



# THE TRUMPET

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Voice of the LORD  
Ministries

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# 2022

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

### His Unfailing Presence

Another year I enter  
Its history unknown;  
Oh, how my feet would tremble  
To tread its paths alone!

But I have heard a whisper,  
I know I shall be blest;  
"My presence shall go with thee,  
And I will give thee rest."

What will the New Year bring me?  
I may not, must not know;  
Will it be love and rapture,  
Or loneliness and woe?

Hush! Hush! I hear His whisper;  
I surely shall be blest;  
"My presence shall go with thee,  
And I will give thee rest."

### THE TRUMPET 2022 RENEWAL



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## Cousin Leroy

Leroy had two uncles that were farmers. Jethro and Ernest, who had adjoining farms for years and didn't get along at all. One night after supper, Jethro knocked on Ernest door. When Ernest answered the door, Jethro said, "I know we don't talk much, but I wanted you to know that our mule just died today." Ernest replied, "I'm certainly sorry to hear that, but I am wondering why you came over here to tell me?" "Because," Jethro said, "you're always supposed to notify the next of kin."

### Determination

A little turtle begins to climb a tree slowly. After long hours of effort, he reaches the top, jumps into the air waving his front legs, until he crashes heavily into the ground with a hard knock on his shell. After recovering his consciousness, he starts to climb the tree again, jumps again, and knocks the ground heavily again. The little turtle persisted again and again while a couple of birds sitting at the edge of a branch, watched the turtle with pain. Suddenly the female bird says to the male, "Dear, I think it's time to tell our little turtle he's adopted."

### The Order

A customer sent an order to a distributor for a large amount of goods totaling a great deal of money. The distributor noticed that the previous bill hadn't been paid. The collections manager left a voice-mail for them saying, "We can't ship your new order until you pay for the last one." The next day the collections manager received a phone call, "Please cancel the order. We can't wait that long."

### Ouch

One day an employee came into work with both of his ears bandaged. His boss asked him what happened to his ears. "Yesterday I was ironing a shirt when the phone rang and I accidentally answered the iron instead of the phone!" "Well," the boss said, "that explains one ear, but what about the other?" "They called back."

### The Golfer

A golfer is playing a round of golf with his buddies. On the sixth hole, a hole over water, he proceeds to flub nine balls into the water. Frustrated over his poor golfing ability, he heaves his golf clubs into the water, and begins to walk off the course. Then all of a sudden he turns around and jumps back in the lake, his buddies apparently thinking he is going to retrieve his clubs. When he comes out of the water he doesn't have his clubs and begins to walk off the course. Then one of his buddies asks, "Why did you jump into the lake?" And he said, "I left my car keys in the bag."

### Room In The Inn

It was the night of the children's Christmas play and little Johnny was upset because he didn't get the part of Joseph. He was assigned the inn keeper. Because he was still bitter, when Joseph and Mary arrived at the inn to ask if there was room, little Johnny threw the play by saying, "Sure, come on in!" Joseph was at first taken aback, but with quick wit, stepped in, looked around and said, "This place is a dump. I'd rather stay in the barn."

### The Snail

A snail was involved in an accident that resulted in his shell being torn completely off. Hearing about the accident, one of his friends rushed over (as much as a snail can rush) to his friend's house. "I heard about your accident!" he exclaimed, and then asked, "How are you feeling?" The recovering snail answered, "Sluggish."



## *From the Pastor's Desk*

### **Create In ME A Clean Heart**

Pastor Billy R Douglas

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Psalms 51:10

Have you ever wondered why you do what you do? One former Navy pilot tells how he was living a wilder life than he knew he should live. He decided his problem was that he was being led astray by his friends in flight training. So he arranged to finish his work in the program early and be transferred to another field nearby. Yet, it wasn't long, he said, before he was back in the same old bars, with the same girls, just with different friends. He had not left his problem behind because his problem was HIM.

