.
 - 30-40 min Prayer walk/ run while listening to the Bible.
- THURSDAY**
 - 1 hour Devotion/ Bible Study & Prayer.
 - 1 Hour Lower Body Training.
- FRIDAY**
 - 1 hour Devotion/ Bible Study & Prayer.
 - 30-40 min Stretching while listening to the Bible.
- SATURDAY**
 - 1 hour Devotion/ Bible Study & Prayer.
 - Rest & Recover or 20-30 min brisk walking.
- SUNDAY**
 - Wake up early, pray and get ready for Church.



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THE LOST SHEEP

Angus Buchan

If we go to the Word of God in Luke 15:4-10, the Lord uses two examples of how He is interested in the individual, the lost sheep. He talks about the Good Shepherd leaving the ninety-nine sheep to go and look for the one sheep; just the absolute ecstasy and joy He finds when He brings that lost sheep back home. He also uses the illustration of the woman who lost the coin and turned the house upside down until she found it and then she rejoiced with her friends.

When we see God moving majestically like He is doing in these last days, touching hundreds of thousands of people at a single meeting, it is very exciting. Yet, what I love about Jesus is that He is the God of the individual. He is the God of the "whosoever's". According to Romans 10:13 (NKJV): *"For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."* He also specialises in using reprobates (unprincipled persons).

- We just think of Paul the Apostle, who wrote two thirds of the New Testament, and who had a dramatic experience near Damascus.
- We think of George Müller when he was a theological student and during weekends a winebibber and a womaniser. He was saved dramatically in Bristol, England, where he then started children's homes which took care of over one hundred and twenty thousand children, without him asking for any money.
- We think of Charles Colson who was USA President Richard Nixon's right hand man. One of the most brilliant minds in the world, and yet he went to jail. But, while in jail, Charles Colson met Jesus Christ and started an internationally acclaimed prison ministry.
- Then of course, we think of John Newton, the captain of a slave ship, who wrote 'Amazing Grace'. I couldn't

think of a worse occupation; and yet through this repentant sinner, the Lord has touched the whole world.

God is no respecter of any persons! He'll use any man or women who put their hands up.

You and I must never be slow to speak to the Lord Jesus, to ask Him for counsel, to seek His Presence and His love; because He is always available for us. All we have to do is call upon Him. He says in Jeremiah 33:3 (NKJV): *"Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know."*

So let us never think that the Lord is too busy to hear from us. Never let the devil tell us stories that we are not good enough for the Lord to hear our prayers.

He spoke to the woman at the well, who wasn't even a Jew. She was Samaritan. In those days, that interaction was unheard of: for men to speak to women alone and for Jews to speak to Samaritans. Yet He broke both those rules. He sat there, spoke to her at length and He told her whole life story. She was totally amazed, ran back to the village and told the village she met a man who told her whole life story; as a result of her powerful testimony, the whole village came to Christ.

My dear friend, if you forget everything else, never forget this: our Lord Jesus Christ came for sinners like me and like you. He is interested in the individual. He is interested in what you are doing; whether you are a farmer, a miner, a businessman, a sportsman, a mother, an old grandfather, a granny... God is interested in everything you do and He wants to participate and help you.

So let us call upon Him today, while He still may be found.





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ARE YOU WASHED IN THE BLOOD?

Phil Cooke

When the Bridegroom comes
will your robes be white?
Are you washed in the blood
of the Lamb?

Communicating in a Language and Style the Culture Understands

In my books I write frequently about making sure that in our scripts and programming, we stop the “Christian Lingo” and speak in a language and style the culture understands. As an example, a few years ago, I received this e-mail from a media executive that brilliantly illustrates the point:

Phil:

This month, in your newsletter, you mentioned how sometimes we, as Christians, don’t communicate very well with non-believers. Several years ago, my wife and I bought a radio station in a small market in rural Indiana. We decided on a positive country format and included select Christian artists that fit that format. One DJ was given a Christian CD and told to listen to a particular song. In a few minutes, he came out of the studio and announced that it was a gross and disgusting song. We were surprised and asked him why. His statement was, “That song talks about being washed in the blood.”

For us, being active in church all of our lives, that was common church language, but to an unchurched person who took the literal meaning, it was gross. My wife had the chance to explain it to him, but we have used this example many times, trying to get “church” people to see how our familiar use of words is not understood by the world.

Thanks for all you do. We appreciate you and your forward thinking. You do good stuff!!!!!!!!!!

It’s a perfect example. Drop the lingo. Let’s write scripts, speak, and share our story in a language and style the audience understands.



THE DAMAGE THAT HAPPENS WHEN LEADERS BECOME PEOPLE PLEASERS

Phil Cooke

Painful truth is far more helpful than false hope...

We all know that what's called "people pleasing" is a bad habit. It pushes us to give up our dream for someone else's dream, can deter us from what we're really called to do, and causes us to settle for second best. But we rarely hear about the extensive damage that happens when leaders become people pleasers.

Over the years, I've seen the disappointment and damage to employees, teams, freelancers, vendors, and others when an organization's leader promises what he can't deliver or has no intention of delivering. In most cases, he or she doesn't mean to hurt anyone. In fact, they're actually trying to help – to make other people or the team feel better.

But in the long run, a painful truth is far more helpful than false hope.

For instance, I've met with potential clients who were absolutely thrilled with our proposal. They couldn't wait to work with us and said things like, "Quick, go back to your office, draw up an agreement, send it over, and let's get to work. I can't wait."

We did exactly that – but then never heard from them again. No phone response, no email response.

Nothing.

I've also seen leaders who promise their team equipment and resources but keep putting it off and never delivering. One friend, an experienced church media director, continued to work with a church year after year because the pastor kept promising that "next year," he'll launch a media ministry. But every year, it became "next year" and "next year."

That dragged on for more than ten years, setting back the media director's career for over a decade.

In fact, one leader is so bad about this his team has a joke that he's incapable of saying "No" but has varying degrees of "Yes."

Leaders – no matter how much you want to inspire and motivate your employees, team, contractors, or others – stop making promises you cannot fulfill or realistically intend to deliver.

Be a leader of your word.

No matter how painful that is now, it's far better than the day the lie comes home.



BEYOND ADVENTURE

XTREME GAP YEAR

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



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 Alicedale. 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 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, 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.

