



ISSUE 18

3-in-1

THE VOICE

FREE CHRISTIAN E-ZINE

Featuring CfaN's

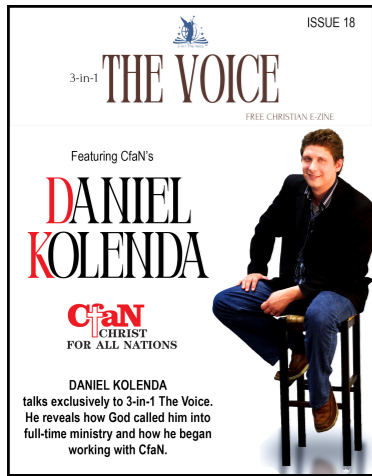
DANIEL KOLENDA

CfaN
CHRIST
FOR ALL NATIONS

DANIEL KOLENDA

**talks exclusively to 3-in-1 The Voice.
He reveals how God called him into
full-time ministry and how he began
working with CfaN.**





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DANIEL KOLENDA CfaN

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CfaN
CHRIST
FOR ALL NATIONS

DANIEL KOLENDA

Exclusive Interview

This E-zine was first published in 2010 and republished and updated in 2019.

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed."

-Proverbs 31:8

Welcome

Hello and welcome to our 2nd Christmas Special Issue of 3-in-1 The Voice!

In this issue, we are delighted to have IN FOCUS Daniel Kolenda from CfaN.

Also in this month's issue, we have officially launched our new youth section called CONNECT which will be maintained by new writer Robyn Brooks.

The 3-in-1 publishing team would like to wish you all a very blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year, Many blessings...

Melania Chenoweth
Editor



Pictured above:
DANIEL KOLENDA

Photo credits: CfaN

CONTENTS

- 🕒 Welcome – Melania Chenoweth
- 🕒 Pilgrim's Progress – David Chenoweth
- 🕒 Messianic Moment – Dr H Morgan
- 🕒 CONNECT! – Robyn Brooks
- 🕒 In Your Face! – Janine Stellatos
- 🕒 Poetry – Jenny Grant
- 🕒 Prophetic – Jubal Johson
- 🕒 IN FOCUS – Daniel Kolenda CfaN
- 🕒 Christian Art & Poetry – David Anthony

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Pilgrim's Progress

David Chenoweth

Co-founder of 3-in-1 GPN formerly Walking in the
Light Ministries Editor-in-Chief 3-in-1 The Man's
Voice



SPACE

Space, what do you think about the subject when you read the word? Many have different thoughts on the subject; it could be the area around you, others, various things you see and envision everyday or possibly the cosmos.

Some of us really relate to the extreme that we need our space! Some are relegated to being alone by us without any outside interference. Is that really the way things were in the beginning?

If we look at Genesis God created the heavens and earth first then man. In the creation Man was alone at first and God saw that he man needed a help mate. Now, God at that point could have decided that man could have done it on his own and continued to make more men.

God though in His wisdom and purpose had other ideas to make two individual creatures that had the purpose of communing with Him and being able to create naturally others of their own kind.

It is a natural function of humans to need both the father and mother in the raising of a child. So that fallacy that we do not need each other and can do it on our own is really a misconception in Gods eyes.

There is a deep rooted spirit of selfishness that has come to the world in this age. People are busy caring for the needs of themselves and not the needs of family, friends and co-workers.

Space is something that we as believers need to turn to our advantage and not the enemies.
Space is a long reaching word; for a believer it should be a limitless expanse of what God can do in our life to further His kingdom.

The theory that we can only reach a few feet around us is another lie that most Christians have bought. In the past whole nations have been taken for the gospel by a single man that has had the vision to expand his space

expand his space out of the realm of his immediate influence. How can a man praying in the U.K. be able to influence the taking of China on the other side of the world? Space in the spiritual realm is a substance the finite mind of man cannot comprehend.

Man cannot understand how a prayer can reach the end of the universe after he utters a syllable. It is our purpose not to try to understand but yield the act in faith to God who will take the prayer to completion in the Space we are praying for. Our unselfish desires also help to bring it to fulfillment.

How can we take this gift to the masses that desperately need an understanding of Space? Most western countries have large programs to constructively use the Space available to them.

Huge infrastructures are built on this also. Eastern countries in the 10-40 Window have had land in their families for countless generations handed down; this is something the West has lost in a lot of areas.

