



GRATIS
Mei
2024

Goeie Nuus Good News

NOU REEDS 26 JAAR OUD!

AANLYN-UITGawe
ONLINE EDITION

Posbus 1957
Potchefstroom 2520
Tel: (018) 293 1996
www.goodnewsmessage.co.za
Goeie Nuus Koerant -
Good News Newspaper



EVERYONE CAN REACH SOMEONE!

LIVING WATER

Cecilia gave her a water bottle, then said: this water satisfies your physical thirst, but Jesus Christ satisfies the thirst of your soul. Wanda began to cry. Her employer has falsely accused Wanda of theft. Her daughter and partner abandoned her. She has lost her hope and wanted to end her life. At the bridge, she met Cecilia, who told her about Jesus. Instead of jumping off the bridge, she jumped into the wide-open arms of a loving God Who gave her hope again. She now follows the Lord and attends a local church.

GO DAY

The above is one of untold many testimonies that transpired after the annual GO Day hosted by the GO Movement. This is a Day where believers are encouraged to share the Gospel with at least one person. This year, GO Day was on 18 May 2024.

THE GO MOVEMENT

The GO Movement is a catalyst for evangelism and collaboration for the fulfilment of the Great Commission, challenging believers to share the Gospel and equipping churches to take part in the annual Go Day. They want Christians to make evangelism a lifestyle. They mobilise and equip churches to evangelise everyone, everywhere while collaborating with prayer, discipleship, and church-planting networks. Their aim is: Every Believer becoming a Witness.

This vision is based on well-known Bible verses:

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field" (Luke 10:2).

"Go and make disciples of all people" (Matthew 28:19).

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and

you will be My witnesses" (Acts 1:8).

PEOPLE FACE A CHRISTLESS ETERNITY

The majority of people on Earth do not know about the wonderful salvation that is available through Jesus Christ. They face a Christless eternity. That is tragic! But we can change this! Meanwhile, the majority of the Church doesn't actively share their faith. Many believers are afraid, not equipped, or struggle to share their faith. Evangelism has been a professional ministry for far too long. We need to stop treating it as a Great Suggestion and embrace it for what it is: the Great Commission to all believers.

The GO Movement was founded to help believers to learn to share their faith with their colleagues and friends. "Never could I have imagined what could evolve out of a simple vision. From its humble beginnings in 2010 emerged a huge, worldwide movement. What God has done in 10 years is extraordinary," says Werner Nachtigal, President of GO Movement. Below, he relates the history of this Movement.

RECEIVING A VISION - 2010

It was the 2010 Reformation Weekend when I had an intense encounter with God. I was in Pakistan, a very dangerous area for evangelisation. We had to be guarded by several snipers. Precisely in this situation God gave me a tremendous vision: I saw a huge wave going around the world and an endless number of Christians preaching the Gospel. This wave of evangelism encircling the earth was all about Jesus, not about a ministry or a church movement. Every Christian, every church or denomination united for evangelism!

For two days I experienced God's Presence more intensely than ever before, but then my mind started to think in German again. To mobilise the whole world for evangelism? That should not be a problem! ... How humorous: An unknown evangelist without much money and a network wanting to mobilise the world. This vision was either from God or it was impossible!

THE FIRST GO DAY - 2012

The kick-off for the first GO Day (Global Outreach Day) took place in the world's largest arena with room for a million people in Lagos, Nigeria. It belongs to the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG). Getting to meet Pastor Adeboye is very difficult. But God opened the door, and I promised that a very famous preacher would kick off the GO Day.

The famous preacher cancelled and to my surprise, Pastor Adeboye didn't even ask about him but told me he prayed about the GO Day and that his whole



network of 30 000 churches would be there. GO Day is not about famous preachers, it's about every Christian being a witness, praying: "Lord Jesus, the harvest is plenty, but the workers are few, use me."

FOR SOME GO DAY WAS THE LAST CHANCE

The next day we took many Christians to Kuramo Beach, where the poorest people from Lagos live. We brought the Gospel to them, and about 500 people gave their lives to Jesus. Later a tsunami came and destroyed the whole beach. People died, but others were saved twice. The people who accepted Jesus then weren't at the beach, thanks to the church. I felt a real urgency to preach the Gospel when I heard this news. Someone's eternity is at stake.

GO DAY EVOLVES 2013 - 2019

GO Day spread worldwide, and over 100 countries have been involved. At a missions conference, leaders from Nepal joined us to reach every Nepali household with the Gospel. It seemed outlandish; is it even possible to reach a Hindu nation? Many Nepali Christians were on the road for days to reach even the families in the mountains.

OVERCOMING PERSECUTION

Meanwhile, Christians in 135 countries joined in on GO Day. Some 741 150 people come to Christ through a large nationwide campaign in Ghana. Christians in the mission field experience severe persecution in China and India! China's State Security put the GO Day team under surveillance. Although hundreds of agents chased them, they distributed millions of Gospel tracts.

STARTING TO INTENSIFY PRAYER

Prayer has always been an important part of GO Day.

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'N GREPIELESER IS 'N GREPIEBEGRYPER

Hoe groot is jou beker?

Jesus kom by die vrou by die put van Jakob in Samaria, en sê vir haar: "Gee vir My water om te drink" (Joh. 4). Sy verstaan nie, en sê vir Hom die put is diep, en Hy het nie eers 'n skepding nie, waarop Hy antwoord: "As jy die gawe van God geken het en geweet het Wie Hy is wat vir jou sê: Gee vir My water om te drink, sou jy Hom gevra het en Hy sou vir jou lewende water gegee het."

Die vrou redeneer vanuit die natuurlike dimensie, maar Hy vanuit die geesdimensie, en Hy sê: "Maar daar kom 'n uur, en dit is nou, wanneer die ware aanbidders die Vader in gees en waarheid sal aanbid; want die Vader soek ook mense wat Hom só aanbid. God is Gees; en die wat Hom aanbid, moet in gees en waarheid aanbid."

Medegelowige, wat is jou skepding? Hoe groot is jou beker of jou geestelike skepding? Jou kapanseit en honger na geeswaarde?

Dit is hóé ons met die Bybel omgaan wat bepaal hóé ons die Bybel verstaan. Sommige mense verkies om die Woord selektief en versie-vir-versie te lees, maar is dan verbaas dat hulle ook net gedeeltelike begrypers van die Woord is.

Die woorde wat Paulus geskryf het, is dan ook hier van toepassing: "Nou ken ek ten dele, maar een dag sal ek ten volle ken, net soos ek ten volle geken is" (1 Kor. 13:12). Ons kán egter ons "ten dele" begrip reeds in hierdie lewe uitbrei. Ons kán die Woord beter verstaan deur méér daarmee om te gaan.

Die woorde van die Here Jesus, "Met die maat waarmee julle meet, sal vir julle gemeet word," kom drie keer voor in die Evangelies. Hy gebruik dit in verband met hoe ons die Woord **hoor** wanneer Hy vir ons wil sê hoe ons met die Woord moet omgaan (Markus). Hy gebruik dit in verband met **oordeel** wanneer Hy sê dat ons mekaar nie moet oordeel nie (Matthéüs). En dan gebruik Hy dit ook in verband met hoe ons **gee** wanneer Hy vir ons op hierdie gebied leiding gee (Lukas). Die laaste twee kere (in Matthéüs en Lukas) word geïnkorporeer of ingesluit in "hoe ons **hoor**" (Markus), want as ons **hoor** ons mag nie oordeel nie en ons **hoor** ons moet gee soos in die Woord

vervat, dan word laasgenoemde ook deel van die toepassing van die Woord in ons lewens.

In Mark. 4:24 sê Jesus: "Pas op wat julle **hoor**; met die maat waarmee julle meet, sal vir julle gemeet word, en daar sal bygevoeg word vir julle wat hoor." Die Woord moet bestudeer word, geëet word. Jy moet ontvanklik wees. Hóé ons dit ontvang, sal bepaal wáá ons daaruit kry. Die leser moet biddend daarmee omgaan, die Heilige Gees toelaat om ons te leer, en nie haastig wees wanneer ons wil hê God moet met ons praat nie. Daarna moet ons die Woord ook toepas in ons lewens, want die **krag van die Woord lê in die toepassing daarvan**.

