

Issue 6

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YOUTHCROSS EXPERIENCE

Christian Magazine



1st YEAR ANNIVERSARY

DO YOU KNOW THAT
GOD IS GUIDING YOU?

LIVE-IN RELATIONSHIP?

WHY PRAY IF GOD
KNOWS EVERYTHING?

BACK-IN-THE-DAY

- ◇ MIDNIGHT
CRISIS
- ◇ GOD AND MUSIC
- ◇ TRUSTING GOD'S
PLAN
- ◇ FAITH
- ◇ & MUCH MORE

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Editorial

GOD CAN DO IT!

God is amazing and can do amazing things. I am not just saying this because I am a Christian and a believer of Christ Jesus. I am saying this because I have witnessed the goodness of God in my life and this magazine is evidence of it.

I am 21 and grateful for all that God has done in my life. I did share this before about the origins of this magazine but I'm going to share a little more because I would like to show you how God works things out for you. Just some recap for those who didn't read our first issue as yet. In late 2017 God had placed a desire in my heart to start a magazine and He confirmed this magazine in early 2020 (there is more in depth on our website as well). That is 2 years that passed before I took the first step to begin this journey with the magazine. I received a calling on my life in 2016 at a spiritual camp that young people will be drawn to me and I would be ministering and be used by God. Honestly, I took it as a joke at first and thought it must be some mistake because back then I could never speak in public without freezing up. I would even fear speaking one on one with the people I was not close to. Nevertheless this same prophesy was spoken over my life a few more times by different people and I thought that maybe God really wants to use me.

So in 2016 I decided to forget about the doubt in my head and the fear I felt and take a step of faith. I began getting involved in ministry and the Holy Spirit was teaching me and guiding me all the way. In 2017 I met someone who is now one of my good friends. It was a bit lonely at my age to find someone to talk about God with and really get into deep discussions but God led me to my friend and we began talking, discussing and debating Christianity all in a good way. We were helping each other learn and grow spiritually. That is where the fire arose within me to have these discussions and talk about Christianity as a relationship. We began to share revelations on scriptures and

understand the Word. I didn't know it then but I guess that's where the idea of what content will be shared in the magazine sprouted from. Just to give you a timeline, I met this friend after I thought of the magazine. First God gave me the idea and then He struck a match in me to light a fire for His Word.

To be honest as a young person what I truly needed was never provided and I never understood why. Then when God led me to start the magazine the support I received was overwhelming and the content truly inspiring by individuals used by God. I realised that I should trust God and He will always make a way if He leads me to do something. Likewise in your life if God is telling you to do something, do it! He wouldn't lead you to something if He isn't going to be with you through it. He is always watching and waiting to step in and help. He always shows up when you need Him the most and He always lets things happen as it's supposed to.

Matthew 19:26 “Jesus looked at them and said. **“With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”**

God can do great things in your life if you allow Him and trust Him. Nothing is impossible with Him. Give all your plans, hopes and dreams to Jesus and He will make them possible.

Britney Jenine
Editor-In-Chief



Midnight Crisis

BY RICCO J GOVENDER

When we look at "Midnight" in the context of when we was growing up we used to associate "Midnight" closely with ghost time or devils time and that's what our parents or relatives told us that at the time of "Midnight" is a very scary time.

When we speak about "Midnight" we are actually speaking about the "Middle of the night" the Bible says that we are the sons of the day and not of the night but as sons of the day we need to know how to operate when it is night time. Many believers cannot function when they face Midnight in their lives.

Whenever the Bible mentions "Midnight" it always poses reference to a time of great chaos, a time of crisis and a time of great tribulation. Each & every one of us will face this thing called "Midnight" in life when you least expect it that's the time you would face chaos, crisis & tribulations but out of the crisis comes the "Kairos" of God being the divinely appointed seasons of God whereby you would be brought into the fulfilment of the plans & the purposes He has for you on the Earth. When you look at the Midnight crisis you may have faced, it has brought you closer & closer to your purpose in Christ Jesus.

At the time of "Midnight" the tenth plague entered Egypt being the Death of the First born whereby the Firstborn of Pharaoh & the Firstborn of the livestock died, there was a weeping in Egypt as the scripture says "for there was not a house where there was not one dead"

Matthew 25:1

The ten virgins in this scripture represents "The Church" & five being wise & the other five foolish represents different systems of Church whether it be wise or foolish, true or false, mature or immature. When we are faced with "Midnight" in every aspect in our lives but in the midst of a time of crisis, chaos & tribulation we are surrounded by foolish, false & immature people.

