

3-in-1

EASTER SPECIAL  
2011

# VOICER

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EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

METRO WORLD  
CHILD

PENNY  
HOLLENBECK



ON THE COVER Penny Hollenbeck

Photo: Courtesy of Metro World Child

# 3-in-1 THE Voice

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# editor's letter



KARIN McBRIDE-CHENOWETH  
Editor-in-Chief

## WELCOME!

Hello and welcome again to all our E-ziners! Welcome to our 13<sup>th</sup> issue of 3-in-1 The Voice and it's a Summer Bumper Special!

We now have a presence on Facebook with remarkable results and some of our newest contributors have been gleaned from there...In this issue we are delighted to have a double portion of IN FOCUS. Firstly Penny Hollenbeck Executive Director of Metro Ministries in New York and our second we will feature Richard Kays Executive Producer/Presenter of Dreams for Living TV. Richard since the interview has just moved lock stock and barrel up to Stoke-on-Trent to be part of the UCB Broadcasting team where his programmes are already airing on Sunday evenings.

We are delighted to welcome on board our newest regular contributor Mark Oakes. Mark will head up the section Firestorm! He is the Director of CfaN UK. We also welcome contributions in Christian Art from Heather Renae, poetry & visual art from David Anthony. Our guest columnists are Adam Harbinson & Juls Martin who make a welcome contribution to 3-in-1 The Voice. All our regular contributors have again blessed us with more amazing stories, testimonies and poetry and the feedback we are getting is tremendous. We have had many prayer requests, however, we unfortunately are not in a position to answer specific requests but please feel free to use the UCB Prayer line (opposite). Happy reading and many blessings

KARIN McBRIDE-CHENOWETH

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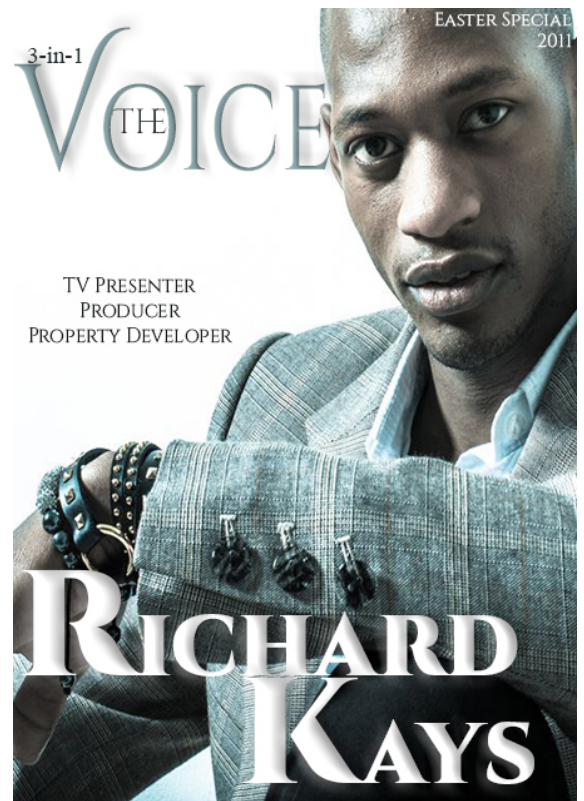
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## Missionary Section



Brigid Kerr

## SUMMER MISSIONS 2010

### TEAM MISSIONS

As schools and universities finish for the summer some of the youth in our church have been led by God to give their time to help others in specific missions. I would like to share with you about some of the missions that take place during the summer months and ask for prayer for the different groups...

### LATVIA TEAM

Last summer, a group of young people from the church travelled out to Western Latvia to a village just outside of Liepaja to run a kid's camp there. It was a really blessed time for all involved and God used the team to really show the love of God to the kids. The Lord also blessed a family in the neighbouring village of Nica through the team, raising funds and helping to renovate their house. At the time, the father of the family was suffering from a brain tumour and blindness so the team spent time in prayer with the family. The team were very sad to hear that the father had passed away some time after this trip and so our prayers go out to the family.

This year, the team are travelling back to the camp in Liepaja for one week before travelling north from there to Valdemarplis for another camp. Please could I ask you to pray for team unity, for God's help to inspire the children and boldness and courage to work for Him. One of the teenagers joining the group has a phobia of flying but yet is so eager to work for God. Please could you pray that God will surround him with His peace for the journey. I also pray that this allows the team to grow closer to the Lord as a result.

### CORK TEAM-24-31<sup>ST</sup> JULY

In one of last year's issues, I wrote about Cork Holiday Bible club and how God worked mightily during the Bible club. Unfortunately, this year, I am unable to go but will be supporting them in prayer.

A month or so ago, the Cork group leader discovered the church halls used for the club had been double booked so we gave our problems to the Lord. Thankfully, God already had it sorted and thanks to Him, a new venue has been found. Please pray for smooth running of the club in the new halls and for team unity and strength. Please pray that God would prompt the children and teens to want to travel to this new venue and that they come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour if they have not done so already. I thank the Lord again for the friendships made in Cork between team members and the young people and I pray that more lives are touched by the love of Jesus this year.

## CSSM MISSIONS AND SCRIPTURE UNION CAMPS

A few people from the church are also involved with CSSM missions and Scripture Union Camps this summer as well. These S.U camps and CSSM missions are run by Scripture Union NI and endeavour to introduce children to Jesus through holiday activities in a Christian environment. The CSSM missions are non residential and are run on a daily basis for either a week or two weeks. Three people from the church will be volunteering as leaders at CSSM missions at Ballyholme (Bangor) and Benone.

Scripture Union NI will also be running residential camps for children in Ballyholme, Portrush and also at Castlewellan Castle several members of our church will be helping out at these camps. One of the leaders for the SU camps in NI will actually be in Uganda on another mission trip before this camp. It will be quite a tight turnaround time wise so please pray that she will make it back in time and that God will work through her to bless people in both Uganda and the SU camp.

For more information on dates check out the following link.

<http://www.suni.co.uk/campsandmissions/missions.php>

In addition, a couple of the guys will be helping out as leaders in an S.U camp in Moffat in Scotland and another guy will be a leader at an S.U camp in Cavan.

Please pray for the Holy Spirit to prompt the hearts of children so that they may be blessed by these missions and camps and accept Jesus. Please pray for safety on the beach and for strength and enthusiasm for the team leaders.



Revivalist Matt Sorger of Matt Sorger Ministries is extending an invitation to his friends and partners to take part in his exciting new journey in the world of book writing and publishing. Matt's upcoming book is geared towards a vast audience of those who are at different levels in their walk with God.

Matt would love to hear any true life stories that you may want to share based on themes in the book. We have created a very private group on Facebook where we will share with you intimate details of the book as well as open the door for you to submit some of your personal stories. Revelation 12:11 profoundly states: "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony..."

Here is your opportunity to be an OVERCOMER, and have the chance to change and empower millions of lives through your testimony. Although we cannot promise that every story will make it into the book, Matt always loves to learn more about those whom God has called him to serve.

Warm Regards, MSM Publications Dept.





**METRO MINISTRIES**

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL - Entertainment for the kids, or a Matter of life or death?**

For years, Sunday School has probably meant different things to different people. For many it's something we do on a Sunday morning hiving the children off to a separate room while we grown-ups have "our time" to be spiritually fed. Cute stories, trite crafts waved and dangled before dotting parents after the meeting. Most kids can't even remember what they have been taught when asked what they learned about today in Sunday School. Often un-prepared teachers resort to keeping the kids 'entertained' whilst fervently watching the clock, wondering when the sermon will be over, often panicking how to keep them occupied if the sermon runs late. Is this your experience?

