

Word of Faith

DECEMBER 2017

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIE

Merry Mistrus!

GETTING CONTROL OF

Our Thoughts

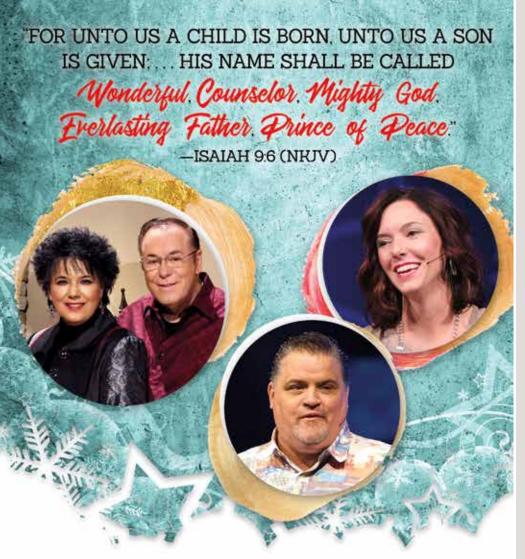
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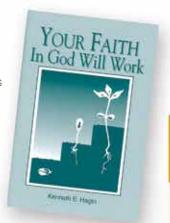
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Word of Faith



KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

Working Together to Reach the World!

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Who Do You Say Jesus Is?

One day Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" (Matt. 16:13 NKJV). Today, there is still debate over who He is.

Some say, "Jesus was a great this and a great that. He was a mere man. He wasn't a mere man. He was a great teacher and a great prophet. He was the greatest moral person who ever lived."

Jesus was the greatest teacher the world has ever known. And the greatest preacher the world has ever heard. But He is so much more.

He is a Friend to the friendless. A Physician to the sick. And a Psychiatrist to the confused.

He is a Banker to the poor. A Compass to the traveler. And the Bright and Morning Star to those walking in darkness.

He is the Deliverer of every habit. The Savior from every sin. He is the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit and fire to everyone who hungers and thirsts. He is the Victor.

Now let me ask you: "Who do you say Jesus is?" It's easy to talk about what others say and what the Bible says. But who is He to you? It matters what you personally believe about Him.

At some point in your life, you'll be given the opportunity to declare who Jesus is to you personally. Will you proclaim Him as the Son of Man who came to save the world? Or will you say that He is your Lord and Savior? I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on your answer. It's important.

During this special time of the year, remember Who Jesus is. And share His goodness with others so they can prosper. May your Christmas be filled with joy, peace, and love as you celebrate God's greatest gift to us-His Son, Jesus.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Kennet W. Hagain

PS. You don't want to miss a single page in this month's issue. We have some great articles for you! Be sure to share your favorite quotes from the magazine on social media. #RhemaWOF

ISSUE



YEAR IN REVIEW Page 12 SEED THOUGHTS Page 22

FAITH ACADEMY Page 23

Bringing Back the King KENNETH E. HAGIN

We know Jesus is coming again. Is there anything we can do to hasten His return? According to Scripture we can. Discover what you can do to bring back the King!

Be Someone's Hero **CRAIG W. HAGIN**

We are here to touch the world. With that comes the ability to love like Jesus and be a blessing to all humanity.

'Joseph, Do Not Be Afraid!' KENNETH W. HAGIN

Joseph's world was turned upside down when he learned that Mary was pregnant. When our world falls apart, God tells us the same thing He told Joseph, "Do not be afraid."

Special Report: God's Abounding **Grace in Italy**

Mauro Girgenti was 14 years old when he left Italy. But after getting connected with Kenneth Hagin Ministries and the message of faith, God sent him back to his homeland. Read his story.



JESUS SAID He is coming again. So why does He delay? Why does Jesus tarry so long? You may not realize it, but the Church has something to do with Christ's return! Can we hasten that event? According to the Word of God we can.

In the Old Testament, Absalom rose up against his father, King David, and the king fled Jerusalem. After Absalom was killed in battle, people began asking when King David was going to return.

We are going to apply the same questions to the Son of David—the greater King, the Lord Jesus Christ. In Second Samuel 19:10–12, it was asked: Why are we not speaking about bringing the King back? Why are we silent? Why do we keep still? Why do we lag behind? Why do we procrastinate?

Another thought along the same line is: Why do we hinder the coming of the King? Is that even possible? We'll find out as we go along.

Notice the following scripture: "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain" (James 5:7). It's obvious that the Lord is waiting. He hasn't come. But what is He waiting for? James is talking about an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. He's talking about the precious fruit of the earth, the gathering of souls, revival!

In Second Peter chapter 3, we see that the Lord is not slack concerning His promise, but that He "is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (v. 9). He then challenges us to live holy, "looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God" (v. 12). Can we hasten the coming of the Lord? Yes, emphatically yes!

We see God's love bestowed in making us the sons of God in First John 3:1–3. Verses 2–3 say, "but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him. . . . and every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." What hope is this scripture talking about? Our being like Him and the Lord coming for the Body of Christ.

And then Paul writes about that moment, which is what we call the Rapture.

IT'S GOING TO BE THE **tribe of praise** THAT BRINGS JESUS BACK.



1 THESSALONIANS 4:16-17

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the *dead in Christ* shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

The only qualification for making the Rapture is to be "dead in Christ." How do you get into Christ? By being born again. "*If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature*" (2 Cor. 5:17).

Let's Bring Back the King!

Let's not be silent or lag behind. Let's start speaking about bringing back King Jesus! Say the following and meditate on the scriptures.

I WILL BE READY! I confess the Lord Jesus with my mouth and believe in my heart that God raised him from the dead, therefore I am saved (Rom. 10:9-10). Because of this hope, I purify myself, just as He is pure (1 John 3:1-3).

I WILL GO! I will take the Word and run with it! I will tell others that Jesus is coming again. I will do everything I can to spread the Gospel around the world, for then the end will come (Mark 16:15-16; Matt. 24:14). The Lord is waiting for precious souls (James 5:7).

I WILL LEAD THE WAY WITH PRAISE! I will pray and praise the way to victories and entire households will come to the Lord (2 Chron. 20:14-22; Acts 16:22-34). I am part of the "tribe of praise," welcoming and bringing back the King (2 Sam. 19:10-16).

How do we hasten the Lord's coming?

See to it that we are ready! Not only are we to be in Christ but also have pure, godly lives. "Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself" (1 John 3:3).

We hasten His coming by telling the story of Jesus worldwide! "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matt. 24:14).