As these areas in the East have expanded with large population increases Space is becoming a valuable commodity to this area. It is becoming a mirror image of the West with fewer people owning the land and houses and the rich or well to do gobbling up tracts of land.

It is an increasing apparent that as this situation of land transference the need for a Spiritual Awakening is needed in the East. The West must move forward on the need for the Great Commission and move into the Space that God has given us to take for Him.

My call and question to you is how has God called you to make a difference for His Kingdom. Do it now! Do it today!

God Bless, Dave.

Ephesians 1: 13-14



Messianic Moment...

DR HOWARD MORGAN

Founder of HMM Ministries



The Incense of Prayer Part 3

So, it is God's plan that we come to Him, are cut out of our old life (harvested), and sanctified (set apart). Then, if we are willing, He begins to deal with our life. We, as it were, go to the apothecary shop where incense is made.

There we are put into a bowl and "ground down into powder." This is done through the daily experiences of life, and fellowship in church, in counseling, prayer, deliverance, teaching, discipleship, home groups, our ministries and the ministries of others, and so on.

All these can be "pestles" for "grinding down." This is where sin and self is revealed and dealt with. We are put into places of pressure, and preparation. We are prepared for the next place, that of mixing together.

Recall that four kinds of plants are harvested for incense, all going through the process of grinding so that they can be mixed together. The many are put into a unity. Unless this grinding into powder takes place, we are like ungrounded sticks without unity, standing alone.

There can be no true unity with those who have not been ground into fine powder. This is readily discovered in everyday circumstances of meeting with believers. It is clear when there is unity and mixing and when there is stiffness and separation.

We know when we meet someone who is "powdery." If we ourselves are in the place of stiffness, like a dry ungrounded stick, we must not make the mistake of blaming others for our condition, (pastors, churches, family, friends, circumstances, etc.).

If we have refused to let Jesus grind us to His likeness, then it is between us and Him that it must be resolved. Each of us must take personal responsibility for our relationship to the King.

Excuses or blame shifting are simply lies. We might like the easy way out, but this is not His way.

The Scriptures guarantee, however, that the Lord will be ready to respond individually to each one of us anytime we are willing (Ps. 34:18, 145:18, James 4:8, Heb. 4:16).

Jesus did not take the easy way out. He went right to the cross, inviting us to "Come follow me." He was made perfect through His suffering, so this is where we must go, but we will not be alone. We must not run from difficulty. Here in the "mortar" of life, Jesus uses the "pestle" of circumstances to transform us into his image (Rom.8:29, 2Cor. 3:18).

here are people who say they have known the Lord for many years, but there is no evident change in them. Why? They never "went to the apothecary shop" so that the Lord could deal with them and prepare them as incense.

They said "No! I don't want to change; it's too difficult, too painful. I'll just go to church." They may go through the motions of praying and praising and giving, but their lives and their relationship with God lacks deeper meaning and purpose.

Their Christian life is really only superficial at best. While the trials and tribulations of the breaking process may be painful for a season, the fruit that is always born is eternal and deeply pleasing to the Lord.

Returning to the analogy of the ungrounded sticks, we must understand that these sticks can be bent, even bent right round into a circle. But this leaves the sticks under an extreme pressure until they are broken. When the stick finally breaks, there is a distinct "snap."

This is the same "snap" Christians hear within themselves when they finally yield to the Lord. After the breaking, your testimony will be like that of the Apostle Paul who said of himself, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (Gal. 2:20).

No one can truly begin to walk with God until they have heard the "snap," and as we go on with God, we will hear that "snap" again and again. Only after the "snap" can we be ground into the fine powder and become different people, rejoicing that our old life no longer dominates us. Bad attitudes, judgementalism, criticism, fear, lust, greed and all the sins of the flesh will be ground out.

As the powdery incense, we can be mixed with the other kinds of "plants/ sticks" which have gone through the same process. There is a difference between praying with people who are like sticks standing together and praying with people who are like powder mixed together.

A quality that powder has, when compared with a bunch of sticks, is that it ignites very quickly. The picture of incense rising like prayer can be developed to another stage. We ourselves are prepared like the incense. Our personal wills are submitted to the Lord's will and we want nothing more than for the King to be glorified as our destiny in Him is fulfilled.