A few years ago one of our interns in New York was visiting some of the children on his route and went to one particular block. As he was making his way up to the apartment, he saw the kids out on the landing outside the apartment screaming. Our staff member knew something was wrong and hurried up to find that the mother who was pregnant had been murdered and the kids were home at the time.

Just a few weeks ago when Pastor Bill was ministering in the UK, we received a call to say one of our Sunday School kids who was sponsored, had been murdered in the middle of the night by her stepfather whilst the siblings looked on. Then just a few days after that, we received the news that another one of our kids and her mother were both strangled by a jealous ex-partner. This was less than a month ago folks...

The kids we minister to live in some of the roughest places in the world. We never know whether we will see our kids from one week to the next. That is why Sunday School to us is a matter of life and death. We are not just 'playing out' some cute Bible Story to keep them entertained. We prepare and teach with a passion and an urgency to get these kids under the sound of the gospel and reach them before it's too late.

Sunday School should be the most exciting place for kids, in that nothing else will dissuade them from wanting to be there. Imagine coming into a place where there are happy smiling faces greeting you and hugging you, upbeat music playing and an excitement in the air that you can almost touch. The clock ticks on and suddenly a deafening screaming countdown 10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1- and the whistle

blows! Following the greeting and introduction of the lesson, the place erupts in praise action songs with competitions to see who can sing louder – the boys or the girls. The atmosphere pulsates with energy. Kids feel safe. Kids feel loved. The roof almost lifts off with a fresh surge of euphoria as the games begin and the kids get a chance to win a prize. Boys cheering on the boy's team. Girls cheering on the girl's team. So much fun and laughter.

Then it is time for the preaching. The crescendo of noise cascades to a silence where you can hear a pin drop. A powerful lesson ensues taught through drama, object lessons and cartoon images, driving home one hard hitting principle each week and teaching the children how to apply it to their everyday lives. The lesson ends. No balloons popped – the children have been on their best behaviour, meaning they all get to receive the promotion that week. This week it's pizza! The chatter and banter begins again and songs of joy resound on the buses as the kids are taken home. Take me there now! Sounds more exciting than some adult meetings!

Who out there is going to get close enough to the heartbeat of God to hear the cries of the children and the cry of Father's heart? And who, having heard the cries, is willing to do whatever it takes to answer those cries while hearts are still beating. Yours and theirs! Time is running out. The need is the call and the children need to know the love of the Saviour.

**"WOULD YOU LIKE TO USE EXCITING NEW CURRICULUM FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL?" SEE LAST ISSUE.**

**WANT TO GO SEE THIS SUNDAY SCHOOL OF OVER 20,000 KIDS?**

Go to [www.metroministries.org](http://www.metroministries.org) visit us.



**'Gone before Dawn' a mother & daughter who were murdered recently in New York. The daughter was a sponsored child through Metro Ministries**



# Messianic Moment



## Messianic Moment

By  
Dr Howard Morgan

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### A Message for Pastors – Part II

Having no power to manifest such "signs," the Jewish people would not be provoked to faith in Jesus as the Messiah. Since such provocation is intended to promote their faith in Jesus, which in turn, according to Romans 11:15 means the resurrection of the dead, which occurs at the time of the second coming of Christ. So we can see that this strategy is primary intended, not just to rob the Church of her inheritance in the rich root of this heritage, but in fact to try to block the return of the Lord by preventing the Jewish people from coming to faith in Jesus.

#### Historical Separation

As you know from your studies of church history, the Body of Christ has been experiencing a slow but steady restoration of biblical truths: the message of salvation by faith, the priesthood of all believers, the bible as the sole authoritative source of doctrine, its translation into the language of the people, baptism by immersion upon the confession of faith, the restoration of the gifts of the holy spirit, Church government based on anointing rather than institutional promotion, the restoration of all the equipping ministries of Ephesians 4, the commitment to fulfil the great commission, and many others.

These truths had to be restored because they were replaced by various "doctrines of demons" that had infiltrated and corrupted the Church throughout the centuries. I believe that one of the major reasons for the restoration of the Church to her Jewish Roots is so that the Church can be restored to her biblical relationship and responsibility to the Jewish people. The call upon the Church to provoke Israel to Jealousy is one of the truths of the New Testament that has historically been almost totally rejected. In thinking that they had to make the gospel more palatable to gentile audiences, men of good intentions, misdirected in their zeal to preach the Gospel, de-Judaized their message, and by doing so, opened themselves to the demonic doctrine of "replacement theology." This had the dual effect of separating the Church from her Roots in Israel's Olive Tree and promoting a spirit of arrogance toward the Jewish people. The Church no longer saw herself as part of the Jewish people or part of God's plan to provoke Israel to jealousy. Instead she grew into a "counterfeit imperialistic theocracy" that lost its authentic spiritual testimony and the ability to make genuine born-again disciples. Authentic spirituality was replaced by a

hierarchical system of political and militaristic schemes that forced "loyalty" to a "Church" instead of genuine spiritual rebirth and new life. The more the Church rejected her "Olive Tree connection," the more she grew into institutionalized sacramentalism, hierarchicalism, spiritual darkness and unbelief. As time went by, what started as a Messianic Jewish faith based on the Scriptures and the power of God, became a thoroughly gentilized "Christianity" based on political and militaristic power and Church traditions that were in many instances nothing more than a "christianized paganism."

All things Jewish were slowly rejected and in some circumstances ultimately forbidden. The true Church was tragically compromised. Once compromised, I believe that history shows she came under the judgment of God for disobeying the apostolic command not to be arrogant toward the unbelieving natural branches. Unable to provoke the Jews to faith in Christ, the devil inspired her to provoke the Jews to wrath, and further entrenched unbelief by centuries of malicious and incessant persecution. The Jewish people were branded in such ways as to sanctify their persecution, suffering, and even death. They were the innocent victims of hate filled theologies that bred spiritual disaster for the church and calamities for the natural sons of Abraham. This was a satanic strategy to keep the true gospel away from the Jewish people and thereby keep Jesus from returning, because their re-grafting into their own Olive Tree means the resurrection of the dead, which takes place when Jesus returns (Romans 11: 15).

#### Practical benefits for your Church

By recognizing that we are practicing a Jewish faith, as opposed to a traditional "Christian" one, we are freed from the historic, cultural and demonic entanglements that have robbed Christians of their scriptural inheritance for centuries. Whenever "tradition" stands in the way of renewal, whenever the voice is heard that says, "we don't do that in our Church," with the implication that our Church has a more holy or sacred tradition, a "Jewish Roots" orientation answers, "we are following the scriptures and obeying the revelation of God, not the traditions of men, no matter how old or ingrained they are!" After all, no Christian tradition is older than the Hebrew scriptures. Every aspect of our Christian life begins to be analyzed by this Jewish Roots orientation. Are we doing what we are doing in our Church or spiritual life because of our culture, our traditions, or because of our human philosophies? Is what we are doing according to the Word of God? Are we worshipping God the way he desires to be worshipped, the way the Scriptures teach He is to be worshipped, or the way we have been taught by our traditions? Are we in fact actually worshipping or merely have a "song service" (and we wonder why there is such a minimal presence of the Holy Spirit in most churches). Are we praying according to the spiritual principles of the Scriptures or according to our own human understanding. How many Christian are frustrated in their prayer lives? Is it because they have never been taught to pray according to the Bible? So many Christians are in fact victims of satanic



strategies that have replaced the teachings of the Hebrew scriptures with various non-scriptural traditions that the God of Israel neither respects, receives, nor responds to.