What could be any clearer? We are going to hasten the coming of the Lord by preaching the Gospel in every nation. And it's not a watered down message. It's the new birth, the blood of Jesus, the baptism in the Holy Spirit, faith, and healing.

Are we obeying Jesus' last command? "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

Preach the good news about Jesus! And if we can't go, we can send others. By supporting missionaries and those that are going, we're hastening the coming of the Lord.

The Significance of Praise

Who were the first to welcome and bring back King David? If you read the full account in Second Samuel chapter 19, you'll find that it was the tribe of Judah (v. 15). There is significance here! Judah means "praise." It was a tribe of praise that led the way. It's going to be the tribe of praise that brings Jesus back. We're members of that tribe!

In the Old Testament, we see examples of how Judah led in the great battles of the Lord and won the greatest victories. In particular, Second Chronicles 20:1–19 gives a detailed illustration. But we see in verses 21–22 that singers were appointed to go out before the army, and when they began to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the enemies!

In the New Testament, Paul and Silas were in prison (Acts 16:22-34). It's midnight. They had been whipped. Their backs are bleeding. Their feet are in stocks. They're uncomfortable and immobile. What did they do? They prayed and sang praises. And when they did, the answer came.

It was Judah—the tribe of praise—that led the great battles and welcomed back King David. Throughout the Bible, great victories came during great praise! The same is true today. A spirit of praise should dominate our lives! As we make ourselves ready and spread the Gospel, leading the way with praise, we'll hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin's DVD Bringing Back the King.]

SPECIAL OFFER

lesus Is Comina

What does the Bible say about ushering in the Lord's return? Discover what Kenneth E. Hagin found when he asked, "Is it possible that we can hasten—or speed up—the return of the Lord?" According to the Word of God, we can. Let's bring back the King!

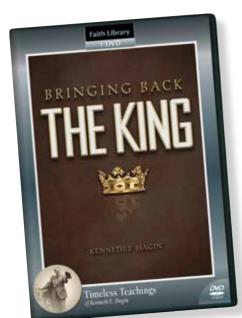
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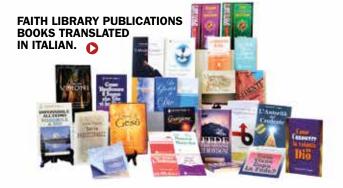
KNOWN FOR its rich culture and ancient heritage, the bootshaped nation of Italy is home to some of the oldest architecture in the world. Some of these aged structures date back to 70 A.D., their stoned foundations still standing strong.

One strong foundation of the Italian culture is family. Loyalty and devotion are integral parts of the family dynamic, whether immediate or extended. However, one relationship that is seen as being far-off or impossible to have is a personal relationship with God.

Less than two percent of Italy's population are born again. Many have never heard the message of God's gift of grace and righteousness preached. God doesn't want anyone to perish. So He orchestrated a way for a Canadian couple to cross an ocean to teach the Italian people about the Rock of Ages.

The Journey

Mauro Girgenti was 14 years old, when his family left Italy and moved to Canada. Having grown up in religiosity, he never understood the power of God's Word. When he was 17, Mauro became born again and filled with the Holy Spirit during the Catholic Charismatic Movement. He felt a call of God. As a Catholic, you went to seminary and expressed your call as a priest. While there, someone smuggled in *The Believer's Authority* by Kenneth E. Hagin.



"[That book] absolutely changed my whole life," shares Mauro. "It defined the rest of my life and my call into ministry."

Hungry for more, Mauro left the seminary and attended a Bible school in Toronto that was founded by Rhema graduates. During this time, he met and married his wife, Connie. After graduating from Bible school, Mauro was an assistant pastor at a church in Mississauga, Ontario. In December 1982, he and Connie started a church in Toronto and began attending *Campmeeting* every year.

The Girgentis saw a need to get the truths they were learning out to those who spoke Italian. They began translating books from Faith Library Publications into their native tongue, starting with the minibook *The New Birth*. To date, they have translated 55 books in Italian.

During this time, Mauro began taking short-term missions trips to Italy. While in Palermo in February 1994, he had a divine visitation where the Lord revealed the next phase of ministry: His time in Toronto was over. He and Connie were to move to Italy and start a work there.

The Girgentis turned their church over to the assistant pastor and in September 1994 moved to Italy as missionaries.

Parola di Vita (Word of Life)

When the Girgentis arrived in Italy, a big harvest field awaited them. Their goal was to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. They wanted to help people understand that salvation is a free gift, not something based on works or merit.

To accomplish this, Mauro and Connie started a church in Verona, the third largest city in northeastern Italy. Parola di Vita, which means Word of Life, began as a Bible study in their home with six people. Week after week people kept coming and attendance has been steadily growing. The Girgentis are currently renting a building that accommodates their growing church family.



During a service, one of the top drug dealers in Verona gave his life to Christ and was radically changed. He was also miraculously delivered from cocaine and experienced no withdrawals. At the time, he was in his 30s. Today, 15 years later, he is still serving God and is one of the head ushers at Parola di Vita.

Reaching the Youth

In late 2016, Mauro and Connie held a youth concert and 200 young people from different churches in Verona attended. Many had powerful encounters with God.

A local religious leader showed up during the concert. He was flabbergasted when he witnessed the youth worshipping God. "How did you fill up the building with 200 young people?" he asked. He had never seen anything like this. That night, however, he saw God's transforming power in action.

Rhema Italy

In 1999, the Girgentis started Rhema Italy in Verona. The school's purpose is to train men and women to fulfill God's call on their lives and to be a light for Jesus in Italy.

Rhema Italy now has three locations. In addition to Verona, there are campuses in Comiso and Pachino, both on the island of Sicily.

Over 500 students have graduated from Rhema Italy. Each person was once entrenched into religiosity, but now they are experiencing true freedom in Christ. Their lives have been transformed by the truth of God's Word.

The graduates are putting their hands to the plow and are impacting Italy for Christ. One couple in Sicily hit the ground running. After completing their studies, they have planted four churches in Sicily. They are teaching the message of faith and helping believers discover and fulfill God's plans for their lives.

No Strings Attached

When Mauro and Connie see people hurting, they reach out to bring hope and encouragement through Christ. When refugees began fleeing war, violence, and poverty in Northern Africa, one of the places they escaped to was Italy. They hope for a better life and future. The Italian Navy often has to rescue the refugees.



Once in the Navy's care, the refugees are briefly checked for medical issues, given something to drink, and released. Unfortunately, many end up on the streets.

The Girgentis and one of their churches in Sicily have jumped in to help. They are supplying the refugees with blankets and helping them to integrate into European life.

