

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



3-in-1

The Voice

ISSUE 25



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IN FOCUS

PART 2

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



- 3-in-1 Poetry from Ros Sinclair, Jenny Grant and Betsy Natale
- Steve Norman brings a harrowing story and challenges the reader to respond!
- Dr Howard Morgan teaches on how women have been robbed in service...



WELCOME!

It's July and welcome to Issue 25! Our large print versions have proved very popular so we have decided to continue and now make available to all our readers Large Print versions of all issues

of 3-in-1 The Voice from Issue 1 to present so please keep watching and we will keep you posted.

Our new Facebook page is proving v popular and more and more people are sharing God's Word and the testimony's of His children through our pages. We give thanks for all the blessings that Father God has shown us from the foundation of 3-in-1 Publishing and for all our talented writers and artists some of who have been with us from the beginning and their commitment has not gone unnoticed. Thank you to all of you and we wish you continued blessings from Jesus.

We have Part 2 of the insightful and amazing interview with PATRICIA BOOTSMA who features IN FOCUS and also we have a book review of Patricia's latest book just released called 'CONVERGENCE' by Pastor Graham Gilliland from Towerview Free Methodist Church in Northern Ireland. Graham and his wife Rachel have been instrumental in the past in bringing Patricia over to Northern Ireland for various conferences. Well I know that a lot of you will be going on your summer breaks – have a great one and through this ministry, we will keep glorifying God throughout the nations...

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

BELIEVE THE LIE?

By Dave Chenoweth

'...Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone'. Rom 9:32

Imagine you are standing on the edge of a precipice and you have to make a decision to either go forward or go back! The answer seems to be very straightforward – go back right? However, if you remember we have already talked in the this series about the door being hung the wrong way in this world, therefore if God asks you this question and you are at a precipice or crossroads in your life, what would you do? What does the scriptures tell you? Your response must be to go forward, why? Because you are not thinking with the natural mindset anymore, it's gone, right? Well sort of, many people who come to Christ will experience a transformation; however, obtaining a Christ like mind is all part of the process that continues throughout your life and walk.

***'Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.'* Heb 11:1**

Many believers become concerned and worried that because they still 'think' like before that maybe they aren't really 'saved', some Christians with a religious spirit will

accuse others of this – this is just plain wrong! We are to seek to have a Christ like mind but we are mere humans who are living in a fallen world and alongside others in a 'fallen' state and the scriptures though whilst we are to try and attain a Christ like mind do also warn us:

But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.
2 Cor 11:3

Therefore if faced with a dilemma in life our natural basic instinct is to cover it up, hide and then run away – like Adam and Eve in the garden once they knew they were naked, they tried to hide from God their shame and nakedness. However, this is not God's way we are taught in the bible to arm ourselves with the full armour of God, be ready for battle and not to be ashamed any longer – we are the children of light, joint heirs and sons and daughters of the King. We are taught that we will wrestle against principalities and powers, again the bible is referring to those things that are unseen [Ephesians 6](#).

In this world, we are spoon fed a diet of rebellion and how we ought to get justice if we are wronged! Jesus taught us all a different way – to overcome evil with good.

Many believers, because they have become entrenched in the world and not the Word are subject to the world and all it has to offer - completely. Instead of submitting to God's Word and what it says, they react instead of responding and end up doing things the way they think that God makes them feel or is speaking to them. They depend on their human senses and 'sensations inside' instead of the Word of God and end up hurting themselves and others unnecessarily instead of listening to God's voice (The Word of God),

They begin to 'hear' either their own voice, something or someone else's; they start to imagine things are happening that are not, their own imaginations become subjected to the enemy and confusion abounds – remember if you have any doubts, misgivings, hurts, anger, turmoil to name but

a few and have no peace about the situation you are in, you need to get back into the boat and wait upon Jesus – God is not the author of confusion. Instead of looking at and blaming that other person, you need to look to Jesus and examine yourself! Get focused on the WORD. You may be very surprised to learn that the fault doesn't lie with the other party after all but with yourself. You didn't get into the Word and apply it, but you did believe the thoughts, the misgivings, in essence, you believed the lie the enemy was feeding you by not getting into the Word of God and by ignoring God's Word you are distancing yourself from God and affecting greatly your relationship with Him.

'The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.' Ex 14:14

You must always ask yourself this question when at the precipice: Am I believing the lie or am I listening to God's Word and receiving His opinion? Think about that...