Let me reiterate, I am not saying that Christians should adopt Jewish traditions or try to imitate unbelieving Jews in their modern day religious practices. But a Jewish Roots understanding will insist on a scriptural basis for everything we do, say, and believe. Not only will we be encouraged to study the Scriptures, but we will also be encouraged to understand how the Jewish people throughout history have understood them, and be freed to glean from them riches of our own inheritance "among them" (Romans 11:17). This is something that Satan is desperately afraid of. He is terrified of the prospect of true believers entering into honest study of the Scriptures with the Jewish people. He knows the powerful witness that will be able to go forth, as well as the great treasures that will be opened to the Church.

A Jewish Roots understanding will cause your people to be more assiduous when they read the scriptures, by creating a mentality that says, "I want to know the truth...not the traditions of men." This will cause them, if they want to be disciples of the kingdom of God, to really dig into the word and truly "study to show themselves approved."

Many pastors ask, "Why is it important to say 'Jewish' instead of just 'Scriptural' or 'spiritual'? why is it necessary to continually put the word Jewish into our vocabulary?" It is important because of God's plan to use the Church to provoke natural Israel to jealousy. The Lord desires to restore to the Christian Church a mentality that causes her to be very self-conscious of the Scriptural fact that she has been grafted into a Jewish covenant, is believing in the God of Israel, is saved by the Jewish Messiah and is believing and obeying the Jewish scriptures. With the restoration of this mentality, of this understanding, the Church can begin to pray and act in such a way that her relationship with the Jewish people and the nation of Israel will finally, after so many centuries, take the form and shape that God intended from the beginning.

A Jewish Roots mentality also creates a barrier preventing demons from bringing their doctrines into the lives of your peoples. No other world view or philosophy - either natural or spiritual - than that which is according to the scriptures is accepted. We learn how to study together - with tolerance and mutual respect so that "iron can really sharpen iron." We test our personal or corporate interpretations and applications of the scriptures by examining the fruit it bears. Is it causing the individual to know God in a greater way and manifest more fruit of the Spirit? Jesus said, "You shall know them by their fruit"(Matt. 12:33)

By studying the Jewish Roots of the Christian faith, we gain a richer understanding of the Bible, of the person and ministry of Jesus, and the writing of the Jewish rabbi and apostle Paul. We can gain insight into the forms of worship and community life that the early church practiced, as we understand how the Jewish believers brought their Old Testament faith, traditions, and practices into the church. We

can gain insight into how the early believers understood the practical dynamics of living out their faith in a hostile pagan world. We gain vital spiritual lessons as we study the Old Testament. We learn about the attributes of God, his nature and his ways with men. These studies will mature our walk with God. We will not be deceived into following a God that is constructed after our own imaginations or human traditions. Rather we learn how to relate to the God of Israel, as we study how He has dealt redemptively with real people, our spiritual ancestors by faith. We gain insight into the plans and purposes of God, as we study his dealings with the Jewish people and their responses to his laws, prophets and judgments. Among many other themes, we gain true understanding into the dynamics of faith, without which it is impossible to please God, and we learn about the true nature of covenant and how central this theme is to the purposes of God and his relationship to us.

God, who never changes, has left us a tremendous legacy in the Hebrew scriptures. This legacy, and the ministry fruit it is intended to produce, is lost to us when we fail to study our Jewish Roots and develop the Biblical relationship with the Jewish people God intends our churches to have.

Visit Howard Morgan Ministries (MMM) Official Website  
[www.hmmin.com](http://www.hmmin.com)

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# IN FOCUS



Penny Hollenbeck is Executive Director of Metro Ministries based in New York. Penny spoke exclusively to 3-in-1 The Voice this week about the challenges this role brings, and her unique and powerful personal testimony demonstrates God's perfect love and provision for us...As Penny finds herself more and more in demand to speak at Women's Conferences throughout the USA and beyond she explains why she feels women have an important role to play in contributing to the kingdom and making a difference in this world...

**Q** Hi Penny. Thank you so much for taking time out of your busy schedule to answer some questions. Firstly, how did you come to know Jesus as your personal Lord and saviour?

*A I was born in a family of 10 of us and my mom was widowed when I was just 6 years old. She was 48 at the time. She was later led to the Lord by a man she would later marry. He was 67 yrs old when he married her! She was in her 50's. However, he took on the full responsibility for all of us, he was a Christian man. Therefore we all had the unique opportunity to also grow up knowing the Lord, however it wasn't until I was 16 years old that I made a commitment to the Lord. Therefore my salvation was a natural, gradual process.*

**Q** When did you first hear about Metro Ministries and how did you become involved?

*A I first heard about Metro Ministries in 1992. Pastor Bill came to speak at a conference I was involved in. I can still remember what he spoke on that night so it definitely had an impact on my life. I saw him again in 2000 that he asked me to come and work for Metro Ministries. Well it was a big decision but one I haven't regretted, I had worked in managerial positions since the age of 18 years, in large Christian ministries, but Metro Ministries would bring new challenges.*

**Q** What do you consider the most demanding aspect of your work?

*A I guess the toughest aspect of the job is seeing the needs and trying to do something about the world that a lot of children find themselves in. This can be totally overwhelming. Emotionally, psychologically it is a strain and you do feel like giving up sometimes, that's how you know you are not doing this in your own strength; that comes from the Lord. We tend as human beings to insulate ourselves even isolate ourselves from people in these circumstances, but as Christians we are told we are not to do this we are to be the "light of the world" – it is a decision that each Christian needs to make and decide "what does that mean for me? I know that I have to travel to Haiti soon on a visit and I am not looking forward to it cause I know what will be waiting for me and what I will have to face – but we have to do it. We cannot deny ourselves these experiences and insulate ourselves. What does give me hope is that there may be many, many children needing our help but so long as we can make a positive difference to at least one child's life, then it is worth it all.*

**Q** Through the work of Metro Ministries people have been helped that would not have been, because we did not know about these people until Metro went into those areas? How do you find out about these people?

*A Mainly from Pastor Bill's travels and going into areas and deliberately seeking out the worst places. It is definitely a conscious decision on our part to go in there and to try and improve the lives of these children in order to break the cycle of poverty.*

**Q** As stated we often hear of the terrible situations that people are living in, yet Metro Ministries with its bright yellow buses must be a really welcome sight for the children; and many former Sidewalk Sunday School children have attested to this. In your own words how do you think Metro Ministries brings light into a very dark world?

*A We receive at least 2 to 3 e-mails or letters a week from 'past' Side Walk Sunday School children whose lives have been transformed and who are making a difference. Many also stay on at Metro and train as interns and become staff when they are older also. For instance the cable guy came around to hook me up recently and he asked me if our programmes*



were still running, he also asked after Pastor Bill. Then he revealed that he as a child had been to Metro Sunday School he said 'Tell Pastor Bill thank you. I learned a lot. I have a good job and I'm raising my family in the inner city.' He was a bright, responsible young man now a husband and a father. Now isn't that what it's all about 'breaking the cycle' so that the violence, deprivation and feelings of worthlessness, will not continue into adulthood and that these people will have such a chance as this young man.

