

GATEWAY INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS REPORT



“A Passion for Souls”

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PASTOR ROBERT PREACHING THE GOSPEL
OUTSIDE A LARGE SCHOOL IN DRC

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

Dear Beloved Friends and GIMI Team Members,

Blessed May/June greetings in the precious name of Jesus! I pray that all of you dear people are safe and well during these continuing difficult days of the terrible coronavirus and during these days of habitual liars who never can seem to tell the truth about anything. (I will talk much about this a little later in this newsletter.)

Jo Anne and I want to thank you again personally for your continuing prayer and financial support of this great ministry. I say that it is great, not because it is our ministry, but because of the wonderful way God continues to bless this all-out-effort to keep winning men, women, boys, and girls to Jesus. During this Covid-19 crisis, when so many churches seem to have become handicapped in sharing the Gospel message, our 50 plus GIMI team members in Africa continue faithfully sharing the love of Jesus with thousands of people. Our little three people team here in America, works every day with many volunteers and individuals who want to be a part of this Modern Day Book of Acts

Ministry. We just want to praise Jesus for what He is doing through GIMI, in spite of my many continuing health issues. When I so often have weakness problems or maybe even some sick times, Jesus is right here, along with my precious wife and Sister Patsy Little, to keep holding up my hands, like Aaron and Hur did for Moses in **Exodus 17:12**, when the Israelites were in a battle with the Amalekites. Then too, this ministry, which Jo Anne and I have been leading for over 21 years, would never be possible were it not for so many of you dear people who pray for us and those of you who support the work financially. Truly, GIMI is a team effort, and every one of you that so generously help us shall be rewarded equally according to **Matthew 10**, when Jesus first sent out His disciples to start preaching the Gospel to the Jews first, and then later to the Gentiles. In other words, those who would help those who were going were promised the same rewards, just like the promise Jesus made to those who would receive the message and show hospitality to the servants of God. Therefore, we must never forget that world evangelism and missions is a team effort, which every believer, every pastor, and every church body must never forget!

So folks, thank you from the depths of our hearts for being on our GIMI world missions team!!

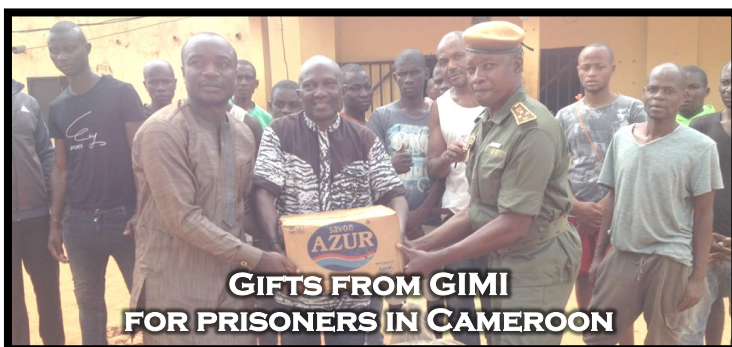


PASTORS ROBERT AND ISRAEL
GIVING MUCH MEDICINE FOR DRC PRISONERS

We Are Still Forced To Go Slow!

All of you who read our GIMI newsletter on a regular basis know very well that I have previously mentioned that we had hoped to take some more teams back to Africa this year, but right now, all of this is “up in the air”. This is true because of a tremendous rise in many of our African countries, especially in Kenya, where President Kenyatta recently closed several towns and villages from going in or coming out. All of our African countries have had nothing like the problems that we have had here in America, and of course, like Europe as well. But, just like here in the States, because of the wicked political lies that have been told by the World Health Organization and Dr. Anthony Fauci, people live every day in fear and dread. Folks, we all must be careful about this dreadful disease, but Satan would like nothing more than to use fear and uncertainty to close the churches, stop the world missions efforts, and of course, stop every believer from taking the Good News to a dying world. So, it would seem that because of some additional shutdowns and restrictions in several of our African countries, after much prayer, I believe we should just delay any trips right now, until God gives us clearance to move forward with our Mission Team efforts!