Sadly, we, as humans, spend a lot of time pointing our finger at things or people around us saying, "It's their fault I do what I do." We see this all the way back to the Garden of Eden, when man fell. Adam blamed Eve...Eve blamed the serpent. When in reality, as it was then so it is today, we do what we do because of OURSELF! When Saul disobeyed the LORD he blamed the people; when in reality, it was because he had not dealt with the rebellion that was in him. 1 Sam 15:15-16 "And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed. Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night..." That word "stay" meant "Shut up and stop making excuses Saul and listen to what the LORD has to say." Saul would suffer for his rebellion and had no one to blame but himself. He was king, NOT the people; the decision to disobey God was his! David could have tried to blame Bathsheba or at least say some of it was her fault that he committed adultery. He could have pointed his finger at his wife and said, "She is cold and uncaring, so that forced me to turn to someone else." BUT after he was confronted by the prophet Nathan he turned to the LORD in repentance and said, "Against you (God) and you alone have I sinned (Ps 51:4)." Not Bathsheba, not his wife or anyone else, "I SINNED!" He realized that the problem was in him when he prayed, "Create in ME a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within ME" (Ps 51:10). It is not so much what happens to us that is important, but rather how we react. We react because of what is within us. When we stand before the LORD we will be unable to point the finger at anyone else for the decisions that we have made. So the next time we get angry or mess up let us not say, "They made me mad" or "It's their fault!" BUT rather, let us go to the root of the problem and pray, "LORD, Create in ME a clean heart and renew a right spirit within ME!" I want to leave you with some of the words to an old song with a powerful message:

I'll face nobody's record but my own.

I'll face nobody's record but mine.

When I stand on that Great Judgment Morning

I'll face nobody's record but mine.

Until next time, "May the LORD Bless and keep you," is our prayer. Pastor Billy R Douglas

### **We Need Your Help**



It's time once again to upgrade our computer system and our operating software. Our desktop computer system is used in almost every aspect of the ministry. From our radio stations, program recording, CD ministry to this newsletter AND most everything else in between! And as always the upgrade is an expensive endeavor. Please prayerfully consider donating to help us raise the funds for this much needed upgrade. You can donate online at [www.voiceofthelordministries.com](http://www.voiceofthelordministries.com) and [www.votlradio.com](http://www.votlradio.com) or by sending your offering to the address on the back of this newsletter. When donating please let us know the donation is for our "computer upgrade". Thank you in advance for your continued support for the work of the LORD..

**The Danger Of Familiarity (part 01)**

Evangelist Mike Heltsley

And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat. And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner. And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on. There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged. And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven. And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also? And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace. Luke 7:36-50

Luke 7:44 - And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. How often do we take the presence of Jesus for granted? Our pseudo-Christian culture is profane. I speak not of the profanity of foul language, but the profanity of treating divine things with a casual, apathetic, flippant attitude. We profane holy things by making them common, ordinary, usual, mundane, and routine. Interestingly enough, only those who know the Holy are in danger of becoming too familiar with it. Unbelievers, those who are not yet acquainted with the Holy, cannot profane what they do not understand. The danger of familiarity is in knowing and taking for granted. This is illustrated for us here in Luke 7. A Pharisee invites Jesus to dinner. This is not an irreligious man who invites the Lord, but a member of the strictest religious order. Jesus accepts his invitation and they sit down to have a meal. While they are sitting at the table, a woman enters the room with an alabaster box of ointment. We know she is a sinner, because Luke says, "A woman in the city, which was a sinner..." (Luke 7:37ff). This sinner does a strange and wonderful thing. She washes the feet of Jesus with her tears, wipes them with her hair, kisses His feet, and pours the fragrant ointment out on Him. The Pharisee, of course, is highly offended that this sinner has come uninvited to his home. He is also a bit embarrassed about this display of affection. And he thinks to himself, "If Jesus were a real prophet, He would know that this woman is a sinner!" But in the mind of Jesus, the real issue is, "Who really loves Me, and who takes Me for granted?" No one traveled for pleasure in those days, the way we do now. Travel at that time was universally despised as a hot, dirty ordeal to be avoided if at all possible. Most people, Jesus included, traveled on foot. So the ritual of taking care of guests followed a predictable pattern and centered around the feet. Upon entering someone's home, the host would greet his guests with a kiss on each cheek and offer water for their tired, dirty feet. If available, some perfumed ointment would also be offered to soothe and freshen them up a bit. But the Pharisee failed to provide Jesus with even the most basic, usual, and customary courtesies given to guests: Luke 7:44-46 - And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment....(to be continued next month)