**Q** Metro Ministries has gained the reputation of going in and ministering to children in some of the most if not the most demanding missionary fields in the world. Many young people travel from across the world to train and work with you, trying to gain experience to help them step up to the challenge. What sort of training programmes do you offer?

**A** Yes, indeed the majority of people come in with the right heart and the right attitude. We currently run the Internship which is 4 months, 2 times a year in duration and is free. Now this is a tough course but if you want to see if you have "what it takes" to do inner city ministry anywhere in the world, this programme is for you. But we also have a shorter version, one week called "Boot Camp". A lot of churches and groups will send people over for this. They work right alongside our staff.

**Q** Penny you have been taking seminars, and are in demand to speak at women's groups and conferences throughout the USA. How important is this?

**A** Well I absolutely love this part of my work. I love connecting to women in particular. I also love to connect to women who have a heart for ministry, I believe that women are the nurturers whether they are single or married or have children or not, it is something innate in every woman. We see a need and we will meet it or at least we will feel the need to do something about it, women are resourceful, insightful and can multitask. Therefore age is really not relevant my mother for instance is like 82 years old now and helps those less fortunate in her small town and still very active for the kingdom! She is a great example to us all. There are different ways in which women can help for instance through Metro Child Sponsorship programmes, where they can write to the children or in some cases families

write to their sponsored child, forming new relationships for the kingdom which is just wonderful! At Christmas time we have Operation Holiday Hope our biggest project now last year we raised enough to get 102,490 gifts last year!. Now these gifts vary from country to country, for instance a child in the Philippines does not need a toy they need a meal, a child in New York would get a toy, a child in Romania would need warm clothes for the winter and so on and so forth, Metro Ministries provides this through this important project.

**Q** Have you any future plans to share your knowledge and experience in the UK, Ireland and Europe?

**A** Yes! Definitely I am booked to come over to Ireland later this year and am really looking forward to the experience.



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# HEROES

## HEROES



'I Have a Dream' – Martin Luther King Jr  
Part 2  
By  
Lianne Henderson

King Jr conversed with the highest of authority figures such as President John F. Kennedy and campaigned for President Lyndon B. Johnson. Martin Luther King Jr was arrested in a total of twenty times and was assaulted at least four times. In spite of all the hate that was coming his way it didn't stop him from earning five honorary degrees; named Man of the Year by *Time* magazine in 1963; and became not only the symbolic leader of American Blacks but also a world figure.

In 1964 Martin Luther King Jr at the age of 35 was the youngest man to have received the Nobel Peace Prize. When notified of his selection, he made a very generous announcement that he was turn over the prize money of \$54,123 to the future developments of the civil rights movement. In 1965 he led a campaign to register black people to vote. The same year the US congregation passed the Voting Rights Act outlawing all of the discriminatory acts that prevented black people voting in the South. As civil rights movements became increasingly radicalized, King found that his message of a peaceful protest was not shared by many of the younger generation. King began to protest against the Vietnam War and the poverty levels in the US. However on the evening of April 4<sup>th</sup> 1968, while standing on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was about to lead a protest march in sympathy with striking garbage workers of Tennessee, Martin Luther King Jr was assassinated...his legacy lives on...in his words and works...

*'I just want to do God's will. And he's allowed me to go to the mountain. And I've looked over, and I've seen the promised land! I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the promised land.'* Martin Luther King Jr

## Martin Luther King Jr Quotes

*A man who won't die for something is not fit to live.*

*I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.*

*Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.*

*Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.*

*Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed.*

*Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.*

*I am not interested in power for power's sake, but I'm interested in power that is moral, that is right and that is good.*



*'Alabastrian Bride' by Heather Renae*

## ADDENDUM

**'If you save one life, you save the world entire'. Talmud**

*When editing the above piece, I placed the photograph of the mother and daughter at the end of the feature as seen above. I thought how great! The more I examined the little girl's outfit and braided hair, I thought 'Ha! Obviously it is an important day for you', a birthday party perhaps or maybe they were getting ready to attend church – possibly Metro. Whatever the reason, photographs can tell us a lot; I thought to myself as I looked at it one thing was for sure, here is a woman who has made a huge effort to give her daughter the life she never had, sacrifices probably that will never be known to others, have been made. She had most certainly struggled against great odds to ensure that she got her to Sunday School – 'Wow!' I thought look at the difference Metro Ministries has made in their lives...*

*I asked Janine to forward a caption, and whenever I read her reply, I froze. It was as though someone had punched me in the stomach 'that can't be right!' I thought. The lady and the child in the picture had been two of the victims mentioned in the feature, both strangled by a jealous ex-partner. As the shock subsided it was replaced only by a mixture of dismay and righteous anger, and then as I began to study the photo more closely and re-read the caption, my dismay only gave way to tears...it takes a lot to make me cry, I have witnessed a lot in my life, but I felt the tragedy of this picture keenly. Here two lives had found a new hope in Jesus through the vital work of Metro Ministries, only for the promise of that hope to be cruelly stolen from them with the finality that death brings...*

*I truly believe that Father allows us to see how His heart is breaking over things sometimes and it is usually about people and issues that we would normally skim over. When He does this it not only breaks our hearts but shows up I believe our inadequacies and humbles us. God doesn't skim over anything, every soul, every life is important to Him - it is sacred.*

*This mother and daughter had their lives violently cut short, but there is a scripture that came to mind as I was writing this addendum:*

***'When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him.' Is 59:19***

**MY QUESTION IS WILL YOU HELP TO RAISE THAT STANDARD?**

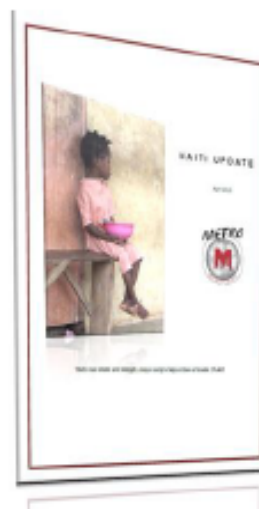
Editor



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Guest Columnist

## JULS MARTIN

UCB Presenter

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### JESUS COMMANDS **ALL** CHRISTIANS TO BE IN THE MEDIA!

I got involved in radio at the age of 15, making the tea and helping out around the studio. But I was regularly disheartened growing up, as it appeared that Christians were actively discouraged from getting involved in the media. They frowned on the press and as for being a radio or TV presenter, or dare I even say a club DJ... well that was just seen as sinful! In comparison, looking at the ministry of Jesus - the dodgy "worldly" types he hung out with, the then non-Biblical things he said and the shocking antisocial activities he did, I wonder if churches or Christians that think like this would really accept Christ if his earthly ministry was in the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

*"Wise up! How on earth can you claim that Jesus commands us to be in the Media??"*

Jesus' parting words were quite direct! They were to his closest friends, the guys who followed him and trusted him - the disciples. These young lads in their teens and twenties were seen as a motley bunch. In those days the top guys in class were taken on by a rabbi as their disciples like interns or apprentices. The rejects would return to the family businesses. Although Jesus gave the instructions directly to them, they were intended for ALL his followers- i.e us.

Did he ask us to "prayerfully consider" - NO! Did he suggest we form a committee and gather to pray or support others - NO! He said GO... DO! It was a direct challenge and unambiguous command. A commission...

"Great!"  
*"But what are you on about?"*

I'm talking about what we now know as the "Great Commission". It's recorded for us in the Bible (Matthew 28:19) where he commanded us ALL to become News Reporters or Broadcast Journalists! He even told us how to do it... Using all methods available- TV, radio, print-media and word of mouth, broadcast the "Good News" at a local community level, regional level, nationally and then internationally!