Mauro developed a relationship with one of the government centers that help the refugees. He wanted to bring some of the refugees to his church to honor and bless them. The agency was surprised at his plan and wanted to know if there was a catch. There were no strings attached. The Girgentis and their church of 200 simply wanted to share the love of God.

The church was able to help 10 refugees and put together huge

baskets for them. Each person received a sleeping bag along with personal hygiene items, clothing, shoes, and panettone, or Italian sweet bread.

The traumatized refugees were not used to receiving such lavish gifts. One refugee expressed his gratitude by singing an African spiritual hymn about Jesus in his native tongue. The Girgentis plan to do more work with the refugees as the Lord directs.

Moving Forward

The Girgentis are honored to have spent the past 23 years in Italy. "One of our proudest accomplishments,"

PRAYER FOCUS

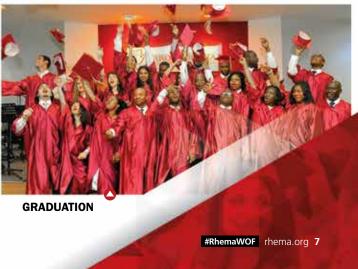


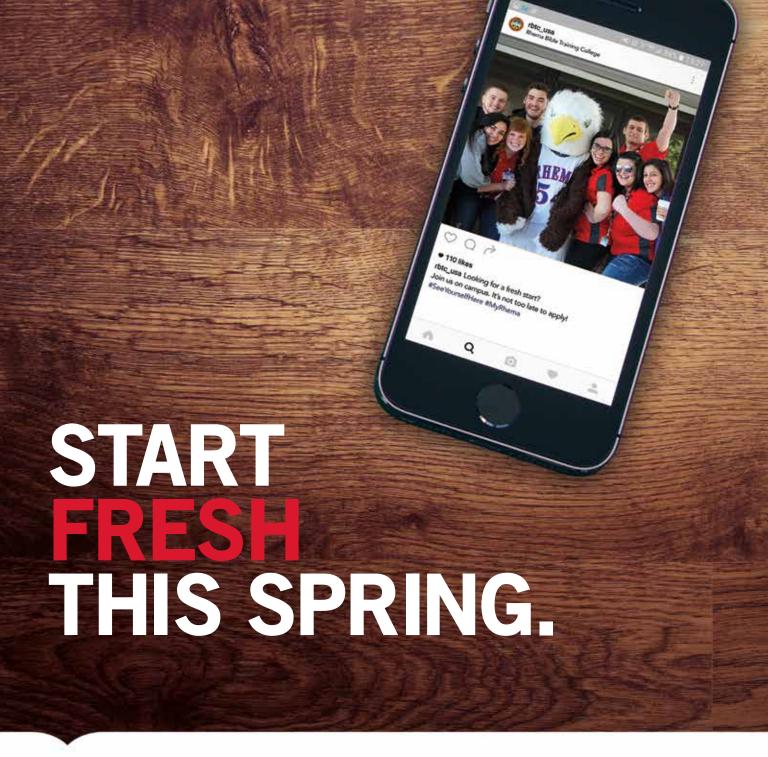
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says Connie, "is getting the Faith Library Publications literature into the hands of the Italians. With the translated books they are learning to confess the Word for themselves and are developing a strong personal relationship with Jesus, declaring "I know Him!"

Mauro and Connie have much work to do in reaching all of Italy. There are still many men and women, young and old who don't know the Lord. Looking ahead, their goal is to continue raising up Italian pastors and establishing churches until every major city in Italy hears the Gospel. By discipling believers, they can accomplish more and reach more for Christ.

TO LEARN MORE about Mauro and Connie Girgenti, go to **goodnewsint.org**.





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Winning the Battle Within the Mind

DOUG JONES

THE ENEMY is out to devour us and uses thoughts, ideas, and suggestions to accomplish his task. But our loving Heavenly Father has not left us unequipped to protect ourselves. We have been given armor—not just one piece, but the *whole* armor of God.

Our armor is not made out of metal, but rather knowledge. It's what we know about truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, and God's Word (Eph. 6:10–17).

Where do we begin? How do we defend ourselves against the thoughts our enemy hurls at us?

1) Identify It!

The identification of each thought that comes our way must be our first line of defense. WE MUST INVESTIGATE EVERY THOUGHT TO DETERMINE IF IT IS A FRIEND OR FOE. Investigation begins with questions. Does the thought agree with the Word? If not, we are to view it as dangerous, as something to be avoided.

Every thought has a life or death component attached to it! We have never had a thought come our way that did not have some type of life attached to it.

Once a thought is allowed access into our lives, the nature or life within that thought begins its work. For example, here's a thought most of us have probably had: "Snub them. Give them the cold shoulder." Attached to this thought is a relationship-destroying component. The moment this idea is embraced and acted upon, our relationship with the individual begins to deteriorate.

2) Quench It!

The second step is quenching thoughts. The word "quench" means to *extinguish*. A fire is extinguished

when we cut off its fuel source. *The fuel source of thoughts is attention*. When we remove the attention factor from the thought, we are in essence quenching it.

The more we entertain thoughts, the more they grow in strength. Likewise, TURNING OUR ATTENTION AWAY FROM A THOUGHT AND ON TO OTHER THINGS IS A THOUGHT'S WORST ENEMY. But once our attention has been redirected to the Word, our battle is half won!

3) Capture It!

Paul admonishes us to bring into captivity *every* thought (2 Cor. 10:5). Look carefully at the following phrase: *Learn how thoughts take* you captive, and you can learn how to take thoughts captive.

For a thought to capture us, it must bring with it other thoughts that support its case. Working together, they endeavor to overwhelm us with evidence. They remind us of events and statements made by others that provide evidence that the attacking thought is legitimate.

But by understanding this, we now have an advantage. We turn our attention off of the thought and onto what the Word has to say, which provides proof that the approaching thought is false. IF THOUGHTS SPEAK TO US IN ORDER TO CAPTURE US, THEN WE MUST SPEAK TO THEM IN ORDER TO CAPTURE THEM. Speak to the attacking thought exactly as Jesus illustrated for us in Luke 4:4: "It is written...." Let your voice be heard!

4) Maintain It!

Maintaining our thought life is a key to addressing every issue we face. There is not a thought that our enemy can hurl at us that our God has not equipped us with scriptures to detect and defeat. Our responsibility is to find the appropriate scriptures and use them properly. Make the decision now to take what you know and use it properly.

ENDEAVOR TO BRIDLE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH THE WORD. If for some reason you find yourself slipping, use First John 1:9 and ask the Father to forgive you. Then return to the task of vigilantly guarding what you allow your mind to dwell on.