Until next time, let your light shine for Jesus! Evangelist Mike Heltsley

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## **Not Enough Salt**

Pastor Steven Huston

I recently read an account about a man, who as a boy, lived during the Great Depression. In those days there wasn't refrigeration and if meat was to be kept it had to be heavily salted or it would rot. His mother would cut up a gutted pig and he was responsible for making sure it was well salted. There came a day when special company was coming over for supper so he and his mother went out to the smokehouse and he took down the largest ham hanging from the rafters. When his mother's butcher knife penetrated the beautiful, large ham he had two thoughts that went through his mind at the same time. First was the frown on his mother's face and the other was the worst odor he had ever encountered. The ham had rotted and was full of maggots. His mother simply said, "Son, not enough salt." As we recognize the decay and stench that pervades much of our society today, we need to remember that there are still many good people from all walks of life who are still kind and willing to lend a helping hand. We need only to see groups and individuals responding to disasters like the recent devastation left in the wake of tornadoes in Kentucky or the offer of roadside assistance to one whose car isn't working as it should to recognize this truth. So then, the question begs to be asked, "Why the disconnect? Why is our society and culture crumbling and rotting?" Perhaps the answer is, "Son, not enough salt." Jesus, speaking to His disciples in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), said, "Ye are the salt of the earth; but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. (5:13)" Christian, we are to be salt and light (v.14) in this corruption-filled, maggot-infested, darkening world. That takes more than kindness and niceties; it's giving grace to those who show no grace and sharing the gospel truth with them. It's the Holy Spirit within you that makes you salty; it's the gospel of Jesus Christ that has transformed you from corruption to life, from maggot-ridden to a new and living creature, and from darkness to light. The world needs to see that you are different and they need to know why. I'm asking you, as one of our recent speakers asked his audience, "When's the last time you shared your faith? We should be doing so daily!" Even if one supports a salt and light ministry, he/she should still be spreading salt where they themselves travel. Darkness cannot reign where Light shines and maggots cannot survive where the salt of holiness rules. Spirit-filled individuals are meant to make a difference. I went to the funeral of a friend last week; he was one who made a difference. He was a grand example of supporting salt/light ministries and sharing the gospel personally. It was told how wherever he went he handed out a green tract which presented the gospel and he would speak into people's lives. His salt had NOT lost its savour and his light was NOT hidden under a bushel. I and many others are greatly saddened by his passing, and feel the loss; but, he is basking in the Light of his Savior and worshiping the God who had saved him from his sin. He finished well. I couldn't be happier for him. Another thing to keep in mind is that Jesus' exhortations to being salt and light were given in the context of persecution. Sharing salt in the brokenness that surrounds us will either bring healing or persecution. As Christian ministries and individuals come under attack for Christ's sake, for righteousness' sake, we are called to rejoice and to continue being salt and light to a dark and dying world (Matt. 5:10-12). Blessedness, not bitterness, must define us. May the love of Christ constrain us to announce like the angels of old, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men;" and move us to "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Be extra salty this season! Believers need no excuse to share the gospel; but, if you're one who isn't used to sharing their faith, Christmas offers us an opportunity to do so. For the believer, nothing should be more natural than talking about Jesus at Christmas time and His coming to save His people from their sins. Instead of "Son, not enough salt," I want to hear, "Well done." There is great expense as Voice of the Lord ministries (VOTL) and Word of the Lord (WOTL) spread salt and light into communities all around the globe, not only through sharing the newsletter that you're reading but also through gospel music and strong gospel preaching. The expenses will most certainly increase while other pressures are likely to press in on us. Won't you help us in this salt and light mission by prayerfully considering a love gift of any amount? It would also be a blessing if you would pray for us and send us a note of encouragement as well. Send your love gift or note of encouragement to: Voice of the Lord Ministries, Po Box 541, Livermore, KY 42352. We thank the Lord for all of our readers.