At midnight – a time of crisis, chaos & tribulation make sure you part of the wise company that has enough oil for their lamps to burn & oil is symbolic of the anointing so in the time of midnight being a season of crisis, chaos & tribulation make sure you have enough oil being the anointing. Have you ever wondered how some people go through so many crisis, chaos & tribulations in life and still manage to

stand firm without trying to commit suicide or resorting to any ungodly measures, it's because of the anointing that gives them endurance & perseverance to finish strong & we all desire to finish strong in life but circumstances being our "Midnight Crisis" does not allow us too that is why we need the anointing & its these circumstances in life that will allow us to produce this anointing.

Acts 16:25-28

Midnight is a time of great tribulation, crisis & chaos, when we look at Paul & Silas they are symbolic of the Apostolic which is a sent company of people. In the midst of great tribulation, crisis & chaos there is a sent company of people that will not be shaken nor be moved by the shambles of the world but we will stay focused like Paul & Silas that knew that their God would come through for them in the hour of trial.

In a time that has great tribulation, crisis & chaos there is coming a day when the very foundation of that thing that held you captive will be shaken, so if finances is a thing that has held you captive its going to be shaken & has this scripture says "**immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed**" this is the position that we need to come too whereby all doors will be opened to us & the chains of bondage be loosened.

It's very important in what you engage in at the time of your "Midnight Crisis", Paul & Silas at a time of crisis, chaos & tribulation they were praying & singing hymns to God.

As Paul & Silas were praying & singing hymns to God the prisoners were listening to them, now because of their action & attitude towards a "Midnight Crisis" there was a great earthquake that the foundations of the prison was shaken so that every "Midnight Crisis" that's holding you in bondage will be shaken & broken you it all determines on your action & attitude towards a "Midnight Crisis" & because of that all the doors were open so in the time of Midnight if only you know how to position yourself accurately every door will open to you & the chains to bondage will be broken.

Midnight Crisis

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The Midnight Crisis that you are facing can either do one of two things to you – its can either destroy you or it can develop maturity within you, the basis is on you & your attitude on towards your Midnight Crisis that will produce results.

Midnight is a time whereby there is a breaking away of the old & a breaking forth of the new, whereby darkness is expelled & light is welcomed, so our “Midnight Crisis” in life is there to position us in order to break away from that which is not off God being covered in darkness but position us to break forth into the new being that which God has pre-destined for us has He called us out from the Kingdom of darkness into His marvellous light into a Kingdom that cannot be shaken.



GOD AND MUSIC

BY CLARISSA PILLAY

I am sure we can all agree that there is not a day that goes by without us hearing some form of music, be it intentional or unintentional. And more often than not, we get catchy songs stuck in our head. Music has such a deep influence in our lives, from a favourite hymn that gets us through hardships to a worship ballad that ushers in the presence of the Holy Spirit. It evokes emotion and changes the atmosphere. Most church services begin with praise and worship, as it aligns our heart to receive God's word. There are many reasons why God created music, and below is a key aspect that we all need in our daily walk with the Lord.



King Jehoshaphat was the fourth king of Judah who reigned for 25 years (873 to 848 BC). He honoured the Lord in all his actions and always sought council from God before he would make any big decision.

One day, the king found himself in trouble when he had been given the message that the army of Edom, Moab and Ammon were en route to attack him and his kingdom. King Jehoshaphat decided to go to the Lord and seek guidance about this problem. He then instructed all the cities in the country to fast and pray to the Lord for help. Even in despair, he knew where his answer would come from. The king goes with his people to the temple of God, laying prostrate before the Lord, and begins to worship the Lord God Almighty, and his people begin to raise shouts of praise!

The next day, the king met his troops outside near the valley, as they were ready to face the enemy. He ordered his musicians to march ahead of his army and sing: "Praise the Lord! His love is eternal!" (2 Chronicles 2: 21). When they began to sing, the Lord threw the invading armies into a panic. The

Ammonites and the Moabites attacked the Edomite army and completely destroyed it, and then they turned on each other in savage fighting. When the Judean army reached a tower that was in the desert, they looked toward the enemy and saw that they were all lying on the ground dead. Not one had escaped.

The king then found cattle and other valuable items from the enemy's camp which they took and later called that valley Beracah, meaning the valley of praise.

This bible story shows us exactly what our weapon is during battle. Our weapon is a melody! It is no coincidence that the King asked his musicians to march ahead of the army. He understood the power of praise. Let us not underestimate the power of praise.