By the way, in recent months, I have heard about several missionary families who have had a terrible time either coming here to America or getting back to the foreign fields where they minister. A lot of the problems that our dear friends are having are because of the varying rules concerning Covid testing and truthfully, the regular changing of the rules by several countries just to steal large sums of money from the air travelers. Thus, we have slowed down and put things on hold for just a little longer. For those of you who wanted so desperately to go to Africa with another one of our teams, please be patient for a little while longer. In the meantime, please continue to pray for us and support this wonderful ministry. Right now, we are forced to depend more upon our GIMI nationals who are working hard to carry on this ministry.



We Desperately Need To Get Our Radio Ministry Restarted!

By the time most of you receive this newsletter, I am praying fervently that my rescheduled vocal cord surgery will have come and gone. You might remember that I had previously scheduled the surgery for early December of last year, but because of some more heart problems, I had to have another heart stent placed in one of my arteries. Therefore, the vocal cord surgery was put on hold for the time being. But now, we are going to try it again. It is scheduled for April 27th. We will do our best to give you an update on how things go by email, if you are on our email list. So, please just keep praying for this old preacher!

Most of you know that during my 55 years of ministry, I have had the privilege of preaching the Gospel on the radio in several states where I have pastored, but more recently before the vocal cord problem, our GIMI radio broadcast was being heard on 65 stations, 12 of which were on some of our fields in Africa. Truly, there could be no better way to continue to preach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ during this Covid lockdown time than by radio. Thus, I beg you to fervently pray that God will heal my vocal cord and then bring things together to get our radio ministry up and going strong again.

And then, let me make an appeal to many of you to consider helping us financially to take care of the radio airtime. Before we had to stop the broadcasts, the cost factor was over \$40,000 per year. So, just pray and ask Jesus if He would have you help us with this additional cost! We need your help because Africa and the world need a true Biblically sound radio broadcast at this crucial time in our history! I do hope you will consider giving to the radio ministry, because there has never been a greater need for the radio ministry than right now during this pandemic!



Whatever Happened To Integrity?

At the risk of offending a few of you, as a God-called preacher with one of my spiritual gifts being prophecy (confronting sin), I must do my best to cry out in our wicked world and ask, **"Whatever Happened To Integrity?"** To help us get started with this subject matter, I want to give you the entire **Psalm 26**, where David tells God that he is ready for Him to judge him according to his life of integrity. So, please read the following verses:

"Judge me, O Lord; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the Lord; therefore I shall not slide. Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my heart. For thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth. I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers. I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked. I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O Lord: That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works. Lord, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth. Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men: In whose hands is mischief, and their right hand is full of bribes. But as for me, I will walk in mine integrity: redeem me, and be merciful unto me. My foot standeth in an even place: in the congregations will I bless the Lord."

At this point in David's life, he sincerely believed that he had reached a place where the righteousness of God had changed him so much that every day he tried to be honest, not lie, and not be a hypocrite, but be a genuine servant of God. He felt so strongly about this that he even asked God to examine him completely and thoroughly by the integrity of his heart. May I tell you that this was a brave and courageous act by this faithful servant of God. My question is, **"Where has this kind of courageous integrity gone?"**

Today as we look all around us, with the exception of a few people, all that we see are liars, hypocrites, pretenders, and complete phonies. There never seems to be one person who feels any conviction, guilt, or responsibility for this wicked behavior. Every time I turn on the news, I get angry, and I don't believe it is sinful anger, because in **Ephesians 4:26-27**, Paul said, ***"Be ye angry and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: neither give place to the devil."*** I believe we should get angry at the things that make our Lord angry. And, according to **Matthew 23:13-15**,

the strongest word of rebuke that ever came from the lips of our Savior while He was here on earth were the following: ***"But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go ye in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation."*** And then, please notice four more verses in this text: **Matthew 23:25-28**—***"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion (robbery) and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also. Woe unto you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity."***

