

A Passion For Souls

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Dr. Stan Frye, Editor

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Dr. Stan Preaching The Gospel In A Kenya Prison

From The Editor's Desk.....

Dear Beloved Friends and Supporters of GIMI,

Blessed greetings to you in the name of Jesus! I trust that you and your family are well, and that our wonderful Lord is blessing you richly! The reason I am writing this e-mail today is to share with you a tremendous opportunity for GIMI to share the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ with thousands of people. Some of you may know that back in 2011, South Sudan broke away from Sudan in the North and became a new country in Africa. Things went very well for two years, but then, down in the South, civil war broke out again. Thousands have been killed in this war, and thousands more have had to flee the country. Right now, in Northern Uganda, there is a refugee camp with over 54,000 people in it. These people are living in absolute horrible conditions, and they have lost almost all hope. It is even hard to describe what these people are going through.

We have a dear Pastor Friend, Mogga Leju, who has worked with GIMI in the past, and right now, his family is living in this large refugee camp. He pastors a church in South Sudan, and he preaches in the prisons there. He only gets to see his family about every two months when he travels down to Uganda to the refugee camp. I feel strongly that God wants GIMI to help Mogga preach the Gospel to those in South Sudan, but especially, to the South Sudanese living in this huge refugee camp. But, in order to do this, we need additional financial support. I am just simply asking many of you to really prayerfully consider giving to this new effort, and to do so, just as soon as you can. We need to provide Bibles for Moggy's ministry, humanitarian aid for the suffering people, and we especially need to minister to the hundreds and hundreds of mothers and their children in this camp. Presently, in addition to Mogga, we have one of our GIMI preachers living just South of the refugee camp who wants to help Brother Mogga reach the camp. Our preacher's name is Patrick Ogaba, and he has worked with us for 34 years. We already support Patrick's prison ministry in Uganda, but now, we need to help him with some additional help to minister along beside of Pastor Mogga. I do ask you as God's people to help us launch this special crusade to win thousands to Christ before they die lost in their sins.

So, I would ask that you consider sending an additional gift to GIMI, and designate it for the South Sudan Refugee Camp. We really need to get started with this effort, and it needs to be done now just before Easter. Just remember that we are taking the Gospel of our resurrected Lord to these thousands of people. It is our prayer that God might richly reward you for your investment in this overwhelming project. We thank you so much!

I started my full-time Christian ministry 54 years ago as a very young man. God called me to follow His call to preach the Gospel for over one year, but I was too afraid and had no confidence in my ability to be a man of God. Yet, I did finally surrender my life to serve Jesus with the rest of my life. I was truly scared, but I knew with God's help that this young country boy could be used by God. I suppose you could say that I was down on my ability, but up on His ability to make of me what He wanted me to become. I had no idea what was ahead for me and my family, but I was determined to take one step at a time and try to become the man of God that God wanted me to be. I want you to know that I was 18 years old when God called me and I was 19 when I finally got the courage to tell others that He had.

I was so insecure at the very thought of trying to preach the Gospel, but I had a tremendously teachable spirit and an insatiable hunger to learn the Bible. I knew with God's help and the help of numbers of other faithful pastors that I could become a genuine man of God. Why, I even sold cans of mildew spray to make money to help me buy some books which I needed to get started in the study of God's Word.

As I tried to walk with God day by day, I would often be criticized and made fun of by numbers of people, especially some of my work colleagues in the furniture factor where I worked. But finally the day came when my wife, JoAnne, and I took a great step of faith and resigned my job and started attending Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute where I was one of the two youngest men on campus. You need to know that most preachers who were there studying for the ministry were already pastoring local churches, and I was just beginning my ministry. I respected these older preachers, and I did everything I could to hang out with these men of God, and learn everything I could from these experienced pastors and my professors who taught me various subjects to better prepare me for the ministry. Every day was truly a challenge for me because of my fear, my ineptness, my insecurity, and truthfully, my reverence for the older men of God that God was using mightily in their fields of service. I felt so inadequate to be where I was, but one thing I knew was that I didn't ask to be called by God, but I knew that He had called me and I was determined to answer this call and totally surrender my life to Jesus in the years ahead.

Week after week and month after month, I devoted myself to learning everything I could from my education, but more so to develop an intimacy with Jesus Christ so that I could have His power and anointing. As I grew in the Lord and in my ability as a future pastor, I became more and more convinced of the sacredness of the calling I had, and how much God wanted me to live a holy life. Of course, I failed Jesus many times, but I would always rush back to Him and repent of my sins and move on by faith.

I was only in the Bible institute for six months when believe it or not, God called me to be a pastor. A dear older preacher friend of mine, Pastor Dean Dillard, recommended me to this small mountain church. I was so excited about our new work and ministry that I just couldn't believe that God was giving me this privilege. Thus, because of my love for Jesus, my appreciation for His call upon my life, and because of my desire to not let down Pastor Dillard and other older preachers who had taken a personal interest in me, I moved ahead with reverential fear of the position I held, the pulpit in which I would preach, and the tremendous responsibility that God had given to me. Folks, I was so humbled by the fact that God would give me the chance to preach His Word, pastor His people, and to win people to Jesus, that many times I sat in my study and wept over my new role. I did this because I felt so unworthy of having the position that I held. And, because of my reverence for God and His calling, I determined that I would lead every worship service, every activity, and take care of my entire pastoral role with a devotion and a recognition that God was going to hold me accountable for the way I conducted myself as the leader of a local body of believers. I just sincerely believed that there was truly something special about being a servant of God.

