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# YouthCross Experience

Christian Magazine

The Best  
Is Yet  
to  
Come!



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**Enjoy!**

# Editorial

## THE BEST IS YET TO COME

There is something highly motivating about the statement “The Best is Yet to Come”. I feel it’s more like a declaration one can prophesy for their future while reminding themselves that it’s not always going to be about the position they are in right now but that tomorrow things will get better. It assures them that tomorrow there could be a sudden change in one’s situation that will not only push them closer to their destiny but also elevate them to be who God has called them to be.

**Isaiah 40:31** says “**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.**” **Proverbs 16:3** says “**Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.**”

Being optimistic isn’t very easy, especially when you have arrows flying at you from every side. We all go through some pain that makes it difficult to reach what we are destined for but it is not impossible. The Word of God says that we should hope in the LORD and He will renew our strength so when we do come under attack we need not worry too much because in our weakness God’s strength is always made perfect. The enemy always tries to end what God has planned for His children and although the devil may be plotting, Jesus is already on the battlefield waiting for you to give the fight to Him. Jesus gives us Hope to continue and Hope for a better tomorrow.

Our future is in God’s hands and many of us find it difficult to trust God’s plans completely. We doubt, and that’s how some of the problems are created.

It’s hard letting go of the wheel especially when you know what you want. We need to sometimes remember when God said “**For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,**” declares the LORD. “**As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.**” **Isaiah 55:8-9.** We may not always have it figured out the right way but the best thing about trusting in God is that He knows the outcome before it happens hence He leads the right way we should go.

A famous scripture we always go to is **Jeremiah 29:11** “**For I know the plans I have for you**”, declares the LORD, “**plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future**”. We should also remember that Jesus said in **Matthew 6:34** “**Don't worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will have its own worries. Each day has enough trouble of its own**” We get caught up in life so often that we forget that there is a bigger picture and that picture we cannot see as yet so what good will worrying about it bring? Our lives are all intertwined whether we know it or not and each person has a part to play in someone else’s story so don’t stay stuck where you are. Just keep moving, hoping and believing because I guarantee you that God’s promises are never wrong and one day we will all look back and know that the best was always coming.

**Britney Jenine**  
**Editor-In-Chief**

# GOD IS BIGGER THAN THE FIGHT!

I am often asked why you do it? How do you do it? How could you possibly still talk to them, laugh with them, and still help them after all that they did and still do to you?

With a smile on my lips, I say this; “it is very possible when you give it to HIM”. The sad reality is that many of us don’t want to. We claim to be believers but only trust partially. We want God to give the good only, handle certain things and leave the rest for us to handle in our own way.... but then need HIM to rescue us when it gets too much?

You see the issue is that we don’t want to hand over the fights to HIM because we are afraid of the outcome, we are afraid that it won’t be dealt with quick enough or the way we want it handled, it won’t have the same impact of how we would handle it in our flesh. Our ego’s may not be boosted, and we may not be able to have the last say. I can’t tell you how many times I was tempted to just be as horrible or hurtful to the opposing party, there were occasions when I did only to have it got far worse than it was originally.

The Word of God is full of scriptures that tell us to hand it over, to give it to HIM. The following are but only a few examples derived from the ESV bible:

**2 Chronicles 20:15** And he said, “Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the LORD to you, ‘Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's.

**2 Chronicles 20:17** You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.’ Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the LORD will be with you.”

**Exodus 14:13** And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again.

**1 Samuel 17:47** And that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand.”

**Deuteronomy 31:6** Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”

# GOD IS BIGGER THAN THE FIGHT!

CONTINUED ...

**Ephesians 6:12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

We so easily forget this. If this then be true wouldn't retaliating against the flesh, make us just like those coming against us? Won't it mean that we are then operating on the same level as our enemies? A wise man whose teachings I hold dear once told me that when someone wrongs you they have the coals added on their head and they are answerable for their actions but when I react in retaliation, when I respond in attack mode then I remove the coals from their heads and add them to the ones that are now on mine, absolving them of all their wrongs no matter how drastic it was.

We need to take the word of GOD literally, I mean Believe It, Stand by It, Trust It and Live It. We need to forgive and release it all to GOD and let HIM take care of the rest. Remember Jesus himself said on Calvary's hill "forgive them Lord for they know not what they do". If HE released and forgave them then who are we?