Now before you dash out and resign from your job or change your University course to Media Studies. We can be good Broadcast Journalists with a little experience and without media training... Although a full time presenter, my qualifications are in Civil and Structural Engineering - handy!!

I've never studied Media Studies; never done a course on "How to be a Radio Presenter". It was more like- "this is a studio, those are the buttons you need to press and oh - you're on in 5 mins!" Thrown in at the deep end and learning to swim very quickly. sometimes this is the best way to learn!

In some ways this could be a bit like being a Christian- take the leap and the learning curve starts from there! If a sales executive has had their life changed by a product, they'll have no trouble selling it to others based on their own personal experience! This is how we can be "Good News" reporters.

As a 'Good News' reporter, what can I learn from a good News Reporter?

Well, a top News Presenter...

- builds a rapport with the audience
- speaks their language
- is an unbiased reporter
- has built a trust-worthy reputation

There's no point in talking a language they don't understand and can't relate to! If we want to get the message across they need to know what we're saying without having to decipher it. If we hit them with the news after we've built a rapport with them, and we're in a position of trust- they'll take it as Gospel!

Be a good 'Good News' reporter!

How's YOUR broadcasting career going?







## A Voice in the Wilderness

STEVE NORMAN

UK Director Ratanak

*"Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a temple as a sanctuary. Be strong and do the work." 1 Chronicles 28:10*

*"Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them." Ezekiel 47:12*

### The Sanctuary

There are sporadic times when you find yourself in circumstances that you recognise to be deeply significant. Sometimes, in these circumstances, the presence of God is so comprehensible it results



in a peculiar feeling of excitement mixed with an uneasy fear – for there is absolutely no doubt in whose presence you stand. Such encounters have nothing to do with our planning or control, they occur at the times and a place of God's choosing. This was the position whilst recently visiting sexually exploited children with members of the Ratanak team in Cambodia where we were in a deeply deprived area on the edge of Phnom Penh internationally renowned for the sexual exploitation of very young children. On leaving the Kids Club we were been shown around a large disused building on the main street of Svay Pak. This was no ordinary building, it was the largest and most audacious building in the community. This four storey premises was built as a full service live in sex hotel where international paedophiles and sex tourists could visit and destroy young lives to their hearts' content. However, it now stood in the community as a huge monument to the loathsome intentions of evil men as the building was never finished and it never fulfilled its intended purpose. Due to international pressures, increased police activity and the increased influence of Christian projects in the community, the hotel was

deemed, by its owners, to be too high a risk to put into operation. As a result, construction work was stopped with about 85% of the building completed.

Ratanak has long been committed to changing this darkest of neighbourhoods known around the world for its child sex slavery, but it is fair to acknowledge that this is no easy task to accomplish. For a long time we have prayed, and continue to pray, for God's presence and redemption to be made known in this impossibly broken community.

Several years ago it became self evident that having a permanent ministry location right in the middle of the child brothels would not only be helpful but would actually be fundamental to the success of any long-term program for change. To that end an old, closed down brothel building was rented and converted into a community centre from which a medical clinic, daily children's club and church would operate. This building, known as Rahab's House, has been of tremendous service and a remarkable success but has now become overwhelmed by the increasing demands made by so many desperate and broken lives. The need to enlarge this work was unmistakable - but how?

We have been privileged to witness many changes in this district already. Many signs of hope continue to appear amongst the hopelessness of this brothel community.

As we stood inside gazing around I was told of how it had come up for sale at a very reasonable price. As a team we didn't even have to look at each other. This building had "chosen" written all over it. It was as if the destiny of this building was indeed pre-ordained and evidence to the fact that the King was intent on taking up residence.

And so within days whilst still in Cambodia and without a budget, in fear and in faith we committed to buy this building. God, true to form, immediately provided the funds for the purchase and as of 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009 we became the owners of the largest building in the district. The size and location of the building make it a wonderful statement of redemption and hope available through Christ for those who suffer in the brothels which surround the property. We have taken to calling it "The Sanctuary" a fitting name.



The Sanctuary had been left dormant for several years and stood as workers left it when they stopped construction. While the major structure was largely complete there was much work to be done to make the building serviceable. The incomplete condition of the building was actually advantageous for us allowing us to finish the construction according to the needs as opposed to restricting programs to a building

constructed for a very different and grotesque purpose.

On an emotional and spiritual level it is also advantageous to take over a building that was never actually used in the destruction of young lives. This facility does not have a previous reputation or traumatic memories for the children of the community. So in every way this will be a new building, a new start and a new hope for the community. In every way we see this building as being the very

best case scenario for ministry in Svay Pak. It almost seems like it was built for us!

This position was ratified during a structural survey. The report found that the foundations were laid in such a manner that they would support almost any building. As tests were made it was quickly established that floors 1,2,4 and 5 were adequate and floor 3 described as being able to support a significant load way stronger than would be expected. Little did the engineer realise that this was the floor where the church will be held and needed to be the strongest. The evidence of the hand of God on a work has never been more unmistakable as it has been with this building.

The building has since been totally remodelled and a 5<sup>th</sup> floor added to make it even larger and more striking. It has been turned into a school, medical clinic for the community and a church. The 5<sup>th</sup> floor provides much needed staff quarters where Christian pastoral staff and workers, both local and expatriate, live and serve the community 24/7. The development of this site means that our neighbouring location of Rahab's House can now operate as a safe day care centre and enable community members to seek employment options outside of Svay Pak's brothel industry in the assurance that their children are being well looked after.



Teams from Canada, Australia and the US worked tirelessly to complete the structure and add the fifth floor. The rooms were decorated and prepared ready to accept the 200 children who have registered for the school. A school that will offer free tuition to those who would otherwise never have had this opportunity, providing the hope of changed

lives and giving wings to dreams of careers once seen as out of reach. Partnerships are currently being formed with NGOs skilled in educational development that will be assisting in establishing a school curriculum best suited to the particular needs of the children of this district. There is much anticipation as we develop the programs that will serve the spiritual, emotional, physical and educational needs of this district. The local Cambodian pastoral and youth ministry team are already in place in the community ready to take up their expanded duties that the new facility will allow.

The third floor auditorium houses the church. A church under the leadership of a local man and his wife that has grown from nothing to over 300 members inside 12 months. A church where Sunday services are attended by drug addicts and pushers together with former and current sex workers and pimps. A place where the presence of God is invading lives and radically changing them as choices are made to turn away from illicit trades.

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2010 hundreds of guests sat in 42 degrees of heat to witness the formal opening of *The Sanctuary*. The Cambodian Minister of State for Religion made the formal opening speech sharing how Cambodia is a Buddhist nation but that all faiths are welcome. As he drew to the close of his written dialogue he looked up to the gathered crowd and, to the surprise of many, shared how he had received Christ as his own personal Saviour some months ago now and how he was being encouraged in this journey by the team responsible for *The Sanctuary*.

So - when you find yourself in one of those oftentimes indescribable situations where God leads you down a path where the end is out of sight - be heartened that He has ALL things in the palm of His hand.

How can you help?

- Pray for those who work in this centre for wisdom to deal with the situations they face.
- Pray for those who visit that the love of God would invade their lives.
- Pray for the Minister of State for his continued growth in Christ.
- Pray for the children who are so violently abused around this area.
- Consider becoming a financial supporter of The Ratanak Foundation.