Where Is The Sacredness Of The Pulpit Today?

As the years have come and gone so quickly, I have seen in churches all over America a growing lack of appreciation for the Word of God and a fearless disdain that has resulted in a complete desecration of the place of the pulpit and the preached Word by our preachers. As JoAnne and I have traveled in and out of churches all across America, we have been utterly amazed at the loss of reverence, the desecration of their pulpits by so-called pastors, and seemingly, the total disregard for holiness and Godliness in worship services. Instead of the preaching of the Word behind the sacred desk in reverence to God, we now have these modern preachers sitting on stools in blue jeans with their shirt tails out and often dressed like a kid that has just come home from school after a rough dirty day. They come to the pulpit areas and try to continue to work up the crowd following the rock concerts that have just been performed, and they want to make sure that they make everyone feel good so that they will be back at church next Sunday morning because they don't have Sunday night and Wednesday night services any more. They never read much Scripture, spend little time in prayer, and they want to hurry and finish their little sermonettes so everyone can go home and feel good about themselves without any repentance or change.

Some while ago I saw one pastor sitting on a stool with holes in his blue jeans spinning an umbrella over his head. He was trying to illustrate his sermon to get the point across, but why do we need such antics when we have the power of the Holy Spirit to teach and convict people of the need to change their lives? These kind of things indicate several things. One is that maybe the pastor and the church have run the Holy Spirit off rather than welcoming Him to the service. Secondly, maybe this generation of people is so dumb that they have to have vivid illustrations rather than just simply listen to God speak through His Word. I personally believe that this kind of behavior belittles the people sitting in the pews and chairs. Thirdly, dressing down to attend church may be cool to the world, but according to the Word of God, the church is not to lower the standards to draw in the crowd, but we are to maintain standards that will welcome His Excellence, the precious Holy Spirit.

Folks, we must learn that when we go to church, it is not to be entertained or to enjoy a performance, but we should be going to church to worship Jehovah God. For instance, the other day when I was sick and could not go to church, my wife and I sat at home and watched some programs on TV. In one of the services, I saw a wild young man with extremely long hair playing a base guitar on the platform using the guitar to almost mimic a sex act. The last time I saw this behavior was way back in the early seventies when I was witnessing at a rock festival. Back then we saw this horrible behavior in an outdoor scene up on a platform before thousands of confused young and old people who were high on drugs and alcohol and were living like pigs in a sty. I still can remember the smell that came from the festival. It smelled of marijuana, sweat, urine, and vomit everywhere. And there on the stage, I saw some young band members playing their guitars just like I did in a church this past Sunday on TV. Folks, there is no need to ask why our country is in such a mess. If we have thrown away the Word of God, desecrated the places where pastors used to preach

the infallible book of God, and we have made the places of worship to be places where nobody feels uncomfortable, then we have no right to even question the immorality, the debauchery, and the destructive behavior of our children and young people. If there is nothing to measure our lives by, then we all do what is right in our own eyes. This is the same thing that the Bible says happened in the last verse of the Book of Judges. **Judges 21:25, "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes."** In other words, the people threw away law and order, rules and regulations, and just lived in total anarchy. Did you ever think that our local churches would be the breeders of wild, which is coming to the streets of America unless there is spiritual revival and we cry out to God in repentance? These young "Punk Pastors" who have thrown sacredness to the win, will reap more than what they have sown. And, they will be held accountable by God for mixing truth with the idol worship of pleasure and recreation. I sincerely fear what God is going to do to chastise us as America Christians for our part in the destruction of that which is sacred and holy.

"Watch out: Here Come The Punk Pastors!"

Some time ago, JoAnne and I were in a really great church in South Carolina, and during the sermon, I mentioned these "Punk Pastors". At the conclusion of the service, one of the men in the church came up to me and asked me to explain what a "Punk Pastor" is, and according to my definition. I proceeded to tell him what I thought a "Punk Pastor" was and how these pastors carry themselves. Well, believe it or not, the man got angry with me but he controlled himself very well. The reason he got angry was because he said, "I got saved under one of these punk pastors." Well folks, I don't know who the preacher was when he got saved, but I do know that God can even use His Word to save a lost man even when it is preached by another lost man. The Word does the convicting, not the preacher! Now, I am not saying that this "Punk Pastor" was not saved, but it is wrong to try to justify wrong and the modern desecration of the pulpit by yours or someone else's experience, but we should measure our theology and personal beliefs by Biblical truth. So, you probably now want to know what I consider to be the characteristics or even traits of "Punk Pastors"? Well, I am going to give you some of these. I do pray that these might help you to watch for these things wherever you go to church. Please be careful!

First of all as I have observed some of these modern "Punk Pastors", I have noticed that they are in a state of rebellion against anything traditional and from the past. Their mandate is to tear down and replace everything from the past whether it has been successful or not. Their belief is that we must change everything in order to win this new generation to Christ. Well, I remember some people telling me back in the late sixties and early seventies that we would have to lower the standards and lighten up on the preaching in order to reach people. By God's grace, JoAnne and I have proven this concept to be a farce. God has given us the privilege of pastoring some growing churches through our years of ministry, even with me preaching the Gospel and confronting sin from my pulpits!

Secondly, one scary thing that I have noticed about these modern preachers is that they don't have a teachable spirit at all, and as they run around with their laptops and I-pads, they are getting everything they need and want from the web. In this horrible state of rebellion, these young pastors often disrespect any older man of God, they reject the message and methods he has used, and sometimes they just simply refuse to listen to anyone unless it comes from the internet or another "Punk Pastor" who has jived up his services. And believe it or not, so many of these pastors show very little spiritual evidence that they love Jesus or lost souls.