May God's grace and power be with you as you put on God's armor and stand against the wiles of the devil!♥

Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Mastering the Silence: Strategies for Winning the Battles of the Mind by Doug Jones.



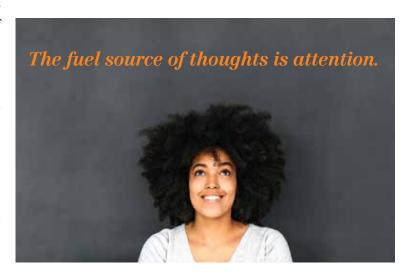
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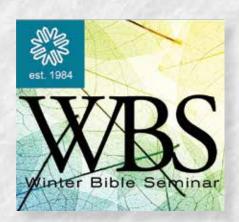
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KENNETH W. HAGIN



IT'S IMPORTANT to understand God's plan for the last days. If not, it can be easy to become anxious about world events. The unrest we see around us, for instance, is nothing more than what is written in Scripture about the end times. The enemy knows that his time is short, and he's unleased every demon in hell to destroy the Church.

Now more than ever, the Church needs to step out of its comfort zone and be the glorious Church. It's time for the Body of Christ to hook up with the Head of the Church—our Lord Jesus—and demonstrate His power to the world. The Apostle Paul recognized this. He said to the Corinthians that he didn't come with eloquent words but in demonstration and power (1 Cor. 2:1).

Unfortunately, it seems as though the Church today has become weak and is just marking time. We have many orators who don't have the power of God.

Jesus wants us to be like He is. Ephesians 5:27 says that He wants to present the Church to Himself as "a glorious church." The New International Version translates this as "a radiant church." The Good News Translation says a church "in all of its beauty."

We are called to display the beauty of Christ's handiwork. It doesn't matter if you're a preacher behind the pulpit or a preacher on your job. God will do mighty things through you. Wherever we go, we should be ministers of the power of God. People should see the glory of God in us.

Whether we're in a restaurant, on an elevator, or at a sporting event, we should always look for opportunities to demonstrate God's power. It can be as simple as asking the waiter or the person sitting next to us, if we can pray for them. Let's allow the love of Christ that's been deposited in us to take control. Instead, believers have allowed the enemy to control them, and they don't reach out to others.

When we, as the Church, get a revelation of who we really are in Christ, we will be unstoppable. We need to see ourselves as appointed by the Holy Spirit to do a glorious work. Jesus—the Head—said that we would do greater works (John 14:12). The Head is one. The body is many. There should be many wonderful works being demonstrated through every believer.

Jesus is not coming back for a weak Church. He's not coming back for a Church that is stumbling around trying to figure out who it is. We know who we are. We are the righteousness of God in Christ! We have the power of God! We carry the presence of God! We are the Shekinah glory. We are the glory cloud going somewhere to spill all over somebody! That's who we are, the glorious church!

THE EXPANSION CONTINUES

WHERE DOES GOD TAKE US?

All over the world!

Oklahoma is an unlikely place to start when reaching the uttermost parts of the earth! The unassuming Tulsa suburb of Broken Arrow continues to be a starting point for people to come and go around the world.

We thank you, our worldwide family, for your prayers and partnership. Together we carry the torch into the nations and teach God's people faith!



Soul-winning and prayer happened on the Peruvian streets.

The Gospel was shared over the airwaves in Peru.



International Education

RHEMA USA is the base for an expanding network of Rhema Bible Training College campuses. THERE ARE NOW 237 SCHOOLS IN 50 NATIONS! Why is this exciting? Because it means that more people have access to RBTC curriculum and training. They work within their respective cultures, developing and sending students out to fulfill the call of God on their lives.

DID YOU KNOW? Books from Faith Library Publications are part of the RBTC curriculum. They have been translated into over **100 LAN-GUAGES** and are distributed on **EVERY CONTINENT!**

Peru

HUANCAYO, PERU, is nestled high in the Andes Mountains. When Rhema USA students and alumni arrived in March, they went to the streets, marketplaces, and hospitals with local interpreters. The team offered God's love, prayer for salvation, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, healing, or ministry for any need that was expressed. In the evenings, they divided up and ministered in churches. Several students shared their testimonies on the radio. Over 360 people received salvation.

More than 600 people received prayer for healing, many receiving instant manifestations! Like every missions trip that stirs God's calling, the group returned more energized than when they left!

DID YOU KNOW? There are 16 RBTC campuses in Peru!

Samoa

A Samoan welcome marked the arrival of the Rhema USA spring break missions team in APIA, SAMOA. It set the tone for a colorful immersion into island life in the South Pacific. The team remodeled the children's ministry area of All Nations Church. When the physical labor was done, the transformation of gleaming floors, fresh paint, and butterflies greeted the kids. Tired but eager Rhema USA students and alumni were able to minister as well. Salvations and healings were prevalent from young to old as they encouraged people with their testimonies, led in worship, and loved the people of Samoa.

DID YOU KNOW? In addition to Rhema South Pacific, Rhema Vanuatu has started and Rhema Fiji is coming soon!



Pyrotechnic fans are never disappointed with the spectacular *Rockets Over Rhema* Fourth of July fireworks celebration.



Samoa received helping hands with ministry and renovation.





Craig W. Hagin brought the Word in Greece.

Greece

Imagine walking the streets where the Apostle Paul placed his feet as he brought the Good News of Jesus to the Gentiles. Craig W. Hagin travelled to this ancient land in July to minister to the people of Thessalonica and Athens, Greece.

RHEMA THESSALONICA was open to the public for two days as Craig taught on divine healing. Then he prayed for the sick and many were healed instantly.

While in Athens, the purchase of a location for RHEMA ATHENS was completed with great favor at a fraction of the cost. A special session was held for pastors and leaders, and Craig ministered to the public with more healings. Despite high temperatures and failing air conditioners, hundreds of people still gathered to experience the power of God!

DID YOU KNOW? The work in Greece involves translating Faith Library Publications' books into Albanian and Greek.

Albania

The hunger of the Albanian people was evident when they responded to the invitation: "COME! JESUS HEALS TODAY." The Cultural Orthodox Centre was packed with about 600 people. Almost the entire crowd came forward for healing! One young girl, however, needed more than healing. When Craig prayed for her, a demonic spirit manifested. But by standing on the authority we have in Christ and listening to the Holy



From Thanksgiving Eve to New Year's Day, the Rhema campus is decorated with more than two million Christmas lights. Over 200,000 people visit the dazzling display.



Spirit, the girl was set free.