If you would like to hear more of the work of The Ratanak Foundation please email us at [ratanakuk@ratanak.org](mailto:ratanakuk@ratanak.org) - we hope to hear from you soon!

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile" - Jeremiah 29:11 - 14*



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## Breaking Through

Belinda GuestWeale

### GOD'S BUILDING BLOCKS

Here are a few of many scriptural reasons why I believe the above so strongly...

THOU SHALT ALSO DECREE A THING, AND IT SHALL BE ESTABLISHED UNTO THEE: AND THE LIGHT SHALL SHINE UPON THY WAYS. JOB 22:28

A FOOL'S MOUTH IS HIS DESTRUCTION, AND HIS LIPS ARE THE SNARE OF HIS SOUL. PROVERBS 18:7

FOR VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, THAT WHOSOEVER SHALL SAY UNTO THIS MOUNTAIN, BE THOU REMOVED, AND BE THOU CAST INTO THE SEA; AND SHALL NOT DOUBT IN HIS HEART, BUT SHALL BELIEVE THAT THOSE THINGS WHICH HE SAITH SHALL COME TO PASS; HE SHALL HAVE WHATSOEVER HE SAITH. MARK 11:23

A MAN'S HEART DEVISETH HIS WAY: BUT THE LORD DIRECTETH HIS STEPS. PROVERBS 16:9

A MAN'S BELLY SHALL BE SATISFIED WITH THE FRUIT OF HIS MOUTH; AND WITH THE INCREASE OF HIS LIPS SHALL BE FILLED. DEATH AND LIFE ARE IN THE POWER OF THE TONGUE: AND THEY THAT LOVE IT SHALL EAT THE FRUIT THEREOF. PROVERBS 18:20, 21

...THE TONGUE IS A FIRE, A WORLD OF INIQUITY: SO IS THE TONGUE AMONG OUR MEMBERS, THAT IT DEFILETH THE WHOLE BODY, AND SETTETH ON FIRE THE COURSE OF NATURE; AND IT IS SET ON FIRE OF HELL. JAMES 3:6

WHOSO KEEPETH HIS MOUTH AND HIS TONGUE KEEPETH HIS SOUL FROM TROUBLES. PROVERBS 21:23

I CREATE THE FRUIT OF THE LIPS; PEACE, PEACE TO HIM THAT IS FAR OFF, AND TO HIM THAT IS NEAR, SAITH THE LORD; AND I WILL HEAL HIM. ISAIAH 57:19

THE MOUTH OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN IS A WELL OF LIFE. PROVERBS 10:11

...THE MOUTH OF THE UPRIGHT SHALL DELIVER THEM. PROVERBS 12:6

A MAN SHALL BE SATISFIED WITH GOOD BY THE GOOD BY THE FRUIT OF HIS MOUTH. PROVERBS. 12:14

...THE TONGUE OF THE WISE IS HEALTH. PROVERBS 12:18

HE THAT KEEPETH HIS MOUTH KEEPETH HIS LIFE. PROVERBS 13:3

...THE LIPS OF THE WISE SHALL PRESERVE THEM. PROVERBS 14:3

A WHOLESOME TONGUE IS A TREE OF LIFE: BUT PERVERSENESS THEREIN IS A BREACH IN THE SPIRIT. PROVERBS 15:4

A GENTLE TONGUE (WITH ITS HEALING POWER) IS A TREE OF LIFE, BUT WILLFUL CONTRARIETY IN IT BRACKS DOWN THE SPIRIT. PROVERBS 15:4 AMP

THE TONGUE OF THE WISE USETH KNOWLEDGE ARIGHT. PROVERBS 15:2

THE HEART OF THE WISE TEACHETH HIS MOUTH, AND ADDETH LEARNING TO HIS LIPS. 16:23

PLEASANT WORDS ARE AS AN HONEYCOMB, SWEET TO THE SOUL, AND HEALTH TO THE BONES. PROVERBS 16:24

You can see from these few references that God's Word has a lot to say about words and their effects on you and your health...



Buy Belinda's latest book online today! All proceeds go to children's charity...





## My Story

By

Debbie Hare

*'They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony' Rev 12v11*

### HOW GOD HEALED ME FROM ME AFTER 10 YEARS!

I was diagnosed with ME/CFS in 2001. I had previously been fit and healthy, bringing up 2 children with my husband as well as working as a home help.

Since 2001, I spent almost all of my time searching for answers, treatment and of course healing. This illness sent me and my family to despair. I read endless books, searched the internet, watched hundreds of religious TV programmes and attended many meetings and healing services.

In 2009 I was led to a woman's meeting in my home town. I met two ladies there whom I believe have played an integral part in my healing. Over the following few months the two ladies visited me in my home several times. Most importantly, they led us in prayer and during these moments, I was able to release many negative issues that I had been clinging on to. These were difficult times but after each occasion, I felt I was giving up "stones" that I had been unconsciously storing up.

After one of the visits, we discussed a ministry called SOZO that was planning a visit to Northern Ireland in May 2010. The conference that SOZO were about to lead was centred on releasing folk from the curses of Freemasonry and other brotherhoods. Some of the men in my family had sworn oaths to local lodges and I felt that the conference could help me on my road to recovery.

I attended the conference and realised that the healing that God promised had been stalled by curses and allegiances sworn by others, who really did not know or understand fully what they were doing. During the day, I was completely released from these chains and was

keen to join SOZO at their next conference the following couple of days.

On arrival at the conference, I received a Word from the Lord, who told me to be prepared to stay at the meeting and make sure I get ministry, no matter how late it was. As the evening drew to a close, I was determined to speak with one of the ministry team and waited patiently. The personal ministry I received highlighted some final issues and I can positively assure you that from that moment my healing became whole and everlasting. Praise God.

### BUT BY MY SPIRIT

*When all effort waxes weak,  
and future dark, dreary, dreek.  
Crushings cut, by exposed elements,  
against my teary rock of stubborn laments.*

*Here, on blistered knee, and worn-out shoe,  
He lifts my glazed chin, to gaze deep within.  
Why son do you cry son, you know I'd  
die son, to carry you*





# FIRE STORM

By

Mark Oakes  
UK Director CfaN

3-in-1 The Voice is delighted to introduce you to our latest regular writer who has just joined the team – Mark Oakes. Mark has worked for CfaN just over 10 years now and is the UK Director. Firestorm will keep you up-to-date with all of the latest news from Reinhard Bonnke's ministry and all the exciting developments across the globe...

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## HOW COMBUSTABLE ARE YOU?

I count it a great pleasure to share with you all my thoughts. I hope over the coming weeks that many will take note of all that God wants to say to you through his word. We're about seeing lives changed and transformed and whether you've been a Christian for many years or even just new, you have a part to play when it comes to evangelism.

For over 30 years Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke has trekked the globe. You may be staggered to know that in the last 10 of those 30 years and incredible 58 million people have completed a decision card professing faith in Jesus Christ. I don't care too much about those who say that people have put their hands up twice or attended previous gospel campaigns. I neither care for the scepticism that comes with the approach that Christ for all Nations takes when it comes to mass evangelism.

Of course there are some wrong ways that we can go about evangelism, but it's when we tie ourselves up with approach, method and doctrine around it all that we miss the opportunity to actually do it! We then don't see the results. It's like a vicious circle that we Christians and the Church moves around in and more and more time we spend in the circle and pressure of not achieving, the less excited and inactive we become. Let's rise

up, push away the barriers that constrain us and see our churches again brimming with new converts because we cared enough to tell someone exactly what Jesus has done for us! It's an old cliché question but shouldn't be – When did you last share your faith? It should be the measuring stick of our Christian lives!