Surely we will see a new dynamic release regarding the Kingdom of Heaven when we are like powder mixed together, rather than from superficial prayer with artificial agreement, (i.e. a bundle of sticks). Being in agreement comes from a particular mixing of lives and listening to the same voice, rather than just being physically together in one place.

We must listen to God for what we should do, rather than telling God what He should do. This place of mixing and fellowship is like the High Priest taking the mixture from the apothecary shop to the Holy Place where it is put on the altar. He will only carry the powder that has been prepared and mixed properly, which is symbolic of a special group of people for a special ministry; a people no longer living for them, but harvested for the Kingdom, sanctified, ground into powdered incense, offering the Lord prayers that have been ignited by the fire of the Holy Spirit.

It is a fact that those who are "powdery" can easily recognize each other and quickly enter into fellowship, even if they are from the opposite sides of the planet. Prayer is an automatic consequence of the mixing of such people. They are set into their ministry and have a passion for that ministry: they can do no other thing. Come what may, nothing can dissuade them.

If they truly have a passion for it, then nothing will deter, obstruct or thwart them. It is an unquenchable passion. In fact, it is the passion of Jesus that is within them. When we truly give our lives to Christ, it is He who puts the passion there, even though it may, at first, be a passion for something that is impossible to do.

This is because He does not intend that you fulfil your destiny alone. Rather, He must do it in you, with you, and through you. His call, by its very nature, is impossible for you to do alone and therefore ensures that you join your life to His so that, together, you can do "all things" (Phil. 4:13).

Now the fire on the Altar of Incense is taken from the Brazen Altar of sacrifice. The High Priest takes coals in the Golden Censer from the altar and lights the Menorah and the incense. No other fire is allowed. False fire led to men being struck dead, as in the Biblical account of Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, who did not obey the Lord, and offered false fire (Leviticus 10:1).

Only that which comes from God is allowed. Indeed, the fire came from God to ignite the first burnt offering (Leviticus 9:24), and this same fire ignited the incense from that time on, because the priests kept the altar fire going day after day.

The fire that was put into each mixture of incense to burn it before the Lord, came from the original fire from Heaven, and it is all part of the original pattern set forth by God.

As the incense is lit, the whole temple is filled with smoke and sweet smelling aroma. God is looking for this - the incense of our lives to be ignited by the Holy Spirit. Human desire and sympathy, good intentions, intellectual concepts and ideas will serve as false fires resulting in unanswered prayers.

Only the Holy Spirit, revealing God's will and purposes, must be allowed to ignite this incense! Then the Lord will answer prayers in astounding and miraculous ways. On the Day of Pentecost, the Brazen Altar had already been set up on Calvary's hill.

Jesus the Messiah had died for our sins, His blood was shed, He had risen from the dead, and the Gospel was ready to go forth. There was a pile of incense gathered together in one place, harvested, sanctified, ground into powder and in one accord.

The disciples in the upper room had been prepared and were waiting in obedience. The fire from Heaven fell, as is recorded at the beginning of the Book of Acts. The original fire that ignited this first incense is still burning. It has been kept burning since the Day of Pentecost and will fall on us.

God won't accept any other fire, any other religion, any other services or ministries - only that which comes from Heaven. There are many who are in ministry and others who go to church but are not following God's pattern.

They are building according to some ideas that may have been passed on through many generations, but have changed from the true pattern. They may be creating their own religion in their own sanctuary, with their own programs. This is not pleasing to God and will not bring His Glory.

We must go back to God's original pattern revealed in the Tabernacle. We must allow ourselves to be harvested, sanctified, ground into powder and wait for the Holy Spirit to ignite the fire. Then we will see the difference between simply praying because we see a need, and praying because we are on fire and cannot do anything else. God is looking for a people who will be incense on the altar.





Robyn Brooks

Welcome to CONNECT our new online Youth E-zine section. CONNECT will be maintained by local youth worker Robyn Brooks from Northern Ireland. By way of introduction Robyn shares in this issue about herself and her testimony and how God has changed her life – Forever!

My name is Robyn and I have the most awesome privilege of working with the most exciting and interesting people in the world, I am a youth worker on the Ards peninsula with the honour of serving on a number of teams within my home area and my passion is to see young people won for Christ and living there faith in a loving and nurturing environment.