God bless

Dave

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Series available @ official website



Walking in the Light Ministries (UK) official website

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Messianic Moment

By
Dr Howard Morgan

Living Lessons from the Passover Story

As is true with the entire Bible, the Passover story of the deliverance of the nation of Israel from pharaoh's slavery and Egyptian bondage, is filled with practical and spiritual lessons for us in our walk with the lord, our battles with sin and Satan, and our relationships with other believers who are joined with us in our adventure of faith.

To really grasp the importance of this story, we must first understand how central a place Passover holds, and how foundational it is, in the redemptive history, that God is unfolding as He deals with humanity. We must understand that the God of Israel is a God who oversees, controls, and redeems history. The historic events that God orchestrates, (i.e. those events that are working according to His redemptive purposes) are full of revelation about the nature of God's own person and His ways of fulfilling His own intentions. They are all part of God's plan of redemption that is continually unfolding. Just as God is working in, and overseeing historical events in order to accomplish His purposes for humanity, so He is also crafting together the events of our lives as individuals, to achieve His purposes for us personally. The favorite verse of so many believers, Romans 8:28, "All things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose," is squarely based on the Biblical revelation

that God is working out His plans in history to fulfil His ultimate intentions. Those ultimate intentions will be finally manifested when Jesus returns, you are glorified with Him and, "The glory of the Lord covers all the earth as the waters cover the sea."

As we study our Jewish roots, we gain greater understanding of the "ways of the Lord," and that those "ways," like the Lord Himself, never change. The way in which He dealt with ancient Israel is the way He deals with the modern church. As we allow the Holy Spirit to re-graft us into those roots, we are more effectively able to partake of that authentic "faith once delivered to the saints." As that authentic biblical faith becomes more and more a personal reality for us, we experience our own individual "Passovers and Exoduses," as we are delivered from false religious doctrines, systems, and traditions. Those none biblical doctrines, systems, and traditions are like the gods of Egypt that seek to hold you in various spiritual, emotional, mental, psychological, relational or financial bondages.

The Passover story reveals to us God's way of deliverance from bondage and oppression and His reasons for it. The principles and patterns revealed to us in the original Passover never vary, as God effects all future deliverances from each and every bondage you might find yourself in. The apostle Paul understood how God, who never changes, laid out for us a "road map," showing us how He would fulfil His plans and purposes for our lives, if we would understand the instruction available to us as we study God's dealings with ancient Israel.

Before we look at some specific lessons, we must understand that there is one primary and fundamental reason for divine deliverance from bondage that the Passover story portrays. God sought to set His people free from captivity for only one reason and that is so they could "worship Him." (Exodus 4:23) This is the most important issue for God in our lives. Jesus said, "The Father was seeking for those who would worship Him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:23) As we grow in our

understanding of worship, so that it is in "truth" and in "spirit," we will have the kind of relationship with God that will allow God to accomplish His purposes in our lives. He continually sets us free from every "Pharaoh" in our lives, so that we can constantly grow in intimacy with Him and fulfil the cry of Jesus' heart, even as He prayed for us that "...we would know God..." (John 17:3). A life of worship in "spirit and truth" will be the foundation upon which all the other spiritual "building blocks" of your life can be built.

Let us look at the tremendously important and profoundly significant narrative of Passover and see what lessons we can learn about the ways of the Lord for our lives today.

Israel entered into the land of Egypt when it was a place of sanctuary during a time of famine. God raised up Joseph (a type of Jesus), to be "savior" for them and open the door of safety and provision. In time, a new Pharaoh came to power who knew not Joseph, and because of jealousy and insecurity brought the nation into slavery and bondage.

Sometimes a good situation can turn bad. Don't despair! Learn the lesson of Passover. There is a season to enjoy the prosperity of a certain time and place. But if things change, don't give up hope or reject your faith. Learn the lesson of Passover. God never expects you to remain in bondage. He always provides a way of escape. Sometimes, because of weaknesses like insecurity, jealousy, pride or greed, people change. They become someone you never knew before, or they

act like someone who never knew you before. A new Pharaoh arose who knew not "Joseph." Again, learn the lesson of Passover. Cry out to God and He will, in His own time, send you deliverance. By whose hand it comes you may not know, but God will hear your cry.

God has His own time for effectuating your deliverance. You can try to escape by your own means or devices, but you will not arrive in God's appointed destination, the "promised land" of the fulfilment of His purposes for your life. You must wait for your time of deliverance and for the appointed deliverer to come. Moses could not be the deliverer God intended Him to be until He was ready. God wanted to make sure that it would be His Passover, that would fulfil His purposes, and not anyone else's. Your deliverer might be a person or it might be a particular set of circumstances, it might even be yourself. But the point is that the person or set of circumstances have to be made ready by God in order to accomplish His purposes.