So beloved friends, let's take a look at Washington, D.C. right now! We seemingly have nothing but liars in the White House, the State House, and other houses in this wicked city that is supposed to be our beloved American Capital. A lot of these people profess to be religious or people of faith. But yet, only a few of them ever demonstrate true integrity in their behavior, in their speech, and in the principles they live by. Even if we all would love to see these people get saved and allow God to change their lives, it is evident that a huge number of them are reprobates. Why do I say this? I say this because they never admit any wrong, never apologize for their evil deeds, and could care less whom they hurt with their diabolical behavior.

This wicked "woke" mentality that we hear so much about today concerning racial injustice is just a wicked ploy so that these evil people can gain more power. Those who are in power want to shut-up the people who might have a conservative view of the Bible, the principles of God's Word, the family unit, and conservative value systems. I believe, after working in Africa for 36 years, I have earned the right to say that most American black people don't want the truth about their black ancestry, because if they did, they would look rather stupid because most of the precious people of Africa don't whine and relish the thoughts of being victims like lots of the American black people do. For 36 years, my wife and I have tried very hard to get black American Christians to travel on one of our Africa mission

trips, but during these 36 years, we have only been able to get 3 precious African American believers to go with us. You might say, "Pastor Stan, why do you believe they don't want to go to Africa?" Well, I am convinced that if they went, they would come back home with no reason to whine or see themselves as victims. Most African Americans, even those in the ghettos, are far better off than the every day African. Most Africans live on less than \$2.00 per day. Oh yes, we need to do everything we can to help get the African Americans out of the ghettos because over 70% of the African Americans have no father in the home. Thus, most black families have to be taken care of by a single mom, maybe a grandmother, or some other family member. These conditions breed evil behavior because every human being has a fallen sinful nature. A lot of the crime happens because of the decrepit conditions many of these dear people live in. This, of course, is why Jesus died on the cross and arose from the dead to give us forgiveness of sin, and ultimately, to give us a better way of life. Therefore, the racial problems being exploited here in America are just a tool in the hands of evil, power crazy people who want to destroy the historical foundations upon which this great country was built! We as God's people must stand up and say, "Enough is enough!"

I want to also say that all of the lying and hypocrisy is not just in our nation's capital. We have liars in our state governments, in our local governments, in our school leadership, and yes, even in our churches. If you don't believe this, let me tell you that recently, I saw a well-known TV preacher tell his congregation that because of the verse in **Exodus 15:26**, which says, **"...If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in His sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all of his statutes, I will put none of the diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee,"** that the two million people wandering in the wilderness for 40 years never even had a head cold. This is a non-provable lie, and this is not what the verse says. God told Moses that if they lived up to the commandments and kept all of the statutes, then God would heal their diseases and bless them. And by the way, this TV preacher had open-heart surgery a while back, and he wears glasses every time he comes to the pulpit!

Then too, not very long ago, I saw a preacher on a TV program from down in Louisiana that teaches that if we have enough faith, then God will heal every disease. But yet, he had a problem with his eyes, and

he went to a specialist in Tampa, Florida. This is absolute hypocrisy. In fact, this is just as bad as the governors of some of our states like California, New York, Michigan, and a few others who shut down their states completely, and then, they went out and partied with others.

I will even go a little farther and say that since the pandemic hit us in 2020, I have been lied to by more contractors, glass workers, automobile mechanics, mail carriers, church leadership, and yes, pastors than at any time in my life. I am sad to say this, but it is true! There is no integrity by a huge amount of professing Christians and church people. And folks, the sad thing is that many of the people who are being allured and seduced by these hypocritical liars have found a listening audience because of their willful ignorance and blatant foolishness. If this were not true, then these liars would not have so many listeners, believers, and followers. Truly, we are living in the last days just before the return of Christ, because the Bible tells us that in these days, men would believe a lie before they would believe the truth! Welcome to 2021!