Pastor Steven Huston - 103 N. Division Ave. Fremont, Michigan 49412

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16



### Pineapple Nut Cake

#### CAKE:

- 1 20 oz. can crushed pineapple - do not drain
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons soda
- 1 cup nuts -- chopped small

#### ICING:

- 8 ounces cream cheese -- softened
- 1/2 cup margarine
- 1 1/3 cups powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- finely chopped nuts

CAKE: With a mixer, blend pineapple & juice, sugar, eggs and vanilla. Mix in soda and flour. Fold in nuts. Pour in a greased 9x13" pan. Bake at 350°F. oven for 30 minutes. ICING: Cream cheese and margarine. Beat in powdered sugar and vanilla. Place frosting on cake and top with chopped nuts.

### Croissant Breakfast Casserole

- 1 (10 1/8 ounce) can croissants
- 6 eggs
- 1 lb hot sausage
- 1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded
- salt and pepper to taste

Lightly butter large casserole dish. Unroll croissants and lay flat in single layer in dish. Brown sausage in pan and layer on top of croissants. In separate bowl, scramble eggs with, salt and pepper. Layer on top of sausage. Cover with cheese and bake at 350 degrees for 30-45 minutes.

### Italian Meatloaf

- 2 lbs Ground beef
- 1/2 teaspoon Pepper
- 1 cup Progresso Spaghetti Sauce
- Breadcrumbs
- 1 Med. Onion, finely chopped
- 1 Egg
- 1 teaspoon Salt
- 3/4 cup Parmesan Cheese

Mix all ingredients together in a large bowl making sure everything is well mixed. Place in greased baking pan. Form into loaf shape. Bake at 350 for 1 hour or until done. Slice and serve on Sub buns with your favorite toppings or top meatloaf with your favorite sauce or cheese.

### Cheesy Broccoli Bake

- 1/2 cup (1/2 of 8-oz. tub) PHILADELPHIA Cream Cheese Spread
- 1 can (10-3/4 oz.) cream of mushroom soup
- 1/2 cup water
- 2 pkg. (16 oz. each) frozen broccoli florets, thawed, drained
- 1 cup KRAFT Shredded Cheddar Cheese
- 1 thawed frozen puff pastry sheet
- 1 egg, lightly beaten

PREHEAT oven to 400°F. Mix cream cheese spread, soup and water until well blended. Stir in broccoli and Cheddar cheese. Spoon into 2-1/2- to 3-qt. shallow rectangular or oval baking dish. ROLL pastry sheet on lightly floured surface to fit baking dish. Cover dish completely with pastry. Press pastry edges against rim of dish to seal. Brush entire surface lightly with egg; pierce with knife five to six times to vent. BAKE 30 min. or until heated through and pastry is puffed and golden brown.