“Panim el Panim” – “Face to Face”

UK Conference 2011

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Over the years, many have said that they know of no other gathering quite like this one, where we all have liberty to meet ‘face to face’ with the Lord and with one another, without pressure of time or previously conceived agenda. We have so many wonderful testimonies from previous gatherings, even concerning our times of eating together. You can find booking and accommodation forms on our website, www.HMMin.com Just click on the Panim el Panim button, or go directly to this link: <http://hmmin.com/Panim.html> and on the lower right side of the page click the booking form. Or you can call or email our UK administrator, Jill Walker. Her contact information is below.

The weekend schedule will be sent, together with a receipt for your payment nearer to the Panim El Panim weekend, as will travel directions and an outline plan of the Conference Centre grounds and buildings. We anticipate a beautiful time in the presence of the Lord and are really looking forward to sharing it with you. Please do pray about coming this year. We know God is going to do wonderful things in all of us.

In His Love and Service,

Dr. Howard & Janet Morgan

Dr Howard & Janet Morgan



For more information contact:

***** Please contact asap to book - limited spaces left *****

Jill Walker, HMM UK Administrator

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jillwalker@hmmin.com

click this link to read a personal invitation from Jill:

<http://hmmin.com/PDFs/2011inviteletter.pdf>

For a booking form click this link: <http://hmmin.com/PDFs/2011hayes.pdf>



By

Robyn Brooks

PASSION OR APATHY????

A lot of my days are spent working with (working being a loose term mostly hanging out chatting and generally having fun) with young people most of which up to very recently had not much interest in Jesus or church, but something has changed over the last few months it's been amazing watching the passion we as a team pour out turn into curiosity, excitement and drive to learn a bit more about what God has to offer.

I wonder if your life is a bit, like that you give and give and you think your friend's family school even church have gotten so apathetic that you are starting to lose your passion? I want to tell you today don't be passionate in everything you do Jesus told us to go in to the nations and tell of what he has done for us, what a task he has given us but it's possible because all things are possible with Christ who strengthens you, be radical let's face it Jesus is our role model and he wasn't one for sitting in the corner and not speaking up when things were being done wrong if you see someone falling out of step with Jesus be radical talk to them it's possible they just need reminded that they are a new creation.

Easier said than done I here you say defiantly especially when even Mathew tells us in, Matthew 7:13-14 The Message (MSG) ¹³"Don't look for shortcuts to God. The market is flooded with sure fire, easygoing formulas for a successful life that can be practiced in your spare time. This world is so full of exiting things that are made to distract us from the path were made for simple things like football can turn in to idol worship, one beer can turn in to alcoholism, one boy or girl saying the right thing at the right time can lead you to give yourself away. The world can offer so much but most of it causes pain in the end hears the thing Mathew goes on to tell us that, Don't fall for that stuff, even though crowds of people do. The way to life—to God!—is vigorous and requires total

attention. In our walk with God, we need to keep our eyes open we need to be watching out for each other caring for one and other when we fall and we all fall sometimes that there is someone there to pick us up.

Being a Christian is a continual process being in touch with or Dad (God) it's a bit like being on face book 24/7 and telling him "What's on your mind" with every random thought that crosses sometimes that's a scary thought there's things in there you don't want anyone to know God defiantly being the last you would want but he knows he knows everything about you, Mathew tells us that our Christian life needs enthusiastic attention we need to be learning every day and the bible is fantastic like that we can learn something new every day and God is just a prayer away to help us understand his teaching.

So this month I want you to think of all the exiting things you can do for God to inspire people to come to him even if you don't see you are getting very far how your passion can rub off on someone else, how that you can be radical and remind people they chose this path and no one said it would be the easy one but there are always people on it to help you back on your way. I challenge you to spend some time praying for those who you don't want to those people you see as being a bad Christian example weather that is a church worker youth leader or someone you used to be close with I know I've been challenged to do it .