Of all the instructions that God could have given the king in such a dire situation, He chose for the army to sing and praise the Lord. This teaches us that no matter how troubling or massive the circumstance may seem, we need to actively sing and praise God through our battles. This is a vital aspect of music and why God created it. We "raise a hallelujah in the presence of our enemy". In doing so, we surrender to the Lord and raise our faith in believing that He is capable of exceeding our mortal expectations.

Music is a beautiful expression, so let us use it in the way God intended and not defile it by allowing the enemy to use it for evil.

Faith Over Fear & Life Over Loss (Our Good Friday Miracle)

BY AMY GARTON

My long-awaited testimony (Our Journey)

Through this journey we realised there are so many couples struggling with infertility and afraid to talk about it. The battle is real and affects many of us, without most of us even realising it. It should not be a topic you are afraid or ashamed of. Remember knowledge is power. To those that are constantly asking others when you are having a baby or when is the next baby coming, maybe we should be more considerate and allow couples do things at their own pace instead of adding more pressure to an already sensitive subject. I think the right approach would be to encourage couples to talk about what they are going through as appose to asking those difficult questions. Remember God's timing is always perfect!

In 2018 we decided we would like to have an addition to our family, it was not an easy journey, but it was worth it. Warrick and I had a plan on our timeline and how we wanted it to all work out but God had a better plan for us and as we look back in hindsight, we are so grateful to God for his perfect plan that unfolded in our lives. The sequence of events over the past 2 years was nothing short of amazing! After about 2 years of trying to conceive, we decided we need to seek medical advice.

We partnered with one of the best Doctors we could have asked for, went through various tests to make sure we ticked all the boxes. We started our journey with our Doctor in 2019, his advice to us was do not

stress about it and take the pressure off. After a while it becomes psychological, a mindset shift. After trying for a about year in 2019, our Doctor recommended a very basic IUI treatment. In January 2020 we had our first IUI, nothing happened, in February our 2nd IUI and again nothing happened. By this time, we were feeling very low and disheartened. Usually, IUI is administered 3 times before moving on to the next treatment. In March, our Doctor had to leave for an International conference, and we were unable to see him for our 3rd try. There was not much we could do, but to our surprise we found out I was pregnant in March and this happened naturally, no treatment.

It was surreal, we were over the moon, ecstatic, and we were on cloud 9. When our Doctor got back, we told him the good news, but this joy was short lived. Three days before Good Friday 2020 I had a miscarriage. Going from such joy and happiness to sadness and despair was difficult but through this emotional roller coaster I felt a calmness over me. Almost like God saying to me 'Trust me'. It was Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday 2020; I remember feeling very sad and down but trusting God in his word to us and knowing God has my best interest at heart. It was not easy but Warrick and I knew God had a plan for us and his timing is perfect! Just then South Africa went into level 5 lockdown, and we were not able to see our Doctor. Over the next 3 months we did not think too much about trying to get pregnant or stressing about anything. We just let it be and committed it into God's hands.

Faith Over Fear & Life Over Loss (Our Good Friday Miracle)

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3 months later, 15th of July, we found out I for our Baby Girl, we did not know the was pregnant, and this happened naturally meaning of the name we chose, we just fell again, we were a bit sceptical about getting in love with the name and too our surprise excited but we found ourselves overjoyed the meaning of Zoe in Greek is LIFE. In an and full of hope again. This time felt among the panic, disarray, and lost lives the different, we went through all our monthly world faces, God gave us life and we get to check-ups/scans and each one was better decide how we want to use this free gift. than the last. I had a really healthy Warrick and I have learned so much through pregnancy, no morning sickness/nausea, no this journey, things we were so oblivious too. swollen hands/feet, I was able to eat anything To all my friends and family and even and everything, and no serious back pain etc. strangers reading this, if you ever want to On 15th March, our Beautiful and healthy talk about a similar challenge you are faced Baby girl was born weighing in at 3.42kg. with, we are available to share more about what we learnt through this process and hopefully it will encourage and help you as well.

As Good Friday draws closer this week, we hold our beautiful baby girl, and we look back at the pain we experienced last year during this time. We need to remember what happen on Good Friday as Jesus was crucified and on the 3rd day, he rose again which gives us hope for our future. Jesus is the hope we have to cling onto when we are faced with any challenges. Although it may seem like an impossible hurdle to get past at the time, that is when the hand of God is best seen. It also turns out my birthday is on Good Friday this year. How much more significant can this journey get. Jesus has come to give us life and life to the fullest (John 10:10). When we decided on a name



TRUST THAT GOD WILL
SEE YOU THROUGH!!



