

'My tongue is the pen of a ready writer' Ps 45:1



3-in-1

The Voice



ISSUE 24

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IN FOCUS

Featuring **PATRICIA BOOTSMA**
Jubilee Christian Centre, Canada

- More from Youth Fellowship in Northern Ireland in her section **CONNECT** from Robyn Brooks, Youth Leader 'Turning Point'
- Jenny Grant brings more spirit filled poetry to the reader
- And David Anthony brings another message in his amazing poster imagery



WELCOME!

It's June and Issue 24 is out now available to download or view for FREE online! We have had a great response to our new LARGE PRINT versions and we are looking at 'translating' all our

past issues into this format also to make 3-in-1 The Voice even more accessible to a wider readership.

This month we have PATRICIA BOOTSMA from Canada IN FOCUS Patricia has just completed a UK tour, and visited Northern Ireland again. Last year 3-in-1 The Voice had an opportunity to interview Patricia and this month she has just released her new book, which will be reviewed by Pst Graham Gilliland shortly in a separate supplement.

The Gate will run a new series which has just been launched by 3-in-1 Publishing which is called 'My Personal Testimony Series' which will enable you the reader to share your personal testimony with us...this week is the powerful testimony of how one woman's struggle against the world and all it has to 'offer' ended dramatically and Jesus rescued her from certain destruction. If you would like to contribute to 3-in-1 The Voice please forward your writings, poems or artwork for consider to any of the addresses on our website under 'contact', we cannot guarantee that it will be published but we will do our best...thank you for all your continued support and feedback...

Many blessings in Jesus

Melanie Henderson – Editor

And remember:

"The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you.....Do not be afraid....." Deut 31:8 (NJV)

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Pilgrim's Progress

David Chenoweth

Co-founder Walking in the Light Ministries
(UK)

Editor-in-Chief 3-in-1 The Man's Voice

MELT THE MOUNTAINS...

'The Mountains melted like wax at the presence of the LORD,' Ps 97:5

Psalm 97 contains the key to understanding the Image of God and how we who are made in His image can reach forth, transcend this world into the Kingdom of God, and experience the sheer power of the LORD. As we read this Psalm and absorb the Word deep within us and meditate upon it, we in turn allow Him to reveal His purpose for us.

The Psalm opens with the Kingship of our Lord God who is the creator of all things. Once you get your head 'around' that concept of what Kingship means, you are in a better position to start reading the first verse. Positioning yourself to read the Word is so important, alignment with Jesus His Son and others within the kingdom is so important.

Verse 1 tells us as that the LORD reigns – that means that His decisions are supreme, that He and He alone has dominion and power over all things; not governments, or leaderships but the LORD our God and creator, who has the ultimate supreme power to reign over all things. A King or Queen can only 'reign' after a victory has been won and they are unchallenged – think of the cross.

Because our LORD reigns, we are told that earth ought to rejoice and be glad. As this world's condition deteriorates and heaves back and forth with grief at man's actions, this verse tells us that the earth trembles at the LORD's presence and

that the very mountains melt like wax! The earth itself responds to the LORD's presence – we need only be glad! (Verse 12).

Our Creator's throne is not comprised as an earthly one and doesn't look anything like a monarch's throne that many visualise in their finite minds - righteousness and justice are the foundations of this throne – and the throne itself? It is one comprising grace, one that we can all approach with confidence...

'Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.' Heb 4:16

Therefore, the spiritual concepts of His kingdom though sometimes difficult for us to understand usually require help – our helper is the Holy Spirit who can help us to reach or achieve this conceptual understanding, through His gifts, enabling a greater understanding of these spiritual principalities, powers and dominions. To open another door to that which is unseen we are told are the things to seek – helping us to attain an eternal state whilst still on earth...

'So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.' 2 Cor 4:18

As we continue to read this amazing Psalm the true nature of the power of God is exposed and we begin to realise that Jesus, our savior who sits at the right hand of the power of God is our only way into His presence. He is not only our savior and we bear His mark but He is our intercessor; only He and He alone can make intercession for us to Father God – our Creator. It is then as you begin to soak into your being the supernatural nature of God and that He has enabled us to have access to Him through His Son Jesus who rent the veil in two, that we begin to gain a sense of the greatness of the Father who not only preserves our souls but embellishes our spirits through the truth and the living Word.

'...Who preserves the souls of His godly ones...' Psalm 97:10

In addition, as our Heavenly Father you are also reassured that He and He alone is protecting you:-

"Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm." 1 Chron 16:22

Whenever I read this Psalm my spirit is so uplifted I burst out in praise and uplift His Holy name, immediately the mountains in our lives begin to melt away and the only person left on His feet is Jesus, standing at the cross...what are the idols in your life? Do they have this power? In Psalm 97:1 the earth is told to rejoice – this is us, this is our part - the rest of the Psalm is about Him...Rejoice!

God bless

Dave

Walking in the Light Ministries (UK) ©2011

Series available @ official website



Walking in the Light Ministries (UK) official website

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Follow Dave & Karin on Facebook & Twitter



1st Time Published!