In die aanwending van die Woord in ons lewens, kan ons groei in gelykvormigheid aan Sy beeld. As Hy bv. sê: "Wees heilig, want Ek is heilig" (1 Pet. 1:16), dan moet ons 'n goeie hoorder wees, die Woord toepas en meer soos Hy word. Met die maat waarmee ons die Woord ontvang, in daardie maat sal ons dit verstaan. En hoe méér ons verstaan en toepas en uitleef, hoe méér sal Hy aan ons toevertrou, want Hy strooi Sy pérrels nie net na willekeur rond nie. Die skatte van Sy Woord moet ontgin word. Dan sal ons nóg meer skatte kry. Ons sal moet moeite doen en aan Sy voete sit om hierdie skatte te ontdek. En dan moet ons dit uitleef.

Aangaande oordeel sê Jesus: "Moenie **oordeel** nie, sodat julle nie geoordeel word nie. Want met die oordeel waarmee julle oordeel, sal julle geoordeel word; en met die maat waarmee julle meet, sal weer vir julle gemeet word" (Matt. 7:1-2). Soos met die ontvang (hoor) van die Woord, is dit hier ook waar: Met die maat waarmee ons ander oordeel, sal ons geoordeel word.

Die Griekse woorde vir "oordeel" is *krinō*. Dit beteken om oordeel uit te spreek oor ander se woorde en dade, om ander te veroordeel of te verdoem. Wanneer ons dit doen, sal ons met dieselfde maat gemeet word. Jesus verbied nie kritiek op verkeerde dade nie, of dat ons verkeerde dinge veroordeel nie. Maar Hy verbied 'n gees van foutvindery waar ons ons eie foute verbykyk en onsself as regter aanstel oor ander. So 'n hart is donker, en kan ander nie met liefde benader nie. Waar oordeel inkom, kan die liefde nie heers nie. 'n Hart vol oordeel kan

ander nie in hulle swakhede help nie. Slegs wanneer ons ander liefhet, kan ons hulle voorthelp om God te dien.

In Luk. 6:38 sê Jesus: "Gee, en aan julle sal gegee word. 'n Goeie maat wat ingedruk en geskud en oorlopend is, sal hulle in jul skoot gee, want met dieselfde maat waarmee julle meet, sal weer vir julle gemeet word." Met hierdie woorde bring Hy 'n basiese beginsel tuis dat elke gelowige met 'n oop hand moet gee om God se koninkryk te bevorder. Dit sal meebring dat ons nie gebrek sal lei nie, want soos ons gee, sal weer vir ons gegee word.

Daar staan ook geskryf: "Maar dink daaraan: Wie spaarsaamlik saai, sal ook spaarsaamlik maai; en wie volop saai, sal ook volop maai. Laat elkeen **gee** soos hy hom in sy hart voorneem, nie met droefheid of uit dwang nie, want God het 'n blymoedige gewer lief" (2 Kor. 9:6-7).

Jesus sê vir die Skrifgeleerde en Fariseërs van Sy tyd: "Wee julle, skrifgeleerde en Fariseërs, geveinsdes, want julle maak die buitekant van die beker en die skottel skoon, maar binnekant is dit vol roof en onmatigheid" (Matt. 23:25). Bring jou beker na Hom toe. Giet alles voor Hom uit: Al jou sorge, al jou laste, al jou gebreke en tekortkominge, al jou sondes, al jou eie pogings en eie wyshede, eie begeertes. Jou beker moet LEEG wees en skoon van binne, sodat Hy dit kan vul met Sy heilikhed en Sy rus. Hoe leë尔 jou beker, hoe meer ruimte is daar vir Hom om dit met Homself te vul!

Wanneer jy **leeg** is van jouself, dan sal jy Jesus se Woord kan gehoorsaam en toepas: "Pas op wat julle **hoor**; met die maat waarmee julle meet, sal vir julle gemeet word, en daar sal bygevoeg word vir julle wat hoor."

Om met die Woord om te gaan, beteken allermáins dat ons 'n grepieleser word. Vir volledige begrip, moet ons wyer lees, soos dit duidelik geword het uit bogenoemde bespreking. **Laat ons dan nie slegs grepiebegrypers wees nie, maar vollediger begrypers van die Woord onder die leiding van die Heilige Gees!** In ons verootmoediging sal die Heilige Gees "julle leer en lei in die hele waarheid." Hierop sê Johannes: "Maar wanneer Hy gekom het, die Gees van die waarheid, sal Hy julle in die hele waarheid lei..."

(Joh. 16:13). Gee oor aan Jesus, en laat die Heilige Gees jou lei. Hoor jy die Stem van Jesus? Gee ag daarop!

Die Wuest Translation stel dit so: "And He was saying to them, Keep ever a watchful eye on what you are hearing. In the measure by which you are measuring, it will be measured to you; and it will be measured to you not only according to that measure, but there will be some added on top of that. For he who has, it shall be given to him. And he who does not have, even that which he has, shall be taken away from him."

OPSUMMEND

Jesus bring 'n kernwaarheid van God se Woord na vore: "Met die maat waarmee julle meet, sal vir julle gemeet word." Hy gebruik hierdie kernwaarheid in verskilende omstandighede of kontekste. In bogenoemde bespreking staan dit in verband met **hoor, ordeel** en **gee**. Dit is soos 'n idiom of 'n slagspreuk. Net meer as dit: Dit is God se Woord! Die Woord wat nie aangepas kan word nie.

Kan elkeen van ons dit dan, onder die leiding van die Heilige Gees, toepas op ons eie lewensomstandighede of krisis of nood waarin ons verkeer? Ja! Natuurlik! In ons eie nood kom ons na Jesus toe, wat gesê het: "Kom na My toe, almal wat vermoeid en belas is, en Ek sal julle rus gee. Neem My juk op julle en leer van My, want Ek is sagmoedig en nederig van hart, en julle sal rus vind vir julle siele; want My juk is sag en My las is lig" (Matt. 11:28-30).

Kom dus met verwagting. Bring jou nood en lê dit aan Sy voete neer. Die liederediger sing: "Werp jou **hele las** op Hom." Kry die ware rus in Hom. Gee jouself in totaliteit oor aan Hom. Hoe meer jy vra, hoe meer kry jy, want daar sal ook nog bygevoeg word vir jou wat hoor en dit aanneem wat Hy aan jou wil openbaar. **Bring 'n groot skepding!** Hoe meer jy van jouself aan Hom gee, hoe meer kry jy in ruil daarvoor. Iemand het gesê: "The more you trust God, the more He amazes you!" Kom, gee jou lewe oor aan Hom! Verruum die maat waarmee jy meet. Soek Hom, dan sal Hy Homself meer en meer aan jou openbaar, en jy sal al hoe meer soos Hy word.

Pinkster: die Uitstorting van die Heilige Gees

"God Self het ons saam met julle op hierdie vaste grond gevestig: op Christus. God het ons vir Hom afgesonder, ons as Sy eiendom beseël en die Heilige Gees in ons harte gegee as waarborg van wat ons nog sal ontvang" (2 Kor. 1:21-22).

Gedurende die afgelope 50 dae het ons drie hoogtepunte in ons Christelike kalender herdenk. Die eerste was die lyde en kruisiging van Christus, die tweede was die opstanding en die derde die hemelvaart. Nou kom ons by die Pinkstergebeure waar die Heilige Gees uitgestort is.

Die Bybel praat van twee verbonde: die Ou Verbond (Ou Testament) en die Nuwe Verbond (Nuwe Testament). In Hebreërs 9 is daar 'n kort beskrywing van die

voorskrifte met betrekking tot die eredienste onder die Ou Verbond. Ons sien dat die verbondstent (en later ook die tempel) verdeel was in die Heilige en die Allerheiligste, wat met 'n voorhangsel van mekaar geskei was. In die Allerheiligste was God Self teenwoordig. Slegs die hoëpriester kon een keer per jaar die Allerheiligste onder baie streng voorwaardes betree: "om vir homself te offer en vir die sondes wat die volk onwetend gedoen het" (Heb 9:7).

1. Die Kruisiging

Nou vind ons egter dat met die kruisiging van Jesus, die voorhangsel van die tempel in twee geskeur het (Mat. 15:38). Christus het by Sy sterwe, behalwe vir die soenoffer, ook vir ons direkte toegang tot God die Vader gegee.