TRUSTING GOD'S PLAN ⁷

BY KIMENTHA GOVENDER

'Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.' Isaiah 41:10 (NKJV)

2020, a year that killed not only people, but our hopes as well. It's not easy watching the world fall apart around you at such a young age... Or any age at all. Mentally and physically, this pandemic has drained us and we don't even realize the effects of it unless we actually analyse ourselves.

Unfortunately, 2020 was the year I matriculated. I can honestly say it was the most difficult year of my life. I've never felt so pressured in my entire life. However, it was the same year that I felt the closest to God. I made it my duty to pray every day, to fast before the examinations, to read the Bible ... but somehow getting closer to God was harder than I thought. My faith was tested more than ever, and it was so evident. Voices were in my head telling me that I couldn't do it, telling me that I wasn't good enough and that I should just give up. I didn't think much of it until I realized what was going on and prayed about it, casting out these voices. Somehow it got the best of me, my sanity was fading and I couldn't understand what was going on. I couldn't finish my examinations on time, I found it hard to study. Everything just turned upside down and I was so afraid because I knew this wasn't me. I kept praying about it, even though I didn't fully believe in my prayers - I still did it.

In the midst of the chaos that I had found myself in, the words 'Do not be afraid' was constantly running around my mind. I was once told that those words

appeared 365 times in the Bible, of course this isn't fully factual but it helps us remember that God put it in the Bible that many times to remind us not to fear for every day of the year. Those words carried me throughout my exams.



As time passed I found myself being less and less of who I was and who I wanted to be. I couldn't recognize myself. I tried getting closer to God but kept getting distracted or discouraged. It was a very long wait till my results came out. I didn't even plan anything, I wasn't even sure if I was going to get accepted to any Universities. The day I got my results was the day I realized how special and wonderful God's promise is to us. He never fails us. I ended up getting 3 distinctions and an average of 81%. I couldn't believe it. The miracle that God had done for me, even though I felt so far away from Him, He still remembered what I prayed for.

He remembers all of our prayers. He is everything that is good. His love never fails us. No matter how far you think you are from Him, just remember that He is always there. We are sometimes too distracted to see it. Keep your faith through trying times and I know that God will see you through.

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”
2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

Baptism

BY BRITNEY JENINE

Acts 2:38 says, “Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Baptism is an important act taken by every Christian. It is us accepting we are sinful and taking the step to cleanse ourselves through baptism. By being baptised in the name of Jesus Christ we are accepting His forgiveness and allowing the Holy Spirit into our lives. There are two types of baptism a Christian experiences: one of water and one of fire.

First the Baptism of Water.

Mark 16:16: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

Matthew 28:19-20 “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

This baptism renews you. It brings you out of the old nature and allows you to be transformed in the image of Christ. You are officially living for Jesus once you are baptized in water.

Secondly the Baptism of Fire.

What does it mean to be baptized with fire? Some may wonder if it's needed and I'm here to tell you yes it is. Most Christians are baptized with water but not with fire. Both

are equally important to live as God ordained. What is fire baptism? It is the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Being baptized in fire invites the Holy Spirit to come alive in you. You are able to feel God's power within you and you will be able to do His works. You will be receiving the gifting of God and will be speaking in God's heavenly language. You will feel revived and refreshed each time you are in His presence.

Baptism of water and fire are essential for a Christian. It promotes spiritual growth and draws you closer to God. If you haven't made the decision to be baptized yet, I encourage you to pray about it and let the Holy Spirit lead you. Your life will never be the same again.



**BE RENEWED,
REFRESHED
AND REVIVED
IN JESUS**

FAITH

BY CLARISSA PILLAY

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and Lord Jesus Christ.

It is truly a joy and blessing to share the word that God has placed on my heart. I pray that it will be an encouragement to you.

As children of God we have much to be thankful for. We stand before the Most High God, washed by the blood of Jesus, forgiven and redeemed, saved by His grace.

We are living in uncertain times. At this very moment we face a pandemic, we have fear of what's happening and doubt of how will we overcome this. God wants you to know, that amidst the turmoil, amidst the storm, He is in control. He says to you, have FAITH in me my child. Have I not been with you through every trial and seen you through, will I not do the same for you now? Turn your worry into trust. Place your faith in me.

Romans 4:16-25 “Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” The words “it was credited to him” were written not

for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.”

Abraham was almost 100 years old, a man who was old in age but strong in faith. He was a man who had an unshakeable faith in God. Abraham followed through with every instruction God gave to him, trusting God. He believed that nothing is too hard for God and nothing is impossible for God. That is an example for us today, that our faith should be deeply rooted in God.

