

# GATEWAY INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS REPORT



"A Passion for Souls"

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Dr. Stan A. Frye, President

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

Dear Beloved GIMI Team Members,

Blessed early spring greetings in the precious name of Jesus! I pray that you and your family are well and that our wonderful Lord continues to bless your faithful ministry for Jesus! As I stated in our last newsletter, these are truly turbulent times in which we live, and the greatest need we have is for God's church to experience a genuine revival that will get us back to doing faithful outreach and evangelism, and also, to get our people outside of our church walls and get us busy in world missions winning people to Christ. As I have stated many times before, multitudes of lost people are dying everyday without Christ, and we must get busy doing our best to share the Gospel with people of every race and ethnic background in order to give them a chance to be saved today, just before Jesus returns again! God has given every one of His children the Great Commission to go into the entire world and share the good news of the Gospel and to explain the only way for people to get saved and go to heaven, which is of course only through

our Lord Jesus Christ! May we never forget that every day in the entire world, it is conservatively estimated that almost 89,000 people die lost without Christ. This is more than 30 million people that plunge into the fiery regions of hell every twelve months! Folks, do these numbers scare you? They surely scare me, and they make me want to work harder, worker smarter, and reach more people than we ever have before. But yet, we have had the greatest year of harvest in the history of GIMI during this past year of 2019. Like Paul the Apostle, we want to keep on pressing forward for the great prize, which is just before us. We must not quit, draw back, get lazy, become apathetic, and lose heart in this wicked generation of humanistic and secularistic debauched people who show no interest, or at least very little, in knowing God or in having God, through the Gospel message, change their lives. Yet, we do know that the only hope that any person has in living a fruitful and joyful life here in this evil world is only found in a personal relationship with God the Father through Jesus Christ the Son! Truly, an old hymn says it so well, **"My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name."** Folks, we have the message that the world needs to know. So, will you join us here at GIMI in being a part of the Great Commission? Dr. Johnny Hunt used to say, "The Great Commission is still the Great Commission!" And, truly it is and will be until Jesus comes again!



**DURING THE YEAR OF 2019,  
GIMI SHARED THE GOSPEL  
WITH 1,531,952 PEOPLE!!!**

Now, let me mention some wonderful updated news that I started talking about in our last newsletter. We have finally consummated our totals for all of last year, and as the numbers have kept coming in, we have just been rejoicing more and more in what God did last year in and through this blessed ministry.

I will repeat it once more because I know that some of you reading this newsletter might not be too much in tune with numbers in the work of the Lord, but the Book of Acts surely did list a lot of numbers throughout the early part of church history. Therefore, I think it is very proper for us to list the great number of people, which GIMI has shared the Gospel with, and also, the huge number of souls that have been saved from these numbers. These numbers encourage me tremendously, because they give me more incentive to reach more and more people with the Gospel message. Why, I remember just two years ago that when Dr. Billy Graham died, it was reported that he preached the Gospel to 285 million people during his lifetime. So, I believe it is very proper, and very Biblical, to give a report about the number of people we are getting the Gospel to, and also, the number of those first-time decisions of people coming to Christ. Therefore, I count it a great blessing to share with you the great privilege of sharing the Gospel with so many people during 2019, and most of all, the huge harvest of souls. So, my dear friends, will you rejoice with us in knowing that during this past year, our GIMI national workers and our American mission teams preached and taught the Gospel to the largest number of souls in our 20 years of history. **During 2019, we were privileged to tell 1,531,952 people about our Lord Jesus Christ, and of this number, God gave us over 195,847 people who prayed a first-time prayer to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. May I just shout, "Praise God for His saving power!"** By God's giving us this great harvest of souls, we are just inspired to work harder, be more diligent, and raise more funds so that we can see even more people come to Christ during 2020! I hope all of you will rejoice with us. And, I pray that every one of you will even consider giving more to help us take the Gospel message to more and more people that need to hear a message of hope in this hopeless world, which is filled with so much hate and bitterness!

Christmas is now passed, but the tremendous harvest God gave us during this Christmas season is

truly related to the Christmas Cow Project in Uganda, and of course, because of the numbers of other Christmas parties our national preachers and teachers did in all of our countries. Our national workers did a wonderful job of presenting the Gospel message during all of our Christmas party distributions. Hundreds and hundreds of inmates and school students gave their hearts to Christ in the weeks leading up to Christmas, and now we are receiving the news about just how many people did get saved through this large effort. Let me say it again, **"We are still praising the Lord for His mighty saving power!"**

**On January 10-11, 2020,  
GIMI Celebrated 20 Wonderful Years  
Of Winning People To Christ In Africa!**

It is so hard to believe, but Jo Anne and I have just completed our 20th Anniversary since we took over this wonderful African ministry from Mickey and Alice Parrish of Jacksonville, Florida. Brother Mickey is now with Jesus, while Sister Alice is struggling with some major health issues. But yet, it just seems like it was only yesterday since we assumed responsibility for this great work, and then, we changed the name to Gateway International Missions, Inc. Truly God has poured out His Divine blessings on this marvelous ministry by giving us a tremendously huge harvest of souls. During these past 20 years, our GIMI workers and American Mission teams have presented the Gospel message to just over 11 million people, with 3 million of these dear people making first-time decisions to get saved and follow Christ. For this majestic harvest, we are continuing to give God all the glory and praise for the thousands and thousands of saved souls and changed lives. Truly, God has had and still does have His mighty hand upon GIMI. We are just continuing to celebrate what God has done, and yes, what He is still doing. As I stated a few paragraphs back in this newsletter, this past year has been the greatest single year we have ever experienced.