The Poetry of Jenny Grant



My Marantha

He wraps me up in his light,
 The whisper of his throne,
 Turns my mourning into rejoicing,
 As I choose to praise his fame,
 He is my inward alter,
 Papa that never falters,
 The place where he abides,
 Grace the shade of love,
 The chamber of my expectancy,
 His liberty he arises,
 Magnifies his goal,
 He holds me in his closet,
 Deposits in me his works,
 The door that has not latch,
 His entrance the great reward,
 Caught in his promises,
 He harnesses me to his call,
 Holy Renaissance contends his yes,
 Father of the Fatherless,
 Husband to the widow,
 Hails his amen & amen,
 My Author & my Finisher,

The tailor of his word,
 Sharper than a razor,
 He makes my life his mantel,
 Tantamount s to his choice, his voice,
 Higher than the heavens, he beckons, his every
 second,
 His gifting his greatest work,
 Loveliness my comeliness,
 Fashions me with his throng,
 Ties me to his belt,
 The purse that grows his corn,
 His expression distils his wine,
 Divine, the miracle of his urn,
 Every weakness he tweaks,
 Breaks what's old, returns what's burned,
 Lavishes me in his golden churn,
 Makes it his time,
 Alone against his breast,
 The diet of his best,
 Loves infinite love song,
 The psalmist of my sword sings,
 Singing to his bride,
 My Marantha,



Anointed Words

BETSY NATALE

STORMS IN AFRICA

ROS SINCLAIR



My cup runneth over

BRING THEM TO ME

Bring me the tired, the rejected, the lost
Bring them here to the foot of the cross
Bring me a life so wasted and worn
Bring me a life that is twisted and torn
Bring me the future, give me the past
Bring them now, that is all that I ask
Bring me the weak, the angry, the sad
Bring me the sick, the lonely, the mad
Bring them here under my wing
To the Christ of the Cross, to the King of Kings
To the one who holds the Kingdom keys
Bring them to me on bended knees
Bring me the blind, the lame, the lost
Bring them here to the foot of the cross
There I will pour out mercy and grace
There I will look them in the face
Into the very heart of man
And gently place them in my Father's hand.

It is not always easy living up to "the plan"
God, sometimes it is a lonely road
But yet – I still know who I am!
I know you want the best for me
And I want the best for you
God I love you – I need you
For you, I'm giving it all I can

All I can for Jesus
With everything I am
I want to serve you, I want to love you
I'll never forget your nail scarred hands
The blood you shed to set me free
Upon the cross that day
Lord, "MY CUP RUNNETH OVER"
With what you so freely gave

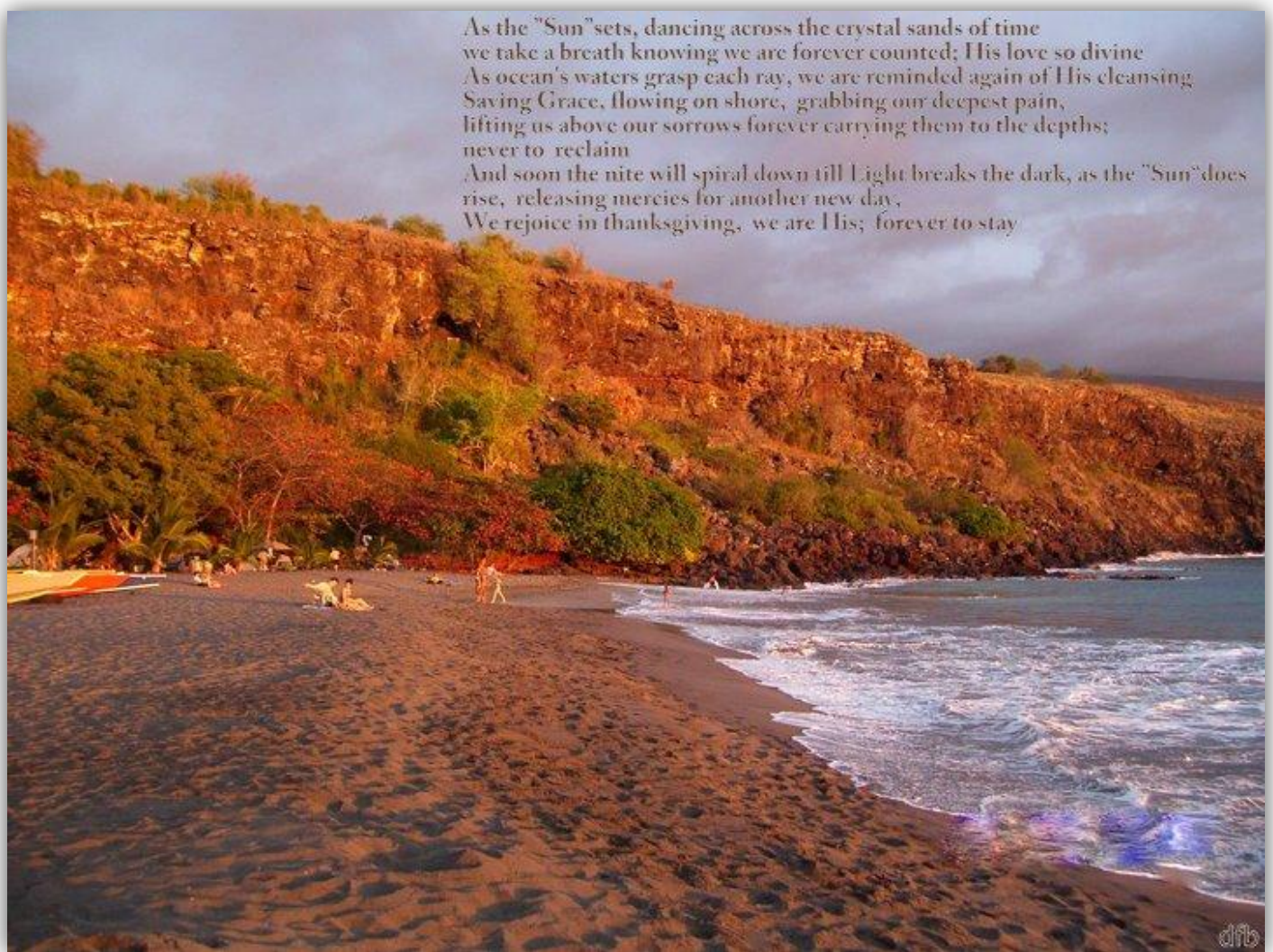
As a rose can grow in the desert sand
So I will grow for you my Lord
For "what is Life" without you
Nothing but a storm
For you are where my roots lie deep
You are all that I am
Jesus you mean everything
My Lord, my master, my friend, my king