Craig also taught on the gifts of the

Holy Spirit at RHEMA ALBANIA and held a special session for pastors before ministering healing to the public. Reflecting on the country, which became a republic in the '90s after the fall of communism, Craig said, "We prayed for communist countries for years. I believe WE'RE SEE-ING THE FRUIT OF WHAT WE PRAYED!"

DID YOU KNOW? Rhema Albania is a new RBTC location with over 80 students in its first year.

Canada

In June, Kenneth and Lynette Hagin traveled to Canada. Their first stop was TORONTO, ONTARIO, Canada's largest city and a vibrant melting pot of culture. More than 2,000 miles away, CALGARY, ALBERTA, waited in the prairie and foothills of the Canadian Rockies.

Hunger for the things of God was easily evident as Kenneth and Lynette shared from their hearts. In every service people were healed-some instantly, some as they went—and every altar call brought souls into the Kingdom of God. A PARTIC-**ULAR SURGE OF SALVATION AND INFILLING** OF THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS MARKED ALL OF THE 2017 CRUSADES.



Kenneth and Lynette Hagin brought God's love and power to Canada.

DID YOU KNOW? Nearly every month, Kenneth and Lynette travel somewhere in North America with LIVING FAITH CRU-SADES. In addition to radio and TV and events like WINTER BIBLE SEMINAR, CAMP-MEETING, KINDLE THE FLAME®, and A CALL **TO ARMS**®, they continue to impact lives on the home front.

Youth Around the World

There's a new building on campus, and its walls are reverberating with faith and love! The Varsity

Youth Building has been See what's ahead a dream in Denise Hagin Burns' heart for 15 years. When the ribbon was cut

in 2018 at

rhema.org/events!

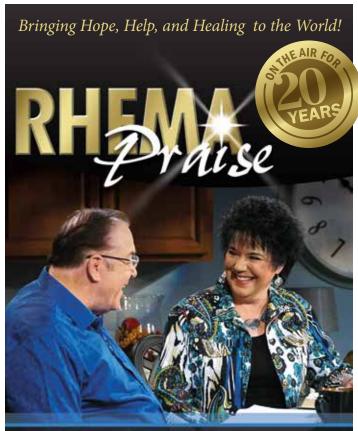
at the grand opening, that dream exploded with immediate impact. It was just in time for youth to arrive for Winter Bible Seminar. Now young people can gather in a cutting-edge place of their own with exuberant praise.

DID YOU KNOW? The Varsity Youth Building is the first new building on the Rhema campus in 25 years! It was built debt free and given from the heart for future generations.



Rhema Bible Church celebrated expansion with the new Varsity Youth Building.



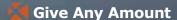


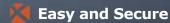
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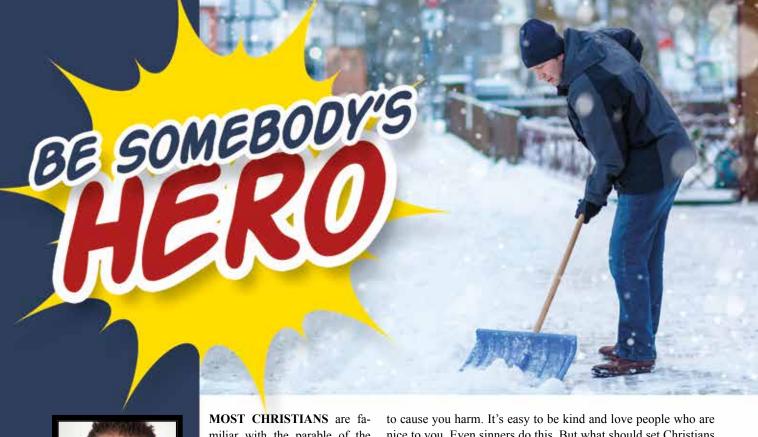




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CRAIG W. HAGIN

miliar with the parable of the Good Samaritan that is recorded in Luke chapter 10. It is the story of a man who was robbed and left for dead on the side of a road. Both a priest and a Levite saw the man lying in the ditch. Both pretended not to see him. They left him battered, bruised, and bleeding on the side of the road.

A Samaritan saw the beaten man and had compassion on him. In Jesus' day, Samaritans and Jews did not get along. But when this Samaritan saw the wounded man, he didn't see a despised Jew. He saw a hurting human being.

The Samaritan immediately cleansed and bandaged the man's wounds. After giving first aid to the man, the Samaritan could have sent him on his way. But he didn't stop there. He put the injured man on his donkey and took him to a place of lodging. He made sure the Jewish man had food to eat and a warm and safe place to recuperate.

The Samaritan was willing to use his own money for someone he was by custom not supposed to like. He looked beyond prejudice and helped a hurting man.

Love Conquers All

In Luke 10:37 (NKJV), Jesus commanded us to "go and do likewise." While preaching to a multitude, Jesus told the people, "Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you" (Luke 6:27-28).

Notice how Jesus used the word "despitefully" in verse 28. He was not talking about people who "accidentally" hurt or use you. Jesus was talking about people who carefully plot against you nice to you. Even sinners do this. But what should set Christians apart from others is that we love people who purposefully hurt us. Just before Jesus went to the cross, He gave His disciples a new command to follow.

JOHN 13:34-35 (NIV)

34 Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

It might seem hard to imagine that Jesus would tell believers to love the unlovable and do good to those who would hurt them. How could our Lord and Savior command us to reach out to people who would purposefully try to harm us? Jesus could tell us to love the unlovable because He loved the unlovable. He could tell us to do good to those who hurt us, because He reached out and did good to those who tried to harm Him.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN LOOKED **beyond** PREJUDICE AND HELPED A **HURTING MAN**

ACTS 10:38

38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Matthew 9:36 says that Jesus was "moved with compassion" when He saw the multitudes. When Jesus was on the earth, He did good to all humanity. He went about healing all who were oppressed of the devil. Jesus' goal was to help *all* hurting people.

Unfortunately, there are those who are like the priest and Levite in the Good Samaritan story. They pass by the needy people around them. I believe it's not that they don't want to help, but they're just too busy. Many Christians "walk by" opportunities to minister every day. Sometimes they don't notice hurting people because they're too busy praying that God will help them and their own families!

We need to understand that we are here to touch the world.



TAKE ACTION

Be like the Good Samaritan story and "go and do likewise" to the people God brings across your path. It doesn't matter if the people we touch are Christians or non-Christians. Everyone needs a word of encouragement or a helping hand at one time or another.

There is more to being a laborer than just telling people about Jesus and getting them saved. That is very important, but we should first help others. When you first show people the love of God in helpful and practical

ways, getting them saved is much easier to do.