## **God Cares...FOR EVERYONE**

George Whitten

And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. Jonah 3:1-2

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:1-2

When the Lord gave Jonah a second chance, He didn't change His mind about the prophet's destination. He didn't lighten the load or change the burden Jonah was destined to carry. There was no negotiation with Jonah where the Lord expressed understanding about his reluctance to go to Nineveh. God didn't concede to send him to Tarshish just because he'd been heading in that direction anyway. Jonah's disobedience and repentance produced a clear and simple result: a second chance to do what he should have done the first time. But it was not just for Nineveh's sake. God cared for Jonah, just as He cared for Nineveh. If His concern was only about Nineveh, the Lord could have sent someone else for the task. But He definitely wanted Jonah to go, because He wanted to change and to soften the prophet's heart; to make him more like Himself.. Jonah's identity and calling as a prophet by no means meant that God was finished shaping him. You may have a significant calling on your life; a "prophetic" or "pastoral" role, known as a leader, a man or woman of God. You may know His will, and His word. You may even have some level of intimacy with Him....but all this could also be a basis for presumption, self-righteousness, pride, distance from those less holy than you, and maybe even an unsuspected level of disobedience bordering on rebellion. Something profoundly important can be missing from your character.. Jonah's experience is an excellent example of the Lord's desire to transform His faithful saints. The apostle Paul speaks in 1 Corinthians 13 of a "more excellent way". The preceding chapter, 1 Corinthians 12, is all about spiritual gifts; and Jonah was certainly gifted as a prophet. But what he lacked was of such great concern to God that He was willing to put Jonah into the most dire circumstances imaginable; because what Jonah lacked was a most essential characteristic of God's nature, the love we call "agape"..... the "love" which God Himself is.

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## **Beware Of A Message**

By Sheila Gosney

There's a movement of "spirituality" rising in the world gaining followers with its crafty disguise;

Led by those who reject the pure doctrines of Christ trading truth for a big pack of lies.

Oh, beware of any story that robs God of glory and hands it over for a self-centered tale.

For it puffs man with pride and vanity inside then sets him up to spiritually fail.

Oh, beware of a message that says it's all about you and God is here for your wishes and commands.

For we're here to serve God with humility and awe through our lives and the work of our hands.

Oh, beware of a messenger who won't speak of sin or define it as in the eyes of the Lord.

For with it, there's no hope of salvation and repentance and no hope of life being restored.

Beware of any sermon, message, or book that teaches only positive thinking by the power of the mind.

For without God's direction and the power of His Word we are hopeless and helplessly blind.

And beware of all the newfangled "spiritual leaders" who direct souls anywhere but the lifesaving Cross.

For faith in anything but the resurrected King means you die in your sin and are lost.

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. Colossians 2:8





### **The God of Closed Doors**

In 1991 a young Chinese woman wrote a letter to an American Bible College in the mid-West explaining that she had become a Christian and believed that God was calling her to be an evangelist. In her letter she requested to come to this Bible College to get training. She was admitted to the college; so, she went to the American embassy but they refused her visa because she already had a bachelor's degree. At this point the college accepted her to their theological seminary for graduate work but the embassy put all sorts of obstacles in her path. It seemed as though the devil was working overtime to keep this young lady from fulfilling the mission God had called her to. For two years they blocked her from coming to the United States for training. Discouragement would only be natural at this point. Then, in June of 1993, this young woman from China wrote to the seminary stating that if she could be readmitted and guaranteed financial help, she would be issued a visa. After completing the process again, the seminary received a communication stating that the young lady would be arriving in Texas in September, asking if someone could come pick her up. When the young woman arrived she, like Paul Harvey, told the rest of the story. The embassy official who had given her such grief for more than two years finally looked at her and said, "Okay, one final question." Joy understood that her answer to this question would determine her future. He said, "Would you please explain to me the theological significance of the Song of Songs in the Old Testament?" Horror gripped her as she wondered how, with her broken English; she would ever be able to explain this to him. Then, as if Jesus were whispering the answer in her ear, it came to her: "Oh, that you would kiss me with the kisses of your mouth. For your love is better than wine." Sir, that is the second verse of the first chapter of the Song of Songs, and it speaks of my love or the Lord Jesus and his love for me." The American embassy official stared at Joy, shrugged his shoulders, and said, "Let her go. She's for real." Joy, successfully and with much effort, went through three years of school in a second language, and as the end of her program drew near, she began preparing to return to China. Fearful of what might happen to her on her return to China: imprisonment, persecution, rejection; she emerged victoriously from this battle of the spirit and mind, saying, "God will take care of me. I will go with him." A week before she was to fly to China, a knock came at the door of one who works for this theological seminary. It was a total stranger, stating, "You don't know who I am, but I am the principal of the International School in China, and I am in Wilmore looking for staff." The college official looked at this man in total disbelief, all of a sudden Joy popped around the doorpost into full view and said, "My miracle!" This man had started a school for internationals in order to have a Christian presence in China. The school was successful, and he had three positions open. Joy could take her pick. This seminary official shares that he has had enough communication with Joy to know that she is back in China, in her home church, bearing witness to Jesus in her city, her school, and her home. Instead of getting frustrated with delays or complications that seemingly lie in our way, trust that God works all things together for the good of those who love him, who are the called according to his purpose. The reality of every situation is that God is! God is eternal! God is almighty! God is sovereign! And God knows ALL things! With these truths in mind, trust him completely and walk with utter abandon in obedience to God and his will. His timing is perfect; so bear his obstacles with patience and grace.