Another thing I have noticed about "Punk Pastors" is that they dress like the have just come from a bar or maybe even the ball field or stadium. JoAnne and I saw one of these pastors in the State of Texas that wore the same shirt for three straight worship services. I do pray that he was able to wash it between services less the smell would have been so strong that no one could have stood to be around him. So, these pastors don't realize Whose servant they are, the majestic One they are serving, and I personally believe that many of them have such low regard for the place of worship because they have low regard for themselves. The lack of self-esteem causes many people to go unkempt and ill dressed.

I would also like to add that a lot of these modern pastors have decided that house- to-house visitation and contacts are not for this generation. Please pardon this expression, "but I think this is completely stupid." The most successful way to bring people to Christ is to personally touch people's lives. And in order to do this, we must go where people are. Many years ago when I pastored a church in Tampa, Florida, there were a lot of gated communities, and people told me that we couldn't go into these areas. Are you kidding me? I assure you that we did, and there are ways to successfully reach people by personal contact in these homes. You say, "I don't believe this!" Well, just stop a minute and look at the Mormons and Jehovah Witnesses. Even with a false gospel, they are reaching people by the thousands by going door-to-door with missionary teams. This idea that no one wants us to show the concern is a blatant lie concocted by lazy preachers who let their fears and desires for ease destroy this great evangelistic opportunity. Please remember that it was Jesus who told us to go out by twos and share the Gospel in addition to teaching and preaching in the synagogues. And, don't forget that Jesus told us in **Luke 14**, that the people went out full of the Holy Spirit into the highways and hedges and compelled people to come into the great supper. The servants didn't try to force the people to come in this story, but they showed love and contacted the people with a personal touch. Some turned down the invitation, but many responded positively.

Another characteristic of many in this new generation of pastors is that they want to be everybody's buddy. They seemingly believe that they can better win men to Jesus through their charismatic personalities rather than under the power of the Holy Spirit. It is almost as if they believe that if they are buddies with everyone, they might be able to slip up on the blind side of these emotionally needy people and win them to Christ. But folks, I declare to you that we can't hood wink people into salvation and discipleship, but we must lovingly win them with the Holy Spirit drawing them. So, powerless pastors or people can't bring people to Christ, but powerful pastors and people filled with the Spirit of God can bring thousands of people to salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ. But, to have the anointing of the

Holy Spirit and the power of God to draw people, the pastors and people have to totally abandon themselves to Jesus! Half-hearted commitment will not bring about the anointing of God, and appeals for people to come to Christ personally and collectively in a church service will go unheeded with no anointing and no authentic response! There may be aisle walkers but there will be no changed lives. Why? Because Jesus alone does the drawing after we have been the messengers.

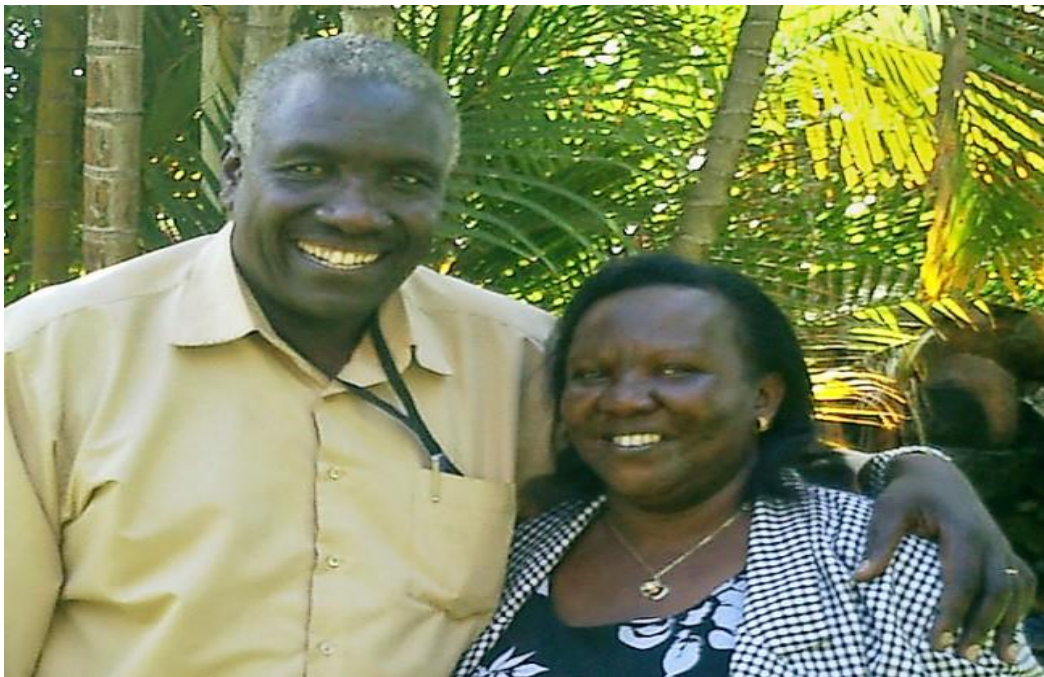
In the King's service,

Dr. Stan Frye
President of GIMI
John 4:35

Missions Moment!