Take a moment to examine your life. Are you doing good to the

Pake a moment to examine your life. Are you doing good to the people around you? Are you touching a hurting world? Or are you walking by the hurting people around you who need help?

It's not enough to see a need and pray that God will send laborers to fill the need. Realize that you are the laborer God wants to use. Take time each day to touch the people around you. As you become less focused on yourself, you will see plenty of opportunities to minister to others. So instead of walking by the lost and hurting, allow the compassion, love, and power of God to flow through you to rescue those in need.

FAITH NUGGET

Christian 'Superheroes'

There's a fascination today with superheroes. Cinemas regularly show superhero movies. These fictional characters have unique abilities. They rely on some kind of power to help others.

As born-again, Spirit-filled believers, we can help those who are around us because we have in us power beyond our own ability. The Greater One lives in us. "The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you" (Rom. 8:11 NLT).

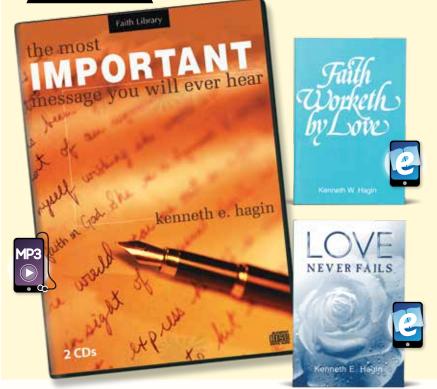
Through the Holy Spirit, we have everything we need to be a superhero and help others. He is our Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor, Counselor, Strengthener, and Standby.

One way to tap in to what's inside of us is to remember who we are in Christ and what we have in Him. When we act on the Word in faith, nothing can stop us. We can overcome all things through Christ (Rom. 8:37).

Superhero characters in movies or comic books are always ready to help when they see people in need. Likewise, when we see people who are struggling, hurting, and needing help, we can come to their rescue through the power of the Holy Spirit. Even if we can't talk with them, we can pray for them.

The next time you see someone in need, be like the Good Samaritan and help. The Holy Spirit will give you the words to say and show you what to do. It's His power and ability that does the work. He just needs a vessel to flow through.

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A MIGHTY ARMY OF WOMEN

ENCOURAGING. AMAZING. ELECTRIFYING! These are words women used to describe Lynette Hagin's 2017 *Kindle the Flame Women's Conference*. Wives, mothers, and daughters from across the U.S. and around the world experienced three dynamic days of ministry in September. "The joy is contagious in this place!" shared one woman. "I always leave so refreshed," said another.

Over the course of the weekend, the women heard powerful messages, attended workshops, and enjoyed great fellowship. They left changed, set free, and healed! *Kindle the Flame 2018* is scheduled for September 27–29 on the Rhema USA campus.



Let It Go!

John 10:10 says that Jesus came so we would have life and have it abundantly. The *Amplified Bible* says that we would have life "to the full, till it overflows." Unfortunately, many Christian women are stressed out, worn out, and depressed. That is not God's plan.



God has great plans for us. They are plans for good and not disaster (Jer. 29:11). He has assignments for us to complete during the upcoming year. But FOR THE LORD TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT HE HAS FOR US, THERE ARE THINGS WE MUST LET GO OF—WEIGHTS THAT ARE SLOWING US DOWN.

Hebrews 12:1 (NLT) says, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down."

A weight is something that brings us down and keeps us from fulfilling God's plan. Let me ask you, WHAT IS WEIGHING YOU DOWN? WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S TIME TO LET IT GO.

Here are some things that can slow us down: hurts, offenses, disappointments, insecurities, criticism, rejection, poor self-esteem, betrayal, anxiety, and jealousy. Some of us may also have to let go of *our plans* for our lives and commit to God's plans.

We are spirit, soul, and body. The Lord once told me that the reason some people have a hard time being led by the Spirit is because they have soul damage. When our soul is damaged, it can be revitalized when we go to the Word.

THE LORD WANTS TO RESTORE OUR SOULS (PS. 23:3). HE WANTS TO HELP US LET GO OF WEIGHTS. HE WANTS TO REPLENISH OUR JOY AND HEAL US.

Let's trust in God's promises and rely on His goodness and mercy. As we do, we won't be weighed down but will be free to run our race.

The 'Who' in Your Storm

Before we were born, God knew every storm we would face. He has always been able to take us through any adversity we encounter. Many times we ask why we're going through something.



But IF WE KNOW "WHO" IS IN THE BOAT WITH US DURING A STORM, THE WHY DOESN'T MATTER. Jesus is the "Who" that is always with us. In addition to "Who," we need to know what Jesus will be when we're caught in a storm.

JESUS WILL BE OUR CALM. Because the "Who" in our boat is calm, we can tap into His peace and let it flood our minds.

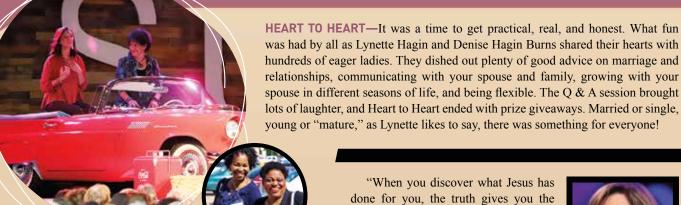
JESUS WILL BE OUR JOY. Outlook often determines outcome. An outlook that is defeated and depressed will cause the waves to crash down on us. We can, however, be joyful when we know "Who" will get us to the other side.

JESUS WILL BE OUR FRIEND AND COMFORTER. Knowing "Who" our Comforter is gives us boldness and courage to face anything. He will bring people into our lives to comfort us during a storm.

JESUS WILL BE OUR FOCUS. In the middle of a storm, we need to focus on the "Who," not the circumstance, problem, or prognosis. Focusing on Jesus will change the atmosphere around us.

JESUS WILL BE OUR VOICE. Jesus has given us authority to speak to any storm. Speaking the Word with boldness will bring about a great calm.

JESUS WILL BE OUR VICTORY. The "Who" in our boat is always victorious. So the end of our story is victory because Jesus—the King of Kings, the Healer, the Provider, the Alpha and Omega—lives inside of us.