### **Missionary Translation Woes**

One of the struggles of being a missionary is the language. You're unable to communicate or understand the most basic aspects of life, from "Where's the bathroom?" to "How much do you want for that mango?" In no time at all, you feel like the stupidest person on the face of the earth, such as when I told the yard boy, "Remember, I am garbage" instead of "Remember to take out my garbage." Although I didn't do any preaching in Haiti, I did try to share the gospel with a number of people. The first conversation I had along those lines went like this "If you accept Jesus Christ, he will take away your dogs." "My dogs? I don't have any dogs." "Everyone has dogs, ma'am. But when Jesus forgives them, it's though you never had a dog your entire life." Bill Smith, an Assemblies of God missionary I worked with in Haiti, told me he once had instructed an entire church that if anyone wanted to become followers of Christ, they should signify it by raising their legs into the air and coming forward on their hands. Lots of puzzled looks, very little response to the altar call. But the all time most embarrassing gaffe has to go to Dale Preiser, another AoG missionary I met who turned red when I mentioned this to him at a church dinner. The word Dale had wanted to use on this occasion was "mambo," a voodoo priestess. Instead he said "mamba," and gave several impassioned sermons up and down Highway One about the dangers of Christians returning to voodoo and shipwrecking their faith and the faith of others by using peanut butter. (I'm told people were very open to this teaching, and sales of peanut butter plummeted wherever Dale went.





## The Power Of The Midnight Song

Maynard H. Belt

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.  
Acts 16:25

George Morrison (1866-1928) was a Presbyterian pastor and preacher who was born in Scotland. The pastor of Wellington Church, Glasgow, for twenty-six years, his ministry primarily consisted of personal visits, postcards and letters for all those in his care who were sick or in sorrow or in trouble. He chose not to serve on committees, preferring to spend his time in what he considered the most important responsibilities to his church - mornings in study and afternoons in visiting his congregation. Many of his sermons and devotional thoughts have been put in print. In his volume entitled, "Wind on the Heath", he has a sermon entitled, "Unconscious Ministries," wherein he states that all of us exercise unconscious ministries. He references Paul and Silas, who sang at midnight while under adverse circumstances, not particularly paying attention that the prisoners were listening to them. When I read that, it put a whole new light on the meaning of Acts 16:25. I often speak with pastors and missionaries who feel that their ministry is ineffective and their presence unfelt. They see so little fruit and become discouraged. I have felt that way myself many, many times. But we never know when someone might be listening, or watching, or critiquing how we respond to the trials and troubles of life. As Morrison goes on to state, "Be quite sure that the very humblest life is full of unconscious ministries. There is not a note of song we ever rise but the ear of some other prisoner will catch it." The power of the midnight song! As Paul and Silas sang - the prisoners listened! Oh, how that should drive us to our knees in repentance when we respond to the difficulties of life and ministry without a song in our hearts. Paul and Silas sang in prison. The only time in Scripture Jesus is ever recorded as singing is when He left the upper room at night and headed towards Calvary (Matthew 26:30). David often sang when his heart was troubled. If I recall, Christian, in John Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress," sang while going through the Valley of the Shadow heading to the Celestial City. We never know when others might be listening to our conversations, our prayers, our sermons, or even our actions. Have not most of us in ministry, somewhere along the line, had expressed to us how we had been a blessing to someone without even knowing it? All of us, no doubt on a daily basis, exercise unconscious ministries. That is why it is so important to keep a song in our hearts, a smile on our face and a twinkle in our eye. This can happen, even during the "midnight" hours of life, when we saturate our souls with the Scriptures and scale heaven with our prayers of praise. Paul and Silas sang, and the prisoners listened! Today, as we go about business for God, people are listening. Something with God is always happening even though we may not think so. Our labors are not in vain. There are prisoners of some sort all around us. And they are listening.