Life Prayer

Lord, lead me to your purposes; I pray that I'm some use

After all the damage, the neglect and the abuse I know you have a master plan, just show me where I fit

When I'm standing at the crossroads, let me recognise it

May I have seen it before so I know which path to pick

And if I don't know where it goes, I pray that to it I will stick

There is no point in aimless wondering

You didn't create me to experience just the suffering

No, there's more to life than all the strife

Lord won't you help me to make the most of this, my life

Because I've given it to you and in your hands I place my trust

Lord your will is not just a want - it is a need, a must

Help me to know the difference between that which I can fathom

And that which was made unknown to even Adam

For you walked with him and he had your fellowship

All this before his notorious trip

I know you only hold back that which we can't handle

Show us your steps; let us walk in your sandals

Even though we don't measure up

Your love, it flows, it overwhelms the cup

We'll never be the ideal vessel but Lord I pray,

That you'll use me anyway

Because without your purpose, I'm pointless



Messianic Moment

By
Dr Howard Morgan

The Hebraic Heart of Leadership

Part 2

Throughout church history, and today, we see leaders who have been compromised, to one degree or another, so that they were (or are) deceived into building their own religious empires. The subtlety of the deception is great, but the fruit is always the same, people are not given the spiritual environment they need to grow in their relationship with God and to fulfil their calling. They are trapped in a religious system that keeps them spiritually weak and dependent upon their so-called "leaders." These leaders' words and deeds reveal the fact that they do not have a Hebraic heart but a heart that seeks things other than the glory of the King and the spiritual maturity of His people. These leaders are locked into protecting and promoting their religious system because it gives them a degree of security and power. For others to grow spiritually is very threatening and resisted by various means.

Leaders in the Kingdom of God, however, are people who have been, and continue to be, impacted by the power of the Holy Spirit. The result of that encounter is a heart that seeks only the Glory of the King and the spiritual growth of those in his Kingdom. This kind of heart is exemplified and modelled for us by the Apostle Paul. The motivation of his heart is clearly seen in Colossians 1:28, where he wrote that he was doing everything he could to present every person complete in the Messiah. To present every person complete in the Messiah is the goal of everyone who is a true leader in the Kingdom of God. If you are a leader, or aspire to be a leader in the Kingdom of God, and you have any other incentive or goal, you must carefully and rigorously examine the motives of your heart. Please understand that the deceptions that lead someone to build the "empire of self" instead of the Kingdom of God are extremely subtle. We are all so very easily influenced by the power and needs of "self." Diligent self-examination, open-faced humble prayer (i.e. prayer that entreates God to test you and reveal your own motives) and trusted Godly relationships are a few of the weapons we can use to keep the motivations of our hearts pure.

When his disciples came to Him asking about greatness, the Messiah explained to them one of the fundamental principles of leadership in His Kingdom. He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the

youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves" (Luke 22:25-26). This theme is repeated in Matthew 20:24-28 when He said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave--just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

This is the fundamental motivation of the heart of a leader that is revealed in our Hebraic religion. It is a heart that is motivated to serve. It is a heart that only wants to see the King glorified and to see His people come into the completeness that He desires. It is a heart that is ready, willing, and able to give its life for the purposes of God to be established in others. It does not think about itself first, it thinks about the King and His aspirations for His people. Its only motivation is to be pleasing to the Lord and to see Him glorified. It does not care what others may say or do. It only cares about being faithful to the King and doing what He desires in the lives of His children. It is always focused on the will of God, not the desires of men. Such a leader is willing to risk the rejection of people in order to accomplish the purposes of God. Leaders with a Hebraic heart are willing to suffer personal rejection because they will not acquiesce to anyone's agenda. They firmly resist being compromised by anyone or anything. They will not commit spiritual treason by usurping or misusing the delegated authority that they received from the King. They will use that authority for building up the Body of Christ and not for building their own religious empires. Do not be deceived, people with corrupt motivations can still exercise spiritual authority. "The gifts and callings of God are without repentance" (Romans 11:29). This is why Jesus told us that on the day of Judgment many will come to him declaring what they have done and He will order them to depart (Matthew 7:21-23).

God's servants are not slaves, at the beck and call of other people's selfish, self-centered demands. They seek only to serve the purposes of God in other people's lives. They seek to disciple and equip the saints so that they can fulfil God's will in their lives. Discipling and equipping others can sometimes call for uncomfortable confrontations and sombre exhortations to repentance and godly living. Not only do leaders need the right motivation for serving, they need the right strategies to implement the purposes of God. Discipling others is not easy. It requires much wisdom and spiritual maturity. These qualities are not obtained easily or cheaply. It is precisely because these qualities are purchased with great personal expense that we see so little of it. But God is raising up a new generation of leaders, a generation of leaders with a Hebraic heart, a heart to see the people of God become all that He desires.

To be continued...





By

Robyn Brooks

WORSHIP??

Right this word worship what exactly does it mean? – This is the dictionary's meaning - *reverent honour and homage paid to God or a sacred personage, or to any object regarded as sacred.*

However, that's not what God says it is, he tells us in Romans 12 that our boring daily life's our worship to him with HIS help we can be an offering to the king of kings and most of all we can be pleasing to our Dad, God.

Romans 12

So here's what I want you to do. Think of your life Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out.

Let's brake down this awesome revelation from Gods word so we can actually grasp what we are expected to do with this information. What does your day look like, school home work ewww (I can't even do my nine year olds homework) maybe you have a job or you are involved with the little kids in your church or you are a social bird who needs to be with their friends, you should be the light that shines the light of Jesus in your life if you just be the amazing person God made you to be that's an offering, hold onto the things he has done for you and tell people about them from the massive exiting experiences to those wee things when he's met your need or sent some to be there just at the right time for you.