Now, let me give you some Scripture to prove the point that as we get close to the end of time, men will believe a lie more than the truth. The following verse describes those during the tribulation period who will not have a second change at salvation after the rapture. The verse is **II Thessalonians 2:11**. Please notice this verse. ***"And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie."*** May I tell you, with much emphasis, that presently we are living in the world of delusion where right is wrong and wrong is right. Thus, we have these liars from all walks of life strutting their lying hypocrisy across the stage of life while brainwashing the people; especially the lying academic hypocrites in our schools and colleges. Thus, they are working hard to throw God and the Judea-Christian truth from God's Word out the door. They know that if they can brainwash the younger generation of Americans, then these unprincipled young people will continue to commit sin of every description. They will do this believing that they will never have to answer to God. Why? Because they are being taught that there is no God that has to be answered to out in the future. But friends, they are lying, and every human being will indeed stand before God and answer to Him for whether he or she believed and received Him, or whether he or she disbelieved and willfully rejected Him!

Well, I have taken enough of your time with this long written sermon. But, please remember that I am not preaching verbally. So, please cut me a little slack during these days! Of course, as all of you know, I love to write!

Let me thank each of you again for helping this great work of God. Jo Anne and I love you so very much! We cherish and treasure our relationship with all of our friends. By the way, in recent weeks, because of so many health problems, this old preacher is not able to rest well at night. So, each evening after I lie down in my bed, I have committed myself to praying for one to two hours for you precious team members. I am sincerely praying for every request that you send to us and for each of you who support us financially. So between 9:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. each evening, please know that you and your family are being prayed for fervently. Please let me know when God answers your special prayers! Again, we truly love you!

Eternally grateful,

Dr. Stan Frye

President of GIMI

John 4:35

P.S. Lest I forget, I meant to mention this earlier, but because of my Senior Citizen problem, I forgot. On **Friday evening, June 25, 2021**, we are going to have an in-person, socially distanced celebration banquet here at our GIMI Headquarters. The meal will be catered and served at **6:00 p.m.** Following the meal, Gospel Singer, Wade Spencer will be here to sing for this special time. Then, Dr. David Gallamore, one of the greatest expository preachers left in America, will be here to preach the Word of God to keep the Great Commission the main thing. Dr. Gallamore is the Senior Pastor of the Rock Springs Baptist Church in Easley, SC. If you would like to come and join us for this wonderful evening of praise and celebration, then you need to call our GIMI office during the month of May and make your reservations. If you are coming from a far distance, then, we might be able to help reserve you a room at the Holiday Inn Express in Conover, NC. We just need to know just as soon as possible. Please **RSVP** to us

by phone - 828-632-2344 or

email—office@gatewayinternationalmissions.com.



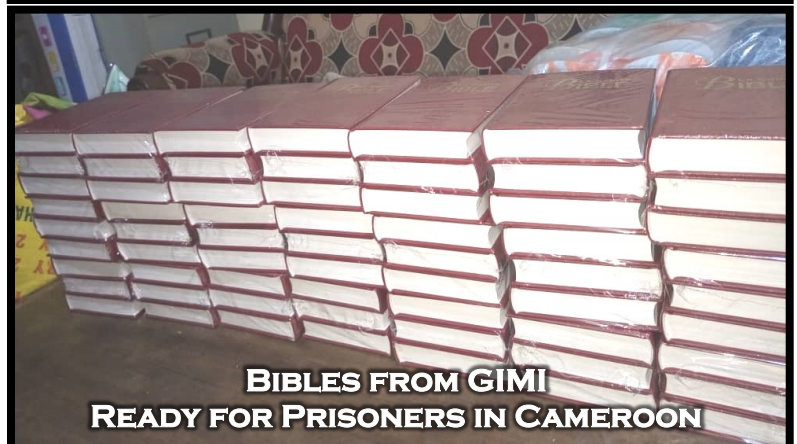
**PEOPLE COMING FORWARD
AT THE TIME OF INVITATION
IN A SOUTH SUNDANESE REFUGEE CAMP**