**Always think WWJD - What Would Jesus Do?**



BY SELENA MUNIEN

# *The Circus of Life*

## *Digest of a Sermon by Pastor J.F.Rowlands*

THE ARTISTS for the “Circus of Life” are taken at random off the streets of everyday life, and their performances may be seen daily. The “Big Top” is none other than the Canopy of Heaven and in true circus style the opening act takes place within the

### **LION’S CAGE.**

Even today there are many brave young “Daniels” living for Christ. The devil plays the part of the “roaring lion” (1 Pet. 5:8) but God’s children are kept safe from all harm and danger by a living faith in a living God. The cage is removed to give an opportunity for the

### **CAMELS**

to take the floodlights. They go through the “Needle’s Eye” Gate with greater ease than the rich man goes through the Pearly Gate (Matt. 19.24). The show continues non-stop with a weird collection of twentieth century

### **SNAKES.**

These have a guaranteed relationship to the serpent who deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden. They are cunning, subtle and fraudulent.

**THE WORLD’S STRONGEST MAN** appears next on the programme. He is stronger than the man with the strongest muscles because he is the man who puts his trust in God. This great Samsonic character is followed by the

### **CLOWNS.**

There are three of them and they are commonly known as “fools.” The first is the man who denies the existence of God (Psalm 14:11); the second is the Rich Fool (Luke 12:20); and the third is he foolish virgin who professes so much but possesses nothing (Matt. 25:3).

### **THE HUMAN LEOPARD**

next treads the sawdust. He is covered with the devil’s beauty spots. His lips are red and his finger-tips are brown; his heart is critical and his spirit is jealous (Gal. 5:19). Next comes the

### **SHEEP.**

Dear little things! So, so woolly and fluffy! Sweet, innocent-looking little baa-lambs! But look, they don’t behave like sheep! Off falls the “sheep’s clothing” to reveal the wolf underneath. “By their fruits ye shall know them.” (Matt. 7:15-20). One of the star attractions is the

### **MINIATURE U.N.O.**

A genuine United Nations Organisation called Bethesda where all are ONE IN CHRIST JESUS. The

### **TIGHT ROPE WALKERS**

now follow. This the Christian balancing feat. “Narrow is the way which leadeth unto life” (Matt.7:14). But with his faith in God, the Christian need never lose his balance as he walks bravely between formalism on the one side and fanaticism on the other. Ripples of laughter may be heard all round as the

### **CHIMPANZEES**

come into the ring. They are almost “human”! Oh, such, funny, long faces . . . . and they call themselves “Christians”! These are quickly followed by the

### **MIDGETS.**

Pity these poor, stunted “Christians” who never grew up in the Grace of God. They suck “dummies” all day and rarely go to prayer meetings! The

# The Circus of Life

## *Digest of a Sermon by Pastor J.F.Rowlands*

Continued ...

### HUMAN PYRAMID

now comes to the fore. Up, up, up the pyramid is built on “man”. But look, the foundation is giving at the knees! And down it comes with a sickening thud. (Sudden appearance of ambulance men to remove the said “man”). “Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Christ Jesus” (1 Cor. 3:11). The scene alters again and the

### QUICK CHANGE ARTIST

appears as an “angel of light”. But, lo and behold, before you can say “Jack Robinson” he has changed into a “roaring lion” (2 Cor. 11:14; 1 Pet. 5:8). (Be careful of this person. He is either the devil himself or one of his close relatives). The next performance is greeted by tumultuous applause for it is none other than Trueheart starred in four major bouts of

### LL-IN WRESTLING.

His four opponents are Principalities. Powers, Rulers of Darkness and Spiritual Wickedness (Eph. 6:12). One by one they are pinned to the ground and Trueheart emerges more than a conqueror.