The simple matter is we are called to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are not responsible for the outcomes or decision tallies or anything. Reinhard often says preach the Gospel and the Gospel happens. Do you know that it is like an explosive device ready to be unleashed – blasting hopeless lives into the brightness of eternity!

A friend once said to me, "Mark, why do you work for that ministry? They seem only interested in numbers." After a few days I responded to the question. I told him that God too is interested in numbers! You see a little word – 'All' jumped out of the bible as I studied it. In 1 Tim. 2:3-4 it says "*This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth*" and then in 2 Pet 3:9 "*The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance*"

What about the 'All's' in your life? Are you content to be happy to struggle along like I do sometimes just focussing on a minority. Our God is looking for the majority. We have to step up a gear when it comes to sharing our faith. People all around us are sinking in desperation and we have the lifeline to throw them. Who are you helping right now? Who are you about to pull over the side of the boat - back on deck?

I'm passionate about Worship. I love to sit at the piano and worship Him who has done much for me. However, I realised a number of years ago that the greatest act of worship I could bring to God was to lead a sinner to him. We know there is great rejoicing in heaven when a sinner repents. A party is thrown! I wonder if the Lord looks down at our Sunday services and reacts in the same way!! What better than to help the prodigal



find the father and know the joy and delight it brings to him.

I've been around in church long enough to see how we try this thing and that thing to reach the lost. The church does not need another band-wagon to jump on or all the latest gizmos and gadgets. We need a demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit – We need a Firestorm to sweep through the hearth of our lives and set us ablaze for Jesus Christ.

Fire is contagious! If something is on fire there is a strong possibility that it will spread and set something else catch fire. Don't be fireproof... ask the Holy Spirit to fill you afresh and anew and burn away all your preconceptions about how God can use you in the area of evangelism. I sometimes feel we all need a fresh start in this. Pray and prepare for a Firestorm in your life!

I look forward to communicating more with you on the subject of evangelism. Having stood with Reinhard for the last 10 years in this ministry I've seen things that have absolutely blown my mind and can tell you beyond a shadow of doubt that the God you see at work in the nations of Africa, China, Brazil and all these places where he seems to be outpouring his Fire is the same God you are serving right where you are in your town and city!

He's looking for those who are ready to blaze brightly for him. Are you ready to shine?

"Shine your light and let the whole world see – we're singing – for the glory of the Risen King!" – Mighty to Save (Hillsong)

### *The 3 Poets*

#### **The Glass Heart – Part II**

A gentle fragile heart, cradles in the arms of his creator. A father's eyes have searched for this one. Now he walks among the ruins of this life. A journey that passes through overhanging archways the father remembers how they stood.

Graceful and slender they used to be, like two lovers holding hands in a summer's glen. Face to face dancers are ready to take their place, to wait to life's song. Along every long winding passageway, every twist and turn leads the way.

The father whispers to the doors that greet his way. Coming to a stop at a courtyard. Where neglect and misuse have gathered, like leaves found on an autumn's season day. Mirth, laughter, music and song used to embrace each other here.

Memories forgotten, lost in an arena of thoughts. A gentle breeze blows across the courtyard. The rustling of leaves being swept up in its path, through porches that face a new dawn something is stirring!!! The essence of something new! Can you hear it speak...? The birth of something new.

A masterpiece is being rebuilt. "Sing for me a new song" the father says now turning back, the father looks back along the journey. Prints make a trail along the floor. Footprints!! Stained in crimson red blood. "Remember" urges the words of the father. "Remember". And again hear the hearts cry to this soft heart. Hushed becomes his voice now, as it comes to rest in the shadows. "Remember".....

Simon Pearson ©2010



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[www.facebook.com/evangelistreinhardbonnke](https://www.facebook.com/evangelistreinhardbonnke)



### Warm Afternoon

I will meet with you, in the warmth of my afternoon, My breeze of Christ, blows confetti upon your face, Your loveliness captures my heart, I desire your life, My love will swell in its abundance, Personally tendering to your feet, fresh in my grass, I will sway you with the breath of my every ray, Dance the kaleidoscope shadow of light round your toes, I will speak upon your heart, the garden of my everything, Bouquet your fingers with the myrrh and the lilies, Taking you with me to pick the fine roses as my church, Sweet in the sunshine. delicate perfume, Love drapes over you the horizon of my loveliness, My sun rays stroking your face, sweet heart moulds your shape, Lingering upon your navel, the sweet buttercup shadow, Butterfly wings, leaves it's power, shows love as your mouth, Gently I press my lips, as holiness, transparent breathe, Fair lady skipping in the shadow of love, Treading barefoot, the blossom, of loves array, Dancing my dirge, hoeing the grass with your feet, Beautiful your neck tapers, as my doves, Spun is the realm of my loveliness, the setting of the afternoon sun.

Jenny Grant ©2010





**Guest Writer**

*Adam Harbinson*

## THE PROPHET, THE APOSTLE AND THE PROTESTOR

---

The Prophet lived 2600 years ago, the Apostle wrote letters to the early churches around 60 AD, most of them preserved in what we now call the New Testament, and the Protestor is alive and well, in charge of a Christian church in East Belfast. Mysteriously the three met a week or two ago, no one really knows where or when, but those close to the Protestor suggest that it could have been one of those rare occasions when it had occurred to him that there might be more truths in the Bible than stored up in the libraries and Lecture Halls of the 'Whitfield College of the Bible' where he earned his stripes. The Protestor did most of the talking at this unusual meeting, and you couldn't fail to notice the sadness in the faces of the Prophet and the Apostle as he laid out his beliefs about the Law of Moses, in particular, the importance of observing the 'Lord's Day.'

*'You claim your life's work is based on the teachings of the Bible,' said the Prophet, 'but there's so much of it you seem to know nothing about!'*

*'What do you mean?'* protested the Protestor.

*'Over two thousand years ago I foretold a day when the laws that are so central to your church would pass away. And yet... what were you doing outside that old building in Belfast last week?'*

*'And the banner you carried,'* chipped in the Apostle, *'it said something about keeping the Sabbath Day holy. What did you mean by that?'*

*'The Fourth Commandment!'* proclaimed the Protestor. *'Remember the Sabbath Day... do you want me to tear that page out of my Bible?'*

*'I've already torn it from your Bible,'* said the Apostle hardly able to believe what he had just heard. *'I tore it out when I wrote to the Christians in Ephesus; "...if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law."*

*'You don't know what the people in my church are like,'* complained the Protestor. *'If I don't control them they'll run wild. There's no telling what they'll end up doing!'*

But now someone else had joined them, some say it was Christ himself... *'Control them?'* he said with tears in his eyes. *'Why would you want to control people for whom I gave my life to set free? Haven't you read what the Apostle wrote about the Law being like a schoolmaster until I came?'*

*'But... ,'* the Protestor was lost for words, for in the Whitfield College of the Bible he had been encouraged to go out and build a good, strong church that would be a bastion against the evil tide of secularism; *'If my people think they're free... they might not come back to church!'* he almost wept.