We may ask the question, how much faith must I have? Faith is not a matter of size or quantity. Abraham believed and obeyed. Did he worry? Did he doubt? Did he second guess himself? Probably. But his radical faith led him to live a radical life that was sold out to God. It is not the size of your faith but the size of the One in whom you believe that makes the difference.

As believers our faith lies in the Most High God. The God who created the heavens and the earth. It is in him that we place our trust. God's word says that faith must have a solid foundation; it must have a cornerstone to build upon. The only true foundation for faith is God.

Why must we have faith?

Faith or trusting in God accomplishes many important things for us. The first benefit of faith is that faith builds us up or strengthens us. When we exercise faith, it gets stronger. Your faith can be strengthened by the testimony of God’s Word. Like a muscle, faith gets stronger the more you exercise it.

Faith exalts God. It glorifies His greatness. By trusting in God you are expressing your confidence in Him. God calls us to glorify Him and we do this through our faith. The simple presence of faith in a human heart glorifies God, but it is also the exercise of faith that glorifies God.

FAITH

CONTINUED ...

- Faith establishes us. It gives us a foundation.
- Faith enables us. It gives us the possession of the promise.

Just as God kept His covenant with Abraham and fulfilled the promise He made to Him, so too will He keep His promises to us. We can rest assured knowing that God will deliver and we will receive His blessings.

As we've reflected on the life of Abraham and how God had seen him through because of his faith, may we also look to God at this time, a time where we are faced with this pandemic, a time where our hearts are filled with fear and we are anxious about tomorrow and what's to come. Let us place our faith in Him. Like He raised Jesus from the tomb on that glorious resurrection morning, let us ask Him today to remove this tomb of fear, remove this tomb of doubt and raise us to overcome by our faith in Him!

May the peace of God be with you today and always.

Amen.



Faith
Moves
Mountains

Encouragement for Our Christian Life

BY CHANELLE GOVENDER



As we observed Palm Sunday, it is important to remember the significance of the day.

Jesus was glorified just before He could be put to death. Jesus died to save the world so that His people could be cleansed from all sin by shedding His blood.

This means that we can live our lives as long as we repent and ask God for forgiveness for only then we can be saved and be granted eternal life.

However walking with Christ does not mean that we can sin freely and expect to be forgiven every time. It does not mean that we can ask God for anything that we want and expect to be given that which we asked for like it's a magic trick. While God is merciful and gracious, He needs a sacrifice from us as an offering to Him so that He may bless us.

We may think that praying is enough and God will

answer but sometimes we need to restrict our flesh. Sometimes we need to put our faith in action so that God can take over what we started.

Christian life may seem easy from the outside but really it takes daily work from us to be pleasing in His sight. God did not promise us an easy life. He purposely puts us through trials and tribulations so that we may get closer to Him and overcome the obstacles in our way which then reveals our strength and resilience.

So anytime that you feel that your life is hard or that God is not there, when you feel like there is no hope and that it is unfair to struggle the way you do, just know that you are right where you are supposed to be and that your struggles is God's way of moulding & shaping you. After all, God did show us His Ultimate love by the very gruesome struggle of dying on the cross for us.

John 12:26 "Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, my servant will also be. My father will honour the one who serves me."

We should look at struggle square in the face and take it on with all that we have because we will come out of it victorious.



God Knows the Outcome

BY BRITNEY JENINE

John 11:38-44 “Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. “Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.” Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

We are all quite familiar with the story of Lazarus and there are many revelations surrounding this miracle. We are going to look at God’s second chance for Lazarus. First lets look at the facts in this story.

1. Lazarus was someone Jesus loved.
2. Lazarus was sick so his sisters sent word for Jesus.
3. When Jesus heard this He said “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.”
4. Jesus delayed His trip by two days before going to see Lazarus.

1. Jesus loved Lazarus just like He loves you and I. I guess we would ask ourselves why Jesus would let him suffer in sickness if He loved him. We also ask ourselves many times why Jesus lets us struggle in life. If He loves us then why must we be put through pain? It is because He knows the outcome of that pain. When Lazarus was sick, Jesus knew the outcome of his sickness. When we go through our struggles, Jesus knows the outcome of it.

2. Word was sent to Jesus about Lazarus. In our lives today we send word to Jesus through prayer. The bible says in Philippians 4:6 “Be anxious about nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.” We ought to pray and ask for

God’s intervention. We must always remember that He hears our prayers and knows the end outcome of our lives.