Ons het nie meer 'n menslike hoëpriester nodig om vir ons, soos onder die Ou Verbond, by die Vader in te tree nie. Christus, as Hoëpriester van die Nuwe Verbond, het vir ons ewige toegang tot die Vader bewerkstellig.

2. Die Opstanding

Met Christus se opstanding het Hy die dood oorwin en het Hy ook ons eie opstanding gewaarborg: "Maar nou, Christus is opgewek uit die dood, as eersteling uit dié wat gesterf het... Maar daar is 'n volgorde: die eersteling is Christus, daarna, by Christus se koms, dié wat aan Hom behoort" (1 Kor. 15:20-23).

3. Die Hemelvaart

Met die hemelvaart het Christus die ewige Koningskap opgeneem. Alle dinge is aan Hom onderwerp,

en Hy heers oor elke owerheid en mag en krag en heerskappy en elke naam wat genoem word (Ef. 1:19-23). Alles wat dus op aarde gebeur, staan onderhewig aan Sy koningskap.

4. Pinkster

Presies 50 dae na Paasfees kom ons by die Pinksterfees. Die Pinksterfees was, soos Paasfees, een van die belangrike feesdae onder die Ou Verbond. "Sewe weke na Paasfees wanneer julle die fees van die weke tot eer van die Here begin vier en die graanoffer uit die nuwe oes bring, moet daar vir julle 'n gewyde byeenkoms wees, dan mag julle geen gewone werk doen nie" (Num. 28:26 NAV; sien ook Lev. 23:15-16). Christus het op Paasdag die offer vir ons sondes gebring, en sewe weke later met

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KATLHOLO YA BAKERESETE

(The Judgement of Christians)



DITEMANA

Ka moo re na le bopelokgale ka metlha yotlhe, re itse gore fa re sa ntse re agile mo mmeleng, re kgakala le legae Moreneng; gonne re sepela ka tumelo, e seng ka go bona. Mme re pelokgale, re bile re eletsa bogolo go huduga mo mmeleng le go goroga go nna le Morena. Ke gona ka moo re tlhoaletseng thata gore fa re le mo gae gongwe re se mo gae, re nne ba ba mo kgatlhang; gonne rona rotlhe re na le go bonala fa pele ga sedulo sa tshekelo sa ga Keresete gore mongwe le mongwe a amogele ka fa ditirong tse a di dirileng a sa le mo mmeleng, le fa e le tse di molemo kampo tse di bosula (2 Bakorinthe 5:6-10).

Ka jalo, mongwe le mongwe wa rona o tla naya pego ya gagwe mo

Modimong (Baroma 14:12).

Gonne nako e fitlhile ya gore katlholo e simolole mo lapeng la Modimo; mme fa e simolola le rona, go tla diragala eng ka ba ba sa utlweng efangedi ya Modimo? (1 Petero 4:17).

Ka moo he, lo se ka Iwa atlholo sepe, e ise e nne nako, go ya Morena a tle yo o tla ntshetsang leseding tse di fitlhilweng tsa lefifi, a senola maikaelelo a dipelo; foo mongwe le mongwe o tla bona poko mo Modimong (1 Bakorinthe 4:5).

Jaanong he, ga go na katlholo ya atlho epe mo go bone ba ba mo go Keresete Jesu, ba ba sa tsamaeng ka fa nameng, mme ba tsamaya ka fa moweng. Gonne

molao wa mowa wa go phela ka Keresete Jesu o nkgolotse mo molaong wa boleo, wa loso (Baroma 8:1)

DIKAKANYO

Jaaka Bakeresete, re gakololwa gore rotlhe re tla ema fa pele ga setilo sa katlholo sa ga Keresete. E seng katlholo ya kgalemo, ka gore ba ba mo go Keresete ga ba atlholwe (Baroma 8:1). Katlholo eo, ke katlholo ya ditiro le boikanyegi jwa rona. Beibele e re bolelala gore re tla naya pego ya matshelo a rona, e bontsha botlhokwa jwa go tshela ka tsela e e tlotslang Modimo. Gape kgang e kgolo ya katlholo ke go tlhomamisa gore o amogetse Jesu go nna Mopholosi wa gagwe. Jaaka Jesu a buile fa a re ke Ene tsela le boamaaruri. A wena o bone tsela mme a o amogetse boamaaruri?

Go ipaakanyetsa katlholo eno, re tshwanetse go tshela ka tumelo le go dira lefoko la Modimo. Se se akaretsa:

1. Amogela Jesu Johane 3:16 Gonne Modimo o ratile lefatshe mo go kalo, mo o bileng wa le neela Morwaa-on a yo o tsetsweng a le esi, gore mongwe le mongwe yo o dumelang mo go ene a se ka a latlhaga, mme a nne le bophelo jo bo sa khutleng.
2. Go tsamaya mo tumelong: Go ikanya Jesu Keresete le go phela tumelo ya rona letsatsi le letsatsi. Tsamaya le Jesu, Kae kapa kae, letsatsi le letsatsi!
3. Go tshela ka bonnate le go se leofe: Go lelekisa boitshepo le go tlogela boleo.
4. Go direla ba bangwe ka lerato la



Johan Zerwick
Sêle ke 083 458 3837

Jesu: Go bonatsa lorato Iwa ga Keresete ka go sefela ba ba mo tikologong ya rona.

5. Go rera Efangedi: Go nna re gasa molaetsa wa poloko le go sa timane ka bodumedi.

Ka go dira dilo tse, re tsamaisa matshelo a rona le thato ya Modimo mme re bontsha boikanyegi jwa rona mo go Ene. Re tshwanetse go phela Bokeresete letsatsi le letsatsi le gotlhe kwa re tsamayang teng.

THAPELO

Rara wa rona, re leboga lerato le kutlwelobothoko ya gago. Re thusre go tshela ka tsela e e tlotslang Wena, re itse gore re tla ema fa pele ga setilo sa katlholo sa gago. Re kaele mo tseleng ya tumelo, re nonotshe go lelekisa tshiamo, le go re fa maatla a go direla ba bangwe le go rera efangedi. A matshelo a rona a bonatse lorato le boammaaruri jwa gago. Ka leina la ga Jesu, re a rapela.

Amen.

Glo die Woord van God

Ons lees in Lukas 1 die vervlegte verhaal van die geboorte van twee seuns: Johannes die Doper, en Jesus die Messias. Hierin sien ons die aankondiging van elk se geboorte, en die reaksie op die grootse nuus in elke gevval.

Sagaría en Elisabet was 'n vrome huwelikspaar wat God getrou gedien het. Meer nog, Sagaría was 'n priester, en Elisabet was uit die priesterlike geslag van Aäron, die broer van Moses. Die Bybel verklaar dat hulle lewenswandel onberispelik was (v. 6). Maar daar was 'n groot hartseer, ten spyte van so 'n wonderlike lewensgetuienis: hulle was kinderloos. Hoe jammer, hoe onverklaarbaar. As iemand kinders 'verdien het', sou dit hulle kon wees wat die kinders in die vrese van die Here sou grootmaak. Verder was hierdie paar op 'n gevorderde leeftyd, so die kans om ouers te word, was skraal.

Sagaría en Elisabet het egter vir 'n kind gebid (v. 13). Dalk het hul geloof met die jare begin taan, gegee die omstandighede wat voor oë was. Sommige kommentators noem dat die gebed waarna hier verwys word, nie noodwendig meer om 'n kind was nie, omdat Sagaría dalk al moed opgegee het.

Die frase kan egter verwys na 'n voormalige gebed - dat hulle lank gelede om 'n kind gevra het. Maar dalk het hy nou in sy priesterlike amp gebid dat die Messias spoedig sou kom. Hoe dit ook al sy, wat volg beantwoord albei moontlikhede: skielik verskyn daar 'n engel (Gabriël) aan Sagaría terwyl hy diens doen in die tempel (v. 12). "Maar die engel sê vir hom: Moenie vrees nie, Sagaría, want jou gebed is verhoor, en jou vrou Elisabet sal vir jou 'n seun baar, en jy moet hom Johannes noem."