**PASTOR KOFI IN TOGO
GIVING MANY ITEMS TO PRISONERS**



**GIMI GIFTS FOR PRISONERS
IN LIBERIA**



**BIBLES FROM GIMI
READY FOR PRISONERS IN CAMEROON**



CAMEROON



**PASTOR EMMANUEL
AT A PRISON BAPTISMAL SERVICE**



**PRISONERS PRAYING TO RECEIVE JESUS
IN AN OUTDOOR SERVICE**



**A LARGE OUTDOOR EVANGELISM SERVICE
IN A PRISON**



**PASTOR EMMANUEL
FEEDING PRISONERS**



**MANY GIFTS FROM GIMI
FOR PRISONERS**

KENYA



**PASTOR SAMMY
WITH GIFTS AND BIBLES FOR PRISONERS**



**WOMEN PRISONERS
WITH THEIR CHILDREN**



**PASTOR SAMMY
BRINGING HUMANITARIAN AID TO PRISONERS**



**PASTOR JAMES MWANGI
PREACHING TO LADY PRISONERS**



PASTOR SAMMY PREACHING THE GOSPEL IN A LARGE PRISON

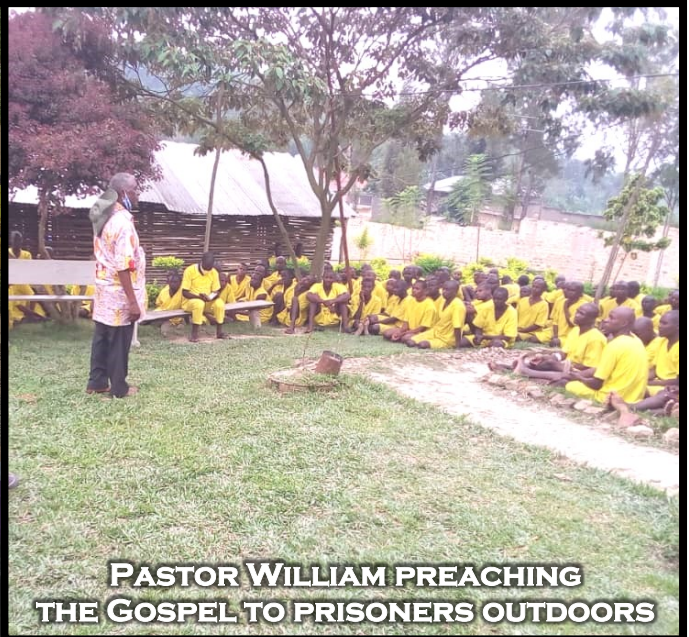
UGANDA



PASTOR ABRAHAM PREACHING THE GOSPEL TO PRISONERS IN A LARGE PRISON



**PRISONERS
SINGING AND PRAISING GOD**



**PASTOR WILLIAM PREACHING
THE GOSPEL TO PRISONERS OUTDOORS**



**HUGE BAGS OF CORN (MAIZE) FOR PEOPLE
IN A SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEE CAMP IN UGANDA**

Dr. Stan's Biblical Perspective

“A CULTURE OF DISRESPECT AND DISLOYALTY!”

By: Dr. Stan Frye
President of Gateway International Missions, Inc.

Those of you who know me are very much aware of the fact that I have spent many years traveling in other countries of the world, especially Africa. As I have traveled in these other countries I have paid particular attention to the various expressions of respect and loyalty that I have seen given to older people and to those who are in ministry. I must tell you that I am utterly amazed at what I have seen in these other countries, and then when I return to America, I am totally embarrassed. America has become a country of disrespect and total disloyalty for almost everyone, but especially for those who are senior citizens and those who are in the ministry. Yet, I can tell you that this has not always been true in our beloved America.