3. Whatever the end outcome is, it is to bring glory to God’s name. Jesus knew that this sickness Lazarus had was not going to end in death, but everyone else had seen Lazarus die and were mourning him. What is it with us humans that we constantly doubt God’s plan? Jesus saw it wasn’t over when everyone else saw it was. In your life, Jesus sees it’s not over when you and everyone else thinks it is. He has a plan which will end in giving glory to God’s name. What we need to do is not have doubt, we need to trust God through it all even if the outcome seems to be ending in death, and we need to remember that we serve a resurrecting God.

4. Jesus waited before going to see Lazarus. How many time do we want a miracle done immediately? Why is that? Because we are anxious. We want God to show up and do something fast so that we can continue as normal. The bible says be anxious about nothing but in everything take it to God in prayer and supplication. The family of Lazarus was worried just as we get worried. They sent word to Jesus and we prayed. That is as far as it goes and it’s all we need to do. Jesus knew everything was going to be alright, He just needed to see a little faith. You might ask why faith and the answer is because miracles cannot happen without faith. The bible says in Matthew 17:20 that faith as small as a mustard seed can move mountains. A little bit of faith can do great things.

Jesus shows up when there is nothing else we can do and He performs a miracle in our lives. He gives us hope and a new chance. He sets us free and makes us new. Just as He called Lazarus out from being stuck and lifeless, Jesus is calling you out of whatever situation you are trapped in. Jesus said that Lazarus was asleep so He went to wake him up. Jesus is calling out to us to wake up! We need to wake up, hold on to our faith, pray about everything and trust God for our miracle. Remember, God knows the outcome.

BACK-IN-THE-DAY

WITH IVAN MOONSAMY

1. Tell us about your journey since you gave your life to Jesus. How was the experience?

The peace and joy is overwhelming in my life. Prior to accepting Jesus as my Saviour I only had joy for the day but now I feel His presence and joy in my life. I am a living testimony of Christ Jesus' awesome power,

2. Can you share a testimony experienced in your life?

I was an alcoholic, a deeply depressed demonised person. I could not live without alcohol but my mother never stopped praying for me and when Jesus came into my life demons began to flee. The desire for alcohol stopped. God brought my wife into my life and today I am financially free living a good life. All glory, honour and praise to King Jesus who is the author and finisher of my faith. He is my Alpha and Omega.

3. Have you ever been to a revival meeting? If so, what was the experience like?

Yes many, I was a regular at Jesus for Africa crusades. I witnessed miracles, signs and wonders. After going to revival meetings I began drawing closer to Christ.

4. What is the importance of prayer in a Christian life?

Prayer is the most important aspect in one's walk with Christ Jesus. One is actually communicating with God. Without prayer and faith one is a dead Christian.

5. What is your opinion on evangelism?

It is very important to the five-fold ministry. An evangelist is the person who actually goes out seeking new souls for God's kingdom.

6. What advice do you have for Christians to keep the faith?

Do not put your faith and trust in man but only in Christ Jesus. Respect your earthly shepherd because Christ placed him there but look unto Jesus for He is God.



Do you know God is Guiding you?

BY RAGINI MOONSAMY

Do you know God's plans for your life on earth? Have you reached and are you allowing God to guide you? Is everything happening consequences, the devil or God. Are you following the plans of God or the devil?

If we look at the life of the bible characters, we can see how God guided their lives knowingly or unknowingly to be where they are and so that they can get somewhere else later in life. Lets look at the life of Joseph, son of Jacob.

In Genesis 37-40, we learn about the life of Joseph. When he was 17 years, he had a dream that he will one day rule over his family. His jealous brothers wanted to kill him (Satan plans) but instead they sold him as a slave. **(God used Reuben, his brother to suggest this to his brothers)**. God's plan was stronger than Satan.

Do you think that if Joseph had remained in his home he would have fulfilled what God had planned for his life? The circumstances might seem extreme that he had to be sold as a slave, for this to happen, but we don't understand the mind of God - **"Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" (Romans 11:34)**

Sometimes things happen in our own lives that we question some good and some bad, but later find out, that God had taken us out from that situation or that had to happen, if we did not go through that, we won't be in the position we are in today. Satan sometimes causes chaos in our lives, but God is still in control – He know our future.

Back to Joseph, he was not just sold as a slave just to anyone, he was sold to the assistant to the ruler of Egypt, closer to his destination. **(God's plan)**

The bible says that while Joseph was a slave in Egypt, God was with him and helped him do everything right. **(God's plan)**. You see God was preparing him.

Although God was with him, Satan was also after him by using Potiphar's wife to tempt him and eventually he gets thrown in prison for a crime he not commit, but even in prison, God was still with him.

Sometimes what Satan does in our lives, God turns it to good.