I feel that it's only right to tell you a little bit about myself and how God has brought me to this place in my life. I have been a Christian for 6 years on the 30th of January 2011. Growing up I always found it difficult in school reading and writing were a struggle for me and I was always at the bottom of the class labeled stupid by teachers and pupils alike that was until my fourth year in high school when I was diagnosed with dyslexia a learning difficulty which makes it difficult for me to learn the same way others do.

However, I completed my time in school and decided to say on for lower 6th to increase my grades and finally I was doing well and actually enjoying school, well that was until the January when one of our friends sadly felt there was no way out and killed herself. This was a devastating time for the whole school but losing someone you have grown up with in such a tragic way leaves a big hole in your life. Following a very unstable relationship after 5 years I decided to continue with my education and after some study I was accepted to do a degree in nursing but I still had this big need in me to be loved and accepted so while I was there and struggling to keep my head above water with the academic side of the course I fell in to a group of friends were telling each other's fortunes by reading angel cards it wasn't long before I was also dabbling in the occult.

My life changed again the Christmas of my second year at university I started to date a man who was a Christian. After a few weeks of going out he invited me to his church. It seemed to be so friendly and everyone was so nice like nothing I had ever experienced before so I kept going back for a few weeks. Then one night

the man at the front was talking and I started to think someone had told him all about me. Something was at work in my life these 'incidents' continued on for another few weeks and then during one of the services, there was a worship song that went something like "in to your courts where I'm close to your throne I've found where I belong " suddenly I realised I had found what I needed, I needed to get to know God he was the one who could fill the hole in my life that night when I was sitting in a very small church in Co. Down I asked God to forgive me and by accepting His son Jesus Christ, I asked him to take control of my life. I loved God and I knew He loved me with an everlasting love.

My life has continued to go from strength to strength as I said at the start I have such a privilege to work on a lot of teams dedicated to working with young people. I am a volunteer youth worker in Donaghadee Youth for Christ where I get to share the love of Jesus through not only my words but simply how I live my life and showing young people there is an alternative to how the world expects them to live. I am on the management team for an existing youth festival called Turning Point run by the Belfast Battalion of the Boys Brigade held in Ganaway outdoor pursuit centre.

I now have the pleasure of leading the pastoral care team and in conjunction with 24/7's Year of Prayer we will be opening a prayer room for the weekend in among the excitement of sports and games and the amazing main stage worship and teaching sessions. I also have lead on the Ballywalter CSSM team for the past three summers sharing the Gospel with the children and young people of our lovely peninsula.

My life might not have been great for a while but I know now that Gods promise's is true when he said in

Jeremiah 29:11 (New Century Version)

'I say this because I know what I am planning for you,' says the LORD. "I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future. I know I have that future that he promised me and my passion is to share that with as many young people as I can so they will have the future God has planned for them.'

I am so looking forward to writing for CONNECT and keeping you all up-to-date with the youth events and ministries in Ireland and the UK and beyond!

If you would like to e-mail Robyn with some information about your Youth event/concert etc please do so at



METRO MINISTRIES



TEFLON RHINO

Many of us this Christmas will spend some time relaxing with families around a nice warm fire with plenty of food to eat and gifts to open. A time of joy and celebration. At this time let us not forget the children and families for whom Christmas will just be another day and period of survival.

The account below is from one of our staff who works in Romania helping to bring some happiness and the love of Christ into their lives. Let your heart be opened as you read this harrowing account of how children live in Romania and how Metro Ministries is seeking to make a difference.

The first rule of living in the jungle of real life is you have to survive., which means staying off the lunch menu. The Rhinoceros (Rhino) is a great example.

It lives in contented solitude that does not completely exclude, but selects its companions carefully. It does not rely on the herd for protection. It is not the fastest, strongest, tallest or smartest animal in the wild. It stays off the lunch menu due to its protective skin that is over one-half an inch thick. It is extremely difficult to penetrate.

Teflon is a slick coating that has transformed the world due to its non-stick properties, thus "The Teflon Rhino". The Rhino's skin is slick and thick. It is not swayed by the crowd, coerced by opinion or motivated by popularity. It does not flinch in the face of adversity or succumb to the fear of the unknown. My greatest attribute as a leader and a citizen of the real world was birthed in me as an abandoned child. I am a survivor and I have written this book as a survival manual for you.