Wat 'n wonderlike tyding! Hul jare-lange gebed is uiteindelik beantwoord, en hulle het genade voor God gevind! Verder sou die seun groot wees en 'n kragtige instrument in God se hand, en hy sou die weg vir die verskyning van die Messias voorberei.

Sagaría se logika verblind egter sy geloof en laat dit skipbreuk lei: "Toe sê Sagaría vir die engel: Waaraan sal ek dit weet? Want ek is 'n ou man, en my vrou is op ver gevorderde leeftyd." Hy soek 'n teken, want hy kan nie glo dat so iets meer kan gebeur nie. Die teken was egter 'n ongerieflike een: Sagaría sou stom wees tot op die dag van die geboorte van Johannes. "En kyk, jy sal swyg en

nie kan praat nie tot op die dag dat hierdie dinge gebeur, omdat jy my woorde wat op hulle tyd vervul sal word, nie geglo het nie." Die woord sou beslis vervul word, ten spyte van sy ongeloof. En dit sou op die bestemde tyd gebeur.

Dieselfde engel Gabriël is toe ook na 'n ander persoon gestuur ses maande later, om weer 'n bykans "ongelooflike" goeie tyding van hoop en vreugde aan te kondig - hierdie keer aan Maria. Hy het haar meegedeel dat sy genade in God se oë gevind het en swanger sou word met Jesus uit die Heilige Gees, en dat Jesus groot sou wees en die troon van Sy voorvader Dawid sou beérwe (v. 32). Hy sou dus 'n koning wees tot in ewigheid - die beloofde Messias van God.

Dit is interessant om op Maria se reaksie te let. Soos met Sagaría, ontlok hierdie wonderlike boodskap ook 'n vraag in haar gemoed: "Hoe kan dit wees?" (v. 34). Dit lyk so menslik onmoontlik! Tog blyk dit dat sy nie met ongeloof vra nie, maar wonder oor hoe presies dit moontlik kon wees. Dis 'n subtile verskil - God ken die hart agter ons vroe en weet of ons bereid is om Hom te vertrou of nie.

Die engel Gabriël gee nadere besonderhede: die Heilige Gees sal haar soos 'n wolk van heerlikheid oorskadu (soos gebeur het op die berg Sinaï vanouds toe God Sy volk in sigbare krag besoek het) en die menslik onmoontlike vermag. Tog bly daar 'n stukkie misterie hieraan verbonde wat ons nooit volkome sal en hoof te verstaan nie: dit is uit God gebore. Hy is die oorsprong van hierdie saak, soos trouens ook van die skepping van die heelal - van tyd en ruimte. En dit is heilig en kosbaar. Daar is geen skaamte of ontrouheid ter sprake nie. God se heilige wil en goedgunstigheid aan die mensdom word so bewys. Gabriël verwys dan na haar bloedverwant, Elisabet, wat ook swanger geword het in haar ouderdom - 'n skynbaar onmoontlike saak. Hierdie woord aan Maria is dus nie onmoontlik nie, "want geen ding sal by God onmoontlik wees nie" (Luk. 1:37).

Nou buig Maria in geloof en sê: "Hier is die diensmaagd van die Here. Laat dit met my gaan volgens u woorde. En die engel het van haar weggegaan" (v. 38). Wat 'n wonderlike inspirasie - **Maria het God se Woord geglo!** Meer as glo, sy het haar ondergeskik aan God se wil gestel en gesê dat Hy Sy wil in haar lewe kan uitvoer - sy sal haar nie teensit of Sy werkung weerstaan nie. Sy kies om 'n werktuig in Sy hand te wees, en so 'n

instrument van seën vir die mensdom te word.

In soortgelyke verband lees ons van die vermaning van Petrus deur Jesus in Matt. 14. Jesus het Sy dissipels voor Hom uitgestuur terwyl Hy alleen gaan bid het. Hulle het in 'n storm beland en Hy het wandelende op die see van Galileá na hulle toe aangekom. Hulle het gevrees, maar Jesus het hulle gerusgestel met die bemoedigende woorde dat dit Hy was wat na hulle toe kom. "Toe sê Petrus vir Hom: 'Here, as dit regtig U is, beveel my om op die water na U toe te kom.'" (Matt. 14:28). Wat sê Jesus vir hom, en indirek ook vir jou en my? "**Kom!**" Jesus daag ons vandag ook uit om geloof in Hom te hê!

Soos Petrus, faal ons egter ook menigmaal. Ons kyk ook na die groot lewensgolve en sterk winde, die lewenstorme en vyandigheid en teenkanting wat ons ervaar, en ons begin twyfel of God bedoel het wat Hy gesê het. Of ons Hom reg verstaan het. Of Hy regtig is Wie Hy sê Hy is. Of Hy by ons is in ons nood. Of ons Sy beloftes kan glo, gegee die oënskynlike teenbewyse van hoe sake verloop. Of Hy ons sal help in ons krisis. Petrus het begin sink, soos ons ook soms in ongeloof en vrees versink, maar Jesus het hom gegryp en gesê, "**Kleingelowige, waarom het jy begin twyfel?**" (v. 31). Hierin is 'n groot les opge-sluit: baie keer het ons 'n woord of 'n wete van God rondom 'n bepaalde saak, maar dan lyk dit menslikgesproke so onmoontlik of onwaarskynlik. **MAAR, ons moet dan weier om te BEGIN twyfel.** Want as ons eers aan die knaende stemmetjie van twyfel, kommer en ongeloof begin toegee, sal ons ook in die lewensgolve begin wegsink.

Ons lees van nog 'n voorbeeld van Jesus wat ons oproep tot geloof in Markus 11. Jesus het die vyeboom wat nie vrug gedra het nie, vervloek. Toe hulle die volgende dag weer daar verbygaan, was die boom verdroog van die wortels af - geheel en al verdroog binne 'n paar ure vanaf Jesus se uitspraak.

Petrus verwys met verbasing na die boom. En Jesus antwoord, "**Julle moet geloof in God hê.** Want, voorwaar Ek sê vir julle dat elkeen wat vir hierdie berg sê: **Hef jou op enwerp jou in die see - en nie in sy hart twyfel nie, maar glo dat wat hy sê, sal gebeur - hy sal verkry net wat hy sê.** Daarom sê Ek vir julle: **Alles wat julle in die gebed vra, glo dat julle dit sal ontvang, en julle sal dit verkry.**" (Mark. 11:22-24). Jesus moedig

ons aan om te glo, en Sy woorde wat in ons hart is, te spreek as teken van ons geloof.

Wat presies bedoel ons met 'geloof'? Hoe moet ons glo? Feite wat nie bewys kan word nie? Dinge wat onmoontlik lyk? Ons kry 'n stukkie insig in die verhaal van die vermeerdering van die brode. Die mense vra vir Jesus watter werke hulle moet doen om God tevrede te stel.

Die *Amplified Bible* stel dit mooi: "*Then they asked Him, 'What are we to do, so that we may habitually be doing the works of God?'* Jesus answered, '**This is the work of God: that you believe [adhere to, trust in, rely on, and have faith] in the One Whom He has sent**'" (Joh. 6:28-29 AMP). Ons sien dus dat geloof meer as 'n intellekturele instemming tot 'n sekere feit is. Dit is 'n vertroue op die karakter van 'n Persoon, en die geloof in 'n belofte wat Hy gemaak het. Soos iemand dit gestel het: as ek glo dat die brug my gewig gaan dra, kan ek met sekerheid en moed daaroor stap, omdat ek weet dat dit nie sal meegee terwyl ek oor 'n afgrond of rivier beweeg nie. Dis meer as bloot saamstem met 'n stelling - dis 'n oorgawe en 'n vaste vertroue op 'n persoon se betroubare karakter en woorde.

Uit al die voorbeeld en teenvoerbeeld hierbo leer ons dat God ons soms uitdaag om Hom te vertrou, ten spyte van ons logika of menslike begrip. Dit maak nie saak wat die wêreld ons probeer wysmaak of hoeveel teenstemme daar is en hoe hard en beledigend hulle skree nie. Juis wanneer iets onmoontlik lyk, kan Hy dit moontlik maak. Hy is die God van die onmoontlike! "*But Jesus looked at them and said, 'With people [as far as it depends on them] it is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'*" (Matt. 19:26 AMP).