But here comes the provision in this worship thing if we want our lives to be an offering to the king we need to remember not to get so caught up in

our lives with other people; Casting Crowns the Christian worship group puts it so well in one of their songs. *"What this world needs is for us to care more about the inside than the outside. Have we become so blind that we can't see God's gotta change her heart before He changes her shirt, What this world needs is for us to stop hiding behind our relevance, Blending in so well that people can't see the difference, And it's the difference that sets the world free."* ("What This World Needs")

Are you that type of Christian? The one who loves church but is happy six days out of seven to be chilling with your chums, swearing messing with other people's heads, checking stuff out on the internet you know you shouldn't?? Are you so blended in to the background of your world that people tend to walk past you in the corridor of school or work? God doesn't want you to do any of that equally he doesn't want you to be up in everyone's face screaming that they need to be saved you should always fallow Jesus example of loving and caring for people and showing this buy being a servant offing to help people in need. With God, you can expect change if you just let him from the inside out a change of heart a change a mind and a change of being you can expect you every day boring life to be an offering to Your Dad Almighty God

So the challenge this month is to think are you what your world needs are you an offing to God or is worship in your life just a playlist on your ipod??





The Poetry of Jenny Grant

Betsy Natale - Anointed Words

Harbour Spun Gold

As I speak upon your gold,
 The golden thread of silk like cotton,
 excelling your aura in the supple mold, as if spun,
 From your coil of earnest requisite love,
 Breezing in the light of early evening,
 Impossible, probable,
 The span that makes your crest a harvest,
 Sheaf that's cuts it's bough, to bear fruit,
 Tangible, words that knit upon your people,
 Your silken trust, binding up your goodness,
 The essence of your presence,
 Shadows you upon your waters,
 At the moor of the evening, peace abroad
 spreads your temperament,
 Your oar, to make so much more,
 Gathered people, as your threaded girth, to birth
 your ardour,
 Evening enhancing your harbour,
 Spinning from the beginning your begotten
 beauty,
 Spake your rustic acoustic, forms your plentiful
 catch,
 Sucre now your finest gold,
 Brought forth upon the shore, spun through time,
 Words draped real across my tongue,
 Spun your gold, warm in the evening,
 Your haul.

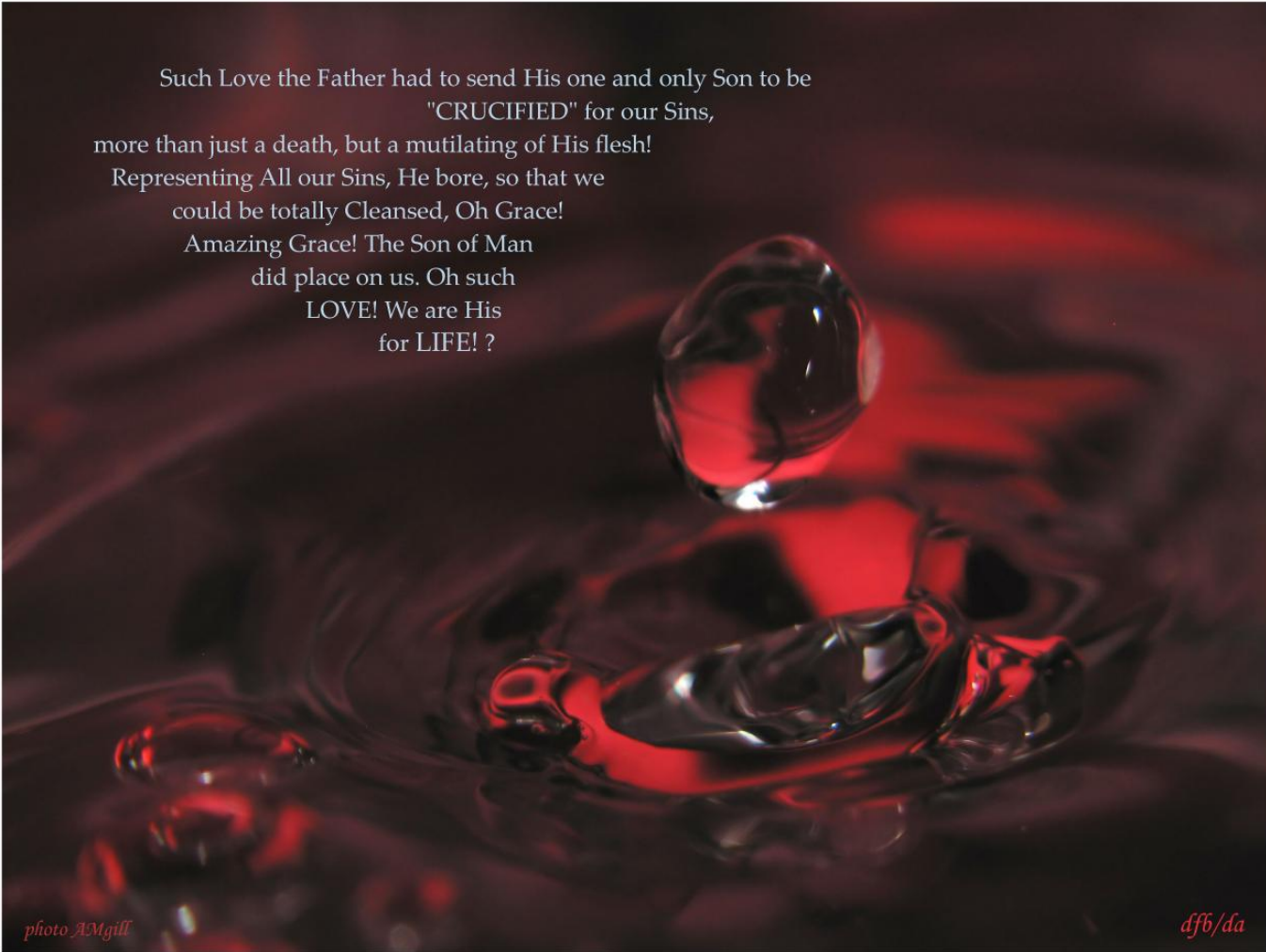
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LORD, YOU ARE