I pray that the survival skills I have learned over 6 decades of life and ministry will help navigate you through trials, heartaches, adversity and attacks that real life will bring into your jungle. Whether or not you believe it - you can be a survivor of the rarest kind. Like me you can be a Telfon Rhino.

Bill Wilson

Bill Wilson is the Founder and Senior Pastor of Metro Ministries, the largest Sunday School in the world and an international Christian humanitarian organization with headquarters in Brooklyn, NY.

Metro Ministries reaches over 40,000 inner city children and their families every week in New York City and around the world. Based on his principle that "it is easier to build boys and girls than to repair men and women," this successful, relationship-centered pattern is currently recognized as one of the ten most influential mission's organizations having the greatest impact around the world today.





The Poetry of
JENNY GRANT

WALKING HIS SHORE

*Standing alone upon the shore,
My being his love, given
the morning stance as My
highway,
Takes my questions, making home his answer,
Leaning forwards to my lovers brow,
Purity gazes, from seeking eyes,
Tentatively he moves his finger,
He marks loveliness etched as his meek embrace, Love fires his finer flames,
Emotion, floods in, makes my mood,
The human noise, that shouts,
Tries to bind as strife,
Knowing I am dead, the creative call of creations colour,
Expels his gala,
He raises my head, with his kiss,
Motioned to the empathy of his loyalty,
His quest, my knight rescues me,
Holy breathe, breathes his ardour,
Touch of life, rescuing my lips,
Perception perceives his presence, his gift,
The oil of the Fathers love,
Hands of the heavenly host,
God of the most,
Pours his oil, from the pool of his wonders, Anointed with the salve, of his earnest
repose, Seeing as his, royal mauve, purple richness, he hails his garment,
To flounce upon the wind,
Walking barefoot upon the shore,
My heart moved, by his every flagging,
The lover moves my toes, tapered to his,
Tangible love as he spreads my feet, as the rivers voile,
Expanding his light,
Setting light to the grace of the morning shore, Walking with him, held as him,
Walking on the water's edge,
The linen. Of no regress,
making the master of my life lead me through his waves.*



Prophetic

By Jubal Johnson

Father of Lights

Father of Heaven
Father of Lights
You brighten up
My shadow life
You make your ways known Your
paths clearly shown Your power and
might

Father of mercies
You show me love
Like no other can Forgiveness
Tenderness
Goodness
Kindness, unlike any man

Father of spirits
You flood my heart and soul With a
knowing of eternity From within it
explodes Your very presence
Overtakes me inside
And oh what an adventure What a
glorious ride!

Father of all Creation, Elohim
Great Creator, maker of all things
You birth us, and rebirth us
Sons of Adam and second Adam
Prophets, Priests and Kings,
Abba, Papa, Daddy, Father
Lord of all the lights and rings.

In Focus



DANIEL KOLENDA

BACKGROUND

Evangelist Daniel Kolenda is a fifth generation preacher who received a calling to take the Gospel to the nations as a young boy. As a teenager, his life was radically changed after an extraordinary encounter with God's power that ignited a passionate burden for the lost.

After graduating from the Brownsville Revival School of Ministry in Pensacola and Southeastern University in Lakeland, he went into church planting and pastoral ministry before launching out onto the evangelistic field.

It was at one of Reinhard Bonnke's Great African Crusades that Daniel first saw the massive crowds of people being saved, healed and filled with the Holy Spirit. And it was there that the Lord renewed the burden in him to take the Gospel to the nations. In obedience to God's voice, Daniel launched out into full-time, evangelistic ministry through International Gospel crusades and conferences.

Daniel is now part of the Christ for all Nations team, serving as Evangelist. He preaches and ministers at his side at the Gospel Crusades and Fire Conferences around the world. Daniel's ministry is marked by a powerful evangelistic anointing, with miracles following the preaching of the Word.

UPDATE - Since the publication of this issue, As successor to world-renowned evangelist REINHARD BONNKE, Daniel Kolenda is now the President and CEO of CfaN.

Q How and when did you come to accept Jesus as your personal savior?

I was born into the family of a pastor and received Jesus at around six years old. My testimony is that the Lord has kept me true to Him from a young age and I have loved Him as long as I can remember.

Q When did you know that God was calling you into full-time evangelism?