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Ros Sinclair©January 2006

Official website [click here](#)

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



In this photo:

The Sun RISES and the Sun SETS, then Hurries around to RISE Again~Ecc~1:5

How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! Psalms~139:17

I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me ~ Psalms 139:18

Psalm 3:5 I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the LORD sustains me.

Lam3:23~Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each morning.

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold unswervingly to the HOPE we profess, for He who promised is FAITHFUL.

created by dfb photo~ Sunset Glow on Ho'okena Beach Kona~dfb



A Voice in the Wilderness

STEVE NORMAN

UK Director Ratanak



The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. Exodus 3:7

This well known verse details the cry of Gods people from their captivity in Egypt. God hears and responds delivering Israel from the hands of its captors. Interestingly the Hebrew for cry used here is *sa'aq* – a word which the English translation does not totally capture the essence of. Whilst *sa'aq* represents the 'ouch' when we hurt it goes further. It represents the cry of the earth for the blood of the oppressed. Effectively it asks the questions: Did anyone see that? Who will come to my rescue? Who will hear my cry?

PERSPECTIVE

In the UK, child abuse is an issue that tears at the heart of anyone unfortunate enough to come into contact with the reality of its horrors. It is provoking to make any attempt to comprehend how any person may desire to profit financially from it. Sadly, there are depraved, greedy minds who have established a multi million pound global industry with the sexual abuse of children as its product.

In Cambodia, Child sexual exploitation is a thriving industry with a noteworthy and increasing market for the very young.

In the recent US State Department's Trafficking in Persons Reports, Cambodia is identified as a source, transit, and destination country for child sex trafficking and a country where the most severe forms of human trafficking occur. Moreover, a UNICEF survey of females trapped in sexual slavery in Cambodia found there to be 55,000 young women and girls involved, with 35% being girls under the age of 16. These children are trapped and held as slaves in a life of exploitation, abuse and brutality, a life without hope.

THE VICTIMS

Many of the child victims have been sold because their innocent parents were deceived with promises of jobs by the traffickers; others are sold by desperately poor families unable to care for a number of children. More disturbingly, many are sold by their parents with the full knowledge of what will happen to them. Often such parents were themselves exploited in the same way previously. After the sale the treatment of the children is truly appalling.

The younger victims generally fall into two basic categories - those sold to a single paedophile or group of paedophiles for extended periods of time (these girls are assaulted on average of 1 or 2 times a day, seven days a week) and those held in a brothel specialising in young girls (these girls are normally violated 2 to 7 times a day and up to 50 times during a weekend). In both categories, those girls who are not rescued are normally trafficked at about 13 years of age into the "adult" brothels where they are assaulted by on average 8 to 10 men a day. In the adult brothels if the required quotas of customers are not serviced the girl may be punished with frequent beatings and electrocution.

The number of sexual assaults inflicted on the children will relate directly to how long they were detained in the brothel situation. In our experiences this has ranged from 50 to 1000's.