### FAITHFUL, THE UNHURTABLE

comes fifteenth in the programme. He is persecuted for Righteousness sake and scanded. Many stones of opposition are thrown at him, but he continues to rejoice and be exceedingly glad (Matt. 4:11,12), for he knows that his reward will be great in Heaven. Messrs,

### LIGHTBODY AND UNSTABLE

give the church much cause for concern in the next act. (The poor Pastor appears to have a headache now!). They get tossed about like corks with every wind of doctrine (Eph. 4:14). Next comes the

### WORLD WONDER

He is the man with two tongues. He is a very big family man with many children. In the church he sings like an angel and at home he swears like a devil! (James 3:10). An eerie spectacle indeed is

### THE WALKING CORPSE

There is a strange uncanny feeling in the air as the man who is dead in trespasses and sins walks around the arena (Eph.2:1). The final and closing act in the “Circus of Life” will be indeed the world’s greatest spectacle. The stage is now being cleared for

### THE FLYING BRIDE

Any moment now the Trumpet of the Lord shall sound and “the dead in Christ” shall rise with “the living in Christ” to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thess. 4:16, 17). The Church of Jesus Christ is busy preparing herself for this glorious rapture and washing her garments in the precious Blood of the Lamb.



Pastor J.F.Rowlands

Extracted from: Sermons from the Sanctuary\_Moving Waters\_May 1940.



# JESUS VISITS ME

## THE FIRST ENCOUNTER

**John 20:27**

**“Put your finger here and see my hands, put your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve but believe.”**

Nights have been darker than usual, my teenage years have passed me by, two years to the big ‘twenty,’ but this pain only grew stronger, going in and out of consciousness. On my bed, I laid, waiting for something to happen, ease of the pain, more strength, death, whatsoever could help me at this time of desperation.

Suddenly, to my surprise, I found myself surrounded with thick clouds of smoke; the brightest light gleamed into my eyes as I looked up.

I recognized who had paid me a visit, it was The Lord Himself. I asked, “am I dying”? He replied, no... Then He asked, “won’t you touch my scars”? I said “yes,” in tears. His hands were soft and had perfect circular holes on each. By far, it was the most spectacular thing I have ever witnessed.

He then reached over and touched my lower abdomen, the pain eased, and He covered my eyes into a deep sleep.

Sunday morning, my little sister noticed

a scar on me while dressing. She said, “you have a cross on your stomach.” Amazing! To this day, it is right there, where the Lord touched me.

Years later, at twenty-five, the doctor told me I had a small cyst in my womb, this was causing excessive bleeding and clotting during my menstrual cycle for at least thirteen years.

**Mark 5:34**

**“Daughter thy faith had made thee whole, go in peace and be whole of thy plague”**

Yes, like the woman with the issue of blood, I suffered the same, I received healing in the same way too. Understanding the Word is great but, believing and applying is another level. There were many sacrifices I made to obtain what is already given to me.

So, now, I am free, I received much assistance to cope with the emotional stress accompanied by ill health.

A word of encouragement from me is that we should not accept negative situations, lay down and die inside but, we need to arise and shine, so putting our faith before us will help us achieve much!

# JESUS VISITS ME

## THE FIRST ENCOUNTER

CONTINUED ...

**Did you know He is visible in worship?** and the solution is when we come out victorious!

You will hear the worship leader say “Jesus is here now, let us worship Him,” this is true in every respect, because I have witnessed it firsthand.

I had seen the Lord walk in during worship on plenty occasions and placed on the floor a ball of fire on a particular, yet regular day.

He dwells where people worship, sing praises and do good.

**So, what’s He really like?**

Briefly, He is the most lovely, humble, and fun PERSON I know, more human than we think or believe. I know this as I have had conversation with Him in my home, when He visits me, it is in the early hours of the night, speaks like any other person would. He speaks in parables and asks me many questions to evaluate my knowledge.

There were more encounters I have experienced in my life, but that is for another time.

I hope this would cause a hope in you to rise, no matter the type of business, there is always a strategy and a solution, in the same manner, the Word is the strategy,



**BY PAMELA GOVENDER**

# What is the **Role of the Church**, and **My Part in it?**

The reason Jesus set up the Church is to train and equip believers to go out into the world and make disciples!

The purpose of the believer is to bring the disciple into the Church so they can be trained also. Then both (the disciple and their convert) go back into the world and make more disciples

The Church has three basic functions.

Recruiting, Training, and Sending.

## Recruiting

Jesus said “Go into the entire world.