For more info contact us on T: 042 231 8051 • F: 086 618 4803 • E: baregistrations@myriver.com
Beyond Adventure Campus • Bushman Sands Lodge & Golf Estate • Alicedale • Eastern Cape

A SYSTEM THAT WILL NEVER FAIL

Greg Clur



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 principal 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

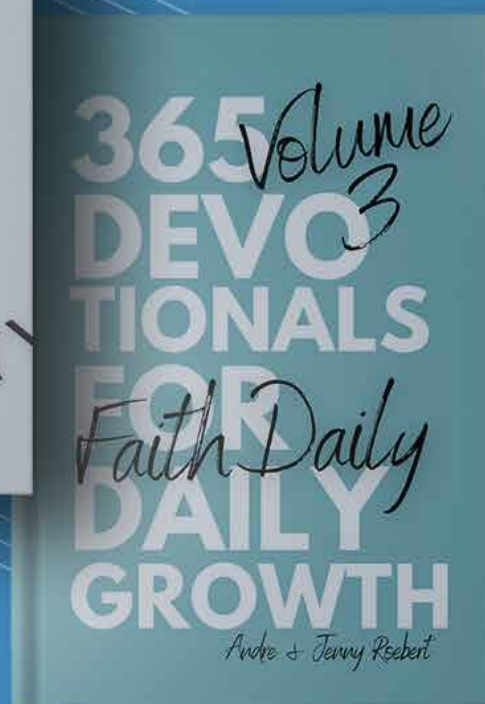
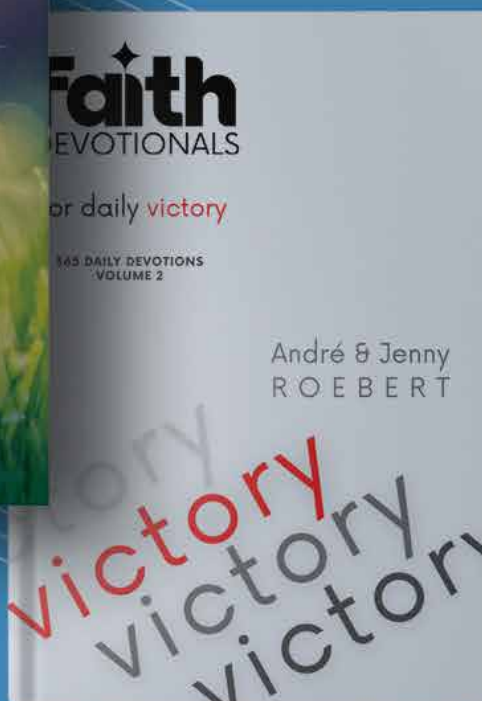
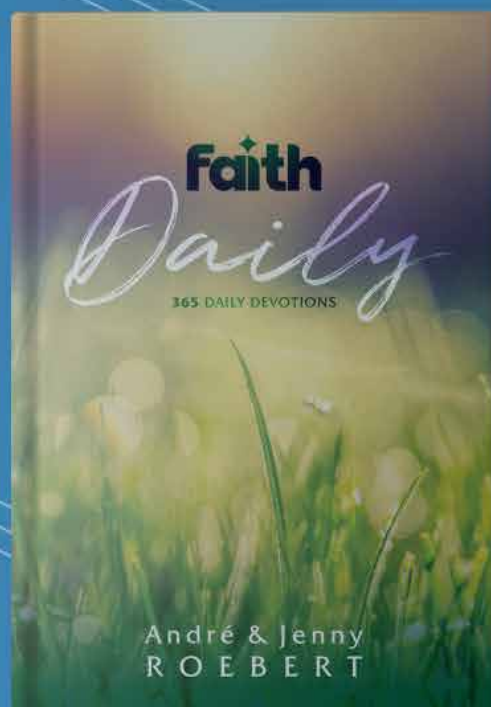
blessings of the King. We do not have to strive for these by effort, as is the way of the world system. We are entitled to the blessings of the King because we begin to operate in the dynamic of the favour of the King. The world system concentrates on the accumulation and ownership of material things 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.

FAITH DAILY DEVOTIONS



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SPARK OF BUTTERFLIES

Tracy Tredrea

The ignition of love in anyone's heart is such an exciting experience. The symptoms are mostly the same for just about anyone and once you have experienced this phenomenon it takes no rocket scientist to identify those around you whose love has just been ignited. Longing, adoring stares into each others eyes, giggles from her side about anything he says, holding hands, (with often sweaty palms), snuggling and chatting for hours into the night. If you have been there before you may remember the ability for you and your "love" to be able to spend hours together just talking. It did not matter about what just as long as you were together. Young love – its beautiful, intense and heart pounding!

My husband and I were on one of our "date" nights recently. Since having children we have determined to set aside "date" nights as often as possible simply to reconnect and be alone without the demands of being parents and running our own business. We went for dinner and a movie – a typical date night for most people. While we were enjoying our dinner, I was reminiscing our relationship and fondly examined the road we had taken from that young love to a more mature deeper one. When we had started dating I would take about 2 hours to get ready deciding what to wear. The anticipation was intense and when he finally arrived it felt like my heart was doing back flips in my chest. Our initial dates were filled with giggles, awkward moments and a journey of discovering who and what we meant to each other. Years later, we are still very much in love but have moved past the awkward moments of wondering – does he love me, will he stay with me, am I his true love? I know for certain that he does love me and will be with me forever. The uncertainty that the young love phase brings is over and we now experience the depth and beauty of a secure, steady and still very passionate marriage.

Yet I will never forget the start and how it all began. While thanking God for my special husband, I journeyed further back before I met him. I certainly am not proud to admit that I had a trail of disastrous relationships before my husband. One particular young man that I dated seemed to be the perfect picture. He was the full package – physically and spiritually. But one day after dating for a few months the unexpected happened. Out of the blue and for no apparent reason he took my hand and said these words – "Tracy, I am sorry but the 'fuzzy wuzzies' have gone away." And just like that our relationship was over. I was truly perplexed and could not understand what he was meaning at first. 'Fuzzy wuzzies?' What was that? It sounded like a fluffy toy or a type of milkshake. For this seemingly mature man to use this language was puzzling to me. But eventually I came to the understanding that



he meant that he did not love me anymore, that the 'spark' was gone. The butterflies in his tummy had flown away to rest upon another heart. This analogy brought a season of paranoia in my life believing that the 'fuzzy wuzzies' would always be temporary – that a deep meaningful relationship was not possible.

The turn around point came one day when I was spending some alone time with God. On my bedroom floor, listening to some music, I started to cry out to God about my longing to find someone who would stick with me even when the 'sparks' were gone. A mature love, deep and meaningful. God took me to a verse in Songs of Solomon 2:7 - "Oh, let me warn you, sisters in Jerusalem, by the gazelles, yes, by all the wild deer: Don't excite love, don't stir it up, until the time is ripe--and you're ready." God drove

the message into my heart that I should not try to find love until I was ready. At that point in my life I needed my heart to be restored by the Lord. He needed to become first and full-most in my heart without competing with someone else. Only once that had happened would I be ready to receive love. A spiritual "overhaul" needed to take place within my heart. I needed to understand that God must be first. When I yielded myself to the Lord and made a decision that I would not run after love from a man but rather run after and pursue God, a peace and newfound inner strength became mine. It was not long after that that I met my husband and many years down the line I am thankful for the seasons He took me through and the valuable lessons I have learnt.

With young love, it is so easy to become wrapped up in a fairy tale. As soon as you meet the guy of your dreams, the wedding and honeymoon is already planned in your mind. You practice writing your first name with his surname and start getting used to the sound of it. Within moments of being "officially" together the pressure comes of when will you get engaged. And possibly then one day you have a disagreement about something, the "sparks" dissipate and the butterflies start to fly away! Fear sets in – possibly he does not love you anymore? Maybe he has met someone else. Insecurity and jealousy surround you and in one fowl swoop your relationship comes tumbling down. As dramatic as that sounds, it sadly portrays many relationships. Every relationship has its challenges but if yours cannot move from surviving even when the 'fuzzy wuzzies' have gone, then possibly it is not worth the effort. Possibly your heart is not ready? Maybe your heart needs a spiritual 'overhaul' like mine did? And maybe he simply is not the one for you.