Most of those who know me know that I love missions and mission work. In fact, I

have spent 35 years doing mission working in Africa. These years of ministry all started in Kenya, East Africa back in 1985. I went there for the first time with Brother Mickey Parrish and his wife, Alice. Ever since then we have been working in the prisons, schools, orphanages, and also ministering to the Prison Kids in the prisons. The GIMI Kenya Director is Brother Sammy Mbugua. Sammy has been doing a wonderful job of ministry for many years, and the success of GIMI in Kenya is dependent upon the leadership of Sammy. Sammy is one of the best GIMI has, and because of his faithfulness in leading and guiding all GIMI's staff there, the GIMI Kenya Ministry is flourishing. We wanted to introduce you to Brother Sammy and his wife, Rose. Please pray for Brother Sammy and all of the work there in Kenya. We have included a few photos to get you familiar with the GIMI mission work there in East Africa. I hope someday you will be able meet Sammy and Rose, maybe on one of our GIMI mission trips to Kenya. And, if you want more information just go to the GIMI web site. Just go to: gatewayinternationalmissions.com if you would like to see what Sammy and Rose are doing in Kenya.



Sammy and Rose Mbugua In Kenya

Sammy and Rose Minister In Schools And Prisons!



Madaraka School In Nairobi



Kenya CONDEMNED PRISONERS



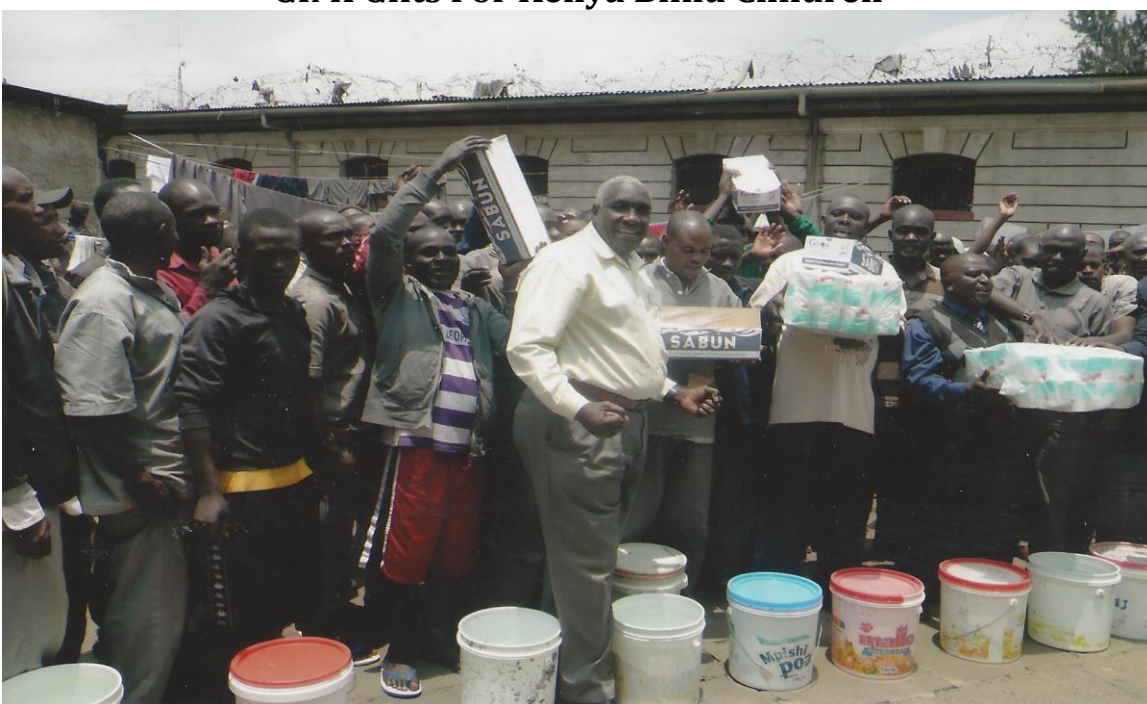
Christmas Gifts For Kenya Lady Prisoners



Christmas Gifts For Kenya Men Prisoners



GIMI Gifts For Kenya Blind Children



More GIMI Gifts For Kenya Prisoners

Some Lessons On Soul Winning

“The Difference In Leading A Soul and Winning A Soul To Christ”

I. HELPING A SOUL TO CHRIST.

- A. By giving out Gospel tracts, books, CD's, DVD's, films, etc.
- B. By supporting missionaries and missionary projects.
- C. By supporting radio and television programs that are giving out the Gospel.

II. BRINGING SOULS TO CHRIST.

- A. By getting the lost in the atmosphere of the Gospel.
- B. By bringing them to church and revival meetings.
- C. By bringing them to the preacher or staging a get-together with some soul winner.

III. LEADING SOULS TO CHRIST.

- A. By pointing those who are already convicted to Christ.
- B. By praying with those who come forward seeking in the invitation.
- C. By giving guidance and scripture to those who are ready.

IV. WINNING SOULS TO CHRIST.

- A. By persuading those who are interested.

Prov. 11:30 - “He that winneth souls is wise.” I Cor. 5:11 “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.”

Acts 18:4 - “And Paul reasoned in the synogogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.”

Luke 14:23 - “Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in that my house may be filled.”

- B. By travailing in intercessory prayer for those who are hardened.

Isaiah 66:8 - “For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.”

Gal. 4:19 - “My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you.”