*'The Christians in Colosse were beginning to sound like that,'* continued the Apostle. *'They were being controlled by their leaders and I had to tell them, "Don't let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to religious festivals or Sabbath days." Are you telling me you haven't read that one either?'*

*'I never understood what it meant,'* admitted the Protestor now sounding a little softer. *'We were never taught that one in college. Surely we can't be that free, can we?'*

*'My son,'* said the one who had just joined them, *'today you have heard truths you've never thought possible. From this day preach the good news of freedom. Remind your people that everything changed when I, the Messiah came. Tell them that those who allow me to set free, are truly free.'*

But the Protestor wasn't listening; the words of the Messiah were drowned out by the rustling of pages in a big black Bible.

# The Gate

Melanie Henderson

## The River Jordan



In this month's issue, we will take a look at the River Jordan. The River Jordan is a river which flows directly to the Dead Sea in Southwest Asia. This beautiful river is one of the world's most sacred rivers and in Judaism, the river serves as the eastern border as the Land of

Israel, or the "Eretz Yisra'el". This is also the place where the Lord Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist.

There is significant Biblical importance to the River Jordan. In the Hebrew Bible, the River Jordan is related to a source of fertility to a large plain ("Kikkar ha-Yarden"), and the text is also said to be the "Garden of God" (Genesis 13:10). You may look at the Hebrew Bible on the following link

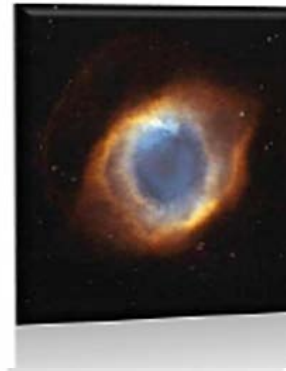
<http://www.scripture4all.org/OnlineInterlinear/OTpdf/gen13.pdf>

However, there are no regular descriptions of the River Jordan in the Bible. There are only a few references about the River Jordan in the Bible. When you look at Genesis 32:11 and Genesis 32:23-24, it shows that Jacob crossed the river and its tributary, known as the Jabbok (or the modern Al-Zarga) in order to reach Haran. The River Jordan in Biblical history appears as the scene of several miracles. The first miracle was when the Israelites crossed over the river near Jericho under Joshua, (Joshua 3:15-17). Later, the two tribes and the half tribe that settled in the east of the Jordan built on its banks, a large altar. This was known as a "witness" between them and the other tribes (Joshua 22:10 and 22:26). The Jordan was also crossed on dry ground by Elijah and Elisha (2 Kings 2:8 and 2:14). Elisha performed two other miracles at the Jordan by healing Naaman by having him bathe in its waters, and the second miracle that Elisha carried out was making an axe head of one of the "children of the prophets" float by throwing a piece of wood into the water of the River Jordan (2 Kings 5:14 and 6:6).

In the New Testament, it states that John the Baptist baptised unto repentance in the River Jordan, this can be read in Matthew 3:5-6, Mark 1:5, Luke 3:21 and John 1:28. The Lord Jesus The Christ, came to be baptised by John the Baptist there which you can read in Mark 3:13, Mark 1:9 and Luke 3:21, 4:1. The River Jordan is also the place where John the Baptist bore the record of Jesus as the Son of God, and the Lamb of God, John 1:29-36.

The New Testament speaks in several occasions about Jesus crossing the River Jordan during his ministry, Matthew 19:1 and Mark 10:1, and The New Testament speaks several times about Jesus crossing the Jordan during his ministry ([Matthew 19:1](#); [Mark 10:1](#)), as well as believers crossing the river to hear him preach and to be healed of diseases, Matthew 4:25 and Mark 3:7-8. When the enemies of Jesus were out to capture him, He took refuge at the River Jordan in the place where John first baptised Him.

Even to this day, in Yardenit, which is located just south of the Sea of Galilee, there are many pilgrims that gather from around the world to immerse them, and to be baptized in the River Jordan.



I AM God

*Behold I give you my peace as a weapon against the enemy, for in destruction and condemning thoughts and self condemnation he finds his cave of rest and makes himself plentiful...make known that*

*he is created I am the creator,*

*he is destruction and I am peace,*

*he is the destroyer I am the restorer,*

*he is the restlessness I am the rest,*

*he is the troublemaker and I am the problem solver,*

*he is the thief I am the giver,*

*he is the lost I am the way,*

*he is the father of lies and I am the truth and through my word you shall be set free,*

*he is death and I am life so that you may have it to the full and have abundantly.*





## Word of God

JULY 2010

1<sup>st</sup> Yet give attention to your servant's prayer and his plea for mercy, O LORD my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence. 2 Chron 6:19

2<sup>nd</sup> Arise, O LORD, let not man triumph; let the nations be judged in your presence. Ps 9:19

3<sup>rd</sup> God is a righteous judge, a God who expresses his wrath every day. Ps 7:11

4<sup>th</sup> Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death. Pro 11:4

5<sup>th</sup> Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. 1 Thess 5:19-20

6<sup>th</sup> The Lord will wash away the filth of the women of Zion; he will cleanse the bloodstains from Jerusalem by a spirit of judgment and a spirit of fire. Isaiah 4:4

7<sup>th</sup> As smoke is blown away by the wind, may you blow them away; as wax melts before the fire, may the wicked perish before God. Ps 68:2

8<sup>th</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Cor 5:17

9<sup>th</sup> He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 1 Pet 1:20

10<sup>th</sup> I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety Ps 4:8

11<sup>th</sup> Love and faithfulness meet together, righteousness and peace kiss each other. Ps 85:10

12<sup>th</sup> Do not allow what you consider good to be spoken of as evil. <sup>17</sup>For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, <sup>18</sup>because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men. Rom 14:16-18

13<sup>th</sup> Splendour and majesty are before him; strength and joy in his dwelling place. 1 Chron 16:27

14<sup>th</sup> He will yet fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy. Job 8:21

15<sup>th</sup> With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. Isaiah 12:3

16<sup>th</sup> The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. Ex 15:2

17<sup>th</sup> I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. Rom 1:16

18<sup>th</sup> He who loves a pure heart and whose speech is gracious will have the king for his friend. Prov 22:11

19<sup>th</sup> Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life--in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. Phil 2:14-16

20<sup>th</sup> Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure. 1Tim 5:22

21<sup>st</sup> Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. 1Pet 1:1-3

22<sup>nd</sup> For they have done outrageous things in Israel; they have committed adultery with their neighbors' wives and in my name have spoken lies, which I did not tell them to do. I know it and am a witness to it," declares the LORD. Jer 29:23

23<sup>rd</sup> And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." Gen 3:15

24<sup>th</sup> For your Maker is your husband-- the LORD Almighty is his name-- the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth. Isaiah 54:5

25<sup>th</sup> See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me. Isaiah 49:16

26<sup>th</sup> But now, this is what the LORD says-- he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. Isaiah 43:1

27<sup>th</sup> Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me! Ps 66:20

28<sup>th</sup> For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Heb 4:12

29<sup>th</sup> <sup>31</sup> but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31

30<sup>th</sup> To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!" John 2:16

31<sup>st</sup> My lover is mine and I am his; he browses among the lilies. Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, turn, my lover, and be like a gazelle or like a young stag on the rugged hills. Song of Songs 2:16-17

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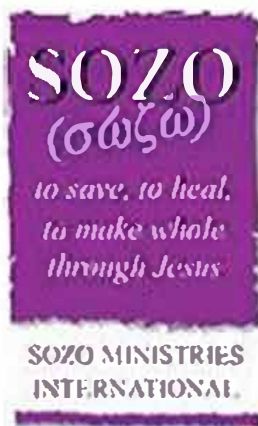
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