Lord, you are a beautiful tree
 kissed by the sun on an Autumn eve,
 Lord you are like a poem to me
 so Majestic and so free.
 But is there a poem that could ever be,
 My Precious Lord, as lovely as thee?
 For you are the Savior of my soul
 You are my warmth when I am cold,
 and you are food for a hungry soul..
 You are the sunrise in early morn.
 A field of flowers beautifully adorned.
 You are the lighthouse on a stormy sea,
 The only Anchor in our times of need.
 Lord, you are the Shepard of my soul,
 You are my comfort as I grow old.
 The only hope for lonely lost souls.
 and Lord, I know I'll never see
 A closer friend in my time of need.
 Lord, you can set the sinner free
 and you can make the blind to see.
 You have taken my wasted life,
 and for me paid the ultimate price.
 Lord, in my heart may you forever be
 A light in my life for others to see.
 Lord, you are the conqueror of my fears,
 You are the one that I hold dear.
 The sins of my life were many indeed
 but from that prison, I have been set free.....

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Christian Art & Poetry – Debbie Fulcher-Belch (USA)



Such Love the Father had to send His one and only Son to be
"CRUCIFIED" for our Sins,
more than just a death, but a mutilating of His flesh!
Representing All our Sins, He bore, so that we
could be totally Cleansed, Oh Grace!
Amazing Grace! The Son of Man
did place on us. Oh such
LOVE! We are His
for LIFE! ?

photo AMgill

dfb/da

Such Love the Father had to send His one and only Son
to be "CRUCIFIED" for our Sins
More than just a death, but a mutilating of His flesh!
Representing All our Sins,
He bore, so that we could be totally Cleansed,
Oh Grace! Amazing Grace!
The Son of Man did place on us.
Oh such LOVE!
We are His for LIFE! ♥ dfb

His flesh was ripped to the point of not recognizing Him, Our Sins were heavy upon Him, stripping Him to gush His entire Blood stream empty...He died for ALL of us! To make us WHOLE! To Make US CLEAN to Make us LIVE...For Eternity!! Without Fault! Blameless, He would not have suffered the way He did, for us to continue in the LAW of SIN..But so that we Could continue to FOCUS on Him!! We celebrate His death everyday...His Resurrection is Always in our Hearts! Never to depart!! Happy Resurrection DAYS ahead! and As this Easter Day is approaching, May we Rejoice knowing!!! It is Finished! It is Done! and WE are FREE to LIVE in the SON. His Grace to never come UNDONE!! ♥dfb

Let us go RIGHT into the PRESENCE of GOD with Sincere Hearts FULLY Trusting Him. For our guilty consciences HAVE BEEN sprinkled with Christ's BLOOD to MAKE US CLEAN, and our Bodies have been WASHED with PURE WATER~Hebrews 10:22

IN FOCUS

PATRICIA BOOTSMA – Part 1

Author/ Co-founder & Leader Jubilee Christian Centre - Canada



Patricia Bootsma alongside her husband John are the Senior Pastors of Jubilee Christian Fellowship in Stratford, ON, Canada, a Partners in Harvest church closely linked with its daughter church, Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship. John and Patricia founded and pastored TACF's Prophetic Team. Patricia travels locally and abroad inspiring hearts to know the Father's love, awoken with passion for Jesus and walk intimately with the Holy Spirit.

Additionally she helps to equip the Bride of Christ to hear the voice of the Bridegroom, operate proficiently in the prophetic gifting with accompanying signs and wonders walking in both the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. John and Patricia host an annual International School of the Prophets, with a one-week version now spreading into various International locations. John and Patricia are the parents of six fabulous children.

In 2010, 3-in-1 Publishing had the opportunity to interview Patricia in an amazing interview Part 1 is here today with Part 2 to follow later...

Q Ok Patricia so how long have you been in the ministry full-time?

A I have been in the ministry since 1995 fulltime

Q What led you to the Lord?

A I was 12 years old when I became born again. I was raised in a church, like a traditional church and I was attending a Christian church school, one day the teacher explained that you must be born-again. So I cried unto the Lord and became born-again. However, it was at age 8 I had had an incredible encounter with what I

believe were two angels. I remember that they came to my family farm and they told me about my life that I would travel and go to the nations and that I would tell people about Jesus, and that I would see people come to salvation. It was obviously a prophetic word but at the time I was only 8 years old and I wasn't born again then but I just thought wow these people know about my life how incredible! My mom who was working nearby so I asked her later did she see these people and did she know who they were? She said 'what people?' I said 'well those people' but they were gone. I can't prove it but I do believe that they were angels. So my heart was branded then and from then I always had a desire for the Lord but I became born-again at aged 12.

Q So then when you became born again at age 12 did that memory come back and did you have a desire then to go to the nations?

A You know it really didn't leave me, from the age of 8 actually, I would have visions also of people coming to Jesus, however there was one vision that was very distinct that would occur again and again, like when I was 8, 10, 14 and so on - I was at an open air meeting on stage preaching to other people and with others. I wasn't the only preacher on the stage but we would kinda take turns. I would see all these different faces and I thought it was Africa. It's interesting because Nov 2007 was my first time that I would go to Africa and I had a 'mini version' of that vision coming true! Because I was speaking in an open air meeting in the back of a truck with all these generators and microphones and there was all these people from all the villages and surrounding villages had come out, and a man I had just prayed for he had been paralysed for 18 months, here was this man blind, deaf and paralysed and it was incredible because he got healed! His blindness left, we led him to Jesus his hearing was restored and because of his miraculous healing the whole village gave their lives to Jesus!