The physical and psychological implications upon these children are profound. They do



not have any understanding of their value as human beings. The components of personal identity and self-esteem that we would expect from any child in the west are not

present and it has been impressed on them from early childhood that they are “product” and subsequently expendable.

I recently read quote which said that whilst we hear the cries of the few some of the time, God hears the cry of every oppressed person every second of every minute of every day. As believers in Christ we are called His ambassadors – his representatives here, now. Through our lives the world is to witness His heart and His compassion for the lost and the hurting. As we hear the cry for justice, the sa’aq, of these children – what will be our response? Will we turn a deaf ear or will we respond to the call of the Gospel?

Steve Norman is the founder and Director of Ratanak UK - a charity committed to reaching the children of Cambodia, to hearing their cries and to making their cause known in the earth. Steve is available for speaking engagements – contact him on ratanakuk@ratanak.org



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IN FOCUS

PATRICIA BOOTSMA

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



Part 2 By Pastor Graham Gilliland

CONVERGENCE

Heaven's Destiny Becoming Your Reality

Without doubt this is one of the most important and significant books regarding living the Christian life that has been published for a long time. The book has as its stated aim "fulfil your prophetic destiny" and the author makes it abundantly clear that this is what living the Christian life is really all about. Living a prophetic lifestyle is not an optional extra but it is what every Christian could and should be doing. "Convergence" teaches us to do just that.

Patricia Bootsma is a person who walks in the highest levels of integrity and is consumed by a love for Jesus and His Bride (His people, the church). This reviewer can give fulsome testimony of this having been to many meetings where Patricia has spoken. This love for God and His people seeps through every sentence as one reads this book. A deep desire to see the Body of Christ released to all that they can be in Him is felt with every chapter along with a real sense of Holy Spirit speaking directly into the reader's heart.

Indeed this is without doubt a book that reaches not just the mind but the heart and emotions giving every reader hope that Father God has an amazing plan for them in

whatever situations they may be in. The book is split into eight small chapters each one explaining how to walk out one's prophetic destiny in these days.

The book opens with the arresting words: "God cares about prophecy" and the whole book goes on to demonstrate the truth of this as God indeed shows this care by desiring to use His people to bring the prophetic to the world around them.

Each of these eight chapters speaks of topics that other people have taken as individual topics to write single books on. The beauty of "Convergence" however is that in a few pages the author has wonderfully captured the Spirit of God relating to the subject being covered. Profound truths are explained in a simple ways without losing the depth of the subject or it's majesty. Subjects that perhaps people have struggled with becoming so easy to grasp and the sense that God wants every Christian to walk in these gifts is deeply moving. Children to mature Christians alike could read this book and easily follow it. For instance, I know of a young teenager and a man who has been on the Christian road a long time reading it and both are being deeply moved and touched by its anointed words.

We are invited to share with the author her own personal journey on the road to an understanding of the prophetic. The stories that are shared with each chapter make the teaching very assessable to all. The triumphs and yes struggles are shared in such a real "everyday" way that gives hope to all who may have problems relating to the prophetic. The reader cannot fail to be moved and touched by the stories relating to the author's family that give encouragement to all to keep going and never give up because your breakthrough is just around the corner.

Topics include intimacy with God, hearing God's voice, the Father's love for us and loving God's word. At the end of reading "Convergence", this reader was left with the impression of reading some deep and profound truths yet at the same time overwhelmed by their simplicity. This is the genius of this book-one is moved by the fact that Father God wants to use us so much in the prophetic that He takes things that perhaps before people have made overly

complicated and distilled them down in such a way that even a child could understand them.

This book is a safe book and yet not a safe book! Let me explain what I mean by that. It is safe in the sense that because the book is so filled with love and compassion anybody who reads it cannot fail to be touched by how much God is interested in them and loves them. Even those who are nervous and a bit sceptical about the gifts of the Spirit will surely be blessed by the sense of God's love for them in wanting to use them in so many wonderful ways. Yet it is not a safe book if you want to stay in your comfort zone within the four walls of the church. We read this anointed book and want to get out and bring the Kingdom of God to everyone around us knowing that God is for us not against us.

In the chapter "Living a prophetic lifestyle" there are a couple of sentences that sum up this book and it's author:

"The application of prophecy requires a person to be one who lives to love. Prophecy without a love for the Lord or His Bride can be a dangerous destructive weapon"

"Prophecy bathed in love is a precious tool able to bring many into a closer fellowship with their Creator. However if one does not love the Bride of Christ they should not pursue prophecy"

Patricia Bootsma is indeed one who "lives to love" that is why this important book is written. Read it, apply it and watch your life be transformed as never before. As you finish this book you will also have your eyes opened as to how much God also "lives to love" you in particular and wants to use you in your new found prophetic lifestyle. At times you may ask "well how can I walk in the prophetic I have so many issues in my life I'm such a mess" Well be encouraged for Convergence is a book for such a time as this for you. You will read some of Patricia's everyday examples from her own life story and find yourself saying: "Wow there IS hope

that is just like my seemingly impossible situation!"