“A Glimpse Of What Could Have Been”

By: Dr. Stan Frye

Today in this article I want to address a matter that has been heavy upon my heart for many years. As most of you know, I have been in full-time ministry for a very long time. For years I have watched church members come and go, while I have only seen a small percentage of these church members who really show much dedication and commitment to really follow Jesus Christ. A lot of work has been done in the churches, but sad to say, most of it has been done from the wrong motive or in the efforts of the flesh. The work has gotten done, but I am afraid that the effort has not always brought personal satisfaction and fulfillment. As I have watched people come and go, I must confess that I have seen far more unhappy professing believers than those who get a high out of their ministry. Much of what has been done has been done from obligation and not from a genuine passion to serve Jesus. Therefore, we have multitudes of unhappy unfulfilled people in our churches who are merely going through the routine and carrying out their roles just simply because they have to or because the pastor and other church leaders can't get anyone else to do the jobs.

Have you ever wondered why there are so many unhappy people in our churches? Have you ever given much thought to how shallow and half-hearted are the commitments of those who sit on church pews? Well, I have, and I have come to the conclusion that the primary reason that so many people only give God a half-hearted effort is because they are not willing to really pay the cost for obedience and service to God. Therefore, I very much fear that in the thousands that I have preached to in churches all across America, there is only a small percentage who even grasp the fact that when they stand before Jesus at the Judgment Seat of Christ, they are going to be extremely embarrassed when they discover that they will only get a glimpse of what could have been just simply because they didn't obey God completely, and neither did they serve Christ from the right motives. Therefore, they will have gone to their graves with only a glimpse for a moment of what they could have accomplished had they really been surrendered to Jesus and if they would have been willing to pay the price to serve Him completely.

Moses Only Got A Glimpse

I love the story of Moses from his call at the burning bush on the backside of the desert to his divine departure in death on top of Mount Pisgah in the mountains of the Sinai desert. His departure is described vividly in **Deuteronomy 34:1-5**. Please read these verses and let them speak to your hearts. ***“And Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, that is over against Jericho. And the Lord showed him all the land of Gilead, unto Dan, And all Naphtali, and the land of Ephraim, and Manasseh, and all the land of Judah, unto the utmost sea, and the south, and the plain of the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, unto***

Zoar. And the Lord said unto him, This is the land which I swear unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither. So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord."

Folks, did you catch the last phrase of these verses? It says that Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the Word of the Lord! God had called Moses at the burning bush to go down into Egypt and lead God's people out from under the heavy oppression of Pharaoh. Moses obeyed God after some reluctance, and God used him to bring over two million people out of Egyptian bondage. God's will was for him to take these people to the Promised Land. Moses and these two million people could have traveled to the promised land in no more than three to four weeks, but because of their rebellious spirits and disobedience, they ended up going around in circles for forty years until the original generation died off and God supernaturally prepared the new generation to follow His will.

When God took Moses to the top of Mount Pisgah, He was being extremely kind to Moses by simply giving him a vision of what could have been in his life at the end of his life, but then he was reminded of the fact that he could not go in. Why did Moses not get to achieve his greatest potential, and why did he not get to go into the promise land of blessing? Well, listen to the Word of God in **Numbers 20:12**, ***"And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them."***

If you will go back and read the verses prior to verse 12, you will find out that the people of Israel were out of water again and were mumbling and angry with Moses. God told Moses to speak to the same rock that He had first told him to smite when they first needed water. But, Moses got extremely mad at the people and instead of speaking to the rock, he smote the rock two times in strict disobedience to God. The water did indeed come out for the people, but this rock was a prototype of Jesus Christ dying on the cross, and there will never again be the need for Jesus to be smitten for our sins in order for us to drink the water of life. You can find the indication of this rock being a picture of Jesus in First Corinthians Chapter Ten.

So, Moses in his anger blatantly disobeyed the command of God, and because of this willful sin, it cost him and Aaron the Promised Land. Or in other words, it cost them their fullest potential because of their unbelief. This same thing is still happening in the churches all over Christendom today. People are hearing the commands of our Lord, but they are responding by trying to do God's will in their own way. Thus, unless they repent and totally surrender their lives to Christ, they will die on the mountain, figuratively speaking, having

on received a glimpse of what could have been in their lives instead of reaching their potential.

Folks, what about you? Are you reaching your potential for Christ, or will you be one of those who only gets a **“Glimpse of What Could Have Been”**? Have you gotten mad in a church where you have attended and jerked up your family and run over to another church without getting right with God? Have you disagreed with your church leadership and decided that you will just sit back and no longer be a participant? Have you gotten tired of the mumbling of those in your Sunday School class and decided that you are not going to put up with these devils anymore? Did you start out well for Jesus and help rescue scores of people from sinful bondage only to get frustrated and discouraged to the point where you quit? Did God tell you something explicit to do like surrender to preach the Gospel or maybe even go to the mission field, but you just decided that you know best for your family, so you will just serve Jesus here near home rather than take a step of faith and place your family in a risky place just simply to obey the will of God? If you say yes to any of these questions, then I fear that you will only get a glimpse of what could have been at the Judgment Seat of Christ! Does that bother you at all? It surely bothers me!

Why Are So Many Churches Dying?

By Dr. Stan Frye

I have been a pastor for a long time. During these years of ministry I may humbly say that God has blessed and my wife and I have seen a lot of people come to Jesus. We are so grateful for this, but to look around today at our modern churches, it

"Where there is no vision,
the people perish...."

Proverbs 29:18

is obvious that something is wrong. The crowds are gone, the pews are empty, and millions of dollars spent on church facilities are now being wasted as the buildings stand empty!