Q So how does that make you feel as a human being to witness this and that God has used you in this way?

A I really believe that when God's Word is spoken and this is really important that it is important to know what is God or what is 'me the flesh'. But from the age of eight, I have really believed in the power of God's spoken Word, in the power of Jesus. The power to direct

us, the power to enable us to have relationship with the Lord and what is so important for me is being able to have that intimacy and relating to God as my Father and Jesus as the bridegroom and the having the Holy Spirit as my constant



Patricia and her husband John are moving to Toronto in September 2011 to become the lead Pastors of Catch The Fire Toronto (formerly Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship).

companion and source of power. So it definitely changes the way I live my life, because I believe in miracles and I believe God speaks to enable us to perpetually hear when I need a prophetic word for somebody. This is the big thing that I want to impress on the body of Christ is that we can lead prophetic lives, that we can live a lifestyle. For instance, we hear God for us, we hear God for our children or we hear God in evangelism like we hear God for just anything. You know we need to hear Him, Jesus said that man would not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Yes, it definitely has changed me to see prophecy fulfilled.

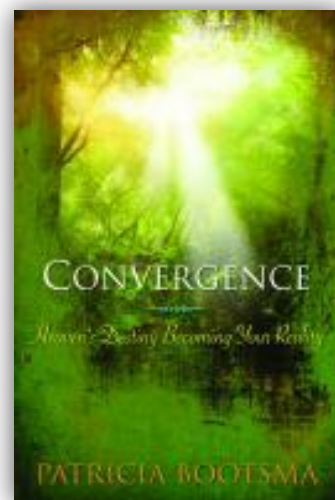
Q Intercession is a big feature in your ministry, would you say intercession not only keeps you in 'tune' with God but more importantly in alignment with His purposes for your ministry?

Absolutely I feel very strongly that intercession and the prophetic go together. The Lord has really revealed to me the importance of intercession and the connection with prophecy, for example prophecy is really the springboard into the pool of prayer. For instance, a lot of the prophets in the bible were intercessors so I definitely feel it plays a large role in seeing the prophetic come to pass in our lives. So we really believe in the power of prayer and it's not just about petitioning but about worship and the

prayers of the saints that are caught up in the bowls of heaven.

So if this is the case then we seek to create a place of intercession, so at the moment we have like 14 hours a week set apart for worship and intercession. We also have prayer cells within our church that are 'traditional' prayer meetings also, but we really enjoy this combination of worship and intercession. The worship is extolling the Lord and agreeing with who He is, and then the intercession is agreeing with what He wants to do. So for instance, we will have an intercession cell praying for the peace of Israel as it tells us to do in the Word, we are the watchmen on the wall – so we pray for Israel. We pray for peace and for the veil to be lifted from the Jewish people. Then we will pray for Canada, we will pray for our government, the houses of prayer in Canada and the bride of Christ in Canada. We have seen so much movement since praying for Canada our government has become much more righteous than it has ever been and we just pray for things that the Lord just puts on our hearts to pray for...and then we have times of just praying in the Word.

To be continued



**Just out! 'Converge' by Patricia Bootsma
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HEROES



THE PREPARER

Lianne Henderson

John replied in the words of the prophet Isaiah: "I am a voice shouting in the wilderness, Clear the way for the LORD's coming!"

John 1:23



The story of John the Baptist begins with Zacharias and Elizabeth, who were of a priestly family. Elizabeth was barren and could not bear any children and both she and Zacharias prayed for a child of their own. What is important to note is that the

circumstances of the conception of John the Baptist mirrors that of the birth of Isaac who would later be named Israel, his parents were Abraham and Sarah. Abraham and Sarah were of old age and Sarah was barren until she gave birth to Isaac when she was well over 90 years old when God gave Abraham the son that was promised to him through his wife Sarah.

Elizabeth was related to Mary, the mother of Jesus, and her husband was Joseph who is a direct descendant of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This is significant as well as it first showcases the importance of John the Baptist he was related to Jesus The Christ as well as Abraham, Isaac and Jacob though Mary's marriage to Joseph. His miraculous conception and how it mirrors that of Abraham and Sarah is a clear indication of that and God's acknowledgment that through Joseph they are Abraham's children. Zacharias and Elizabeth lived in the "hill country" of Judea. They were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord and were blameless making them perfect parents to this amazing prophet and teacher.

Zacharias and Elizabeth always wanted a child of their own and could not, until one day when

Zacharias' went to exercise his duty of burning incense in the temple at Jerusalem, an angel of the Lord appeared and announced to him that his wife would give birth to a son, whom he was to name John, and that this son would be the forerunner of the Lord. Zacharias did not believe this as the thinking of the world swept in. He thought of their advanced age and knew that his wife was barren he asked with disbelief for a sign whereby he would know the truth of this prophecy. In reply, the angel identified himself as Gabriel, sent especially by God to make this announcement. However, he added that because of Zechariah's doubt he would be struck dumb and "not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed". Consequently, when he went out to the waiting worshippers in the temple's outer courts, he was unable to speak the customary blessing. This is proof of how important John's conception and birth was the Lord didn't want him being fed doubt, if Zacharias would speak the child in the womb would have heard of the doubt of his father that is why the Lord kept him silent, he didn't want the child being fed with doubt after all he is the forerunner for his son coming.