God also positions people in our lives to take us to our destination. In prison, Joseph was in jail with the former butler of Pharaoh. There he interpreted the dreams of the butler. **Consequences or God? Because he did this, it paved the way for him to interpret the dreams of the ruler of the country. It was taking him closer to his destiny.**

God used Joseph to save the country from famine. Because God was with him, Joseph found favour and became the next in charge in the country.

Satan cannot stop what God has planned in your life. It took 20 years for Joseph's dream to become a reality.

If you look back at your life, did God guide you to where you are today? Did God position people in your life to bring you to the place you are now? Are you waiting for God to show you the way?

Did God give you a dream and do you see how God is leading you to fulfil it?

Is God using you to help someone reach their destiny?

Do you know God is Guiding you?

CONTINUED...

Sometimes things happen or is happening to make us stronger, so we can be a testimony to others.

Some examples in my life, where God has guided me to where I am today.

From my marriage, to becoming a Christian, my work life etc...

If I did not work in all the companies that I had, I will not have the experience I have today to do what I can do. I believe that **God has been preparing me.**

Another example is, we barely had a good car to go anywhere far, but before my husband got sick, God blessed us with a good reliable car, so we could travel to Umhlanga. **God made provision for what was about to happen.**

My becoming a Christian, God was preparing me long before I met my husband. He already gave me the hunger to know him by positioning people in my life that will eventually lead me to fall in love with him. E.g. like the late Pastor Theo and his sister-in-law who I worked with, who I met when I was 19 years, where they took me to my first Youth Club meeting at Shekinah and most of my encounter with God was at the Shekinah camp. **(God's plan)**

We have been to many churches over the years, but I don't regret anything cause God was preparing us together with our family for where we are today.

TODAY examine your life, God has a plan for you. Everything you went or are going through will lead you to your destiny.

Or in some circumstances know that you are in someone's life for a reason. Think about where that person will be if you were not in their life.

Sometimes God does not give you what you ask for, because it's not in your destiny. Be patience and He will guide you.

God's plan can become reality overnight, but it can also take 20 years as in the case of Joseph.

Ephesians 1:11 "Before we were even born, he gave us our destiny; that we would fulfil the plan of God who always accomplishes every purpose and plan in his heart."



POWER VERSES

Isaiah 40:31

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Psalms 84:11

For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

Romans 8:28

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

POWER VERSES

17

Philippians 4:13

I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Proverbs 10:22

The blessing of the Lord brings wealth, without painful toil for it.

Jeremiah 32:27

"I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?"

2 Corinthians 5:7

For we live by faith, not by sight.



BY JOELETTE JOSEPH

BIBLE STORIES

The Story of God's Love (Matthew 27:32-66) (Matthew 28:1-15)

The Crucifixion of Jesus

As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: this is Jesus, the king of the Jews.

Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

BIBLE STORIES

The Story of God's Love (Matthew 27:32-66) (Matthew 28:1-15)

The Death of Jesus

From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").

When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah."

Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

BIBLE STORIES

The Story of God's Love (Matthew 27:32-66) (Matthew 28:1-15)

The Burial of Jesus

As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.

The Guard at the Tomb

The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."

"Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

Jesus Has Risen

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

BIBLE STORIES

The Story of God's Love (Matthew 27:32-66) (Matthew 28:1-15)

There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The Guards' Report

While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

Forgiveness from the Cross

On my knees I pray
And thank God for the day
My debt He would pay
For my soul to stay

My sins He remembered
On the cross He suffered
My sins He wiped
With His blood to fight

It sprinkled on the ground
It dripped from His face
It opened up my case
And pleaded with His Grace

Forgiveness I received
From the Cross He opened wide
For me to come to Him
For Him to be my Guide

I surrendered all to Him
For He saved me, yes He did
From the Cross He said "IT IS FINISHED"
In Him my life I'll live

BY BRITNEY JENINE

GAMING TIME!!!

Bible Riddles



1. I was asked what I wanted and I asked for wisdom. Who am I?

2. Out of all my sons' one was chosen to be king. Who am I?

3. God had blessed us with a son at our old age. The promise was given. Who are we?

4. I was a disciple of Jesus but my greed led to a betrayal. Who am I?

5. I cut off a man's ear in a fit of rage and was told that those who live by the sword will die by the sword. Who am I?

6. I married a widow and had a son who would be a king's grandfather. Who am I?

God says, you are _____.

first three (3) words you see

P C P R O T E C T E D L C U S
 C H P A C T R R I V F L V N P
 H O E N O U G H O L O O E U E
 A S C B W O R T H Y R V W N C
 B E A U T I F U L G G E G I I
 E N O S L O V E D R I D R Q A
 V I C T O R I O U S V D D U L
 P R E C I O U S B L E S S E D
 S T R O N G G D A Q N S M I L

Q & A

BY REONALDO HOOSEN

Q: Why should I pray if God sees, hears and knows everything?