Only God and you can journey together on your personal road. But wherever you are in your life and whoever you may be with, ask yourself some pertinent questions: Is your heart right with God -is He first? Are you dating this person because you can't be alone? Are you afraid that the sparks of butterflies (fuzzy wuzzies) will go away so you compromise your standards? Are you consumed with jealousy and possibly manipulate your way and opinion on your partner? I gently challenge you to allow God to minister to your heart and I remind you of the scripture, "Don't excite love, don't stir it up, until the time is ripe and you're ready." Become ready by being with God and allowing Him His rightful place in your heart. Let Him fill your heart with Himself. God is besotted with you and will always love and desire to be with you. Let His sparks of butterflies fill your heart – He promises that He will never stop loving you and His fuzzy wuzzies for you will never go away!

LOVE IS A **VERB**

Samantha Malan



One of the questions that plague me often, if not daily, is 'am I a true representation of who Christ is?' When I look at who my King is and what He is... He is love! Every attribute or characteristic of Christ is one of love! Now I don't know about you, but when I think about who I want to be, the ideal me, I think about the characteristics of Christ and I try to mimic myself to those of His.

Love is a verb - it's an action, it's not a thing! Love is very patient and kind, never jealous, boastful, proud, selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will keep no record of wrong when others do it wrong. It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. If you love someone, you will be loyal to them no matter what the cost. You will always believe in them, always expect the best of them, and always stand your ground in defending them.

God represents Love to us in such an elaborate way. John 3:16 says "Because God loved..." - a dynamic action and representation of sacrifice. He let us, the human race, murder His one and only Son, for the payment of our sins; for the payment of our incapability to show one another love. To me this was one of the most extravagant demonstrations of true love. From groom to the bride of Christ, how honestly beautiful!

The truth of the matter is God made us to love and to be loved. Now after realising what love truly is, my question was how on this green earth was I, a simple lady, supposed to love? The shoes to fill seemed unachievable.

Sitting here, I wonder if I am even capable of showing anyone love. But Christ said that He made us after Him and who He is. Therefore I was created to love and be loved.

So in closing... chase after God's heart, chase after who He is, and chase after what His love is. Trust me, as soon as you know and understand what His love truly is, and start practising it in your daily life, not only will your life be changed but the people in your immediate circle and beyond will be changed.

As always don't forget to LIVE - LOVE - LAUGH - AND LEAVE A LEGACY!

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THE RIGHT TO LEARN

Martie du Plessis



Most systems in South Africa have failed us. Think of Eskom, corruption in municipalities, tax evasion, the unethical behaviour of various political leaders and the great lack of a supportive medical system. The low results in 2014 in the standardised ANA Tests (10,8% for Grade 9 math literacy) and great percentages of children suffering with learning disabilities, has also resulted in parents not trusting the educational system. Good teachers become totally despondent with results such as these since they have a passion to teach and a hope to see positive results.

Though parents might feel inadequate to change large infrastructures, it is possible by having the relevant knowledge, pressure can be put on those who are involved in their children's education. Many principals have seen the "light" as I share with them how children can learn more effectively. Often, as a result of this knowledge they change their methods and revisit their vision to come in line with their original call from God to be involved in effective education. Across the country people with a passion for education start transformational centres and small school learning centres in the interest of their communities by making themselves available to a different way of learning - not as slaves of a failed system but

rather as leaders who want to be vessels of God in bringing hope.

It is clear that the current philosophy of education in South Africa will not bring the change parents are hoping for. What is even more concerning is that private schools, and specifically Christian schools, are guilty of sending learners away because they cannot offer a learning climate to produce the desired outcome. Children that do not fit the mould move from school to school, and province to province, in the hope to get help. Often parents are exhausted by this search.

I want to give a few pointers to inform parents, schools and churches to act in the interest of their children. It is of no use to change a wrong system with yet another burdensome system, and of utmost importance that people responsible for education seek God to bring boldness in a process of change for this country. It will start with the selective few who grasp this and embrace a radical different approach.

"The right to education is the right to develop all aspects of the human personality to its fullest extent" (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child). The parents choose to embrace this development mainly at home or can have a

tutor coming to their home. It is also an option to establish learning centres or even small schools. Community leaders get legal help from sites such as www.pestalozzi.org and www.sahomeschoolers.org. Both the small schools and learning centres should be no more than twelve children so that individual attentions can be assured. Research shows that "first year university students have a Gr 5 level Literacy level and a Gr 7 level Reading Comprehension. No wonder that 20% of high school graduates qualify for university entry, about 50% of first-year university students drop out, in part because of poor school preparation for university disciplines" (Jonathan Jansen, Molly Blank).

There is absolutely no value in these learning centres following the same structure as a traditional school. Instead of it being graded, its focus should be on the level of the child's competency, since all children have different gifting in various areas such as mathematical, artistic, and technical or language ability.

The facilitator/s in these centres do not necessarily have to be qualified teachers, but rather a person parents can trust, with a gift of teaching willing to embrace change and has a heart for education. Since parents are the main educators, with the school as an extension of them, parents will pay

more for such services purely because they will have peace of mind. This peace comes from understanding the curriculum used is not the same as used in public schools education since children learn differently in smaller centres. Even the world's leading educational systems (Finland) with the best outcomes, have decided in March 2015 to change their strategy for even better results. Finland is scrapping traditional "teaching by subject" in favour of "teaching by topic." Pasi Silander, Helsinki's development manager, explained: "What we need now is a different kind of education to prepare people for working life." ([reference](#))

See what a teacher on Facebook answers about this change in approach:

"At the school that I am leading we have been doing this (new approach) for 40 years with great success. Our secondary-students experience a teaching that has relevance to their life and their parents see that what they learn and develop at school is relevant to their future. And the students are performing on the top-level of Norway. Finland is really approaching an education for the 21st century." It is therefore advisable that interested parties do a study of the different and amazing approaches to education and its effects in the learning environment. (see www.homeschooling-curriculum-guide.com, www.tuisskolers.org, <http://www.christian-unschooling.com>)

The aim of this new way of learning is that children actually learn. Most parents complain about the fact that their children are not learning. Effective learning should have the desired effect/outcome on the life of a person; in the Information Economy all children can learn, even the illiterate, with



a high emphasis on creativity rather than rote learning. (see www.21stcenturyskillsbook.com, www.21stcenturyskills.com)

If there is no trust in the learning climate, one in which children can make mistakes, this kind of learning cannot take place. It is advisable in the structuring of these smaller schools that the facilitators form a strong bond with the learners to ensure a level of trust and that children stay with one teacher for many years.

All children do not learn in the same way, hence it is logical that the futurists of such centres focus on the different learning styles of children and how to differently and creatively motivate children and allow learning to take place in the most suitable manner. Young children up to six should sing, play, work (chores) and listen to stories and not be bound by formal classrooms.