"I'm a first-year student at RBTC, and this is my first time attending *Kindle the Flame*. I decided to volunteer and usher, and it's been a great time. The anointing, the whole experience, just being here is awesome!" // Gabriella

"I appreciate *Kindle the Flame* for not being like any other women's conference. It really ministers to women in a very strong and positive way. The "Let It Go" session with Mrs. Hagin was just crazy awesome!" // Bonita

"Ever since Mrs. Hagin started *Kindle the Flame* I wanted to attend because I wanted to grow and learn how to become a Christian wife and mother. I wanted to learn how to take care of a home. So I began coming to KTF, and I have really grown up. I've only missed one in 17 years. Continually coming to this conference has really helped me to blossom." // Cathy

"Kindle the Flame is always a good time for me. It's like a mini-vacation. Just to get away from the normal routine of every day. I don't want to leave!" // Ronni

"The first night when we were letting things go, my balloon was completely full. I'm stepping out and letting it all go!"

"When you discover what Jesus has done for you, the truth gives you the ability to shake loose. Jesus didn't leave it up to us! HE SANCTIFIED HIMSELF SO YOU AND I CAN 'LET IT GO!' As surely as He is our righteousness, He is also our sanctification. HE IS THE ABILITY TO SEPARATE YOU from things that have tried to hold you back. How do you access that



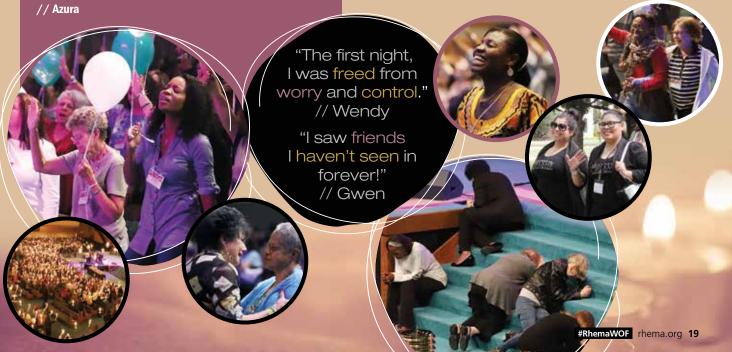
kind of power? You do it the same way you receive Jesus as your righteousness. YOU CAN CLAIM HIM AS YOUR SANCTIFICATION, AND A HOLY GHOST WORK BEGINS." // PATSY CAMENETI

"Our lives ought to be living demonstrations where we not only *perform* signs and wonders, but WE ARE THE SIGN AND WONDER. We are proving that God's Word is true. It's going to require spiritual discipline, and that's a word most people don't want to hear. TAKE EVERY REVELATION YOU RECEIVE FROM GOD AND BE TENACIOUS WITH IT. Discipline



yourself every day. Hear the Word, accept it, and bear fruit. See yourself as a co-laborer with God! You're proving that you have access to Heaven. It's a testimony to see prayers answered."

// LYNETTE ESTRADA





FOR MOST PEOPLE, Christmas is filled with joy, peace, and goodwill. However, the events leading up to the first Christmas were fairly traumatic for one person. His name was Joseph.

MATTHEW 1:18-21, 24 (NKJV)

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." 24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him.

We can imagine what Joseph's life was like before the news. He had a carpentry business, which was probably successful. And just like any other couple, we can assume that Joseph and Mary talked about things they wanted to do when they got married.

Then Joseph discovered the unimaginable. Mary was pregnant, and his life had suddenly turned upside down. She tried to



KENNETH W. HAGIN

explain what happened, but Joseph couldn't make any sense of it. He began to fear his future. But hearing the words, "Do not be afraid," changed everything.

We may experience situations that we don't understand. God is saying to us "Do not be afraid." Sometimes when things don't make sense, we jump to the wrong conclusions. Joseph could easily have done this. But before we pass judgment on anyone or on our own situations, we need to seek God and pray.

When we are stressed-out, we need to hear God say, "Do not be afraid." Matthew 1:20 (NKJV) says, "But while he thought about these things." Obviously, Joseph spent some time thinking about the situation. Can you imagine his state of mind? In all likelihood, he spent days and sleepless nights worrying about what people would think and what he should do. In verse 19 it says that Joseph was making plans to divorce Mary secretly. But God's plan was quickly revealed.

We often do the same when we find ourselves in situations, which from an outward perspective, don't look good. After a while, it only causes confusion and stress.

In the same way that God worked out a wonderful plan for Joseph and Mary, He will do the same for us. We just have to decide not to be afraid and believe. We can't allow ourselves to give into pressure and make quick decisions. If we'll just quiet our minds, God's plan will be revealed.

We don't have to be fearful in any situation. God can turn our circumstances around. Instead of defeat, we'll experience

victory. Instead of stress, we will have peace. Instead of having nothing, there will be blessings. Sometimes we look at a situation and think it's bad. We don't understand why it happened. But as we trust God, we often see that it leads us to our future!

When I turned 18 years old, I was required to register for the draft with the U.S. Armed Forces. At that time, they had a lottery, and if your number came up, you were drafted. If you were in college, especially Bible college, you got a deferment. I was in a car accident and dropped below the college hours I needed. I signed up for summer school but a new person started working. They didn't send my name in, and I lost my deferment.

My number came up, and I had to report for duty. I didn't want to be drafted and become a foot soldier. So I went down and joined and ended up serving in the Army Security Agency. Everyone thought it was a bad situation, myself included.

I've often looked back at the different situations I've gone through, starting with leaving Bible school in 1962 to enlist in the Army. I can see that every step of the way prepared me to be who I am and do what I do today. What looked like a bad situation was really God's plan. With God, our lives are planned journeys that He wants to unfold.

On that first Christmas God told Joseph, "Do not be afraid." He's saying the same thing to us today. It doesn't matter what the situation is. God is saying, "I'll turn it around. Just trust Me, and stay with Me. You'll walk through it and come out victoriously on the other side. Do not be afraid!"

FAITH IN ACTION

The Prince of Peace

Lynette Hagin

Many people have accepted Christ as their Savior, but they haven't accepted Him as their Peace Giver. Jesus is not only our Savior-He is also our Peace and Problem Solver. To live in peace, we must guard our minds and control our thoughts.

Satan specializes in worry, fear, anxiety, confusion, and doubt. And he will bombard our minds with those things if we allow him to. Our minds are the only entrance Satan has into our lives. That's why it's so important that we not let him dominate our thoughts.

God has commanded us not to fear. And He has given us the ability to live fearlessly, when our surroundings would make us afraid. We can have the assurance that our Heavenly Father is constantly watching over us. As we trust in the Lord with all our hearts, we will receive the peace that passes all understanding from our Savior, Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Replace fearful thoughts with God's words of truth. Here are some scriptures to meditate on to maintain a peaceful mind.