According to some recent statistics, over 75% of modern evangelical churches are either declining or at least plateaued. Why do you think this is happening? Let me give you some reasons I believe this is happening!

First, I believe our churches are declining because we have taken practical Bible preaching from the pulpits. What I mean by this is that instead of preaching expository verse by verse sermons, so many pastors have gone to sharing little topical sermonettes with no practical good except maybe for a laugh or two.

Secondly, I believe that our churches are declining because the Holy Spirit is no longer in the services, if He indeed was ever there. So many modern church leaders have allowed our church worship services to become platforms of performance for everything from rock bands to little dance routines with no demonstration of sacredness. In fact, many of these churches with performance mentalities have desecrated the worship experience with lewd dress and behavior. The services have become so worldly that God's Holy Spirit cannot possibly feel welcome in this environment. And because the Holy Spirit has left, church leaders feel inclined to stir up emotions to the point that things get out of control just to save face because the Spirit is gone. As a result of this, what we are seeing in our churches are two extremes. On one side there is the far out emotional services with weird behavior by the people, and on the other side there is a negative reaction to all of this emotion by being strict ritualistic with no desire to feel anything. Thus, when visitors come into the churches, they either get weird emotional performance or they get dried up liturgical ritual with no feeling whatsoever. Therefore, these dear people leave the churches and never come back.

A third reason I believe our churches are declining in America is because the church has lost its desire to win people to Christ and touch the lives of multitudes of people. In **Proverbs 11:30**, the Bible says, ***"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise."*** It is truly evident if our churches are declining that we are not being wise and going after souls. In fact, a lot of the preachers and church leaders that I know today make all kind of excuses for not going soul winning. They say that you can't visit in the homes any more because people won't let you in. And, yet the Mormons and Jehovah Witnesses are certainly growing in leaps and bounds by contacting homes and leaving literature. The truth is that if we are going to win people to Jesus, then we must touch people's lives. And, we can't do this sitting at home or back at the church building explaining why house visiting won't work any

more. Personally, I believe most of this neglect by pastors and church leaders is nothing less than plain laziness! We must learn that we will probably never win men and women unless we touch their lives personally with love, concern, compassion, and a ministering hand; especially in times of trouble or when there is difficulty in the homes. And, there is no better time to reach people than when they are hurting.

A fourth reason that our churches are dying is because the modern church family is not praying the way the church should pray. In our churches today the least attended meeting is the prayer meeting. You can schedule meetings to eat and scores of people will attend. Sound rather odd to me that God's people would rather do God's work without God's presence if it is going to require us to pray and ask for His presence. It would seem that we want our churches to become nothing more than glorified country clubs where we can go and hang out with other like-minded people and talk about the ball games, golf matches, or hunting trips. Isn't it amazing that there seems to be more excitement around our churches about bringing in the biggest deer or the largest fish than it is about snatching the lost world from the pits of hell!

Finally, I want to mention that I believe our churches are declining or dying because most churches have no vision or even desire to grow. These churches are usually controlled by either an insecure pastor who wants to keep his thumb on everything, or they are controlled by a long standing patriarch or matriarch in the church who has controlled things for so long that he or she doesn't want anyone to even turn on the vacuum cleaner without their permission. These kind of people have taken ownership of God's church and made it theirs. They don't want the church to grow because they will lose their control. And sad to say, a lot of these people are worldly and have no idea what it means to have a vision for the lost world. We must get back to the truth of **Proverbs 29:18**, where it says, "***Where there is no vision, the people perish;***" This is true for any church! We won't win people to Jesus unless we have the vision to go after them!

A Sermon That Will Preach!

By: Dr. Stan A. Frye

“Feeding A Multitude Of People”

Scripture: Mark 6: 30-44

I. NOTICE THE PREPARATION FOR THE FEEDING. vs. 30-31

- A. There must be an isolation with Jesus. v. 30a
- B. There must be a declaration to Jesus. v. 30b
- C. There must be a restoration by Jesus. v. 31

II. NOTICE THE PLACE OF THE FEEDING. vs. 32-33

- A. It was a place of desolation. v. 32
- B. It was a place of determination. v.33

III. NOTICE THE PASSION FOR THE FEEDING. v. 34

- A. Notice the initiation of this passion. v. 34a
- B. Notice the observation of this passion. v. 34b
- C. Notice the manifestation of this passion. v. 34c
- D. Notice the realization of this passion. v. 34d
- E. Notice the activation of this passion. v. 34e

IV. NOTICE THE PERCEPTION AGAINST THE FEEDING. vs. 35-37

- A. The disciples perceived that the time was too late. v. 35
- B. The disciples perceived that the task was too large. v. 36
- C. The disciples perceived that the treasure was too little. v. 37

V. NOTICE THE PLAN FOR THE FEEDING. vs. 38-41

- A. There must be an evaluation of the treasure. v. 38
- B. There must be a separation of the team. vs. 39-40
- C. There must be a supplication for His touch. v. 41a
- D. There must be a delegation of the tasks. v. 41b

VI. NOTICE THE PRODUCTS OF THE FEEDING. vs. 42-44

- A. There was an ample supply for the hungry. v. 42
- B. There was an abundant supply for the helpers. v. 43
- C. There was an amazing supply for the host. v. 44

“Some Lessons On Soul Winning”

In the next several editions of Passion Magazine, we are going to include some very

practical information on soul winning. This information will come from an old book compiled back in 1969 by Pastor Buddy Murphrey, Corpus Christi, Texas. This is some of the greatest soul winning information you will ever find. We encourage you to really study these lessons and use them in your personal lives to bring people to Christ. John Wesley said to his preachers and church leaders, "You have nothing to do but win souls".