During assessment or testing of children it cannot be required that all do a specific learning in exactly the same way. There should be studios in these centres where children are able to give feedback on what they have learnt in various ways. In a digital era, it is important that children use digital tools as an aid to prove what they have learned. The slow writer will not be discriminated against as he can type much faster. Various matriculation options are available if needed, but generally a wider education is needed.

In a digital era, where there is too much information to remember, it is important that children get knowledge, have comprehension (explain an idea), apply this idea (use it in their own way), and understand it in a wider context. Digital tools can be

wisely used in this process.

During the ages of 4 to 16, children should work on discovering their passion and keep themselves busy with that, so that they know what subjects or interest choices they can make for specialised training in the future. In a traditional school system this is precisely the time learners are kept busy with schoolwork and homework. No wonder then that school-leavers often do not have an idea what direction to take with regards to careers. Where children have focused on their passions and gifts, the period from 14 to 18 can be used to mentor young people into specific skills or career paths.

It is of no value to be involved in the education of children without educating the heart and the willingness first to be changed as educators. It asks for a constant evaluating of goals with regards to character training in both the child and educator. Christian educators are at times the only Light source.

This is the time like never before for parents to rise up and be envisioned. It is the time to decline any participation in an educational system where the child does not learn, not be equipped for life or have a transformed heart. Parents need to know there is an answer. Home school, micro school, learning centre, unregistered private school, low fee school and cottage school are all different terms that are used to refer to a new and fast growing phenomenon in the South African educational environment. These are (mostly) small independent or private schools that are operated by a small group of entrepreneurs, parents, ex-teachers or volunteers.



SOCIAL MEDIA

This department facilitates the Faith Group by establishing and/or maintaining the following websites / social networking sites:



OUR WEBSITES

Faith Broadcasting Network - myfaith.tv

Faith AFRICA - africa.myfaith.tv

Faith TV - usa.myfaith.tv

Faith UK - uk.myfaith.tv

FaithNOW - faithnow.net

Faith Cares - myfaithcares.com

Faith Church Naples - faithchurchnaples.com

Faith Missions - faithcares.myfaith.tv

MyFaith Magazine - magazine.myfaith.tv

Beyond Adventure - bagapyear.com

Faith Bible Institute - faithbi.com

Faith Global Institute - online.faithgi.com

Faith Kidz - faithkidz.tv

Faith Dome - dome.myfaith.tv

Audio Downloads - dl.myriver.com

Christian Events Diary - diary.myfaithtv.com

Daily Devotions - devotions.myfaithtv.com

River Hotels - riverhotels.com

River Spa - riverspa.co.za



OUR SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES



FACEBOOK

MyFaith TV – myfaithtv

NXT - theNXTlive

FaithNOW - faithnowapp

Faith Church Buffalo City - faithchurchbuffalocity

Faith Church Naples - faithchurchnaples

André & Jenny – andrejenny

Beyond Adventure - beyond.adventure

Faith Global Institute - faithglobalinstitute

Faith Cares - myfaithcares

Faith Missions - myfaithmissions

River Hotels - riverhotels

Tenahead Lodge - TenaheadLodgeandSpa

Halyards Hotel - HalyardsHotelandSpa



TWITTER

André & Jenny - @andrejenny

Faith Broadcasting Network - @MyFaithTv

FaithNOW - @faithnowapp

River Hotels - @RiverHotels



INSTAGRAM

Andre & Jenny - @andreandjenny

Faith Bible Institue - @myfaithbiafrica

Faith Broadcasting Network - @myfaithtv

Faith Church Buffalo City - @faithchurchbuffalocity

Faith Church Naples - @faithchurchnaples

Faith Global Institute - @faithglobalinstitute

FaithNOW - @faithnowapp

Faith Missions - @myfaithmissions

NXT - @thenxt.tv

River Hotels - @riverhotels

Matingwe Lodge - @matingwelodgelimpopo

Tenahead Lodge - @tenaheadlodgeandspa

Tsitsikamma Lodge and Spa - @tsitsikammalodgeandspa



YOUTUBE CHANNELS

Faith TV - @faithbroadcastingnetwork

The NXT - @thenxtlive

WEB PORTALS

GROUP PORTAL | myfaithglobal.com



EDUCATION PORTAL | faithgi.com



OUR VISION

The IT / Social Media department is about creating user-friendly websites and to integrate the social networking into these websites. Our vision is to be a step-ahead in the technology field, by continually advancing in our abilities for web design and social media. Our vision is to impact millions of users who visit our websites every day and have them go away with the assurance that they can come back for more, to receive updated and continually evolving content!

OUR STRATEGY

We further our skills by doing constant research in the fields of IT and Social Media. Gaining resourceful knowledge through social media sites, various IT-related forums and blogs.

OUR FUTURE PLANS

The IT / Social Media department strive to achieve rich-content for users who are seeking information in all the areas of hotels, non-profit, media, business, real estate, TV broadcasting, and ministry.

EVANGELIST TORBEN SONDERGAARD DEPORTED FROM US



Christian evangelist and refugee Torben Søndergaard was deported from the United States. He was escorted by two US Immigration officers all way to Denmark, as per standard protocol. The officers treated him with dignity and respect.

Upon arriving in Denmark, he was subject to normal passport control and was allowed to immediately turn around and fly to another country. He is now FREE and is safely reunited with his family.

Søndergaard's legal team says, "Now comes a time of much-needed rest and healing, and gratefulness to God that his painful experience of being detained is now over. Torben has requested privacy and will not be online or responding to calls and emails for the time being. Please continue to pray for Torben's pending Asylum petition in the US federal court. If it is granted, he will be able to return to the US immediately with his family."

For the span of a year, Søndergaard was held within the confines of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Baker County Facility in Macclenny, Florida.

On June 30 of the preceding year, he was apprehended in Florida by agents from the Joint Terrorism Task Force while awaiting a verdict on his asylum application with the U.S. government. Despite never being formally charged, he was apprehended under the pretext of gun smuggling and accused of visa overstay.

However, Representative Clay Higgins (R-LA), Chairman of the Border Security and Enforcement Subcommittee, argues that

Søndergaard has faced persecution from the administration, seemingly due to his role as an evangelical Christian minister.

Søndergaard and his family fled Denmark in 2019 out of concern for potential persecution and arrest following a series of unwarranted attacks orchestrated by the government and media.

Torben is the founder of The Last Reformation, a global movement aimed at reinstating Christianity in alignment with the teachings of the Book of Acts. Additionally, he established the Jesus Center in Denmark, a training ground for disciples from 30 nations dedicated to propagating this message across the globe.

The adversity against his ministry in Denmark commenced in 2016, when the Jesus Center became the target of investigations by six distinct Danish government bodies, covering matters ranging from food safety to tax payments. No wrongdoing was discovered. Subsequently, when his family chose to homeschool their children, the government subjected them to further scrutiny.

Danish television conducted an undercover exposé on his ministry, featured in a documentary titled "God's Best Children," which unfortunately associated Torben with leaders of purportedly "radical Christian" movements tainted by moral, ethical, or criminal issues.

Søndergaard asks Christians to, "Please continue to pray. Pray for the miracle to happen, but also pray for the church. Pray for revival. Pray for the judge, that they will do what is right and not be influenced by the lies and the pressure they are under. Pray for God's will to be done. And of course, pray for my family..."