The reviewer cannot recommend this book highly enough. We have a link to Patricia King's website, which you can just click to purchase it. Read it. Re-read it and step into all that God has called you to be.

Pastor Graham Gilliland

CONVERGENCE: Heaven's Destiny Becoming Your Reality

ISBN: 978-1-936101-43-6

Buy Online: [Click here](#)





Random Thoughts



BOB HEATH

Author / Founder Kids for Christ USA

Rethinking Highways and Hedges

"Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled'."--Luke 14:23

Sixteen years ago when I first got involved in children's ministry I heard this scripture in regard to Bus ministry, Sidewalk Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. The thought was "get outside the walls of the church and encourage the kids to come to church".

Now after sixteen years in this game I have come to view this a bit differently than in years past. I have tired of the oft-times polarizing doctrinal views and labels that keep us from doing anything in the manner Jesus would: Protestant, Catholic, Evangelical, Wesleyan or Calvinist. Then there's Charismatic, prophetic and home church. For crying out loud -- what happened to the concept of being the body of Christ?

Jesus informed us that he left us with a new commandment, but that it wasn't new, rather an old one:

"Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning."--1 John 2:7

This is not meant to be a rant on the loveless state of the church, but rather a call to re-examine our motives and the evangelism campaigns we launch. Far too much is done in the name of fulfilling the Great

Commission that completely misses the point. We do too much because we are "supposed to" as believers. Too much "highway and hedges" work is done for the purpose of building a following. Oh, we don't call it that, we call it "church growth". For some bizarre reason many Pastors seem to think that true evangelism comes out of the institutional church instead of out of "the church" or "the body".

In many cases the most compelling thing we could do in the highways and hedges is drop off a plate of cookies to a neighbor. Sometimes that "just called cause you were on my mind" call or text is more authentic ministry than the Pastor's message on Sunday morning. Hug the kid that thinks he might be gay and prove that God is not the judgmental guy that his servants portray him as.

This has particularly become a real soft spot in me over the past couple years. The double standards of condoning heterosexual sin and condemning homosexual sin has become detestable to me. I have seen the consistent kind (loving) actions of teenagers reach sexually confused kids over time that might have never been reached.

The church is losing more kids with our judgment and double standards in this one area than maybe any other. (Check out the book "Un-Christian".)



Highways and hedges ministry may mean that you go your whole life ministering to people behind the scenes. In fact you may die internationally unknown and guess what? It's okay! Consistency in kindness, genuinely caring for and loving people in spite of their social status, perfect teeth or "anything helps" sign is a ministry in itself.

The greatest leader in human history said that a hand is no more a part of the body than the foot. Think this through: there are really no undesirable parts in the body. I realize that the part of the body that "passes gas" may seem undesirable, until of course you are in pain and can't "pass gas". The same is true of the body of Christ -- we have a

purpose and a style of our own for loving people. Let's love people in spite of *them (or us)* and let the Holy Spirit do the convicting or evangelizing. This style of highways and hedges ministry may not grow your church or ministry, but it will reach people in a way that is real and sticks. Love never fails.

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HEROES



THE PREPARER – JOHN THE BAPTIST

Lianne Henderson

Part 2

John emphatically stated that he was not the promised Messiah, nor was he a literally reincarnated Elijah as people claimed him to be; rather, he was the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy, the voice of preparation for the arrival of God in the flesh. One day when John was Baptising people in the river of Jordan calling them to repent, turn away from their sins and be baptized. Jesus appeared asking John to baptize him, when John saw Jesus he knew he was the Messiah and in an act of humility declared that he was unworthy either to carry Jesus' sandals or to unloose the thongs. The people knew that this was the Messiah that John talked about. John characterized the Lord as "the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world". John told Jesus, "I need to be baptized by you." John himself wondered why Jesus asked to be baptized after all he was the Son of God. So Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness." John then consented and baptized Jesus. As Jesus came up out of the water, heaven opened, and the Spirit of God, like a dove, descended upon him. Witnesses to the baptism heard a voice from heaven saying, "This is my son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

This was the first time the people saw Jesus and the introduction of Jesus' ministry on the earth, without a forerunner, without a preparer Jesus would not be remembered as the Messiah who came to save mankind and deliver them from their sins, as people would not recognise him. After all the only time they knew of a Messiah was coming soon was when John began preaching the Lords return on the earth and awakening the prophetic words of Isaiah.