As I stated in the caption of this section, on the evening of January 10th, we had a wonderful evening of fellowship, praise, worship, and we were given a dynamic challenge for the future. Dr. David Gallamore, one of my dearest friends, and one of the greatest preachers in America, preached a dynamic message from God's Word challenging us continue to take the Gospel message to the fields of the world that are white unto harvest. His text came from Psalm 126, from

which we were admonished to go forth sowing the seeds of the Gospel so that we could return home bringing our sheaves with us. God really used Pastor David, who is the Senior Pastor of the great Rock Springs Baptist Church in Easley, SC.

Also, on Friday evening, Pastor David's wife, Shirley, provided special singing for us, along with Sister Kathy Hedrick, who is one of the great soloist in Oxford Baptist Church, where my son, Pastor Joel Frye, is the pastor. This special music was just a tremendous blessing, and all of the 70 plus people present for our GIMI Celebratory Banquet were so blessed by this wonderful music, and of course, Pastor David's tremendous preaching!

Following the Friday evening celebration, on Saturday morning, our GIMI Board of Directors met for our annual GIMI Board Meeting. We spent the entire morning, praying, planning, and projecting the next twelve month's mission and activities in order to reach more and more lost people with the Gospel. Truly, this special weekend was just a wonderful celebration of all that God has done through our GIMI national workers and through the many mission teams which have gone to Africa for the past 20 years. I must tell you that in spite of some sickness among our board members, Jo Anne and I came away extremely encouraged and expectant about what God is going to do in the future through GIMI. Let me tell all you GIMI Team Members who pray for this work and give so sacrificially, we could not keep this ministry going after all these years, were it not for you faithful people who have helped us so much. Therefore, be assured that you dear precious people will share in all the rewards that Jesus will give for this ministry at the Judgment Seat of Christ out in the future! I just can't wait to see how many people will indeed receive equal rewards for your faithfulness in helping us take the Gospel to thousands of people who would otherwise be forgotten, were it not for the growing outreach ministry of GIMI! Folks, let me encourage all of you to keep standing with us as we keep sharing the message of Jesus Christ with a lost and dying world. We just could not continue this great ministry were it not for you! Thank you so much many times over! We are so appreciative!!!



## **We Are Reopening Our GIMI Ministry In Some Countries Where We Used To Work!**

I believe that all of you on our mailing list know that back in 2015, GIMI was carrying on a ministry in 15 African countries. It was during this time that I got so sick that Jo Anne and I had to stop a lot of our travel here in America going from church to church trying to raise funds. So, we were forced to stop our ministry in some of our countries. But, because of the continuing requests to return to some of our countries, I have made the decision to take a big step of faith and reopen some of the countries where we used to work. It is my sincere prayer that God might supply everything we will need to restart the work in some of our previous countries, and maybe even start a work in some new African countries. However, in order for us to accomplish this, we will need to enlist some new supporters who love souls and want to help us win multitudes to Christ. Folks, more and more countries in Africa are being taken over by the wicked Muslims. In fact, North Africa is already under the control of the Muslims. So, it is my sincere desire and prayer that with our small GIMI Ministry, we might help to win sub-Saharan Africa to Christ before the wicked wealthy Muslim religion moves in to completely destroy this beautiful continent and send millions to hell. There are 54 countries in Africa with almost one billion people. The majority of the countries in North Africa are already gone, but there is very much that can still be done in sub-Saharan Africa. I want to appeal to you to come on board our team and help us reach multitudes for Christ! I just can't wait to see what Jesus is going to do through our efforts in these reopened and new countries!

So that you can begin to really pray for these countries, let me mention the names of these countries where we are hoping to expand our GIMI Ministry. These countries are: Liberia, the Ivory Coast, Togo, Ghana, Benin, Tanzania, and possibly some more countries in South Africa. Let me thank you in advance for your help with this enlarged work for Jesus! And by the way, we are sharing a good number of photos from these new countries in this newsletter. I pray that the photos might make it easier for you to really pray for these fields of ministry. Please get these new fields of harvest on your heart, and hopefully, you might be able to personalize your prayers for our individual workers.







**DR. FRYE SPEAKING  
TO THOSE IN ATTENDANCE**



**MAMA JO ANNE HOLDING  
HER GREAT GRANDSON SAWYER**

# GIMI CELEBRATION BANQUET 2020



**SISTER KATHY HEDRICK SINGING**



**GIMI SUPPORTERS AND STAFF MEMBERS**



**GIMI  
MINISTRY DISPLAY**



**PASTOR JOEL FRYE AND  
HIS GREAT NEPHEW JACKSON**



**DR. DAVID GALLAMORE  
PREACHING AN INSPIRING MESSAGE**



## **We Have Increased Our Work In The Democratic Republic Of The Congo Refugee Camps!**

In our last newsletter, I wrote much about our work in the South Sudanese Refugee Camps in northern Uganda. We have been working there nonstop since last May. God is really blessing the ministries of Pastor Mogga Leju and Pastor Patrick Ogaba. Hundreds and hundreds of people are coming to Christ!

Now, let me share with you some brand new information from our newly increased work in the DRC refugee camps under the leadership of Pastor Israel Ngirababo. Most all of you dear GIMI newsletter readers know that last May, GIMI started a tremendous work in the South Sudanese Refugee Camps in Uganda. Since we started this wonderful work, Pastors Mogga Leju and Patrick Ogaba have done a wonderful job sharing the Gospel with thousands of hurting people as they suffer daily away from their homes in South Sudan. During these past ten months, many hundreds and hundreds of people in these camps have given their hearts and lives to Christ. We have provided food, blankets, soap, special hygiene items, along with hundreds and hundreds of Bibles, which have been given to most of these people. All of these precious people are away from their homes because of the civil war in South Sudan.