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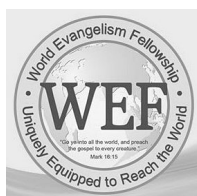
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### Ministry Partners



### MINISTRY PARTNERS NEEDED

Please prayerfully consider becoming a VOTL Ministry partner by sending a love gift of any size each month. We need your help to continue this World-wide Gospel outreach. All of our ministry partners receive our sermon of the month on CD along with their newsletter each month.



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Listen to and download archived sermons and radio broadcasts

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### Newsletter Archives

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### Weekly Radio Programs

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# A Word for TODAY!



By Sister Michelle Deuling

**Verse for Today:** 2 Corinthians 6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.) **Additional passage for Today:** Isaiah 49:7-12

**Thought for Today:** There is only one true salvation!

**Story for Today:** Jonny and Matt flew out the door ahead of Jim, Laney, and Chloe. They just finished their last hour of school before Christmas break began. Christmas break left the kids with mixed emotions. Yes, almost every single one would have been happy to shout from the rooftop their joy at being done with school work for a couple of weeks. Many had already expressed the joy of anticipation for the presents and upcoming Christmas fun with the family. A few had even shared their joy at the planned vacation to another state to visit a distant relative. But there were some that while grateful for the break from schoolwork, dreaded the long, often volatile days with no place to escape. Nothing to keep them from hearing what a lousy no good kid they were. No one to prevent the slap across the face or the unexpected kick from behind. No place to be while their older siblings hung out with their friends experimenting with drugs and alcohol. No one keeping them safe as oftentimes it was a single Mom leaving them alone to go off to work. Jonny came from one of those homes where Christmas break was often dangerous. He and Matt stopped at the gas station to pick up a slushie as they headed to their normal after-school hangout. Jonny heard the beep of his cell phone and quickly paid the cashier as he headed outside reading the text. A quick reply and the boys began their walk down the street. A few seconds later the phone beeped again and again Jonny replied as he turned off the sound on the phone and put it in his pocket. The boys checked in at the community center and headed to the gym to play some basketball. It seemed like Jonny was out of the game every other minute to look at the phone and send some sort of message. This was a common occurrence for Jonny. You see Jonny needed friends like some people need food and water. His home was not a good place and often at home, he felt nothing but pain, but his friendships helped him get through the rough days. Laney was a pretty girl with a spitfire attitude. She was good in school and was on the cheer team. She too needed friends, but for her, it was the guy that helped her get through the rough days. Chloe was a beautiful chocolate-skinned teen that had a smile that turned many heads. She struggled through the holidays because she didn't have her school work to show that she was valued. In her home, the school was the savior. If she did well, she was praised; if she did not, she was verbally and physically abused. Without school, she felt lost and without purpose. Being in control was Jim's savior. When things didn't work out like planned, Jim's anger would rage out of control like he often had seen as a little boy. Sometimes his anger would keep others from doing things he didn't like but other times it just left him in trouble. Matt's home life may have been worse than all of the others put together. However, He had found a Bible one day and he read it often. It wasn't long until he had found Jesus to be his Savior and every day he learned more about God. He followed the teachings in the Bible and even when he went to bed hungry and sometimes slept out on the cold ground without so much as a blanket, he wasn't alone and it never failed that his Savior, Jesus Christ protected him and brought comfort and peace that food and blankets could never provide. You see, Matt understood that this life is short and that what he faces today is temporary. When he leaves this world, no matter his age, he will spend an eternity in the warmth of the one who never leaves him or forsakes him.