After returning to his house his wife, Elizabeth conceived. John's conception was miraculous after all Elizabeth's womb was dead and it's impossible for infertile woman to bear children even to this day. He was about six months older than Jesus, which was the perfect age gap in his future as it would take John the Baptist a clear six months to build an amazing reputation of a teacher of the word and prophet to prepare the way for Jesus' ministry. It was foretold that this child would be filled with the Spirit of God, even from his mother's womb, and that he would be reared under the strict code of the Nazirite, an indication of the importance it was for John the Baptist to be a preparer for the way of the Messiah.

After Elizabeth completed her fifth month of pregnancy, her cousin Mary was also visited by the angel Gabriel, overshadowed by the Holy Ghost and - though still a virgin - became pregnant with Jesus The Christ. Mary then travelled to visit her cousin Elizabeth, having been told by the angel that Elizabeth was in her sixth month of pregnancy. The angel Gabriel notified Mary of Elizabeth's pregnancy, which shows us that her pregnancy news was not just good family news but the heavens were talking about it. When Mary went to visit her cousin the baby leaped in Elizabeth's womb, and she was filled with the Holy Spirit. This was actually the first meeting between John the Baptist and Jesus The Christ as the baby in Elizabeth leaped when

it was in the presence of the Son of God. This shows to us through scripture that unborn children have souls and they have lives. Gabriel could have informed Mary of John the Baptists birth but the angel informed her of the pregnancy showing that God cares for the unborn child of a mother unborn children as equally important to children being born in the world. Mary remained at her cousins for about three months before she returned to her own house.

Elizabeth gave birth soon after Mary left, and on the eighth day, when their son was to be circumcised according to the commandment, her cousins and neighbours assumed that he was to be named after his father. Elizabeth, however, insisted that his name was to be John; so the family then questioned her husband. As soon as Zachariah had written on a writing table: "His name is John", he regained the power of speech, and blessed "the Lord God of Israel" with a prophecy known to some as the Benedictus. The fact that Zachariah blessed his son as John proves to us and to God that Zachariah believed his son was the forerunner for the Son of God. He finally believed the prophecy that the angel Gabriel gave to him and as a reward, he got his speech back.

The Scriptures are silent as to the deaths of John's parents and how his life began to grow it does state in Luke a brief synopsis of his upbringing "*And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his showing unto Israel*" (Luke -1:80). This desert area "stretches from Jerusalem and Bethlehem eastward some 20 miles down to the Jordan River and the Dead Sea; it is a barren region of rugged hills and valleys. What is interesting to note is that seeing as John the Baptist grew up in the desert, as soon as Jesus was baptised Jesus was tested in the desert and fasted for forty days and forty nights, past the test of temptation and was ministered to by angels.

The description of John is brief and stark. He was arrayed in a "camel's hair" garment, secured by a leather belt, and his diet was locusts and wild honey (Mt. 3:4). His clothing is quite reminiscent of the adornment of certain Old Testament prophets (Zech. 13:4), particularly Elijah, who, as we have noted, foreshadowed John (cf. 2 Kgs. 1:8). He didn't have any beauty or majesty to attract the people, he wasn't rich or wealthy and never dined at fine restaurants, he ate locusts and honey, which the poorest elements of society in that time ate. If we saw him in the streets today I'd doubt we'd even stop and chat to him, he would have been a homeless beggar today. This is proof to us that power and majesty are not

shown in the outside but from the inside, regardless of his appearance and diet and social class he is remembered as a great teacher and the forerunner for Jesus' ministry.

John was somewhat isolated from the traditional way of living. Jesus once said: "John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He has a demon" (Mt. 11:18). This shows to us how much Jesus loved John not just as a prophet but as a cousin, he was sticking up for him, *you call my cousin a demon for not indulging in your socialising!* "Eating and drinking" stood for socializing he was not a party-goer, while people today wanted to go out to the clubs, drink and party John would have been the kind of person to stay at home and read a book, which in the eyes of society is 'not normal'. His ascetic life-style appeared almost demonic to others, like those possessed of evil spirits who apparently frequented the desolate areas. He did not seek out the multitudes but like Jesus, he attracted them.

John's mission can be summed up by one word, "preparer." It was his happy chore to prepare a people for the coming Messiah. Both Isaiah and Malachi had announced that he would "prepare" the way for the coming of "Jehovah" – a firm affirmation, incidentally, of the Christ Jesus. The angel Gabriel had informed Zacharias that his son would be instrumental in turning many unto the Lord, going before his face, making ready a people prepared for him. Zacharias himself prophesied that John would be called "the prophet of the Most High" who would "go before the face of the Lord to make ready his ways".

The citizens of Jerusalem and all Judea went out unto him as he moved about in the Jordan Valley. His influence was phenomenal, hundreds, if not thousands, were absolutely immersed by him. His success was solely in the message he proclaimed 'preparing the way of the Lord'. The multitudes said that he performed no "sign," though they regarded his message concerning Christ as true. This passage appears to indicate that John did not perform miracles, as Jesus and the apostles did. It is certainly the case, however, that his message was from God, and thus infallibly true. The power of John's preaching, together with the void in Israel's hearts, was a winning combination of an excellent ministry.

The Gate

My Personal Testimony Series

By
Hilary Hunter

"And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony..".

Rev 12:11

I am here to submit my personal testimony, I really don't have enough pages to write all of it down in detail or indeed all of the things that Jesus has done for me for me!

As a small child, I heard the gospel many times however, all I could remember was hell and God being angry and how He would punish you. So after these children's meetings as a small child I would come home and cry to my daddy and ask over and over if I was saved and if they were saved and then I would go over all my loved ones. This went on for a few years. I used to ask Jesus into my heart all the time, just in case He didn't hear me!