Now, we have another serious refugee problem in Northeastern DRC. Because of so much violence by militant groups in this area of the DRC, hundreds and hundreds of people have been killed in recent months, including three of our pastors. Hundreds of people are being removed from their villages and are being placed in refugee camps. These camps have little food, little clean water, and few hygiene items. They are in desperate need of blankets, clothing, and medicine. Our DRC Country Director, Pastor Israel Ngirababo, is doing a wonderful job sharing needed items with these refugees. Along with distributing the humanitarian gifts, he is preaching the Gospel to hundreds and hundreds of people. Scores of people have been saved, and we have helped to eliminate so much suffering. I would like to ask you to really take a look at the included photos of this new work in these DRC Camps and really pray for these suffering people.

Please spend a lot of time in prayer for Pastor Israel and the other workers that are ministering to so many hurting and lost people. Please pray that God will help GIMI to really alleviate a huge amount of suffering

among these people, and pray that He will provide a great harvest of souls coming to Christ.

Let me remind you one more time to really pray for the wives and family members of the pastors that have been murdered by hate-filled, violently wicked people who are trying to stop the Christian church from reaching more and more people. These attacks are barbaric, and they are orchestrated by Satan and his demons. We must pray for God to place a hedge around these endangered people who love Jesus and many of which are losing their lives because of their faith. If you have any questions about this new work, please let us know!







**BROTHER DAVID CHENI FEEDING PRISONERS MEAT FOR CHRISTMAS IN UGANDA**



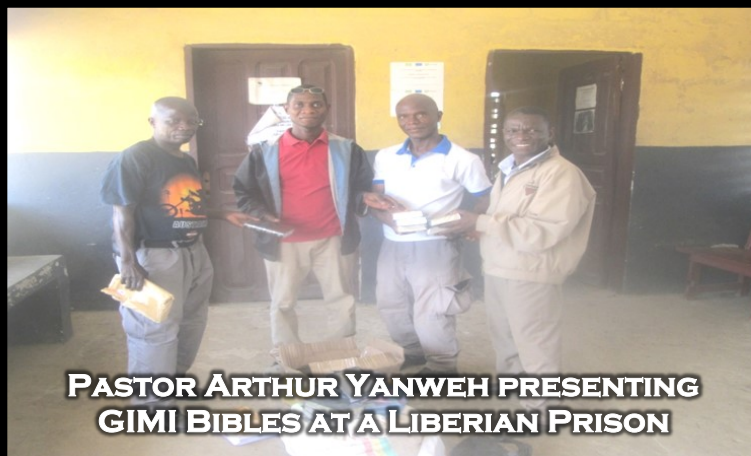
**PASTOR KOFI GIVING FOOD AND HUMANITARIAN AID TO PRISONERS IN TOGO**



**REMAND PRISONERS WAITING TO HEAR THE GOSPEL IN KENYA**



**PASTOR DIMA DISTRIBUTING BIBLES IN A PRISON IN UKRAINE**



**PASTOR ARTHUR YANWEH PRESENTING GIMI BIBLES AT A LIBERIAN PRISON**



**PASTOR ISRAEL BRINGING FOOD ASSISTANCE TO ORPHANS IN A REFUGEE CAMP IN DRC**



**BROTHER DANSON ATAMA DISTRIBUTING CHRISTMAS GIFTS AT A PRISON IN NORTH EASTERN KENYA**



## **Why Do So Many People Lie Without Any Conviction Or Admission Of Wrong Doing?**

As I have been writing on this newsletter, I really hadn't planned to include the article that follows at the end. But, because of what has been going on in Washington, D.C. by our so-called reputable politicians, I have decided to include the Scriptural study on living a life filled with integrity.

Recently, as I tried to watch some of the impeachment hearings against our President, Donald J. Trump, I literally was made sick on my stomach by the hundreds of lies that were being told and by the lack of responsibility, which so many "so-called" reputable political leaders were willing to accept for their lewd behavior. There just did not seem to be any conviction or conscience about the lies that were being told. And truthfully, this is not only true in our nation's capitol, but it is true all over the entire world in these last days just before Jesus comes again. As ridiculous as it might seem, the worst place I see today for the telling of lies is within the Christian church. I have been a pastor, preacher, evangelist, and missionary for 54 years. I have pastored eleven churches, preached in hundreds of churches, and dealt with Christian leaders almost every day of my life since I started preaching the Gospel back in 1966. Believe it or not, the worst liars and the most deceptive people that I have seen are those who say they are God-called servants, and yet, they can lie to you without a blink of conviction. For instance, in just over one year, I have had more than 15 pastors and church leaders just outright lie to me without ever admitting they did wrong, made a mistake, or even just simply forgot something. They just aren't willing to admit that they lied, regardless of the hurt and heartache these lies may have caused. But yet, these are the professing God-called preachers and church leaders who basically seem to demand respect, but they just never can admit that they lied or made a mistake. If you want to read a great passage of Scripture about one of God's leaders committing sin, and then, because of deep conviction, he openly repented of his sins and agreed with God about just how terrible his actions were, please read Psalm 51. It was written by David after he had committed adultery, murder, and a number of other grave sins, including lying. David realized that he had truly sinned against God and against the other people associated with his sins, like Bathsheba, Uriah, his soldiers, and the entire nation of

Israel. So, David came before the Lord and sincerely repented of his sins, and then later, he began to live a life of integrity, which is so described in the following exegesis of Psalm 26. This Psalm was probably written before David fell, but it reveals just how seriously he wanted to live with integrity. I would plead with every one of you that is reading our GIMI newsletter to really pay sincere attention to the following study on integrity. I pray that if there is one person reading this newsletter that is guilty of lying and never admitting any wrong, then, that person will today be brought to brokenness and repentance before the Lord and that the end result from this day forward will be a life of genuine integrity. David, the "man after God's own heart", came to truly understand the seriousness of being a liar and a man without integrity. But, thank God, when he came to admit and understand the ugly things he had done, he did repent and became a tremendous servant of God.