A: God is all knowing (omniscient) which means He literally knows everything there is to know (Psalm 139:4). Therefore we can establish that prayer is not about informing God about our situation or problems, rather it's about communion and building our relationship with Him based on faith, trust and love.

- **Prayer effects our relationship with Him**
Jeremiah 29:12-13 “Then you will call upon me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.”

Prayer is a way in which we seek and commune with God. Spending time with God is important if we want to have a relationship with Him. Like any other relationship, communication between the two people involved is required in order for the relationship to grow.

- **Prayer helps us receive from God**

God shows His love for us through answering our prayer

Psalm 69:13 “but I keep praying to you, Lord, hoping this time you will show me favor. In your unfailing love, O God, answer my prayer with your sure salvation.”

Matthew 7:7-11 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks

receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened...”

- **Prayer is also a means in which we exercise our faith in God:**

Mark 11:24 “Therefore I tell you whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it and it will be yours”

- **Prayer gives us peace**

Philippians 4:6-7 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Other scriptures to read: James 5:13 and Psalm 4:1

- **Jesus Himself prayed to the Father when He was on earth**

Luke 6:12 “It was at this time that He (Jesus) went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God.”

Luke 5:16 “But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray.”

Hebrews 5:7 “In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death...”

If Christ Himself prayed to His father, who are we not to pray.

Q & A

BY REONALDO HOOSEN

Q: Is it okay to be in a live-in relationship outside marriage if you are a Christian?

A: Romans 12:1-2 “let them be a living and holy sacrifice - the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him. Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think”

The issue with a couple living together without being married is not in them actually living together, but in what takes place when you live together. The main issue is actually fornication.

We all know that the temptation to be physically intimate is one of the greatest desires of a human being. That being said, we can assume that when living together, it’s only a matter of time before the couple will give into their physical desires. Now the bible makes it very clear that sex before marriage is a sin. Sex is only permitted within the marriage bed, nowhere else.

Galatians 5:19 “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, ... of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Now the apostle Paul addresses the issue about people who are burning with lust in 1 Corinthians 7:8-9 “So I say to those who aren’t married and to widows - its better to stay unmarried, just as I am. But if they can’t control themselves, they should go ahead and

marry. It’s better to marry than to burn with lust.”

There is romance throughout the bible, and God is the reason it exists (Genesis 2:24). He created and ordained marriage between man and woman. It is important for couples regardless of age to follow His rules concerning it. Living together outside marriage is against His rules as it opens the door to sin (fornication, sexual immorality). If fornication is within a relationship it will prevent God from blessing such a relationship. It’s a loss to the couple, and has physical and spiritual consequences for the souls involved.

The conclusion we can come to is that if a Christian couple desires to live together, they would have to marry. When living together sexual intimacy is an eventuality and seeing that fornication (sex before marriage) is a serious sin according to God’s word, it should be avoided and have no place in our lives.

Because certain customs are acceptable in this world, doesn’t means it is acceptable to God.



DELICIOUS RECIPES TO ENJOY

Recipe for:

Jam Squares



INGREDIENTS:

- 125g butter
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla essence
- 2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 3/4 cups jam (I used Apricot)

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Using a blender, cream the butter and sugar together until creamy
- Add the egg and vanilla essence and beat until well combined.
- Add the flour (sieve it if you are feeling diligent!) and baking powder and mix until a dough forms. Then using your hands, press the dough together until it forms a ball. Use 2/3 of the dough and spread it along the base of a greased baking tin (Place the other third in the fridge for now). I used a 30 x 20cm tin.
- Using the head of a fork, poke holes into the dough to prevent air bubbles forming (imagine the dough cut into slices – each slice needs to be pricked with the fork)
- Lather on the jam nice and thick!
- Grate the remaining 1/3 of the dough and scatter on the top of the jam (if the dough is too soft to grate, pop it in the fridge/freezer for a few minutes)
- Bake at 180°C for 20-30 minutes until dough is slightly browned and the jam is all gooey! Allow to cool and then slice into squares. Enjoy!

NOTES

Tin size: 30 x 20cm or smaller (don't go bigger than that)

Youth Cross Experience

Thank you to our Team who have contributed towards making
YOUTHCROSS EXPERIENCE a **SUCCESS.**

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Owned by God
Redeemed by Christ
Sealed with the Holy Spirit

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