I don't recall anyone really telling me about Jesus' love I only remember the scary things. As I hit my teens I started to forget all about God, I started to develop other interests including smoking at 10 years old and drinking at 13 years, it was only a matter of time and I would start to experiment with drugs at age 15. It developed into a vicious circle all my teenage life. I was confused, I had no idea who I was and always felt a 'gap' in my life. I tried filling this gap with all the worldly things but I was never happy.

At 23, I fell pregnant and suffered severe post-natal depression, which carried on for many years. I was on sleeping pills, anti-depressants including Diazepam for many years. My drinking just got worse and in my depression, I felt as though I was in a bubble all the time. Then I started to develop suicidal thoughts, these haunted me all day and night. I could not get these thoughts out of my head. At one point, I was frightened of what I might do to my child and feared I would even take his life! I went onto a website to find out how I could gas myself and my son in my car. I felt I was out of control in every area of my life. When it came to the bit, I couldn't carry it out because of the deep sense and fear of going to hell. This continued for years and then I met a man who I thought would have helped me but the pain and hurt was still there and my drinking just got worse.

I had a nervous breakdown as a result in Jan 2007, I was referred to psychiatrists and one week before my wedding, I was caught and convicted of drink driving in Aug 2007. I could no longer cope and always had God at the back of my thoughts over all the years of depression. My marriage broke up after only 6 weeks, it was at this point of utter

despair that I knew I had to give my life to God; I couldn't do it on my own anymore. On the 23rd October, I gave my life to Jesus! WOW! WOW! What a night! I was immediately set free from my depression, suicidal thoughts and everything else instantly! To my amazement my husband gave his heart to the Lord the very same night just after me and yet neither of us were aware that we had both been saved, when we did we got back together and had a beautiful baby girl together and of course we couldn't name her anything other than Faith!

After a while the problems of the past started to come back and haunt both of us, we separated when Faith was only 6 months old. Although I kept my faith and I loved the Lord for what He had done in my life, I started to get very bitter and angry towards my husband because it was easier for me to hate him than to feel the pain. That's how I coped all my life I buried my pain deep down inside and then turn it into anger. I started divorce proceedings, then on the 30th June 2010, I had a house fire and lost all our belongings, through it all I knew that God was carrying me and it was at this point that God really started to work in my life dramatically. He started by making me face and deal with my past hurts one by one. I had cancelled my divorce proceedings in faith just before the fire but my anger started to rise again and divorce proceedings were commenced again a second time following the fire!

All the while though people were praying for me through the Walking in the Light Ministries (UK) Global Prayer Network for my marriage, people in over 29 different countries. Eventually God in His amazing gentle, loving and unforceful way healed me from the inside out! He used my terrible circumstances in my life and worked them all for His glory and honor. It is two years after our initial separation and my husband and I are miraculously re-united. Only God can heal and restore and I love Him more everyday for where He has brought me from what He has done in my life. I thank Him for turning around my situation and how He was able to turn around something that the enemy meant for harm and bad, turn it all for the good, and make all things new.

No matter what trials you are facing hold tight to Jesus and His promise through His sacrifice and atoning blood on the cross His power will turn all this around! Therefore, I would like to offer a big, big thank you to all the Walking in the Light Ministries (UK) Global Prayer Network intercessors for praying and lifting me up in their prayers. They were well and truly answered. God is good always! Keep up the good work and continue seeing lives changed by the power of prayer.

God bless, your sister in Christ

Hilary Hunter.

'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.' John 12:24



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Field of Grace

As I lay in a field of sunflowers
With thousands all around
I feel your love around me
As the breeze makes a soft sound
Your colour, your beauty
Your majesty, your strength
Like a sunflower may I always turn
And focus on your grace

Shine on me, mighty son of God
Shine on me
Rain on me, Blow on me
Pollinate my deepest soul
May I lay bare before you
With nothing left to hide
May I always long to be in our secret place
As I feel your love around me
When I lay in your field of grace

As the sun shines brightly from above
May I shine as I look to you
Bold, extravagant and beautiful
Filled with what is "true"
So peaceful - so refined
So faithful to the end
For your love endures forever
Jesus - my GOD send!