## **We Are Available To Share Our GIMI Africa Ministry With You And Your Friends!**

Dear Beloved Christian Friends, as you know, we are all getting older and older every day! As it has often been said, "If I had known getting old would be so hard, then, I would have tried to take better care of myself." Well, this is true statement for me. Over the past several years, I have had so many health problems that I rarely have a day without pain. Yet, when I see so many people getting saved through GIMI, my old mind and my old body get excited, and I just want to do more and more to win people to Christ. So, when we can't do what we have done for so many years, we try to work smarter, take better care of ourselves, and just pray for more of God's grace and strength to keep on going.

Therefore, right now, I am the most excited about what God is doing in Africa than I have ever been in the past 35 years since Jo Anne and I started working on this beautiful continent. As I stated earlier in this newsletter, there are presently 54 countries in Africa with almost one billion people. And, when I think of the potential of winning thousands of these people to Christ, I ask God for better health, more wisdom, better understanding, and a clearer vision of His divine plan for taking the Gospel to this huge continent of people. Everyday, Jo Anne and I pray for our work and ministry not to be easy, but maybe just be a little easier, so that we can continue on with this work after our total of 35 years working in Africa and after 20 years of trying to supervise this ministry. Because

of the tremendous blessings of God upon this great missions endeavor, we want to tell the entire world about what our Lord Jesus Christ is doing.

So, now that we can't travel internationally like we did, we would like to make ourselves available to all of our supporting churches to return to your churches and give an update on the African work, or maybe some of you church members will encourage your pastors to let us come and share this great work for Jesus!

Also, maybe some of you Christian friends would set up a date and invite us to come to your house, a local restaurant, a church fellowship hall, or even some other place to connect with some of your friends who love Jesus and who might seriously consider helping us financially. In this process, we will also invite these friends or church members to make a short-term mission trip with one of our teams going out to Africa. And truly, not as an afterthought, but we really need an army of new Christian friends who will pray for the work every day. In addition, we would love to share some personal prayer requests with your pastor, your church family, your personal friends, and also, with some of your friends who might be sold out Christians in the business world.

Now, if you, your pastor, your church friends, or even some of your Christian business people would like to hear about our work, just contact Sister Patsy Little at our office at 828-632-2344, or e-mail her at [office@gatewayinternationalmissions.com](mailto:office@gatewayinternationalmissions.com). If you would like to contact me personally, my personal e-mail is [gimi@charter.net](mailto:gimi@charter.net). We would count it a privilege to come visit with your churches and your friends, if you would so desire. I do hope we can hear from some of you very soon!

### **Some Special Prayer Requests Before I Close!**

Before I close this edition of our GIMI newsletter, I would like to mention some very special prayer requests. I hope you will join us in praying for these things!

1. First, I ask you to really pray for my son, Pastor Joel Frye, and his mission team of 12 people. They are going to Kenya, June 1-14, 2020, to conduct medical clinics and do personal evangelism in many of the prisons there. Pray for the team's health and safety as they go to help alleviate the suffering of many forgotten people in the prisons. Please pray for some medical clinics and witnessing in a few large Kenya Schools. Most of all, please pray that God will give this team a

great harvest of souls as they share Christ with everyone they treat in the medical clinics, including many Muslims.

2. Secondly, I ask you to really pray for our son-in-law, Pastor Mike McKinney, who has recently been in two hospitals again since a doctor here in Hickory, NC botched a surgery on Brother Mike almost four years ago. Since that horrible surgery, Pastor Mike has had to have nine other surgeries, and he has spent over three months in the hospitals. Pray that God might heal Brother Mike and give him some normalcy in his life once more. He serves on our GIMI Board of Directors! And, please pray that Mike will be able to receive disability income because he no longer can work normally because of the terrible damage done to his body.

3. Thirdly, I would like to ask you to please pray for a new problem that I have with my voice. Recently, the ENT doctors have determined that I now have a paralyzed vocal chord. This may have happened because of the ten thousand sermons I have preached, or it may have happened because of neuropathy, which I have as a result of my diabetes. I really want to go on preaching and teaching, but this new problem has limited me in several ways. So, please help us pray for complete healing so that I can keep preaching and teaching the Gospel.

4. One final thing I would like to ask you to pray for is a new project that I am hoping to begin very soon, even with the trouble with my voice. I am in the process of teaching many Biblical lessons on Spiritual Leadership on videos for our workers in Africa. We now have the cameras, and with God's help, I just completed the very first one of these videos. We have many more to go, but with God's help, I hope to complete a lot of study materials for our African workers.

Well, let me close for this time. Please know that Jo Anne and I love all of you so very much. Thank you for your prayers, your financial support, and for your involvement in what we are doing for Jesus in Africa. We just could not continue this great work were it not for you GIMI Team Members! Thank you for being on our team!

Still in the King's service,

*Dr. Stan Frye*

President of GIMI

John 4:35

### **UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS**

- March 28-29, 2020—Dr. Frye will be preaching revival at Cranberry Baptist Church in Roaring River, NC with Pastor Victor Church.
- April 5-8, 2020—Oxford Baptist Church Bible Conference in Conover, NC.
- June 1-14, 2020—Pastor Joel Frye and GIMI Medical Mission Team will be in Kenya.