So that is where we get our motivation to go and spread the gospel

What does “the entire world” include?

Starting at Jerusalem, then Judea, then Samaria, then the entire world.

So for me my Jerusalem is where I live, the immediate circle of people I mix with on a daily basis. Look for missions that are happening in my area.

And try to get involved

Judea would be my neighbor or city I live in.

Samaria would be my province. Get

prayer requests from some missions that are far away for you to pray for them . Also if you are able ask what projects they have, and donate money to the project God lays on your heart.

What do I say?

Tell of the experience you have had with Jesus. He said you will be my witnesses. A witness is someone who reports on an experience that he has been involved with.

The more people see a change in a life, the more they will want to follow it.

## Training

This involves many things.

Worship is the corporate result of Christians coming together to state their experience of their relationship with Jesus, and to state the awesomeness of God.

Fellowship is the result of each Christian’s personal relationship with Jesus. This comes from their own personal study of the Bible and their own prayer life, and each Christian wants to share what God has said to them. For example

# What is the **Role of the Church**, and **My Part in it?**

CONTINUED ...

- What was the last passage or song God has spoken to you about? What opportunity have I got today which God can use me in?
- What random act of kindness have you done, or done to you this week? **Discipleship**  
This is one of the roles of the Church. Jesus said Go and make disciples.
- What was the last thing God said to you? A Disciple is one who learns from Jesus the aspects of a Christian life.
- Who have you witnessed to this week? It starts with a personal relationship. But what is a relationship?

**Evangelism** is the outward sharing with other people their personal experience with Jesus.

This can be an organized outreach like street witnessing, visiting old age homes or shelters, prisons, distributing Christian literature, or writing for magazines or online blogs or even broadcasting over radio E.g. (Highway Radio).

**Witnessing** is also personal. When Jesus said “Go into the entire world and preach the Gospel,” That means gossip the gospel. Or in your going preach the gospel. As you come across each situation you face on a daily basis. Ask yourself. What would Jesus say or do in this conversation? How would you turn each situation into a God situation?

It is the way two or more people or things are connected.

So how do you get a relationship? It starts by talking to people. As a Christian it starts by studying the Bible and finding out who Jesus is and how he dealt with different situations. It follows that you are going to develop a habit of prayer, As Jesus also prayed sometimes through the night, sometimes alone.

As you start a relationship with people, try and get the conversation to a spiritual level. See where you and the other person are spiritually and try and get to the point where you can pray together and become accountable to each other. If there are questions find

# What is the **Role** of the **Church**, and **My Part** in it?

CONTINUED ...

someone older who you can trust and ask and expect his answer.

Attending a Bible study group can also become an accountability group. How has the last week been? "A group that prays together, stays together."

There are lots of disciplines to learn as a Christian. How do you handle money, addictions, eating habits, what you watch on social media, pressures from peer groups, relationships with the opposite sex?

What this results in is a trust for Jesus. When a situation arises and you don't know what to do, or what the right choice to make is; because of your relationship with Jesus, the Bible says:

Weather you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying "This is the way; walk in it (Is 30:21)

## Sending

After you have experienced Jesus in your life, you will want to share it with others.

The Church has a number of programs that can help with sending. Like Alpha

Course, EE3, Roman Road, and others. Try finding a group where these are happening.

The best method of learning how to witness is to go with another Christian and learn from him/her and very soon you will tell others how you became a Christian.

A long time ago I was involved with a Church building project. Years later this minister came down to our Church and told me that the Church that we had helped build was now sending out missionaries.



**BY DOUGLAS APPELBY**

# POWER VERSES

BY BRITNEY JENINE

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Romans 8:32

I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. Psalm 37:25

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:8-9

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. Matthew 6:34

# BIBLE STORIES

## The Sun Stands Still

(Joshua 10:1-15)

Now Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem heard that Joshua had taken Ai and totally destroyed it, doing to Ai and its king as he had done to Jericho and its king, and that the people of Gibeon had made a treaty of peace with Israel and had become their allies. He and his people were very much alarmed at this, because Gibeon was an important city, like one of the royal cities; it was larger than Ai, and all its men were good fighters. So Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem appealed to Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish and Debir king of Eglon. “Come up and help me attack Gibeon,” he said, “because it has made peace with Joshua and the Israelites.”