Motives For Soul Winning

A motive is an underlying reason or cause for certain action being performed. If we are winning souls there has to be a reason for the incentive. Let us check and determine the real reason we are winning souls. Consider the several scriptural motives for soul winning.

I. WHEN WE WIN SOULS WE GLORIFY GOD.

I Corinthians 10: 31 - *"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God"*

God the Father is being dishonored by sinners whom we have not led to Christ continuing on in their sin. God the Son's death is being made useless when sinners are not led to appropriate it. It is as if Jesus had not died or had died in vain when sinners are not led to take advantage of His work of convicting and drawing the sinner by our failure to give out the Gospel message. The Holy Spirit's work is contingent upon our responsibility of giving out the Gospel. So you see, God is being dishonored; Christ's death is being dissipated; and the Holy Spirit is being disappointed when we fail to win souls. What a terrible sin against the Holy Trinity! Adversely therefore, to win souls certainly glorifies God. This is the great motive for doing personal work.

II. WHEN WE WIN SOULS WE RESCUE SINNERS FROM HELL.

Psalms 9:17 - *"The wicked shall be turned into Hell, and all people who forget God."*

Our hearts should be stirred as we realize the terrible fate of the souls without Christ. We should at least have as much compassion for perishing sinners as we do a drowning man when we throw him a rope. It is only decent and moral to want to rescue someone from suffering forever in the lake of fire. The Bible declares that people who die without Christ will be lost forever. Certainly this is a motive for winning souls.

III. WHEN WE WIN SOULS WE ENCOURAGE OTHER CHRISTIANS.

I Thess. 2:19-20 - *"For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For ye are our glory and our joy."*

This really is a by-product of soul winning; yet it has some motivation in that we are commanded to encourage and edify the brethren. The truth is, when souls are saved, other believers are thrilled and inspired. Not only is there rejoicing in heaven but there is also rejoicing on earth among the real born-again Christians.

IV. WHEN WE WIN SOULS WE STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH.

Acts 2:47 - "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. Neither was there any among them that lacked; for as many as possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, and laid them down at the Apostles' feet;..." (Acts 4:34-35)

This by-product of soul winning is also a motive in that we want to see the church strengthened spiritually with new blood. From these souls added to the church will come tithes and offerings, and many new people will help lead the church and cause it to grow. Many churches are stifled and unable to even carry out a missionary program because they have so few members. Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing if all the members would win one soul and double their membership thereby having twice as much spiritual and financial strength to reach out for Christ. (A church that is not growing is not a New Testament Church SAF).

V. WHEN WE WIN SOULS WE HASTEN THE RETURN OF CHRIST.

Romans 11:25 - "...blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in."

God is calling out a bride for his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. This Gentile bride is called the church. It is composed of all born-again believers from the cross until Christ returns. When this church is completed (when the last soul has been saved) Jesus will come back again to receive His bride Himself. As we win souls we are helping to complete the bride thus hastening the return of Jesus.

*Now we would like to share with all of you that if you would like to purchase this entire book on soul winning, you may do so. The title of the book is "Drawing the Net" and it was written back in 1969 by Pastor Buddy Murphrey of Corpus Christi, Texas. To buy a copy just contact Pastor Murphrey at P.O. Box 3212, Corpus Christi, Texas 78463. You might like to study this book with other believers who desire to become soul winners. It is great book and we recommend it very highly! You may also call at: 1-361-853-9758

"Shallow Preachers Produce Shallow People!"

By: Dr. Stan A. Frye

I think most of us would agree that America is in a bad shape spiritually. It would seem that as we approach the time for the second coming of our Lord that things are getting worse and worse. And yet, why would this be true in a day when we have so many ways to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ so strongly? Well, let me tell you that I believe that we are in the mess we are in because of the absence of deep-rooted preachers in the pulpits of our churches and because of the shallowness of the people in the pews. It utterly amazes me how few preachers today are preaching expository sermons verse by verse through the Bible, but instead are preaching little shallow topical sermons that have no meat on the sermons, thus producing anemic believers in the pews.

In the Book of Hebrews, the writer whom I believe was Paul the Apostle, said to the scattered Jewish believers that by the time they should have been teachers, they were still having to be taught. Read with me the following verses and see what Paul was trying to tell these shallow believers in the first century. **Hebrews 5:11-14** says, ***"Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For everyone that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."*** Folks, do you see what Paul is saying? He is saying that the Hebrew believers were so shallow that even after being saved for a long time they were still having to be given the milk of the word because they were not grown up enough to take the meat of the word. I believe this is what is happening here in America, and even around the world. We have shallow teachers teaching shallow people, and these shallow preachers and people are not able to withstand the storms of the times we are living in. So, the precious Word of God is not being proclaimed, but instead, our churches are getting warmed over Pabulum sermons which are producing weak and childish Christians who desire to hear little sermonettes to make them laugh and enjoy the entertainment and fun on Sunday mornings. But, when it comes to dealing with the difficulties of life, most believers don't know how to deal with these problems because they have been given a steady diet of shallow preaching. Thus, we have shallow churches that stand for nothing and go along with every kind of sin that is happening in the world.