**A PRISON GUARD RECEIVING A BIBLE  
DONATED BY GIMI IN LIBERIA**



**PASTOR DIMA AND MEMBERS OF GRACE  
EVANGELICAL CHURCH CAROLING IN UKRAINE**



**BROTHER SAMMY MBUGUA DISTRIBUTING  
FLIP-FLOPS IN A LADIES' PRISON IN KENYA**



**A LITTLE GIRL IN A UGANDAN PRISON  
RECEIVING MEAT FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER**



**PASTOR ISRAEL GIVING  
GIMI FOOD ASSISTANCE IN A DRC PRISON**



**PASTOR KOFI DELIVERING  
CHRISTMAS FOOD TO A PRISON IN TOGO**

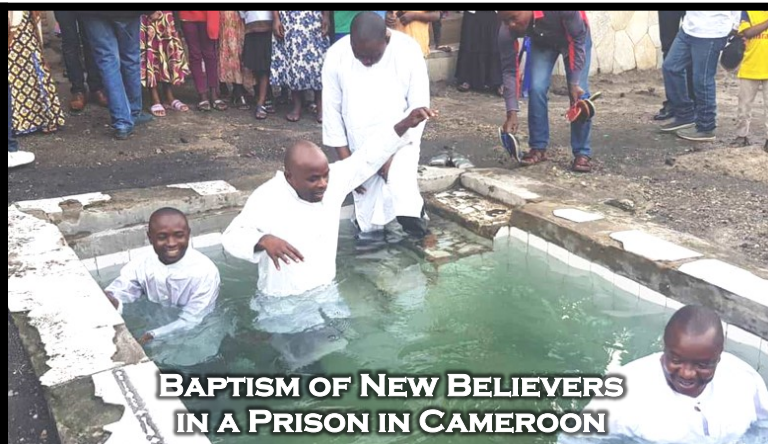


**PRISONERS GATHERING TO HEAR  
THE GOSPEL IN A PRISON IN KENYA**





**BROTHER DAVID KAKOOZA GIVING BOOKLETS TO CHILDREN OF PRISONERS IN UGANDA**



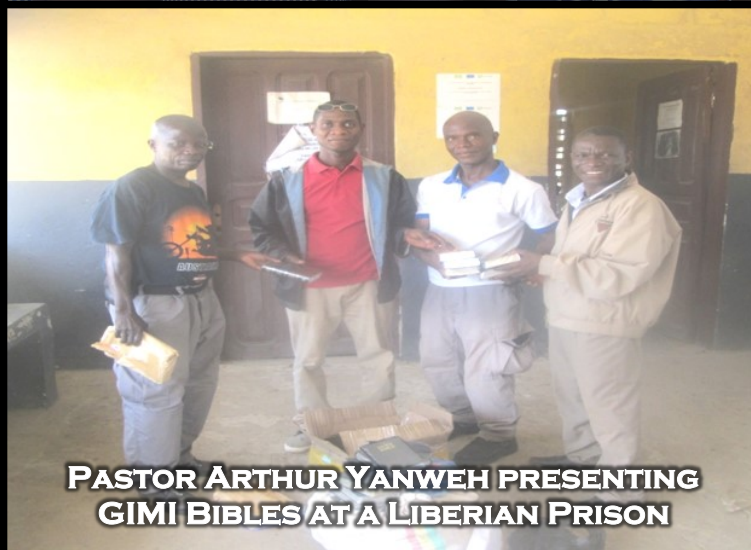
**BAPTISM OF NEW BELIEVERS IN A PRISON IN CAMEROON**



**BROTHER SAMMY MBUGUA PRESENTING THE GOSPEL IN A PRISON IN KENYA**



**PASTOR DIMA WITH NEW CONVERTS IN A PRISON IN UKRAINE**



**PASTOR ARTHUR YANWEH PRESENTING GIMI BIBLES AT A LIBERIAN PRISON**



**BROTHER KOFI DISTRIBUTING CHRISTMAS GIFTS AT A PRISON IN TOGO**



**PASTOR ISRAEL GIVING PASTOR FELICIAN'S WIDOW A MONETARY GIFT FROM GIMI IN DRC**



# **“A Great Leader Must Live A Life Of Integrity”**

**Scripture: Psalm 26:1-12**

**By: Dr. Stan A. Frye**

## **Introduction**

In John Maxwell's book, "Becoming A Person Of Influence," pages 15-33, the author says many things about integrity. Let me mention several of these things as a means of introduction to our Bible study in this chapter. He says, "The need for integrity today is perhaps as great as it has ever been. And it is absolutely essential for anyone who desires to become a person of influence." Later in this chapter, Maxwell says that integrity is not determined by circumstances, integrity is not based upon credentials, and integrity is not to be confused with reputation. In giving a stronger difference between integrity and reputation, Maxwell quotes William Hersey Davis when he says:

- "1. The circumstances amid which you live determine your reputation.....the truth you believe determines your character...
2. Reputation is what you are supposed to be; character is what you are....
3. Reputation is the photograph.... character is the face....
4. Reputation comes over one from without; character grows up from within....
5. Reputation is what you have when you come to a new community.... character is what you have when you go away.
6. Your reputation is made in a moment; your character is built in a lifetime...
7. Your reputation is learned in an hour....your character does not come to light for a year....
8. Reputation grows like a mushroom; character lasts like eternity....
9. Reputation makes you rich or makes you poor; character makes you happy or makes you miserable...
10. Reputation is what men say about you on your tombstone; character is what the angels say about you before the throne of God."

Folks, this is a profound paragraph about character! It should cause each of us to stop and take inventory of our character and integrity at this very moment. Maxwell included in this first chapter of his book some questions that we need to ponder if we are going to genuinely measure our integrity. Let me give you these questions and see where you and I measure up in our integrity.

- "1. How well do I treat people from whom I can gain nothing?
2. Am I transparent with others?
3. Do I role-play based on the person or persons I am with?
4. Am I the same person when I'm in the spotlight as I am when I'm alone?
5. Do I quickly admit wrongdoing without being pressed to do so?