Deuteronomy 31:6 Isaiah 41:10 Joshua 1:9 Mark 5:36 Psalm 27:1 John 14:27 Psalm 29:11 John 16:33 Psalm 56:3 Philippians 4:7 Psalm 91 Colossians 3:15 Psalm 118:6 2 Timothy 1:7 Isaiah 26:3 1 Peter 5:7

Keep Your

God desires for us to live a life of peace. joy, and abundance. As we keep our minds focused on the Lord, the struggles will fade away, the turmoil will cease, and He will give us a peace that can't be shaken!

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// LYNETTE HAGIN

"THE LORD WILL GUIDE YOU ALWAYS; HE WILL SATISFY YOUR NEEDS IN A SUN-SCORGHED LAND AND WILL STRENGTHEN YOUR FRAME. YOU WILL BE LIKE A WELL-WATERED GARDEN, LIKE A SPRING WHOSE WATERS NEVER FAIL."

— ISAIAH 58:11 (NIV)

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR!

DECEMBER IS WHEN we focus on Christmas parties and family celebrations. But the most important celebration is the birth of our Savior. When I think of Jesus' birth, I particularly think of the angels telling the shepherds that the Savior of the world was born.

"Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to

you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 'Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!' "—Luke 2:8–14 (NKJV)

What a glorious night that was. The Prince of Peace was born! Jesus came to give us peace. Before He left the earth, He reminded the disciples of this gift: "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid" John 14:27 (NLT).

We need to remember that we can look to Jesus for peace. In the world there is turmoil. We have experienced earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, terrorism, and every type of calamity. Of course, we know there is no peace without having accepted the Prince of Peace as our Lord and Savior. I encourage you if you have never asked Jesus in your heart to do so today.

Romans 10:9–10 (NLT '96) declares, "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved."

If you once knew Christ but have not been living according to His Word, I encourage you to ask for God's forgiveness and renew your relationship with Him.

We would have no peace had Jesus not paid the supreme sacrifice for it. There was a price paid for peace. God loved us so much that He willingly sent His only Son to the earth to redeem us.

It disturbs me that some Christians rely on chemical alternatives rather than look to the Peace Giver. God can get you through any storm without altering your body chemistry. He is the problem solver, not the problem masker.

How can you receive that peace? Isaiah 26:3–4 (AMPC) says, "You will guard him and keep him in perfect and constant peace whose mind [both its inclination and its character] is stayed on You, because he commits himself to You, leans on You, and hopes

confidently in You. So trust in the Lord (commit yourself to Him, lean on Him, hope confidently in Him) forever; for the Lord God is an everlasting Rock [the Rock of Ages]."

How do I keep my mind on the Lord at all times? I do this by constantly playing Christian music in my home, my car, and wherever I can during the day. Throughout the day, I thank the Lord for what He has done for me. I am constantly communing with Him, even though I might be doing other things as well.

I choose to dwell on positive things rather than negative thoughts. Satan tries to bombard your mind with worry, fear, anxiety, confusion, and doubt. I encourage you to follow Paul's instructions in Philippians 4:8–9 (NKJV):

"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you."





The greatest gift of all Had no ribbons or bows! The greatest gift of all Was wrapped in

What are the missing words? Answer found in Luke 2:7 (KJV)

Fill in the blanks by substituting the symbol below the blank with the letter that it matches in the box below.



H=★ N= O=□ R=* S=▲ T=▼ W=▶

Chet Your Story Straight!

Johnny wrote his version of the Christmas story for his Sunday School teacher. He did pretty good but he got a few facts wrong . . . eight to be exact. See if you can find his errors as you read his story below.

Mary and her husband Jacob rode to Jerusalem on a donkey to pay their rent. They couldn't spend the night at the inn because they forgot to make reservations. They had to spend the night in a fable and that is where Jesus was born. Wise men came from the feast and brought them gifts of gold from Frankenstein and Merv. An angel announced Jesus' birth to some nearby farmers. That was the first Christmas!

HOLIDAY search & find

See if you can find the following items that are hidden in this picture.

ice cream cone diamond ring dollar bill safety pin needle

baseball bat acorn pizza slice comb



If you've ever been to a birthday party then you know that the person who is supposed to get the gifts is the one who is having the birthday. Right? So, why is it

that on Christmas day, JESUS' BIRTHDAY, we're the ones who open the gifts and nothing is given to Him? WHOSE BIRTHDAY IS IT ANYWAY? This year let's be sure to bring gifts to Jesus since it is His birthday that we're celebrating. There are quite a few gifts that the Bible tells us we can bring to the Lord that will please Him. Change the numbers below into letters to discover three gifts that we can give to Jesus this Christmas.

INSTRUCTIONS: There are 26 letters in the alphabet. If the letter "A"=1, "B" =2, "C"=3, and so on, then what will the numbers arouped below spell out?

1. 7 12 15 18 25 (found in Psalm 29:2)

2. 20 8 1 14 11 19 (found in Psalm 136:1)

3. 16 18 1 9 19 5 (found in Psalm 57:7)



"A merry heart does good, like medicine."

-Proverbs 17:22 (NKJV

Where did Frosty the Snowman take his wife dancing? To the Snow Ball

.

Who danced the best at the Reindeer Christmas Party? Dancer . . . of course!

. What's worse than having athlete's foot at Christmas time? Having mistle toe!

How do we know that the farm animals in Jesus' day were smarter than in ours? Because in the song "The Little Drummer Boy" it says that "the ox and lamb kept time."

Why were Rudolph's parents shocked when they saw his report card? Because he went down in History!



SHEPHERDS, NOT TO FARMERS. 8. ANGELS ANNOUNCED JESUS' BIRTH TO AND MERV.

MYRRH, NOT GOLD FROM FRANKENSTEIN 7. THEY BROUGHT GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, AND 6. WISE MEN CAME FROM THE EAST, NOT A FEAST. 5. JESUS WAS BORN IN A STABLE, NOT A FABLE.

1. MARY'S HUSBAND WAS JOSEPH, NOT JECOB.
2. THEY WENT TO BETHLEHEN, NOT TERUSALEN.
4. THEY WENT TO PEY TAXES, NOT THEN RENT.
4. THEY COULDNY SPEND THE WIGHT AT THE INV.
BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THERE, NOT
BECAUSE THEY DIDNY MAKE RESERVATIONS.
5. JESUS WAS BORN IN A STABLE, NOT A FABLE.
5. JESUS WAS BORN IN A STABLE, NOT A FABLE.

THDIARTS

YAWYNA TI SI YAGHTAIB BOOH

SWADDLING CLOTHES GLORY, THANKS, PRAISE

Answers:

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