Wanneer God 'n woorde aan ons gee, het sy deur Sy skrif, 'n droom, of 'n boodskap wat ons op 'n ander manier bereik, laat ons nie begin om te twyfel of dit met ons verstand probeer uitwerk nie. Indien ons onseker is, kan ons Hom in gebed soek, maar in die geloof, sodat ons bevestiging kan kry. Wanneer ons seker is van Sy wil in 'n bepaalde saak, laat ons nie waarskynlikhede opweeg en besluit of iets dalk kan gebeur of nie.

Laat ons in nederigheid bly glo wanneer God met ons praat dan sal ons Sy wonderwerke in ons lewe sien, en Hy sal die eer kry!

How to Make Disciples

Imagine being a disciple in Jesus's day. Just before Jesus returns to heaven, He commands you to tell all nations the story of the Gospel: "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on Earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age'" (Matt. 28:18-20 ESV).

In your travels, you encounter new people and cultures and share all that God has done through His Son, Jesus. People's lives are changed because of God's salvation and His working through you. By the power of the Spirit, lives are transformed and the Kingdom expands. The Church is founded and nations are plucked from the kingdom of darkness and made citizens of the kingdom of heaven. The Good News - what a powerful force for good!

God still asks us to continue to make disciples in His Name. His is the only Name that can offer salvation: "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). But how should we act on this command in our modern culture and some-

times abrasive society?

Disciple-making starts with loving others as God has loved us. Our connection with others should not be because of fear, but in trust and love. Building relationships, while humbly waiting on God for opportunities to show others the way to Him. It involves thoughtful teaching and instruction that points people toward a loving relationship with God. We can teach others about discipleship as we go about our daily lives. Here are two ways to get started...

MODELLING

Our lives should model Christ's teachings. "But as for you, promote the kind of living that reflects right teaching" (Titus 2:1 NIV). If we want to help people know God, it is important to have hearts and lives that demonstrate Jesus's teachings. Actions speak louder than words. People want to see the truth of what you teach and believe play out in your life.

Jesus furthermore cared for the poor and the oppressed, as we are also called to do: "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world" (James 1:27 ESV). Yet, He cared more about inward heart attitudes than outward demonstrations. He sacrificed Himself for the good of others. Both our

characters and our actions are examples for people to take note of in their personal quest for truth and significance.

When we model Christ's sacrificial love and compassion in our relationships, we are illustrating that we have been transformed by God's love (Rom. 12:2). As the butterfly, we have undergone a metamorphosis and have entered into the kingdom of light. Our desires and appetites have been made holy, and our behaviour and posture have become graceful and full of humility. The way we live will therefore invite others to experience the same sort of love that transformed us. We can show them what a transformed life looks like, and hold out the hope that this is available to anyone who will come and submit before Christ's Lordship.

MENTORSHIP

The second way to impact people is through mentorship. "Give instruction to the wise, and they will become wiser still; teach the righteous and they will gain in learning" (Proverbs 9:9 NRSV).

As each of us grows in intimacy with God, we also grow in wisdom and godliness. We can then offer wisdom to people we know. We can share our life experiences and the lessons learned from those, as God has used these to shape our lives and our character, and to teach us deep truths about

Himself.

Taking time to listen to people's stories and encouraging them to walk with God through their experiences can lead to a powerful mentoring relationship. As we build relationships and pour ourselves into others, we can become conduits of God's love. Paul wrote, "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ" (1 Cor. 11:1 ESV). Let us support the young, weak and needy as we all journey toward closer intimacy with Christ.

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He gave His disciples the command to make more disciples. He declared that all disciples should be made in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is a comforting reminder that when we make disciples, we aren't doing it by our power. God's grace goes before us, and the Holy Spirit works in our hearts to transform us. This is all possible because of what Jesus accomplished on the cross. He will never leave nor forsake us, but He will empower us to do His will and impact the lives of those that He loves and for whom He gave His life.

Take a moment to think about someone you would like to see draw closer to God. How can you model God's character to them? How can you mentor them so that they can draw closer to God?

Word Gevoed met die Brood van die Lewe

"Toe sê Jesus vir hulle: 'Kom eet'" (Joh. 21:12)

Met hierdie woorde word ek en jy uitgenooi na 'n heilige intimiteit met Jesus. Hierdie woorde verwelkom ons in Sy onthaalsaal onder die verlossende banier van liefde! Die uitnodiging spreek ook van 'n selfs intiemer eenwording met Jesus, want die enigste kos waardeur ons by Jesus gevoed word, is Jesus Self.

Dit verwelkom ons ook in 'n

gemeenskap met die heiliges. Selfs al kan ons nie almal dieselfde voel nie, kan ons almal op dieselfde manier gevoed word: met die Brood van die Lewe. Ons sien in hierdie woorde 'n bron van krag vir die Christen. Om na Jesus te 'kyk' is om te lewe, maar vir die krag om Hom te dien, moet ons eet. Ons moet onself voed met 'n fees uit die Evangelie sodat ons sterk kan wees.

- Elke Nuwe Dag, Charles Spurgeon, Christian Art Gifts, 2005





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"Ek is nie verplig om te wen nie, maar wel om opreg te wees; ek is nie verplig om te slaag nie, maar wel om te lewe volgens die lig wat ek het."

-Abraham Lincoln

Groot woorde uit die mond van 'n groot man - en dalk ook ietwat verrassend. 'n Mens dink deesdae so dikwels (en vind dit ewe veel) dat mense alles doen met die oorheersende gedagte: ek moet wen, ek moet eerste wees! Nou stel 'n groot man, wat self baie bereik het, dit nie eerste nie en maak die wen ondergeskik aan die opregtheid. Wat 'n heerlike perspektief!

Om te lewe volgens die lig wat ek het,

beteken vir ons as Christene om ons lig van Die Lig te ontvang - en dan sal ons sinvol en reguit loop. Ons sal ook opreg wees, want by Hom is daar nie oneerlikheid of 'n soek na eie gewin nie.

Ek is nie verplig om te wen nie - en dalk is die ding waarmee ek besig is, ook nie regtig só belangrik dat ek iets blywends sal bewys as ek wen nie. Of dalk is dit só belangrik dat my eie aandeel, my eie eerste-kom, nie ter sake is nie. Wanneer ons iets groter as onself dien, is die doel immers groter as ekself.

- Junita Joubert, *Met Goue Ink Geskrywe*, Daan Retief Uitgewers, 1986.



Set Apart for His Glory

The world is a noisy place. There are so many voices, so many opportunities, so many expectations! Society is brimming with commands, suggestions, and temptations! There are unspoken rules that one has to follow to reach the top, to be successful and to be accepted. This is the way of the world - conforming to its values and following its directions in the hope that one will gain an advantage over one's competitors. Life is fast-paced and if we are not careful, we can be swept up in the madness of it all, chasing after vain and empty - insignificant - things.

But God calls His people to a different rhythm: "You are to be holy to Me because I, the Lord, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be My Own" (Leviticus 20:26 NIV). In the Old Testament, the word "consecrated" means that a person, object, or place has been set apart for a sacred and holy purpose. They are dedicated to God. God calls us to live differently, to obey His laws and directions, and to conform to His will, not the world's. The process of consecration involves purification, sanctification, and often anointing with oil, which is a symbol of this dedication.

God's call to holiness, to live a life set apart, is not about seclusion or superiority. It does not condone a 'holier than thou' attitude. It's an invitation to a life connected to God's character and will. It is a life of submission and humility. It's about being marked by God's purity for the purpose of showing others God's glory and power. Being undefiled and without spot or wrinkle, we can show forth God's light to a dark world. As we chase after purity

and holiness, we can better represent God's nature as the ultimate Pure and Righteous One.

God says, "Be holy for I am holy." He calls us to live on a higher level. He calls us to become more like Him. And this leads to untold intimacy with Him. As we grow in holiness, we also grow in intimacy with our Father Who is righteous and sinless.

So, what does walking in holiness look like daily? What is practical holiness? It's more than just following rules or rituals, of isolating oneself or trying to lay down sinful behaviour in one's own strength. It is not something external, but it is a heart posture - a willingness to live in a way that reflects God's nature. To be separate from the crowd and their expectations, but to be loyal to the God Who enables us to live the way He wants us to live. It means we allow God's Spirit to align our thoughts, actions, and desires with His Word. We follow His leading and lay down our own ambitions, greed, and wants in favour of His priorities. His will becomes our will.