**Questions for Today:** What do you turn to for salvation? Is it an electronic device, friends, drugs, popularity, good grades, domineering and controlling life or do you turn to the one true God that is the only TRUE SALVATION?

**Prayer for Today:** Heavenly Father, please reach out to those lost and struggling to find Salvation. Help them find You! As the things they have chosen fail, help them to see You and not lose hope. In Jesus' Name we pray, AMEN.

## Weekly Radio Outreach

### The Voice of the LORD Broadcast

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[www.wotlradio.com](http://www.wotlradio.com)

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91.5 FM McDaniels / Leitchfield /  
Central City KY

98.3 FM Rockport Indiana /  
Owensboro KY

91.1 FM Hiseville / Glasgow KY

WPAK 1490 AM Farmville, Virginia

WOTG Radio - Pinellas Park, FL

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[www.votlradio.com](http://www.votlradio.com)

WOTG Radio - Pinellas Park, FL

WXCF-AM 1230 - Covington, VA

WKEY-AM 1340 - Covington, VA

WKEY-FM 103.5 - Covington, VA

WRMV FM 94.5 - Madison Heights, VA

WPAK 1490 AM Farmville, Virginia

Showers of Blessings 104 FM  
Pago Pago, American Samoa

WJJT FM 105.9 WJJT AM 1540  
Jellico, TN

WYAP-LP 101.7 FM - Clay, WV

WGAA 1340 AM - Cedartown, Georgia

RKP Radio 1710 AM - Washington, PA

WEKT 1070 AM - Elkton, KY

South Wind Radio - Montesano, WA

ASLN Radio - Cordova, Alaska

GCIN Radio - Wiggins, MS

WNY Radio - Youngstown, NY

WHSB Radio - Columbus, OH

Swain County Christian FM  
Bryson City, NC

WTRP 1620 AM  
Lagrange, GA

CCRG & WUUK 105.7 FM  
Erie, PA

WBPS FM 101.9 Cambridge, Ohio

WBLB 107.5 FM 1340 AM  
Pulaski, VA

Country Gospel Radio  
Essex United Kingdom

SOGR Radio  
Powell, TN

## God's Simple Plan of Salvation

My Friend: we are about to ask you the most important question of your life. Your joy or your sorrow for all eternity depends upon your answer. The question is: Are you saved? Do you know Jesus Christ as your personal LORD and Saviour? It is not a question of how good you are, nor if you are a church member, but have you put your faith in Jesus? Are you sure you will go to Heaven when you die? The Bible makes the plan of salvation plain and simple. *Romans 10:13* says *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.* Call on Jesus today. Put your faith and trust in him and ask him to forgive you of your sins and to be your LORD and savior and you will be born again...SAVED!! Do this today, tomorrow may be too late! Please write or call us if you have made the decision to accept Jesus.



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## **VOTL Tabernacle**

**216 Hill St. Livermore, KY**

*Services*

Sunday Morning Service 11 AM

**Everyone Welcome**

Submit your Prayer Request to:

Voice of the LORD Ministries

P.O. Box 541 - Livermore, KY 42352

Phone: 270-313-8753

Email: [voiceofthelordministries@juno.com](mailto:voiceofthelordministries@juno.com)