(source: www.facebook.com/torbenksøndergaard)



CHAIM MALESPIN

GALILEE, ISRAEL

CoFounder and Chairman of the board of directors at the charity, **Aliyah Return Center (ARC)**, registered in Israel as a 501(c)(3). Chaim (HIGH-EM) Malespin is a passionate visionary who strives to educate Christians and lovers of Israel from around the world about the Hebrew roots of the Christian faith.

With a vision to eradicate anti-Semitism by building bridges and encouraging Jews and Christians to work together to fulfill God's plans for Israel and the nations, Chaim and the **ARC ministry** focus on education, infrastructural development, innovation and Aliyah.



Watch as Chaim Malespin explains his vision for the Aliyah Return Center.

CHAIM'S EXPERTISE

- Restoration of Israel
- Entrepreneur
- Sergeant major in the Israel Defense Forces (has been through a few wars)
- Ordained congregational leader in the Galilee
- Bridge builder between Israel and the nations

AVAILABILITY

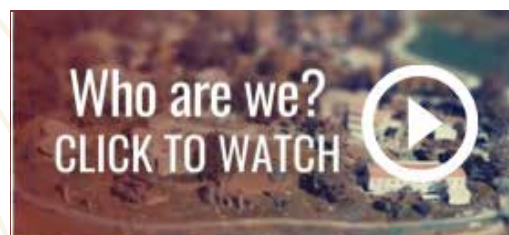
- Chaim Malespin is most widely available between 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)
- Available via phone, WhatsApp, Zoom or Skype. Via email at watchaliyah@gmail.com
- Time zone; Jerusalem time (ET + 6 hours).

ABOUT ARC [CLICK TO VISIT »](#)

Aliyah Return Center (ARC) is an Israel-based registered nonprofit organization, helping Jewish new immigrants establish roots in the land of Israel and thrive. A ministry built on a foundation of love in uncompromising faith with a vision to eradicate anti-Semitism by building bridges and encouraging Jews and Christians to work together to fulfill God's plans for Israel and the nations through:

- Education
- Innovation
- Infrastructural Development
- Aliyah aid

ARC mobilizes the church to embrace God's call to serve His people and stand as ambassadors/advocates for Israel and the Jewish people through various initiatives such as their Ambassador Academy, Internships, Volunteering, Joint Torah Studies, and various worship events.



WHAT IS ALIYAH?

Aliyah is defined as the immigration of Jews to Israel, but at the Aliyah Return Center, the meaning goes much deeper.

[64 ALIYAH SCRIPTURES DIGITAL DOWNLOAD »](#)

To book an interview, contact Karen Hepp / Karen@InfinityConcepts.com

GOD, SEX & POLITICS

Waldo Malan



I clearly remember most of the routine from my days at boarding school. Being an all-boy school, the teachers made sure they started early to rid the boisterous boys of any excess energy. Our day started at 05:45 when the wake-up bell rang, giving you exactly 15 minutes to do ablutions, make your bed, get dressed and get to the PT assembly point. The PT instructor would start at 06:00 sharply and being tardy in arriving on time usually meant 20 or more push-ups. After 45 minutes we were given another 15 minutes to have a shower and get changed for breakfast, which was served at 07:00 sharp. Each mealtime was started with a prayer of thanksgiving. At 07:15 there was school assembly, which always included a Bible reading, short devotion, prayer time, the singing of the school song, and ending off with the singing of the national anthem while the flag was raised.

The reason for my rather long introduction is simply to point out that things have changed dramatically in school and our society since I was at school. My entire life was based around the Word of God, and even my friends who may not have known God at home were exposed to a biblical worldview while at school. I am not by any means trying to say that everything I experienced in my childhood was “holy” and “right”, but my overall experience was cloaked in Biblical standards. Later, when I was a teacher, and sometimes invited to speak at other meetings, the instructions were clear – I could speak on anything but had to leave out God, sex, and politics. These days it seems to be the politically correct thing not to mention religion, sex, or politics in polite company. The underlying philosophy that supports this view is humanism, which seems pervasive in many parts of the world today.

A street-definition of humanism would simply say, “I do what I want and feels right for me, and no one may object.” This philosophical environment is breeding ground for all kinds of equality laws, same-sex marriages, euthanasia, and such

like things. This environment, by its very definition, will have to exclude God and make room for an all-inclusive religion, and by doing this, the Bible will need to be minimized and ultimately excluded.

So, where I experienced and lived life according to Biblical standards as a boy, this all seems to have changed. Many schools have excluded the Bible and prayer, in favour of a more politically correct approach – they now pray to “god” which is inclusive of a host of deities.

In polite company now, we cannot speak about God, sex, or politics. However, the very basis of a biblical worldview is precisely that! God, the uncreated, is the Creator of everything. He is the architect and builder, the finisher and the decorator, and everything else before, during and after. The entire universe rests in the very mind and being of God, and nothing can exist outside of Him. In fact, it is His very breath inside all people that make them alive – we are alive because God breathes through us! Also consider that we are made in the image of God.

In this incredible environment that God created for us (as humans) there are two basic laws that rule the interaction between human and environment. And these two laws were given to mankind as a gift from God – multiply and rule. If we were to exclude God, sex, and politics (God, multiply, rule) out of our conversations, beliefs, and worldviews, we would simply end up with... emptiness and chaos – the way it was prior to Genesis 1.

I don't know about you, but I really couldn't imagine believing in nothing, speaking about nothing, and hoping for nothing. I would rather believe in something, talk about something and hope in something. And this is where I must come back to God because it is God that gives definition to something. When God can define the “somethings” we encounter in life it will all make sense, since He is the great planner of all.

Political correctness or not, my conversations will include God, sex, and politics. I will judge people, circumstances, and decisions according to God. Yes, I know Jesus said, “Judge not,” but He was speaking about an unfair judgment on people based on the way they look and dress, and without considering their state of heart. John tells us to “judge righteously,” in other words, judge people by the same standard, as would God. God is not a respecter of persons, therefore neither should we. God does not “judge a book by its cover,” neither should we. God loves all people – so should we. God hates injustice – so should we. And the list goes on.

Sex in the environment of God is a holy union designed for abundant fulfilment in a God-approved relationship. Sex was not designed for one-night-stands, abuse of other people, or as a weapon or means of manipulation. I will talk openly to my children about sex, and instruct them, before they get “lessons” or “ideas” from others that may not share our view on God.

Politics in the environment of God is about righteous rule. The Bible is full of examples of politicians, both righteous and unrighteous, and there are lessons to be learned. All politicians, whether in our country or another, will be lost without the God-environment, the God-law, and the God-rule. When God gave the instruction to mankind to subdue, rule and multiply, it was intentionally to be done “in His image” and not outside of His likeness! In other words, we need to do things like God does.

Whether the world around me chooses to ignore God, I and my household will continue to talk about God, sex, and politics, and fulfil our mandate and instruction from the One who intentionally and uniquely fashioned us. How about you?

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Faith Kidz

Hey Kids!

A **HUGE** "hi!" to you all in the name of Jesus.