Then the five kings of the Amorites—the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish and Eglon—joined forces. They moved up with all their troops and took up positions against Gibeon and attacked it.

The Gibeonites then sent word to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal: “Do not abandon your servants. Come up to us quickly and save us! Help us, because all the Amorite kings from the hill country have joined forces against us.”

So Joshua marched up from Gilgal with his entire army, including all the best fighting men. The Lord said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid of them; I have given them into your hand. Not one of them will be able to withstand you.”

After an all-night march from Gilgal, Joshua took them by surprise. The Lord threw them into confusion before Israel, so Joshua and the Israelites defeated them completely at Gibeon. Israel pursued them along the road going up to Beth Horon and cut them down all the way to Azekah and Makkedah. As they fled before Israel on the road down from Beth Horon to Azekah, the Lord hurled large hailstones down on them, and more of them died from the hail than were killed by the swords of the Israelites.

On the day the Lord gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the Lord in the presence of Israel:

“Sun, stand still over Gibeon,  
and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon.”  
So the sun stood still,  
and the moon stopped,  
till the nation avenged itself on its enemies,  
as it is written in the Book of Jashar.

The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day. There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the Lord listened to a human being. Surely the Lord was fighting for Israel!

Then Joshua returned with all Israel to the camp at Gilgal.

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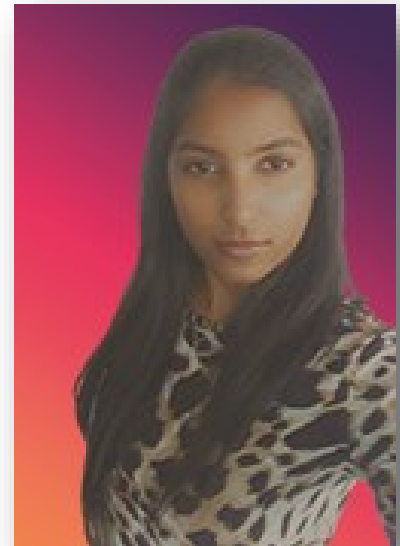


## *The Sincere Prayer of a Broken Man*

A man who cries, a man in pain  
 A man who screams in the midst of rain  
 He crawls to the altar, on his knees he waits  
 For the light from heaven's open gates  
 He looks to the One with the nail pierced hands  
 To touch his fragile heart and remind him of His Plans

The man bowed his head as a tear gently fell  
 He muttered simple words for his heart wasn't well  
 He yearned for the song that the angels do sing  
 And stretched out his hands for what that will bring  
 "I have nothing", he said, "but You and Your love  
 If I knew how to face this, I wouldn't have come  
 I have shed all my tears, but more will still flow  
 Truth be told, I don't know where else to go  
 I know I'm not worthy but Your love has proved true  
 Lord Jesus, please help me, I give it all to you"

As the man took a breath, he felt a release in the air  
 A burden lifted off him, a load no more to bear  
 He broke out in tears, displayed a tender smile  
 A chuckle of laughter for he heard Him say "You're mine"  
 A warmth he did feel as he was sheltered by Him  
 The Holy Spirit embraced the outward and the in  
 He stood up with strength that God had bestowed  
 Wiped his face dry from the sorrows he had known  
 He made it to the altar a shattered, broken man  
 And he left from there with Jesus holding onto his hand



**BY BRITNEY JENINE**

# GAMING TIME!!!

## Bible Riddles



1. I was the fourteenth king of the Kingdom of Judah. I became king at the age of 12 and reigned for 55 years. Who am I?

2. We were a first century Christian missionary married couple described in the New Testament. We lived, worked, and travelled with the Apostle Paul. Who are we?

3. I was known for my good works and acts of charity. I was a generous person who sewed for others and gave to the needy. I was a disciple of Jesus. I was raised from the dead. Who am I?

4. I was urged by Paul to forgive my runaway slave Onesimus. I am a book in the New Testament. Who am I?

# YouthCross Experience

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

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*Britney  
Jenine*

Editor-In-Chief

**Owned by God**  
**Redeemed by Christ**  
**Sealed with the Holy Spirit**

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