Consider this today: How can you cultivate a heart posture that reflects God's holiness in your relationships and interactions? We submit to Him and accept His gift of righteousness through the cross of Christ. We work out our own holiness in humility and trembling, allowing His Spirit to transform and renew us. God, in His holiness, doesn't just beckon us to be separate. He calls us to be set apart unto Him - the One Who created us, redeemed us, and called us by name. And He calls us to live in intimacy with Him, since He paved the way for us to do this by the Righteous and most Holy One - Jesus!

THE RESTING PLACE OF HIS LOVE

Frances J. Roberts, born in 1918, had a prolific career in many aspects of spiritual ministry. A gifted musician, hymn writer, poet, and author, she deeply impacted the lives of millions. Of all her books, 'Come Away My Beloved' is by far the most read and appreciated. Throughout the years it has seen many reprints and continues to bless long after her going to be with the Lord.

When a friend recommended this book to me, I was immediately intrigued and eager to start reading. What a volume of deep spiritual encouragement and blessing it has been! I would like to share a small portion with you for whatever challenges you are facing today.

"Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass" (Psalm 37:5). In a strong prophetic manner she writes, "I will be your sustaining strength; and My peace shall garrison your mind. Only TRUST ME - all I do is done in love. Adversities are a necessity. They are part of the pattern of life's pilgrimage for every individual; and who can escape them?

"But I say to you that for those who walk in Me, and for those who are encircled by the intercessory prayers of My children, I will make of the suffering, yes, I will make of the trials a stepping-stone to future blessing (see 2 Cor. 4:17-18).

"My arms are around you, and never have I loved you more! I will



Helen du Plessis, 083 332 0895

make you like a garden of fountains whose streams are fed by the mountain springs."

After reading this portion yesterday, I read Ephesians in *The Passion Translation* and the words of Paul resonated so beautifully with those of Frances Roberts -

"And I pray that He would unveil within you the unlimited riches of His glory and favour until supernatural strength floods your innermost being with His divine might and explosive power. Then, by constantly using your faith, the life of Christ will be released deep inside you, and the resting place of His love will become the very source and root of your life" (Ephesians 3:16-17).

Beloved, this is my prayer and desire before the throne of grace for you today: May His love ever be your resting place!

HERE, EK WEEET NIE WAT OM TE DOEN NIE

2 Kron. 20:10-12

"Ons GOD... ons het nie krag om hierdie groot menigte wat teen ons optrek, te weerstaan nie. Ons weet nie wat om te doen nie. Ons oë is op U gerig" (2 Kron. 20:12).

Jy kom by die punt waar jy sê: "HERE, ek kan nie meer!" Sommige noem dit breekpunt. Psalm 23 praat van "donker dieptes". Hier het jy nou aangekom.

Jou probleem voel vir jou soos n groot menigte wat teen jou optrek. En almal kom een of ander stadium van hul lewe op hierdie punt. Jy moet net eenvoudig bely: "Ek kan dit nie hanteer nie. Ek weet nie wat om te doen nie."

Die kind van die HERE kan egter nie daar eindig nie. Jy kan byvoeg: "...maar my oë is op U gerig." Links en regs en agter en voor is dit donker. Maar die lig kom nie uit een van hierdie vier rigtings nie. Dit kom van Bo. **En dit gee vir GOD die geleentheid**

om jou breekpunt in 'n keerpunt te omskep!

Daarmee het jy jou deel van die pad tot die einde toe geloop. Jy het by die HERE gaan hulp soek; jy het jou onmag bely; jy het jou oë op Hom gerig. Nou kan HY oorneem.

Toe Josafat en sy mense by die punt kom, hoor hulle die woord van die priester: "Moenie vrees nie, moenie bang wees vir hierdie groot menigte nie, want hierdie oorlog is nie 'n saak vir julle nie, maar vir GOD" (2 Kron. 20:15). Glo jy dit ten opsigte van jouself?

GEBED:

HERE, U weet dat ek by breekpunt gekom het. In my is daar nie meer krag om die aanslae te hanteer nie. Maar my oë is op U gerig. Die stryd behoort van nou af aan U. AMEN.

- Oorgeneem

*Here,
Ek weet nie waarheen om
van hier af te gaan nie.
Ek weet nie wat gebeur of
hoe kom dit met my gebeur nie.
Ek weet nie hoe om dit
te verwerk nie.
Ek weet nie wat om met
hierdie emosies
te doen nie.
Ek weet nie
hoe om hierdie
situasie te
hanteer nie.
Maar U weet.*



The Teacup Story

There was a couple who frequently traveled to England to shop in its beautiful stores. They both liked antiques and pottery, especially vintage and lovely teacups. One trip was taken to celebrate their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary.

On a visit to a very lovely shop they discovered an especially beautiful cup. They asked the proprietor, "May we see that? We've never seen one quite so exquisite."

As the sales lady handed the cup to them, the cup began to speak... "You don't understand," it said. "I haven't always been a teacup. There was a time when I was a dull clump of clay. My master took me and rolled me and patted me over and over, and I yelled out, 'Leave me alone!' But he only smiled, 'Not yet.'

"Then I was placed on a spinning wheel," the cup continued, "and suddenly I was spun around and around and around. 'Stop it! I'm getting dizzy!' I screamed." But the master only nodded and said, 'Not yet.'

"Then he put me in the oven. 'I never felt such heat!' I exclaimed. I wondered why he wanted to burn me; I yelled and knocked on the door. I could see him through the opening, and I could read his lips

as he shook his head, 'Not yet.'

"Finally the door opened, and he put me on a shelf; I began to cool down. 'There, that's better,' I said. Then he brushed and painted me all over. The fumes were horrible. I thought I would gag. 'Stop it, stop it!' I cried. He only nodded, 'Not yet.'

"Then suddenly he put me back into the oven; it was not like the first time. It was twice as hot! I feared I would suffocate. I begged! I pleaded! I screamed! I cried! All the time I could see him through the opening, nodding his head saying, 'Not yet.'

"I felt as if there weren't any hope. I would never make it. I was ready to give up. But then the door opened, and he took me out and placed me on another shelf. One hour later he held me up to a mirror and said, 'Look at yourself.' And I did. I said, 'That's not me; that couldn't be me. It's so beautiful... I'm beautiful!'

"I want you to remember this," he said. "I know it hurts to be rolled and patted, but if I had left you alone, you would have dried up into hard clay. I know it made you dizzy to spin around on the wheel, but if I stopped, you would have crumbled. I knew it hurt and was hot and disagreeable in the oven, but if I didn't put you there, you

would have cracked. I know the fumes were bad when I brushed and painted you all over, but if I hadn't done that, you never would have hardened; you would not have had any colour or beauty in your life. And, if I hadn't put you into the hotter second oven, you would not have survived for very long because the hardness would not have lasted. Now you are a finished product. You are what I had in mind when I first began with you."

~Author Unknown

--- ooo OOO ooo ---

God knows what He is doing... with all of us. He is the Potter, and we are His clay. He will mold us and make us, so that we may be made into a flawless piece of work to fulfil His good, pleasing, and perfect will. May the teacup story become our story as we willingly yield to our Potter's Hand.

This teacup story illustrates what Jeremiah wrote by the inspiration of God:

"The Lord gave another message to Jeremiah. He said, 'Go down to the potter's shop, and I will speak to you there.' So I did as he told me and found the potter working at his wheel. But the jar he was making did not turn out as he had hoped, so he crushed it into a lump of clay again and started over."



Then the Lord gave me this message: 'O Israel, can I not do to you as this potter has done to his clay? As the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand. If I announce that a certain nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down, and destroyed, but then that nation renounces its evil ways, I will not destroy it as I had planned. And if I announce that I will plant and build up a certain nation or kingdom, but then that nation turns to evil and refuses to obey Me, I will not bless it as I said I would'" (Jeremiah 18:1-10 NLT).