This month we would like to encourage you by speaking about harvests. A harvest, as you know, is the result of work people have done. If you look at a farmer, for instance, the harder he works and the more he sows, the more he looks after his seeds the greater the harvest. When you have a lazy farmer that doesn't do all that much during planting and growing times, then he will have a bad harvest. So, a good harvest is the same as a good reward. A reward for all your hard work.

Now, the words of Jesus has the same effect when we apply it in our lives. We hear the words of Jesus spoken and we also read His words in the Bible all the time. If we only hear, but do nothing with the words, we will have a "bad harvest" in our lives. **BUT**, if we listen to His words and do as He asks we will experience a **GREAT HARVEST** in our lives.

Be encouraged to be obedient to the words of Jesus and see the results in your own lives. Let us really be **DOERS** of the word, getting stuck in and working hard to make it real in our lives.

Your obedience and hard work is likened by Jesus to ground, or soil, and His words are the seeds. We must work at the seeds, tend them, look after them, and give them water to see them grow into a **GOOD HARVEST**. Stand strong little ones, Jesus is on your side. (Read the whole story in Matthew 13).

Matthew 13:8 But other seeds fell on good, rich soil that kept producing a good harvest. Some yielded thirty, some sixty, and some even one hundred times as much as he planted!

Faith Kidz



FRIDAY'S

	16:00 CAT
	15:30 GMT

SATURDAY'S

	06:00 CAT
	14:30 GMT

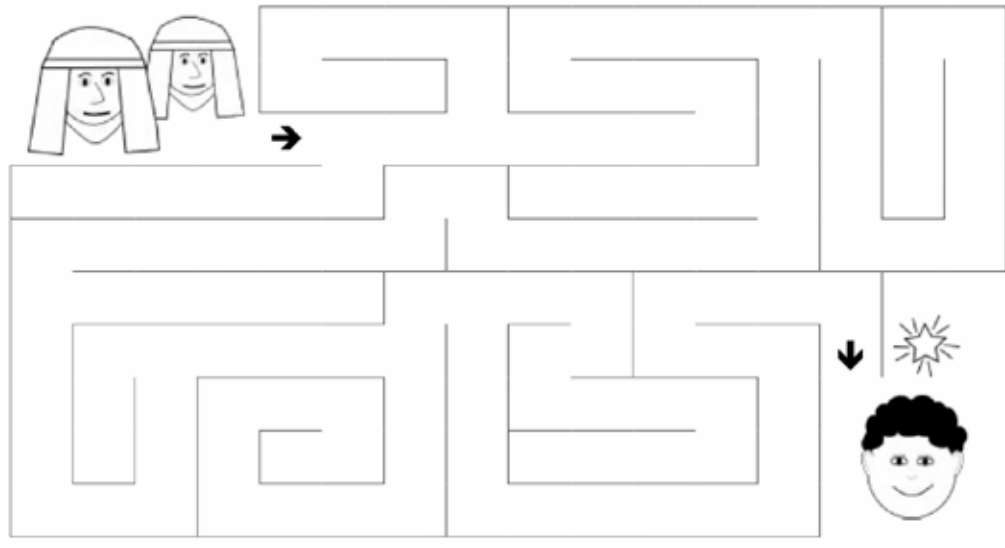
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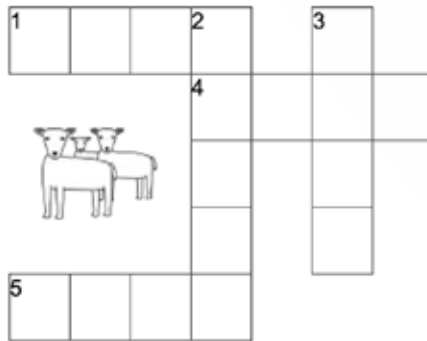
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new

Help the wise men find their way to Jesus.



Shepherds in the Bible



Across

1. Psalm 23 says "The _____ is my shepherd."
4. _____ the prophet was a shepherd.
5. Jesus said, "I am the _____ shepherd."

Down

2. King _____ was a shepherd before he was king.
3. Shepherds were the first visitors when Jesus was _____.



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THE BIBLE



BEGINNING

BIBLE

GENESIS

GOSPELS

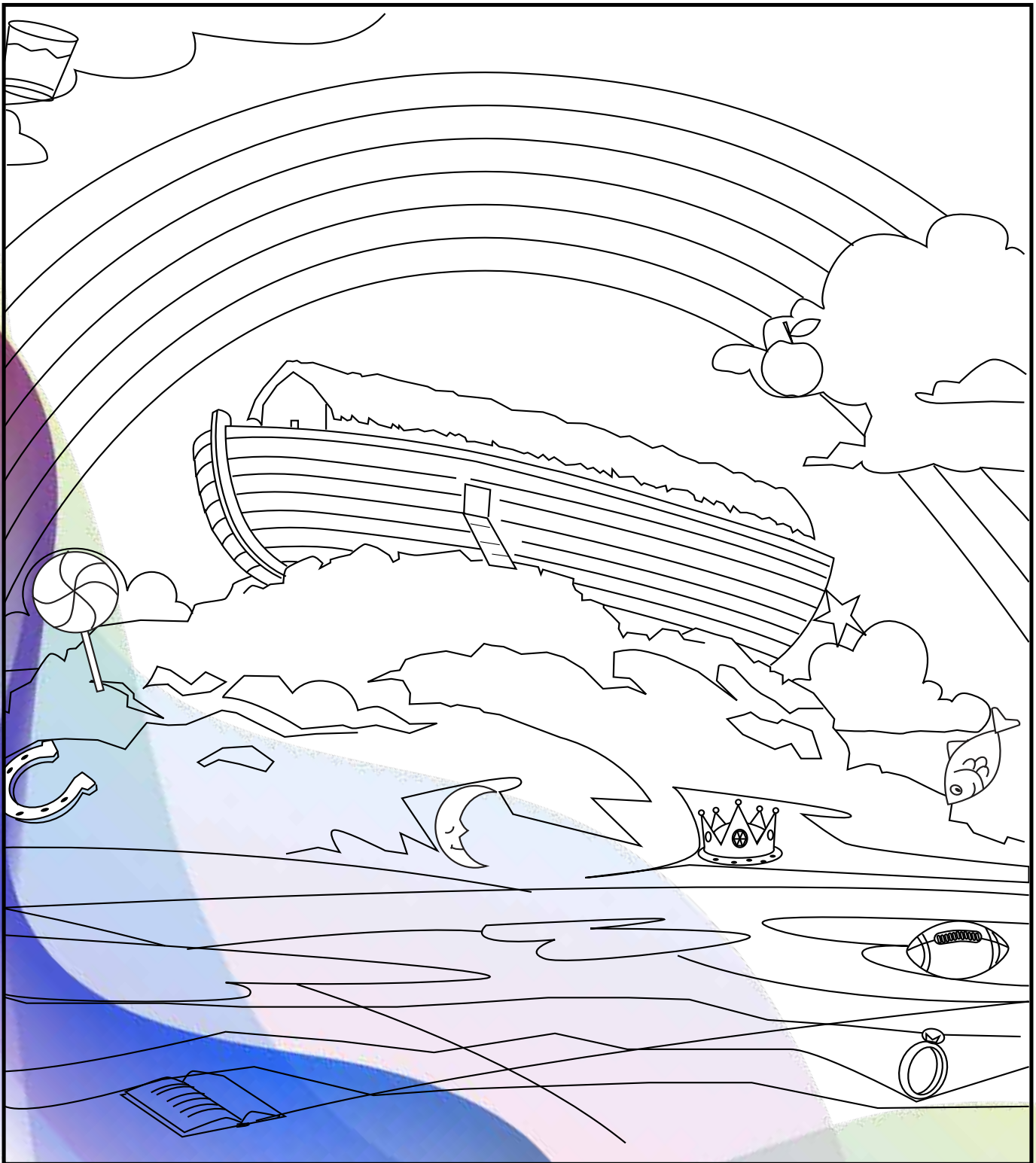
REVELATION

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Hidden Pictures: God Made a Promise to Noah