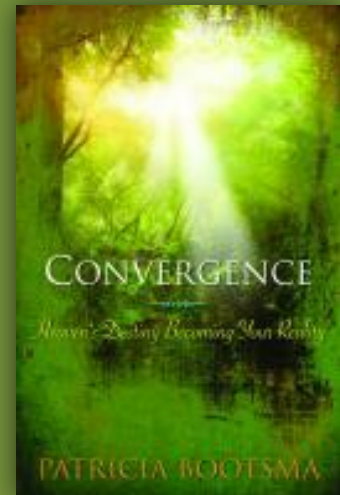
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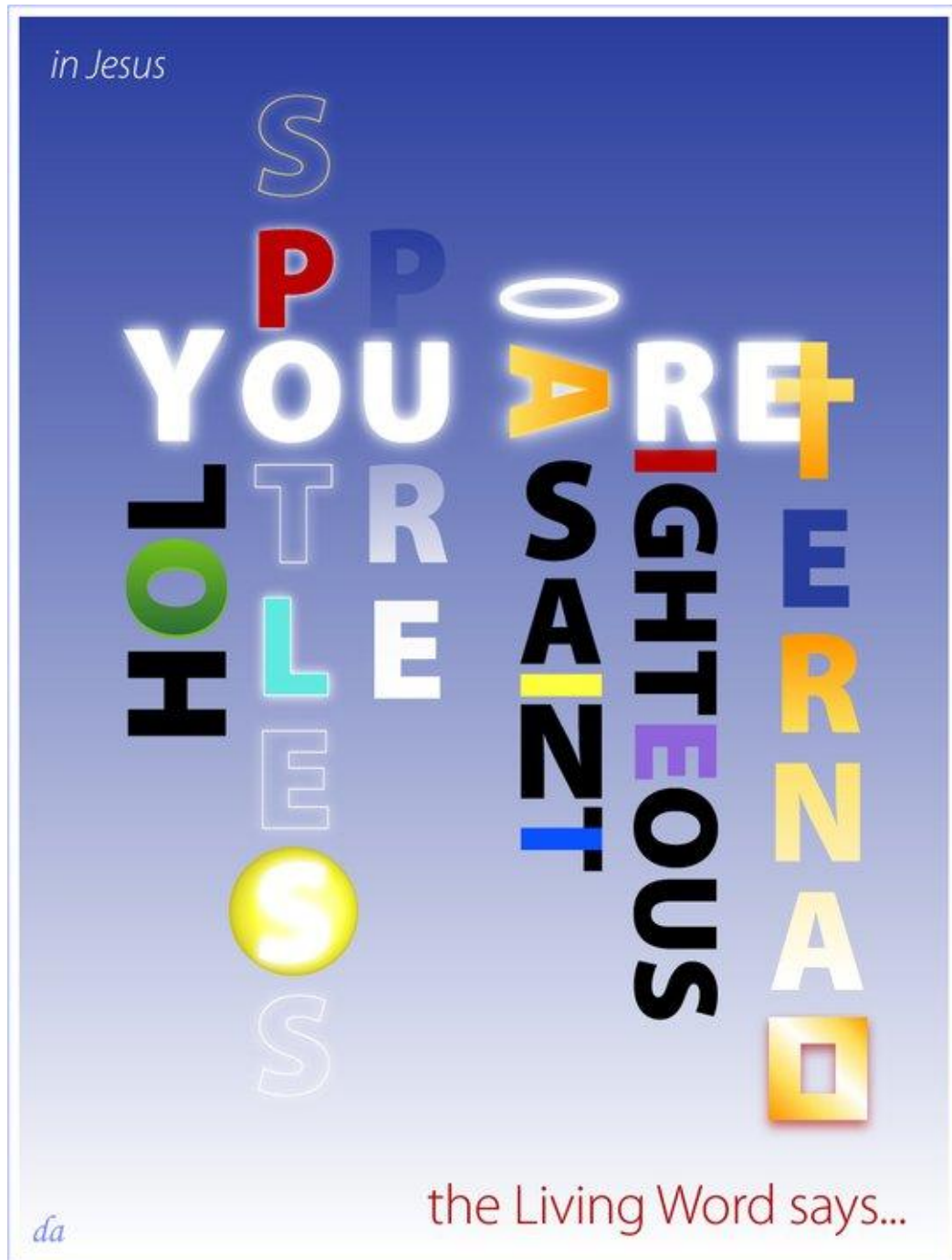
BOOK REVIEW – Special



With Asst Pastor Graham Gilliland

Christian Art

By
David Anthony





Word of God

June 2011

1st Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'" **Luke 4:8**

2nd For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. **Matt 7:8**

3rd Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. **Ps 45:6**

4th "The LORD reigns forever and ever." **Exo 15:18**

5th I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. **Ps 139:14**

6th Whoever has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. **John 3:33**

7th Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. **James 1:17**

8th Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. **Matt 5:48**

9th The one who gets wisdom loves life; the one who cherishes understanding will soon prosper. **Prov 19:8**

10th Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **Matt 7:19**

11th Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts! We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple. **Ps 65:4**

12th He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he. **Deut 32:4**

13th "As for God, his way is perfect: The LORD's word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him. For who is God besides the LORD? And who is the Rock except our God? **2 Sam 31-32**

14th He rules the world in righteousness and judges the peoples with equity. **Ps 9:8**

15th Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. **Lam 3:32**

16th You will be secure, because there is hope; you will look about you and take your rest in safety. **Job 11:18**

17th Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. **Matt 5:48**

18th For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. **Rom 8:29**

19th Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does. **Ps 145:13**

20th You gave me life and showed me kindness, and in your providence watched over my spirit. **Job 10:12**

21st Even if you go and fight courageously in battle, God will overthrow you before the enemy, for God has the power to help or to overthrow. **2 Chron 25:8**

22nd He makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth; he sends lightning with the rain and brings out the wind from his storehouses. **Ps 135:7**

23rd Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God. **Exo 34:14**

24th Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge. **Ps 62:8**

25th Do not be afraid of them; the LORD your God himself will fight for you. **Deut 3:22**

26th Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. **1 Peter 1:22**

27th The LORD detests the way of the wicked, but he loves those who pursue righteousness. **Prov 15:9**

28th from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth— **Ps 33:14**

29th For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. **Ps 139:13**

30th For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. **Rom 1:20**

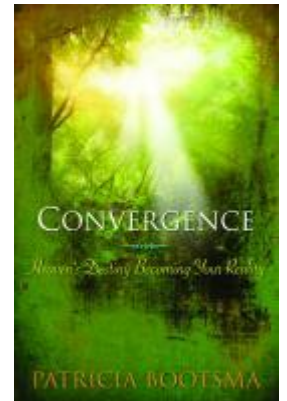
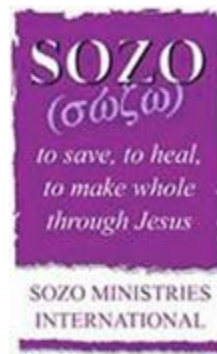
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