"And yet, O Lord, You are our Father. We are the clay, and You are the Potter. We all are formed by Your Hand" (Isaiah 64:8 NLT)
-Donna Kersey

KATRINA SE BYBEL

Deur die jare heen het baie Bybels hulle pad terug gevind na die Bybelgenootskap, gewoonlik vergesel van 'n storie wat getuig van die krag van die Woord.

Een so 'n Bybel is "Katrina se toiletbybel". Jare gelede, tydens 'n besoek aan Mahikeng, voorheen Mafikeng, is ds. Johannes Ries, die destydse Streeksekretaris van die Kaapstad Streek, voorgestel aan 'n bejaarde vrou, Katrina. Sy het die storie van haar Bybel aan hom vertel en die Bybel ook aan hom gegee vir bewaring in die Bybelgenootskap se argief, waar dit steeds is.

"Meneer sien, toe ek jong was, het ons 'n staanplek op die walle van die Malopo gehad. In daardie jare wou ek so graag net gelukkig wees en my hart stil maak. Ons het nie 'n Bybel gehad waaruit ek kon lees nie."

"Ek moes elke dag na die bokke kyk. Ken meneer bokke? Altijd weg as jy hulle soek."

"Een oggend was dit weer so. Ek moes gaan soek en daar kry ek hulle by die staanplek van 'n boorman op die oorkantste wal. Ek loer toe deur die takke by die staanplek en sien dit is nou die toilet en daar lê 'n ou Bybel en die bladsye word as toiletpapier gebruik. Ek het dit nie geneem nie, maar snags het ek van daardie Bybel gedroom."

"Toe die bokke weer wegраak, is ek reguit daarheen en sowar daar lê die Bybel, net met baie minder bladsye. Die keer het hy in my hande beland en ek is daar weg."

"Meneer, ek sien toe die meeste van die bladsye van Johannes is nog daar. Ek het begin lees en daar by Johannes 14:27 "Vrede



laat ek julle na, My vrede gee ek julle", het my hart stil geword. Deur hierdie verflenterde Bybel het ek, my suster en my broer Jesus gevind. Die Here het omrent die ou stukkie Bybel uitgespaar. Toe my broer later op Mahikeng gaan werk en by die kerk betrokke geraak het, het hy vir die mense op die plase gaan lees."

Dit bly die taak van die Bybelgenootskap om te verseker dat Bybels beskikbaar is sodat mense, soos Katrina, die lewengewende, kragtige boodskap van die Woord kan ervaar.

- Die Saaier, Herfs 2019. [Die Saaier is die amptelike blad van die Bybelgenootskap van Suid-Afrika.]

Op Watter Golflengte?

Is die geheim van die lewe nie miskien te vind in die eenvoudige ouwoordjie "instelling" nie? As ek die regte instelling of ingestemdheid het, kan ek werklik deel hê aan die volheid van die lewe, maar as ek dit nie het nie, dan mis ek die lewe.

Maar waarom is dit so? Omdat ons elkeen 'n uitsaaistasie is wat op 'n bepaalde golflengte uitsaai - en wie nie daarop ingestel is nie, kan die ander nie opvang nie. Terwyl ek hier sit en skrywe, weet ek dat hierdie vertrek vol klankgolwe is - Engelse, Afrikaanse, Zulu en selfs Russiese klankgolwe; Moskou en Peking, Washington en Londen; kuns en musiek, advertensies en sport. Maar van dit alles hoor ek nie 'n enkele klank nie, want my radio is nie aangeskakel nie.

Nou hoor ek die geluide in die huis en dié van die motors wat buite in die straat verby. Daarop is my oor van nature ingestem. Skakel ek my radio aan, hoor ek ander geluide en maak ek kontak met 'n ander wêreld.

Is ons nood nie dat ons mekaar nie kan opvang nie, omdat ons op verskillende golflengtes ingeskakel is? My vrou saai uit op 3 m en ek is op 300 m ingeskakel. Missien kan ek wel klanke en geluide hoor wat hoogstens daarop dui dat iemand

besig is om érens iets te sê, maar die inhoud daarvan begryp ek nie, en die mens daaragter ontmoet ek nie.

Is dit nie miskien die rede vir kortsluiting tussen ons en ons kinders nie? Tussen ons en die ander party? Tussen ons en die Engelse, tussen ons en die ander Afrika-nasies? Luister ons na mekaar op die golflengte waarop die ander met ons wil praat, of wil ons die ander hoor op ons eie golflengte? Is dit dan nie vanselfsprekend dat ons mekaar nie kan verstaan nie?

Is ons diepste nood nie dat ons God nie kan opvang nie? Hy saai ook uit - maar op Sý golflengte. Maar ons is nie daarop ingestel nie. Daarom verstaan ons Hom nie. En nou is dit aangrypend dat daar geen mens op geen enkele plek in hierdie wêreld is, of dit diep in die myn is of in die ruimtetuig op pad na die maan, wat Sy Stem nie kan opvang nie. Maar soos met die radio die geval is, kan ek myself nie aanskakel en instel nie - ek word aangeskakel en ek word ingestel. Hý na Wie ek moet luister, doen dit. As ek maar net gewillig is om deur Hom hanteer te word. Want al verstaan ek Hom nie, omdat ek nie op Hom ingestel is nie, Hy verstaan my altyd. Want Hy bly voortdurend op my golflengte ingeskakel.

- Wie Fynier maal, Dr JA Geyns, Nasionale Boekhandel

God's Good Plan

According to Jeremiah 29:11, God has a plan for each of us, a plan that should give us great hope for our future. It is our destiny: "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." But that plan is a possibility, not a "positively."

If someone prophesied over us wonderful things in the Name of the Lord, what they say to us may express the heart, the will, and the desire of God for us. But that does not mean it is positively going to happen just as it is prophesied. This is because it cannot and will not come to pass if we choose to refuse to cooperate with God or to stray away from His will.

God does have a plan for our lives, but we have to participate in that plan for it to come true. God is not likely to do anything in our lives without our cooperation. We need to cooperate with God every

single day of our lives in order for our potential to be developed.

Every day we ought to learn something. Every day we ought to grow. Every day we ought to discover something. Every day we ought to be a bit further along than we were the day before. We should be "lifetime learners." We must understand that no other human being on the face of the earth can develop our potential for us. We must each discover our own God-given gifts and talents, what we are truly capable of, and then put ourselves to the task of developing those gifts, talents, and capabilities to their fullest extent.

God has a plan for each of us. It is a good plan, an uncommon plan, a great plan; it is not an average, mediocre plan. I encourage you to seek that plan and cooperate with God so that it will be wonderfully fulfilled in your life!

- Joyce Meyer

Generosity is a lifestyle that stems from a desire to worship God in every area of life.

CREATOR

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters" (Genesis 1:1-2 ESV).

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse" (Romans 1:20 NIV).

"What is mankind that You are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honour" (Psalms 8:4-5 NIV).

"Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, you are very great! You are clothed with splendour and majesty, covering Yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent. He made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. Man goes out to his work and to his labour until the evening. O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Here is the sea, great and wide, which teems with creatures innumerable, living things both small and great. These all look to you, to give them their food in due season. When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground. May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works, I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord. Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more! Bless the Lord, O my soul! Praise the Lord!" (Psalm 104:1-2, 19, 23-25, 27, 30-31, 33-35 ESV).

--- ooo OOO ooo ---

My six-year-old son, Henry, loves talking about space. Lately, most nights, as I'm helping him get ready for bed, he asks if there's anything new astronomers have found out about space since we talked about it the day before. I always smile at how cute this question is, but I also feel a little spark of excitement in my own chest. Because you know what? I love talking about space too.

We lie side by side and Google facts about stars and black holes.

I try to explain what a light year is. His little six-year-old eyes get so wide when I try to help him understand how small we are compared to the sun, and how small the sun is compared to other stars. How there are billions of stars in our galaxy and countless galaxies spinning outside of our own.

What I love the most about our space conversations is that they inevitably lead back to God. Henry and I talk about how, in the Bible, the first thing we find out about God is that He is a CREATOR. He imagined and spoke the universe into existence. The laws of nature and physics were literally written by His Own Hand. He spoke "light" and the entire universe burst into existence. He spoke "life" and everything that lives and breathes came into being. It's incredible!