Find these objects hidden in the picture below: apple, book, crown, football, fish, glass of water, horseshoe, lollipop, moon, ring, star.



Then God spoke to Noah and his sons: "I'm setting up my covenant with you including your children who will come after you, along with everything alive around you—birds, farm animals, wild animals—that came out of the ship with you. I'm setting up my covenant with you that never again will everything living be destroyed by floodwaters; no, never again will a flood destroy the Earth."

GENESIS 9:8-11



S•O•A•P

SCRIPTURE • OBSERVATION
APPLICATION • PRAYER

ENCOURAGE YOURSELF, **DAILY** BY READING
THE WORD OF GOD...
GROW IN YOUR FAITH
AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS
IN THE SAME MANNER

SOURCE: DESTINY CHURCH NAPLES FL

OCT

SCRIPTURE OBSERVATION APPLICATION PRAYER

01	Ezekiel 1	17	Ezekiel 24
02	Ezekiel 2 & 3	18	Ezekiel 25 & 26
03	Ezekiel 4 & 5	19	Ezekiel 27 & 28
04	Ezekiel 6	20	Ezekiel 29
05	Ezekiel 7 & 8	21	Ezekiel 30 & 31
06	Ezekiel 9 & 10	22	Ezekiel 32 & 33
07	Ezekiel 11	23	Ezekiel 34
08	Ezekiel 12	24	Ezekiel 35 & 36
09	Ezekiel 13 & 14	25	Ezekiel 37 & 38
10	Ezekiel 15	26	Ezekiel 39
11	Ezekiel 16	27	Ezekiel 40
12	Ezekiel 17	28	Ezekiel 41 & 42
13	Ezekiel 18 & 19	29	Ezekiel 43 & 44
14	Ezekiel 20 & 21	30	Ezekiel 45 & 46
15	Ezekiel 22	31	Ezekiel 47 & 48
16	Ezekiel 23		

NOV

SCRIPTURE OBSERVATION APPLICATION PRAYER

01	Obadiah	17	Jonah 4
02	Hosea 1	18	Micah 1
03	Hosea 2 & 3	19	Micah 2
04	Hosea 4 & 5	20	Micah 3
05	Hosea 6 & 7	21	Micah 4
06	Hosea 8 & 9	22	Micah 5
07	Hosea 10 & 11	23	Micah 6
08	Hosea 12 & 13	24	Micah 7
09	Hosea 14	25	Habakuk 1
10	Amos 1 & 2	26	Habakuk 2
11	Amos 3 & 4	27	Habakuk 3
12	Amos 5 & 6	28	Nahum 1
13	Amos 7 & 8	29	Nahum 2
14	Amos 9	30	Nahum 3
15	Jonah 1 & 2		
16	Jonah 3		

DEC

SCRIPTURE OBSERVATION APPLICATION PRAYER

01 Malachi 1

02 Malachi 2

03 Malachi 3

04 Malachi 4

05 James 1

06 James 2

07 James 3

08 James 4

09 James 5

10 Revelation 1

11 Revelation 2

12 Revelation 3

13 Revelation 4

14 Revelation 5

15 Revelation 6

16 Revelation 7

17 Revelation 8

18 Revelation 9

19 Revelation 10

20 Revelation 11

21 Revelation 12

22 Revelation 13

23 Revelation 14

24 Revelation 15

25 Revelation 16

26 Revelation 17

27 Revelation 18

28 Revelation 19

29 Revelation 20

30 Revelation 21

31 Revelation 22





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UPPERROOM

BY 3C LIVE FEAT. KHAYA MTHETHWA



3C Live is excited to announce the release of their latest single, “UpperRoom,” led and produced by Khaya Mthethwa. This track is a captivating invitation into the presence of the Holy Spirit and marks a significant milestone in the group's musical journey. It's a remarkable achievement as it was composed in just two hours, making it one of the quickest songs 3C Live has ever written, with lyrics written by 3C Live members, Ntombi Mothoagae, and music composed by Tlhalefo Moshanyana.

The songwriting process for “UpperRoom” began with a deep dive into scripture, exploring the power of the Holy Spirit's presence. “Inspired by these revelations, the song holds deep biblical significance, reminiscent of Acts 1:13, where the disciples gathered in prayer, displaying faith, unity, and expectancy for a divine move of God,” says Ntombi.

“UpperRoom” is a pivotal track in 3C Live's upcoming album, “We Bow Down.” It embodies a posture of worship before the Lord. The inspiration behind the song stems from a desire to usher in the presence of God, bringing healing, restoration, and

the infilling of the Holy Spirit to change lives forever.

Drawing inspiration from a diverse range of musical influences, 3C Live created a unique sound for “UpperRoom.” The track features a contemporary hymn-style, driven by acoustic and electric guitar elements, making it relevant to all generations. What sets “UpperRoom” apart from their previous work is its simplicity and profound impact.

“Khaya Mthethwa, who both produced and features in the song, added a special touch to ‘UpperRoom.’ His exceptional musical abilities breathed even more life into the track, effectively delivering its message,” adds Ntombi.

3C Live hopes that every listener will experience newfound faith, hope, and renewal through the presence of the Holy Spirit. The song is a powerful reminder that, with the Holy Spirit, we can face any circumstance and lead lives that please God.

The song is now available on all digital platforms.



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SACRIFICE AND WORSHIP

Waldo Malan

Jesus clearly says that the Father is seeking worshippers (John 4:23). This says to me that in order to be a worshipper one has to be worshipping, and because God Most High is doing the seeking, He is going to be looking for something very specific. Jesus further underlines this by saying that the worship associated with the Father-worshipper needs to be in spirit and in truth. So many times our human nature deceives us into thinking that what the Father is really looking for are workers and doers of things. Put in another way, our human nature, especially the sinful nature subject to the law, has a constant need to make sacrifices. While the Jews in the Old Testament sacrificed animals we tend to sacrifice works in our contemporary contexts. By “works” I mean anything that we can find to do that we regard as being good and ultimately pleasing to the Father. Understand that I am not saying that doing things are bad, or that pleasing the Father by our works are wrong or displeasing to Him! No, but what I am trying to get across is that when we present the Father only with works and no worship then we cannot possibly please Him. This means that whatever we do needs to be done from a position of worship: doing because we worship and not worshipping because we are doing.