6. Do I put other people ahead of my personal agenda?
7. Do I have the unchanging standard for moral decisions, or do circumstances determine my choice?
8. Do I make difficult decisions, even when they have a personal cost attached to them?
9. When I have something to say about people, do I talk to them or about them?
10. Am I accountable to at least one other person for what I think, say, and do?"

Before moving on to the scripture study for this lesson, I want to mention just a few more things from John Maxwell's book. On page 28 of his book, he says, "If you want to become someone who can positively influence other people, you need to develop the following qualities of integrity and live them out every day:

1. You must model consistency of character.
2. You must employ honest communication.
3. You must value transparency.
4. You must exemplify humility.
5. You must fulfill your promises.
6. You must embrace an attitude of service.
7. You must encourage two-way participation with the people you influence."

Now that we have taken a look at some very helpful words from John Maxwell's book, let us quickly turn to the Word of God to get the greatest truths and principles we can acquire about integrity. Our study for the remainder of this first session has to do with David and his determination to be a man of integrity in every area of his life. Let's study each individual verse and see what God is trying to show us about our own lives and personal integrity.

## **I. DAVID STATED THAT HIS LIFE WAS OPEN FOR INSPECTION. vs. 1-2**

### **A. David asked for God to inspect his sincerity. v. 1a**

David began a prayer to God by asking God to judge him completely because he was not ashamed or embarrassed at the way he had been living in integrity. In other words, David was a genuine man, and at that moment in his life, he had nothing to hide but felt with all of his heart that he was not a hypocrite, but was real.

This should speak to our hearts as well. Are we real, or are we phonies? Are we wearing a mask, or have we taken the facade off of our lives? Men and women of integrity have nothing to hide and welcome the inspection of God Almighty!

### **B. David asked for God to inspect his surety. v. 1b**

In the latter part of verse one, David asked God to go ahead and inspect his confidence in God Himself. This reveals David's transparency about his heart feelings for God. There was no doubt or lack of surety in David's life at this moment. Why? Because David had proven the faithfulness of God over and over, and now, he knew that once again as long as his heart was clean before God, he could maintain a great confidence in God and His ability to work on David's heart. In other words, David had great faith in the promises of God, and he had no doubt that God would continue to be faithful to him regardless of what he had to face in his life.

Now, I have a question for you? "Are you such a man or woman of integrity that you have the full assurance

in your heart that regardless of what comes your way, you are sure that you will handle things well because you believe you can sincerely count on God being there to help you through your time of difficulty? I trust that you can indeed trust God because He has proven His faithfulness to you in the past, and He will be there in the present!

### **C. David also asked for God to inspect his smell. v. 2a**

This sounds rather amusing in one way, but the word *reins* in this verse refers to the abdominal organs such as the kidneys. The Jews of the first century felt strongly that the seat of emotions or feelings was in the abdominal organs. So, what David was saying was, “Lord, I believe that I am so clean with you and that I walk in my integrity so much that I even smell like a genuine Christian, and I welcome you to inspect my smell.” Beloved, do you have the fragrance of a real Christian with integrity? I trust that you do, but if today, you can't say yes to this question, right now would be the time to get things right with God so that you can sincerely glean what God has for you during this lesson from His Word.

### **D. David further asked God to inspect his sensitivity. v. 2b**

In the last part of this verse, David asked God to inspect carefully to see if his heart was right. In other words, David felt so good about his personal integrity and the compassion of his heart for others, that he was truly unafraid for God to search deeply into his heart to see if he had the right feelings for others. This was really saying a lot about David's authenticity when you stop to realize how many things vied for the attention of a man's heart and desires. David was truly a transparent man because he was a man of honesty and real integrity. Will you join me in opening up your heart and life for our wonderful all-knowing God to search us and to see if we are genuine! If we have nothing to hide, we will gladly ask Him to turn on His radiant searchlight. But, if we have phoniness and hypocrisy in our lives, we will not offer ourselves gladly for His inspection. Yet, we must never forget that He is omniscient and knows everything about us any way. Brother or sister, do you have heart trouble? God knows!

## **II. SECONDLY, DAVID STATED THAT HIS LIFE WAS OPERATED WITH INTEGRITY. vs. 3-6**

Our second point in this Bible study is that since David had a life that was open for God's inspection at any moment, he also had a life that was operated day by day upon the principles of his integrity. Now, let's take a look at two of these principles that were demonstrated in David's life and learn from them so that we too can live by the same two principles.

### **A. A life operated with integrity will have the proper vision. v. 3a**

This is a great point! David says in the first part of verse three that because of his life of integrity, he has the assurance that God only desires good for David whatever he may face. David's integrity had produced such an assurance in his life, that he was living a life magnifying the love and goodness of God. David was saying that as long as his life was one of integrity, he could be filled with positive thoughts, which centered his attention on the blessings of God's goodness throughout each day. David knew that the guilt produced by an unclean life would result in an unclear conscience, which would draw his attention to negative thoughts and negative actions. So often when we don't have a clear conscience before God, we end up focusing our thinking upon all of the negative things going on around us, and we are inclined to blame others, blame God, and make excuses for our bad thoughts and actions.

Now I stop to ask you, “What kind of vision do you have? Are you prone to see the good blessings of God, or are you inclined to see the negative things and miss the blessings of a good and righteous God?” I must confess that often times, I am very guilty of the latter!



## **B. A life operated with integrity will have the proper values. vs. 3b-6**

Over the past few years, I have spent much of my time speaking in scores of churches trying to present the work and ministry of GIMI. During these speaking engagements, I have spent hours talking about having the proper and correct value system. I have done this because I believe that the greatest evidence of really being saved is that we will have a good and proper value system, which comes to us at the moment of salvation.