And then we talk about what God made last... Something truly beautiful and unique, made in His Own likeness and after His image. Something, or someone rather, God could share the world with. And what was this crown jewel of creation? It was us. Humanity. He created us to know Him and be known by Him. To love Him and be loved by Him. He also created us with an incredible attribute - the ability to trust.

From the very beginning, humanity has been given the choice whether to trust God's definition of what is good and what is bad, or to go off on our own and define those things for ourselves. Eventually, the first man and woman chose not to trust, and every human since has followed the path they walked. The problem with this is that man was made to thrive in God's definition of life and goodness. Just as our lungs were made to breathe oxygen, our souls were made to live in God's Presence. To thrive in His goodness and order.

In Genesis 3, humanity became lost. The more we tried to save ourselves, the further away from our original home we fell. We needed a Saviour. Someone Who could make right what went wrong in the Garden all those years ago. Someone who could bridge the gap between Heaven and Earth. Opening a door. Making a way. Pulling all who were willing from darkness to light.

In Genesis 3, not only do we see the devastation of sin set in motion, but we also have the very first prophetic promise that



someday, a Rescuer would come. While God is cursing the serpent, he says in Genesis 3:15 (NIV): "*He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.*" In speaking of the offspring of the woman, we are told that, somehow, all that went wrong in creation would be set right by this "Serpent Crusher" but that He, Himself, would be given a fatal blow as well.

So, when the fullness of time came, the Creator stepped into His own creation to save the ones He loved. He came to bring back to humanity what was stolen by our own rebellion. It was a beautiful and powerful act of love and humility. The Creator wasn't bringing humanity back to the Garden of Eden... He was bringing the Garden into the hearts of humanity! Every soul that allows Him access becomes a place where Heaven and Earth meet. The same voice that said, "Let there be light" and the universe was formed, was now saying, "Let there be light" and the hearts of men began to burn again. The same breath that animated every living thing was breathing new life into humanity. The restoration had begun. The ultimate act of creation came as the debt of sin that humanity racked up was fully paid for on the cross. We have been redeemed and set free by His precious blood. In His death, we have been given eternal life! The last page of the Bible ends

with this remarkable declaration in Revelation 21:5 NIV: "*He Who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!'*" God, the Creator, has not and will never stop creating! There is no area of your life beyond His redemptive, creative power. No soul that He cannot breathe new life into! From the opening pages of Scripture to the very end, we are given the same invitation...

Praise Him Who stepped into what He made
Paid our debt and pulled us from the grave
Every heart He set free
Every soul that's been redeemed
Lift your voice and worship your Creator!

1. Why do you think it's so important that the Bible would start and end with the attribute of God being the Creator?
 2. How does God's creative and redemptive ability speak hope into your own life? What circumstance do you need to invite the Creator into?
 3. How can you spend some intentional time outside today or this week to take notice of all that God has made? What does it look like to be in awe of the order, intricacy, and beauty in creation that was made for our delight and His glory?
- Phil Wickham (with Benji Horning)

"Will you permit a corrupt government to rule under your protection - a government permitting wrong to defeat right? Do you approve of those who condemn the innocent to death? No! The Lord my God is my fortress - the mighty Rock where I can hide. God has made the sins of evil men to boomerang upon them! He will destroy them by their own plans. Jehovah our God will cut them off"

Psalm 94:20-23 (New Living Translation 1971)

EVERYONE CAN REACH SOMEONE!

Continued from p. 1

We formed important alliances with Global Day of Prayer, The Call, and International House of Prayer to pray with Christians from all over the world before each annual GO Day.

... AND EVANGELISM

GO Day spreads across the entirety of Africa. In Nigeria, 30 000 churches were trained in personal evangelism, and 95 030 people came to faith. Even to the deepest Congolian rainforest where the unreached pygmy tribes live. Several churches were planted as a result.

SHAPING THE FUTURE

Billy Graham, arguably the most influential evangelist in the world, said: "We must wake the sleeping giant, the Church." He died on 21 February 2018. On the same day, several denominational leaders met and decided to make a difference with GO 2020: The goal was to mobilise 100 million Christians to reach 1 billion people.

MORE THAN JUST TALKING

- About 200 000 Christians are active in the Dominican Republic on GO Day.
- Over 100 000 people have been baptised in five years, including a 100-year-old woman who came to faith on GO Day.
- Several prisoners were baptised.
- Christianity grew by 5%.

EQUIPPING THE CHURCH

A key to the success of GO Day is training Christians with no experience in personal evangelism. Many have never been taught, are afraid, have no desire at all, or feel anxious. The GO Movement helped them overcome their fears, inferiority, passivity, or feelings of inability. Those who have been taught and discovered how easy it can be to share the Gospel often develop a lifestyle of evangelism.

PLOT TWIST: PANDEMIC

After two years of planning, we were prepared for GO 2020 with numerous committed ministries, denominations, and churches: 4 events with 5 million people each; 40 extra events in hundreds of cities worldwide. But then Covid-19 came and it felt like the world stopped turning. But Christian leaders still said that GO 2020 was uniquely placed in a time like this. Covid-19 stirred an urgency in prayer and evangelism. God made something incredible happen that no one expected.

RESPONDING WITH UNITY

Despite the crisis, more than 50 million Christians were standing together, praying to God, caring for those around them, and sharing the Gospel. That is the unity we have never seen before. "What an amazing season from Passover to Pentecost 2020! In the midst of a global pandemic, we have seen a massive increase in prayer and unity in the body of Christ! It has been astounding to watch so many come together in an expression of John 17 'oneness' across nations, denominations, and generations for the fulfilment of the Great Commission!" writes Jason Hubbard of International Payer Connect.

THE GOAL: TO REACH EVERY PERSON WITH THE GOSPEL

In October 2020, there was a historic digital gathering of 175 key leaders from over 80 countries, passionate to see the Great Commission being fulfilled. Representatives of some of the biggest denominations and ministries, such as World Evangelical Alliance, Baptist World Alliance, Pentecostal-Charismatic Churches of North America, GMO, GKPN, CRU, YWAM, EHC, GDOP, EE, 24:14, GACX, and many others, agreed to stand together to reach the world. They formed the Global Coalition to mobilise believers for prayer and evangelism during Decade 2033.



LET US HELP YOU REACH YOUR PEERS

May the above testimonies stir your faith and awaken a passion for sharing the Gospel with someone! Learn how to reach people with the Gospel. Sharing the Gospel can feel challenging. Our 3Steps training is designed to overcome fear and embrace the challenge of sharing our faith.

Learn the basics of sharing the Gospel with others:

- Step 1: How to start a conversation.
- Step 2: How to explain the Gospel.
- Step 3: How to lead a person to Christ.

For more information, visit <https://gomovement.world>

Pinkster: die Uitstorting van die Heilige Gees

Vervolg vanaf p. 3

die Pinksterfees, is die Heilige Gees uitgestort. Maar beide hierdie feesdae onder die Ou Verbond, naamlik Paasfees (Pasga) en Pinksterfees, was profetiese handelinge wat gedui het op die kruisiging van Christus en die uitstorting van die Heilige Gees.

Wat beteken die uitstorting van die Heilige Gees vir ons? Jesus noem die Heilige Gees die Voorspraak en getuig só van Hom: Jesus en die Vader sal deur Hom by ons kom woon (Joh. 14:23); Hy sal vir ons alles leer en herinner wat Jesus gesê het (Joh. 14:26); Hy sal Jesus se werk

voortsit en ons help om oor die Waarheid te getuig (Joh. 15:26-27); Hy sal bewys dat die wêreld skuldig is aan sonde, en dat dié wat nie in Jesus glo nie, reeds veroordeel is (Joh. 16:8-11). Die Heilige Gees is ook ons waarsborg dat God sal doen wat Hy aan ons beloof het. Hy sal almal wat aan Hom behoort vol-kome verlos (Ef. 1:14). "God het ons vir Hom afgesonder, ons as Sy eiendom beseël en die Heilige Gees in ons harte gegee as waarborg van wat ons nog sal ontvang" (2 Kor. 1:22). God gee aan ons ook die gawes van die Gees (1 Kor. 12, 14).

<https://www.dieweg.co.za>

Jer. 20:11

★★★ B&B *uit die Hand*

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OASE VAN HOOP

-KOFFIE KAFEE-

HEB. 6:19

est. 2023