As a young boy I felt a calling to go to Africa as a missionary or evangelist. This was a passion during my childhood. However, when I finally went into ministry many years later, I became a pastor. The Lord was blessing my ministry, but I was not satisfied. Evangelist Bonnke always says that if you want to make an evangelist miserable, force him to preach to those who are already saved! This is how I felt during that time. Then, on a crusade in Nigeria with CfaN, that evangelistic calling was re-kindled in a profound way. I knew I could not go back to church as usual. I left the pastorate and went into full-time evangelistic ministry in obedience to the call of God. I will never look back!

Q Relate briefly to us your CfaN story. When and how did you begin working with the CfaN team?

While pastoring as a young church plant in the United States, I took a job at the CfaN offices in Orlando, just to make ends meet. My first job there was in the warehouse. I was packing boxes, mailing packages and taking inventory. That is where Evangelist Bonnke found me and eventually invited me to travel with him as a personal assistant. In 2 Kings, Elisha is described as the one who, "...poured water on the hands of Elijah."

This is a good description of my job as an assistant. I was simply helping to meet Evangelist Bonnke's day-to-day needs and just generally being a servant. But, although I did not realize it at the time, that humble assignment was divinely orchestrated, set-up that positioned me to catch a mantle. As I 'poured water' on the hands of Evangelist Bonnke, the passion and single-minded evangelistic drive that he is so well known for was very contagious. I caught it good!

That is when the inevitable happened.... I left CfaN to go into full-time evangelistic ministry. Later, Evangelist Bonnke would invite me to come back and minister at his side from time-to-time. As this relationship developed, it became clear to all of us that there was something special and sovereign happening. Today, I am a part of CfaN team - ministering alongside Evangelist Bonnke as his associate evangelist.

Q What are some of the personal challenges you have had to face and overcome to be at the point in ministry where you are today?

I have sometimes felt that someone more talented or educated or qualified should be in my shoes. I have had to come to the place where I realize that His grace is enough for me, and to trust the anointing.

When you are just about to begin preaching the Gospel, what are the thoughts and feelings that flood your heart? Every time I take the microphone, in my hand, I have an acute awareness of the tremendous responsibility I have as an evangelist. When I stand on the platform before hundreds of thousands of people, I realize that for many I might be the only one standing between them and hell. I preach as to a dying man. I am not interested in being the best or most popular preacher, I only care about one thing - I want to snatch people out of hell like firebrands from the flames!

Q How do you balance family and ministry?

We always make time for the things in life that are important to us. I have an extremely demanding ministry schedule. However, my family is a priority to me. I do not want to win the whole world and watch my family go to hell.

Therefore, I make time for my family and I do my best to give them quality time as well. I pour into the multitudes and I think that they can feel that.

I pour into them with the same enthusiasm that I pour into the multitudes and I think they can feel that too.

Kindly provided by CfaN UK.

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FOR ALL NATIONS

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Christian Art and Poetry

By
David Anthony





FISHING AT CHRISTMAS

We saw the shops near to us gearing up for Christmas around early November. No soon as the sun-tan lotions have been put away a vast myriad of delights and goodies appear on the shelves. We had gotten through an 18 pack box of mince pies before the middle of November in our house! I read a question that grabbed me a few days ago. You've probably heard it but here it is: Take the "M & S" out of Christmas and what have you got? You should be left with Christ!

Many people all over the UK will be running around at Christmas buying trees, presents, food and generally having a good time. A number of us truly know the meaning of this special time of year and mark it in the way it should be, but the majority continue in the dark in terms of any kind of relationship with Jesus Christ. I don't think there's anything wrong in celebrating Christmas. Some Christians say we should not celebrate it at all. How can we not once a year, take time to acknowledge the coming of our King Jesus to the face of this planet?

I often find that it's such a great time to talk to people about faith and God. Of course we should be sharing our faith all year round, but at Christmas our churches tend to help us a little more as there are usually lots of events and services that we can invite people to. The Light of the World entered our dark and gloomy planet and here some two-thousand years later he chooses and uses people like you and me to help bring hope and light to the lives of the people who he loves and died for.

To not share your faith is a tragedy! We hold out against doing so very often because we're scared of how people will react to us. We can't stand the rejection of being told it's all a load of nonsense.