Do you remember what happened to the first converts just after the day of Pentecost and shortly thereafter? The Bible tells us in the Book of Acts that just as soon as they got genuinely saved, they sold everything they had and distributed it to those who were poor and in deep need. Now, the Bible doesn't say for sure that God told the people to give everything away. So, even if we don't know for sure that God told them to give everything away, we need to bear in mind that even if God did not tell them to sell everything and give it away, just as soon as they got saved, their lives were transformed and instead of looking inward to what they could keep or hoard, they immediately began looking outward to see whom they could help. This outward vision was the result of heart transformation on the inside where their value system became just like Jesus' value system. Why was this true? Because the Holy Spirit came to indwell everyone of the newly saved people. His indwelling presence gave them the same standards and desires that Jesus had. So, the question is, "What kind of value system do you have?" Let's take a look at these next few verses to see if we have the same value system that David had which was the result of his life of integrity.

### **1. First, David had the right standard for living. v. 3b**

In this part of verse three, David said that he walked and conducted his life according to the truth of God. Friends, this is a great standard to live by! Do you live by this standard? You see, a person of integrity will always stand for God's truth and will not change or vary his stand regardless of how impressive it would be to others or what benefits changing his standards might bring to him. In other words, political correctness will never be up for consideration when a man sticks by the right standard, the truth of God's Word!

### **2. Secondly, David had the right posture or position. v. 4a**

In the first part of verse four, we discover that David took a firm stand upon where he would be found sitting. David said that he absolutely would not be found sitting or resting in the company of vain persons. These are the people who are always chasing the winds of the world. David had made a clear commitment to making sure that he would never hang out with the unrighteous people who would tear him down. At this time in David's life, he was not waiting for the unexpected moment of temptation to catch him off guard, but because of his determination to live a life of integrity, he had made up his mind what his response would be long before the moment of temptation came. Yet, later on in his life, David let down his guard and fell morally because he lost his resolution to remain a man of integrity and holiness. This is just a reminder for us that we must never let down our guard because times of weakness will come our way.

### **3. Thirdly, David had decided that his steps must be right. v. 4b**

In the second half of verse four, David stated that he would not walk with those who were hypocritical and phonies. He knew that his integrity demanded that he walk in the right direction and not in the direction of the vain wind chasers. He knew what the prophet Amos stated in **Amos chapter three, verse three**, when he said, "Can two walk together except they be agreed?" David realized that if you are going to walk with someone, you have to be going in their direction hand in hand. And, there is just no way that a man of integrity can walk in the same way of the foolish hypocrite. The questions are, "Which way are you walking? Are you trying to live a life of integrity while walking with the wrong people?" A real leader will only walk in the steps of the Son of God! If you are going in the wrong direction today, please, please, turn around and walk the path of personal integrity.

#### **4. Fourthly, because of his integrity, David lived a life of separation. v. 5**

When I say separation, I am not talking about isolation. It is impossible to live in a world of sinners without having contact with them. But Jesus said, ***“...in the world, but not of the world.”*** The bottom line was that David was so sold out to God that he did not feel comfortable hanging out with the wicked. Actually, he developed a disdain and hatred for their life styles. And, so it is with every genuine person of integrity. Therefore, if you are starting down the pathway of the wicked, stop! Because if you go too far, the next step is to stop and enjoy their company. Men and women of integrity don't isolate themselves from sinners, but they do separate themselves from the wicked so that they can retain their lives of integrity and their testimonies of righteousness.

I think this would be a good place for me to say emphatically that there are some today who preach and try to practice secondary separation in all of their connections with others. I personally believe that this is the epitome of arrogance, and it is the pinnacle of “Phariseeism”. More people are turned off to the Gospel message by Pharisees probably than any other thing. I hope you are not a Pharisee! Remember, ***“...in the world, but not of the world.”*** Separation and not isolation!

#### **5. Lastly, because of his integrity, David made sure that his sacrificial worship was correct. v. 6**

The reference that David makes in this verse pertains to a person going up to the tabernacle to worship, and before they proceed to go inside, they had to wash their hands outside so that they could be clean. Of course, this was a spiritually symbolic practice, but it reminds us that we dare not approach the altar of God for worship unless we are men and women of integrity with clean hearts and clear consciences. In other words, our integrity affects every area of our lives: our conduct, our attitudes, our daily walk, and even our worship before God. So, lives operated with integrity are lives that are genuine and sincere in every area. Now, I have a very strong question for each of you, “Is your worship negatively affected by your lack of sincerity or hypocrisy?” If so, you need to do something about this today!

### **III. THIRDLY, DAVID STATED THAT HIS LIFE OF INTEGRITY WAS OCCUPIED WITH INSPIRATION. vs. 7-8**

We have already discussed earlier in this chapter that leadership is in fact influence over other people and their lives. In verses seven and eight of this chapter, David revealed to us that he had discovered the means whereby he could have a positive influence upon other people and the way they lived. This way was to live a life of complete integrity and transparency, which inspired others to follow his example. Let us take a look at these two short verses and find how David affected other lives in such a positive way.

#### **A. Others are inspired by our voices of thanksgiving. v. 7a**

In the first part of verse seven, David said that he wanted to live every day of his life with a positive declaration of thanksgiving for the goodness of God. Because of his integrity, he could do this because he had a clean heart and a clear conscience. Therefore, David went about praising and thanking God for His goodness. Thus, others were influenced to follow his example and to praise the Lord as well. If David would not have walked in a life of integrity, he could not have had a positive attitude, and he would not have demonstrated a life of thanksgiving. His negativity would have reproduced negative behavior in others.

#### **B. Others are also inspired by our voices of testimony about God. v. 7b**

Have you every tried to give a positive testimony about the goodness of God when you were discouraged and feeling down? Well, I have, and it is absolutely impossible. What David learned is what we need to learn today. He learned that if he did not live his life with integrity, he would have no positive testimony for others to imitate. But, because his heart was clean and his conscience clear, he could give verbal testimony to the goodness of God

to him and his people. Therefore, David maintained a good testimony and others were inspired by his example.