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

John's life ended very tragically and he died doing what he did best preaching the truth. Herod imprisoned John for

boldly preaching against his adulterous marriage. Herod married his brother's wife, Herodias an act, which was considered an abomination to the Lord as stated the in the commandments in Leviticus 8 about unlawful sexual relations. This shows us the boldness of John he wasn't afraid to say what was wrong in the eyes of the Lord even to powerful kings like Herod. Herod imprisoned John for the sake of Herodias. She held a grudge against John because of it, and wanted him put to death. However, Herod protected John because he enjoyed listening to him, and because his subjects thought John, the Baptist was a prophet he could not touch him.

Herod celebrated his birthday by hosting a banquet. During the feast, the daughter of Herodias danced before Herod and his guests under the instruction of her mother. She so pleased Herod that he swore to give her anything she requested, up to half of his kingdom. The young woman went to her mother for guidance in what she should request. Herodias told her to ask for the head of John the Baptist. She asked for the head of John the Baptist. However, like mother and daughter she asked for his head to be placed on a platter to add humour to the cruel act of such a great man, proving that the Jezebel spirit that was ripe in Herodias was equally as strong in her daughter. Herod was sorry when he heard this as he loved John but because of his oath, and because of his dinner guests, Herod preferred to show favour to the people around him and soon ordered the beheading of John. When John's disciples learned of his



death, they took his body and laid it in a tomb. Then they went and told Jesus, who departed with his disciples to a deserted place.

I tell you the truth: Among those born of women, there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. Matthew

11:11

Christian Art

By
David Anthony

John

Chapter 3

Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council.

2 He came to Jesus at night and said, Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no-one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.

3 In reply Jesus declared, I tell you the truth, no-one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.

4 How can a man be born when he is old? Nicodemus asked. Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!

5 Jesus answered, I tell you the truth, no-one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the

Spirit gives birth to spirit.

7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.

9 How can this be? Nicodemus asked.

10 You are Israel's teacher, said Jesus, and do you not understand these things?

11 I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony.

12 I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?

13 No-one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.

14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake

in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

19 This is the verdict: Light has

come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.

John the Baptist's Testimony About Jesus

22 After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them and baptised.

23 John also was baptising at Aenon near Salim, because there was much water, and people were coming to be baptised.

24 (This was before John was put in prison.)

25 An argument developed between

Magnifying God's Word



Word of God

July 2011

1st Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. **2 Tim 2:22**

2nd As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things. **Ecc 11:5**

3rd You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. **1 John 4:4**

4th Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. **1 Chron 16:0**

5th For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened **Luke 11:10**

6th My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. **Ps 121:2**

7th For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **John 1:17**

8th It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. **1 Corin 1:30**

9th Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. **1 Tim 4:12**

10th Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. **Heb 13:1**

11th He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him. **Dan 2:22**

12th So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. **1 Pet 4:19**

13th And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. **Acts 2:21**

14th Let them give glory to the LORD and proclaim his praise in the islands. **Isaiah 42:12**

15th Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. **1 Peter 5:7**

16th About Benjamin he said: "Let the beloved of the LORD rest secure in him, for he shields him all day long, and the one the LORD loves rests between his shoulders." **Deut 33:12**

17th All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands." **1 Sam 17:47**

18th For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. **Rom 8:19**

19th May you be blessed by the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. **Ps 115:15**

20th Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well. **Prov 5:15**

21st In your majesty ride forth victoriously in the cause of truth, humility and justice; let your right hand achieve awesome deeds. **Ps 45:4**

22nd The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion. **Prov 28:1**

23rd Whoever fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for their children it will be a refuge. **Prov 14:26**

24th So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. **Isaiah 41:10**

25th Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. **Heb 7:26**

26th For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. **Ps 139:13**

27th Whoever heeds discipline shows the way to life, but whoever ignores correction leads others astray. **Prov 10:17**

28th Your laws endure to this day, for all things serve you. **Ps 119:91**

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

30th This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. **Eph 3:6**

31st from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth— **Ps 33:14**

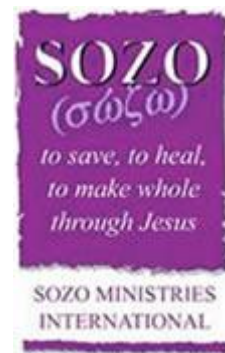
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Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today and forever. Heb. 13:8

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