You know if we have truly experienced the Fire of God in our lives these things will be secondary concerns. Our concern should ultimately be to tell people of a loving God and that he is the true meaning of Christmas. I've always said that it

is a lie of the enemy – trying to convince Christians that evangelism in any way, shape or form doesn't work. Be bold and share your faith. Take courage knowing that the Holy Spirit is with you. After all it is the Holy Spirit who is the one who brings revelation to sin.

I've been looking at Smith Wigglesworth again this week. Wigglesworth, like Charles Finney, believed that the presence of a man filled with God could bring conviction to sinners without even a word being spoken. As he sat opposite a man in a railway carriage, the man suddenly jumped up, exclaimed, "You convict me of sin!" and went out into another carriage." Imagine living a life like that! Well with that Holy Spirit Firestorm you can!

Has anyone ever said to you that you radiate Jesus? Or 'I can see Jesus all over you' or 'When I look into your face it's like seeing Jesus.' These types of comments must have some truth. It's no doubt that our outward expression should be a reflection of what's on the inside of us. I often think of sharing our faith in the context of running the hurdles. Each time that runner comes to make a jump they have a choice to make. With every ounce of strength they have to make a jump, attain a certain level of height and then when clear land on the other side in perfect position to continue ready for the next jump.

It's like that with us and evangelism. We're in a race. The jump represents a choice we have to make concerning sharing our faith. We have to tackle that thing head on. We have to have strength to go for it. We need to press forward. And then the knock comes. That bar slams our ankles and sends us flying off to the side. We lie on the floor licking our wounds and never dare go near evangelism and faith-sharing again. The hurdler in this situation will get back up and give it a go until the race is won and every goal achieved!

I'm not saying that we treat people necessarily as evangelistic targets or goals, but we have to have a plan of some kind! Maybe list a whole load of people that you are praying for to come to Christ and think about how you might effectively share your faith with them. Think about what have been the hurdles you've fallen on in trying to share Jesus with them. It could be the hurdle of terminology – this page is littered with it – Christian talk and words! I'm sure we've almost invented our own vocabulary by now!

It could be the hurdle of time – you just simply see this as a barrier to building effective meaningful friendship and you see that as the starting base for any kind of faith-sharing. It may be the hurdle of fear, the hurdle of failure, the hurdle of I've been running for this hurdle so many times but just can't seem to get over it. Whatever the hurdle determine in your life to go back and try it again knowing that you are more than a conqueror in Christ Jesus. Where we are unable – He is all able. I've had many rejections over the years, but if we give up and keep on giving up then we'll share faith with no-one. It then becomes a habit that we don't share our faith and if you look at the bigger picture a habit the Church can easily slip into.

If you're a Pastor reading this, be bold and lay the gospel on the table in your Christmas celebrations this year. Of course put it all across in a way that makes sense to what you are - what style your church is and respectfully to the people you have to minister it to. But don't leave those fish swimming in the net! God has given you a catch that you need to haul in over the side of the boat. If you leave them there too long there is great potential that some may eventually find a way out of that net!

It grieves me sometimes to sit in church meetings where you can just sense and know that you know that there are a whole load of people there who could make a choice to commit to Christ in that moment. The Holy Spirit has already begun to move in their hearts and lives – yet we in our wisdom and experience make the decision for them! That today is not the day and the moment is not now and quickly we invite them to some course we're running where they can find out about Jesus in a more relaxed way.

*'And He said to them,
"Follow Me, and I will
make you fishers of men.'"*

Matt 4:19

The gospel for me rings with a greater sense of urgency. Why wait twelve weeks for them to explore when they could make that choice now!! I'm not saying courses are wrong, but their needs to be some thinking here. They have become a substitute by being relevant, caring, seeker friendly, etc. We forget that God can do more than we can and change lives in an instant of time. He did that for me! I always smile at myself and think – What if the Lord came back at week 2 of the course and they still hadn't made the decision!

The Gospel is the power of God unto Salvation. God's power! Not ours. We have to trust that he will make every difference when our approaches fail us.

So what does this Christmas period hold for you? Of course an opportunity to spend time with your family and friends and to relax. For those burning with the Fire of God it's a great time to reflect, to review and to say Lord how can I jump that next hurdle in the dilemma of faith-sharing in an easier way?

Somehow I can hear the distant echo of the Great commission – "GO! – and surely I am with you to the end of the ages...Go fishing this Christmas. You might be surprised at your catch!



CfaN A Harvest of Souls