Let me ask you right now to look introspectively into your present life and see if you have a positive testimony for others to imitate. Are you exemplifying a life of integrity, which is producing positive fruit, or are you demonstrating a life of negativity, which is discouraging others around you. Believe me, when I say that it is much easier to have an effective and inspirational testimony if your heart is clean and your conscience clear. Of course, these are the roots of a life of integrity!

#### **C. Others are also inspired by our value of the tabernacle of God. v. 8a**

Let me ask you a question, “How much does your church mean to you and your family?” Obviously, the tabernacle meant much to David and he was ready to tell God and others that he loved the house of God.

When I stop to ponder just how much the house of God meant to David, I can't help but think that going to the house of God would not be a pleasure if one's life is filled with sin. Why? Because every time that a sinner walks into the presence of a Holy God, he is smitten with conviction and misery over his sin. Therefore, I am very much inclined to believe that David's love for God's house reveals the sincerity of his desire to walk in integrity and righteousness. And, we too like David, should have a tremendous love for God's house if we are walking and living in integrity. No person will have to admonish us to attend the house of God if we are living a sincere and righteous life. The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit will direct us to the house where God meets with His people, and the life of integrity will automatically draw one to the fellowship of the saints. So, leaders with integrity will love the house of God and the fellowship with other believers.

#### **D. Others are inspired by our vitality about the treasure of God. v. 8b**

Let me again ask you another question! “What is the greatest thing you treasure in your relationship with God?” According to this verse, David treasured the presence of God in his life and in God's house more precious than any other thing. This should be our desire as well. We too, should treasure God's presence and His anointing more than anything else in the world. For it is when we experience His Divine presence that we feel the most at home and the most comfortable. Why? Because like a child that longs to be in the lap of its mother, so does the child of God enjoy being close to his heavenly Father. He will never seem closer than when He reveals His revealed glory to us when we gather to worship Him. Men and women of integrity are people that position themselves to experience the sweet presence of Jesus Christ in their lives and in their churches. And, without integrity, the person who desires to be a leader will never have the presence, the power, and the wisdom of a Holy God. And, these are an absolute must to a great leader!

### **IV. LASTLY, DAVID STATED THAT HIS LIFE WAS OBJECTIFIED WITH INSULATION. vs. 9-12**

As we now come to the last point in our study of this passage of scripture, we discover that David somewhat repeats himself but with a greater passion than before. David desires to walk resolutely in integrity, and he passionately begs God to keep him away from evil and those who commit evil. Once again, we need to reiterate that David was not desiring to be isolated from sinners, but he was asking God to keep him insulated from the evil ones and their effectiveness toward him. Let's take a look at these last verses in this passage and learn some valuable lessons to help us move on with our quest to walk in integrity.

#### **A. David stated that our lives should be insulated from evil associations. v. 9**

In this verse, David picks up the theme he has already mentioned and he asked God to keep him away from the influence of wicked sinners and those who would lead him to even shed blood. Later of course, we discover that David forsook his own counsel and ended up committing adultery, and even murder. If only, David would have followed his own advice, his story would have ended differently. Yet, what a lesson we have from David's



prayer and desire. When will we ever learn that in order to keep lives of integrity, we must stay away from those who are evil and those who have no scruples about hurting and even killing others to get their own ways. So, let's make our object and goal to stay away from those who will have an evil influence upon us.

#### **B. David stated that our lives should be insulated from evil manipulation. v. 10**

It is obvious that the world is filled with evil men and women who desire to use us in a bad way; some that even try to manipulate us and bribe us with money. This is so very true in Africa where there is so much corruption among leaders. David said that in order for him to retain his integrity, he must stay away from those who would use mischief and bribes to influence him to do wrong. This is a tremendous lesson for us in Africa and also in America! Could I please ask you, **“What is your price? How much would it take for you to sell out to evil people?”** In a third world country where money is so scarce, it is always a serious temptation to those who have so little to sell their virtue and integrity to those who only want position, power, and influence for the price of a little money. **Just remember that Judas Iscariot's price was thirty pieces of silver! What is your price to sell out the Savior? What will it take to get you to lie, deceive, exaggerate the truth, embellish a story, or do some other sin for the price of a bribe?** If you can be bought, you are not a person of integrity and you are certainly not going to be a great leader! This is true here in Africa, and it is true anywhere in the world! And, even if you can keep your deception covered for a while, God will one day expose it for what it really is!

#### **C. David next stated that our lives should be insulated from evil imitation. v. 11**

This verse is a very difficult verse to interpret. Yet, I believe that what David is saying is that in a wicked world of evil all around him, he desires to walk even in a more righteous way so that he will not imitate the evil ones that he comes in contact with. He pleads with God to help him by showing him mercy to stay pure and free from evil influence. I personally believe this should be our prayer as well. In a world filled with wickedness, we too must have the mercy and strength of God to keep our selves insulated from this terrible world. So, David is acknowledging his weakness, and so should we. We are truly nothing apart from God's grace and mercy, but yet there is hope for us if we will depend upon Him!

#### **D. David stated finally that our lives should be insulated from evil habitation. v. 12**

We now come to the last verse in this great Psalm. David makes a firm commitment that he was going to stand in the right place with steadfastness. He knew that if he did this, others would be looking at him from all around. Therefore, he was determined that he would keep a testimony of integrity for others to witness. With all of his resolve, he wanted to be upright in his conduct and behavior so that he could be a good leader and influence others with a positive example. This should be our goal as well. We must make sure that in our house, in our church, and in our community that we retain and maintain a life of integrity if we are going to be great leaders. There is no room for hypocrisy and cover up in the life of a great Christian leader!



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