The expression “walk your talk” is so relevant in our worship of God with regard to offering sacrifices vs. offering relationship. The Father is seeking a relationship with all people when most of us tend to want to offer a sacrifice. The basic problem with a sacrifice is that it is a momentary thing with tremendous power, both for the one to whom the sacrifice is made as well as the one making the sacrifice. This problem manifests in the fact that the act of sacrifice appeases our consciences and allows us to live life after the event pretty much in the same manner as we did before. Sacrificing has the ability to allow us to shift the responsibility of careless living onto an object (either an animal or some type of action). When I say “careless living” I am speaking directly about a life without a relationship with the One whom we are sacrificing for. This transference of responsibility will lead us into a legal way of thinking and living, and also deceive us into thinking that God requires our relationship with Him to be based on a set of rules. By this I am not implying that the things we do are necessarily bad, because much of what we do will be considered good works, moral works and works that benefit our communities!



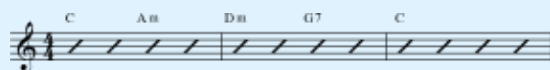
I see a sacrificial attitude manifest itself so clearly in the Church today. A sacrificial attitude make people believe that going to church on a Sunday for an hour or two and then ignoring God for the rest of the week is acceptable. This attitude allows people to believe that an active prayer life can be sacrificed because they are too busy doing the “right things” required for their individual ministries. It is an attitude that will make people bitter against God because they seem to be doing all the work while others are seemingly lazing around doing nothing – a classical Martha-Mary scenario (Luke 10:38-42). A sacrificial attitude will lead to a spiritual burnout rather sooner than later and suffer the kingdom of God by the loss of a precious soul.

This line of thinking made me conclude that if the Father is seeking worshippers and not workers, I probably need to get a refresher course on worship. Having said all I have about working and sacrificing, I also realise that to worship will require some type of action (or work) on my part, meaning that it is not the work in itself that is wrong, but it is the way in which the work is done that matters to God. This way of thinking is supported by Scripture, because the Father is the One Who is searching the hearts of men and is not led astray by our appearances. The conclusion is a simple one: our works simply happen because we are worshipping, not that our worship is simply happening because we are working! So by the grace of God the pressure of having to perform in our worship (a totally human way of reasoning) is removed completely from us and placed with the Holy Spirit. After all, our worship has to be in spirit and in truth, not in human endeavours and accomplishments! The Father is seeking specific people: worshippers. Specific worshippers will have specific worship – a worship that is exposed through the pages of God’s Word time and again. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you as you read the following Scriptures, and ask Him to lead you into a deeper understanding of your personal relationship with the Father through Jesus Christ, so that you can be free in your worship without having to be weighed down by rules, regulations and burdens placed there by yourself, others and tradition. Allow the Holy Spirit to take you into new realms of worship where the Father can find you at the end of His search, worshipping Him with all your heart, mind, soul and strength.

QUICK REFERENCE SECONDARY DOMINANTS

A dominant chord (built on the 5th degree of the scale) creates a gravitational “pull” towards its tonic chord (the 1st degree of the scale). There are several factors that create this relationship. While we can analyze this effect and come up with a reason for it, the real reason it works this way is that we expect that it will. This expectation comes from many hours listening to music over a lifetime.

Let’s consider the cadence between V7 and I, in the key of C major.



When the G7 chord arrives, we can hear a tension that will be resolved when the C chord arrives. Why does one chord make us “expect” to hear another one next?

How the chord resolves

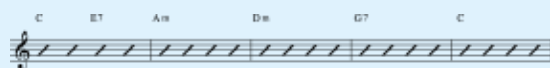
1. The tone B “wants” to resolve up to C, as it usually does. Since it’s only a half step away, we expect it to.
2. The tone F “wants” to resolve down to E for the same reason.
3. The upper structure of the chord: B, D, F is a diminished triad. This unstable sound is restless and “wants” to go somewhere more stable.
4. The movement between the bass note G and bass note C is a perfect fifth, creating a strong sense of finality.

This type of chord movement between V and I is the basis of modern music. Popular songs consist mostly of V and I chords, with IV being popular as well. In more complex music, we can consider this cadence to be a sort of punctuation, like a period—or even an exclamation mark. It signals a halt to motion, a point of rest.

Borrowing More Dominant Chords

A cadence creates a strong sense of tonality. The G7 chord is not like the C chord, but they complete each other. When the G7 chord appears, it sounds natural that a C chord will follow. The relationship between V7 and I is so powerful that we can actually borrow a V7 chord to use even when it doesn’t belong in the key, and it has the same function.

Let us use the same progression as above, and say we want to strengthen the Amin chord; one way would be to put an E7 chord in front of it. The E7 does not belong in the key of C, but we can borrow it any way because of the strong relationship it has with the Amin chord.



Notice that the “E7” chord is not a part of the key of C. It contains the tone G# which is not in the key. But this is why it works: it is new and unexpected, and it resolves strongly to the Amin chord, which does belong.

This is useful for two reasons:

1. It gives composers a chance to use G# that otherwise would not sound good in the key. Now that it’s supported by a chord, it can also have a place in the bass or the melody.
2. It is a tool that can make the Amin chord sound bigger and more important.

Secondary dominant chords are popular in all forms of music. There’s a secondary dominant in the national anthem of the United States. Listen to the song during the lyrics, “that our flag was still there” and you will hear an unusual note on the word “still”. This note is the third of a secondary dominant chord resolving to the V chord of the key. In the melody, you hear it resolve up to the fifth of the key. Secondary dominants have become quite common in pop music (and in worship songs!).

You can use a secondary dominant to lead into other chords within the same key too.

A five of four (V/IV) is also quite common – this is when we use a secondary dominant that pulls toward the subdominant chord (IV).

For example, in the key of C major, the IV chord is F. The V chord in the key of F major is C7. This still creates that sense of tension but resolves to the IV chord instead of the tonic.

Although using secondary dominant chords doesn’t change the key, they can be used as a way to smoothly move to a new key, if desired.

A great way to understand the sound and feel that a secondary dominant can give to a piece of music is to listen to them in action.

Let’s keep it simple for now and stay in the key of C major. Play the progressions on your instrument and pay attention to the sense of tension and resolution.

1. C - Am - **D7** - G7 (V/V)
2. C - G7 - **A7** - Dm - G7 (V/ii)
3. C - Am - G7 - C - **E7** - Am (V/vi)
4. C - F - G7 - C - **B7** - Em - Am (V/iii)

Secondary dominant chart

Here you can see all the possible secondary dominant examples within the key of C major followed by the diatonic chord they resolve to.



Hopefully this has made the world of secondary dominants a bit easier to understand.

They are a useful tool that can add emotional complexity and interest to your music. Having a better understanding of chord progressions including secondary dominants will let you create additional tension and resolution in your music – giving that extra level of sophistication to your compositions.

(sources:

1. <https://hubguitar.com/music-theory/building-secondary-dominants>
2. <https://www.useyourear.com/blog/what-are-secondary-dominants-and-how-to-use-them>)