Please read the following verse that this same Paul wrote to the Ephesian church. **Ephesians 3:17-** ***"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love."*** This is an admonition to the Ephesian church that they should be rooted and grounded in the love of Christ. When this happens, the people in the churches will be able to make the love of Christ preeminent in their lives and they will be able to stand firm regardless of what Satan sends their way. So, if we are going to have grounded and rooted people, we must have the infallible Word of God preached in the pulpits. Will you please help me pray that God might send a revival of deep-rooted preachers preaching the deep things of God in the pulpits across America? Shallow preachers preaching shallow sermons resulting in shallow people are literally killing our churches and nation. May God raise up some preachers who will spend time in the study of God's Word and come out on fire to proclaim the

deep things of God's Book so that when their people face the storms of life that they will be able to stand firm and not be destroyed. God give us some solid deep preachers again!

“Help For Pastors And Their Ministries”

“Some Suggestions For Altar Counselors”

I. BE SPIRITULLY PREPARED.

- A. You must have the assurance of your salvation.
- B. You must be spiritually clean with your sins confessed up to date.
- C. You need to have spent much time with Jesus praying for the invitation.
- D. You need to pray for the filling of the Holy Spirit.
- E. You need to pray for God's leadership in dealing with each person.
- F. You need to be familiar with scripture passages and have them marked in your Bible.

II. BE PHYSICALLY PREPARED.

- A. You must be clean and neat.
- B. You must not have bad breath.
- C. You need to make sure that you have a marked Bible with you.
- D. You need to be completely familiar with the decision cards.
- E. You need to have a good pen with you.
- F. You might like to have a calling card to leave with the counselee so that he or she can call you at home.

III. RELATING TO THE PERSON.

- A. Have a genuine smile.
- B. Be kind and gracious.
- C. Show genuine compassion.
- D. Have a mind set to not be domineering.
- E. Have a mind set to not be argumentative.

IV. THE COUNSELING SESSION ITSELF.

- A. Ask the right questions.
- B. Listen carefully.
- C. Speak clearly.
- D. Present the Gospel plainly-With the lost give the plan of salvation.
- E. Pray with the counselee.
- F. Fill out the decision card completely.
- G. Don't talk the counselee out of their decision.
- H. Open the door for a follow up visit in the homes.

Today's Vanishing Sunday School

By: Sunday School Consultant
and Seminar Leader, Roger Buff

Strange as it may sound, the decline begins with a lack of emphasis on Sunday School from our pulpits. According to George Barna, a declining percentage of pastors claim that Sunday School is their top priority. His research indicates that just one in every seven Senior Pastors (15%) considers Sunday School to be their church's highest priority. Fewer churches today are offering Sunday School for children and youth and the number is increasing yearly.

Until pastors recognize and embrace the fact that Sunday School focuses on the centrality of the Bible and is at the very heart of the mission of the church, the Sunday Sunday School will continue to decline. Dr. Ken Hemphill, past president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and recognized Sunday School expert states that ".....the beginning of the so-called demise of Sunday School can be traced to a time when denominations and local churches failed to use the Sunday School with evangelistic intentionality and purpose." (Hemphill 1996,4)

Sunday School classes no longer focus on reaching and teaching others with Biblical principles. As stated previously, the primary goal for Sunday School must be to reach the lost and unchurched. Our modern-day world has become "me focused" and therefore blinded to the needs of others. Their problems have become just that-their problems. Our Lord's words in **Matthew 9:37** are becoming more relevant every day, "***The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few.***"

Many churches are unwilling to organize Sunday School classes for care and growth. Many churches have neglected basic Sunday School organizational principles, often for years. There is an absence of goals, and in fact, in most churches recordkeeping is nominal at best. I find it difficult to understand why businesses recognize the necessity for keeping records and setting goals, yet many Sunday Schools don't find even the rudimentary organizational principles important.

The training of teachers and officers is imperative for Sunday School success. There is a tendency for most teachers to carry out all the duties in their class, failing to recognize that they are stifling the talents of the very people they are trying to reach and teach. Because members learn much more quickly by doing rather than hearing only, teachers are unwittingly robbing their members of a chance to learn the truths that will ultimately set them free. God gives every believer at least one spiritual gift and only when that gift is utilized will the believer be fulfilled. Sunday School is the principal setting where this must happen.

The process of organizing Sunday School classes for maximum effectiveness is quite simple. The class should be organized with an Outreach Leader and Group

Leaders for each six to eight members of the class. The Outreach Leader fills the role of what was previously known as the Class President. Each Group Leader is responsible to care for their assigned members, paying close attention to their spiritual and physical needs. When this happens, churches will begin to plug the holes where the members "fall through the cracks".

Too often Sunday School classes are established and managed to stay small. Classes are reluctant to divide for growth (a Biblical principle by dividing to multiply). Starting new classes or units create new growth. It almost never fails. Teachers are reluctant to train new leaders (the first and primary role of a leader). Too many teachers are focused on telling members what they have learned from their study rather than asking questions and creating a desire within their members to search the Word for life's answers.

It's important for classes to invite guests but more importantly be ready when these guests arrive. Guests must believe this class is "the one" where I can feel most comfortable and involved. Name tags and introductions go a long way toward accomplishing this. Children and Nursery classes must be safe, clean, stocked with appropriate equipment and supplies and staffed with trained and courteous teachers.

Successful Sunday Schools have one common denominator. They have accountability systems that are well documented and enforced. Teachers and officers must know the requirements in advance and agree to them. Without accountability, there will be no substantial growth. **Romans 14:12** states, ***"So then everyone of us shall give account of himself to God."***

And last, but certainly not least, prayer must be the central theme for success. Without prayer, all is in vain anyway!