When I was growing up as a boy, I was taught to respect my elders, ladies, teachers, policemen, doctors, nurses, anyone in authority, or those who were older. Yet today, we have dumbed down our society until there is absolutely no respect for anyone. Our children come into our churches and run around like they are wild, and we never discipline them. They get up and go out of the worship services every time they have a little urge, and then run back in to make themselves seen and heard. When it comes to preachers and school administrators, if children and youth don't like something these people do or say, then they just flatly scream with profanity and total disregard for the principle of respect and honor. They believe the world has been created just for them and them alone. They believe they are free to do whatever they want, and it doesn't matter how many people get run over in the process. Our school administrators will not tighten up the rules for fear of those horrible misled and wicked groups like the ACLU, The Black BLM, or the Critical Race Theory people. So, this culture of disrespect has evolved to a point where kids don't learn, they show very little appreciation for what they have been given, they believe they can do whatever they want whenever they want, and they totally disregard law and order and disrespect those in authority and those who are older than them. In other words, we have developed a culture of total anarchy, and this has been the death blow to every civilization down through history. I believe unless we have a revival in America that will bring us back on our knees in brokenness and humility, America will fall from within.

America doesn't have to fall if we will repent and turn back to God. And when we turn back to God, we will see once again respect for the senior citizens and all others that are in authority. There will be little disrespect for pastors and church leaders, because this loyalty and respect will be bred into our culture. Oh, it might not be “cool” to respect those around us, but I assure you this is the way God planned it. Pay attention to the following verses I am going to give you. **Leviticus 19:32** *“Thou shall rise up before the hoary (gray) head, and honor the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the Lord.”* Then read about respect for those pastors who do a good job. **I Timothy 5:17** *“Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine.”*

Folks, we must never allow ourselves to become a part of this disrespectful culture that is all around us today. Instead, we need to honor the older people and respect those in authority. We need to especially respect and be loyal to those who have made an impact on our lives in a spiritual way. If you are a pastor, you better never forget those God has placed in your life to help bring you to where you are. If you do, you will eventually act like you have arrived and you will lose your teachable spirit, a thing that will ultimately bring you down!

Some while ago, I was preaching in a large prison here in North Carolina, and I was taken back by the number of young men in that prison. The man in charge of the prison told me that over 50% of the people in that prison were there for sexual crimes, and many others were there because of drug related offenses. As I looked into the faces of these hundreds of young men, I thought about how this life of crime began, and how their lives are now wasted unless they can find Jesus. It began with parents who would not discipline their kids out of love and with kids who wanted to be free to do anything they wanted to do. It began with a lot of disrespect for others and those in authority. Many of the people that I saw in the prison told me that they use to be in church, but then left and messed up their lives. Imagine that, from the pew to prison. Why? Just simply because of lives that started a downhill fall because there was very little respect for authority and probably less loyalty to their family members. But let me say one more thing. All of the failures in the world by family members who didn't do their jobs can't take away the personal responsibility of every person to start out fearing God, respecting authority, and being loyal to those who were older than they are. These failures of parents doesn't give an individual the right to hurt others for the sake of their own lustful satisfaction. May God help each of us to be a part of the solution by helping to put respect and loyalty back into our culture!



**PASTOR PATRICK GIVING BIBLES AND BIBLE BOOKLETS
TO SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES**



**PASTOR ISRAEL SHARING THE LOVE OF JESUS WITH REFUGEE CHILDREN
BY BRINGING THEM MUCH NEEDED HUMANITARIAN AID FROM GIMI**

Loving Gifts Given in Honor and Memory of Others

IN HONOR

Dr. & Mrs. Stan Frye
Phyllis Greer
Barbara Cole

Kim Gragg
Lissa Holsclaw
Jane Hilton

IN MEMORY

Layne Sparks
Randall Wood
Brent Sanders
Rev. Gary Jennings
Rev. Joe Drum
Mom & Dad

Linda Wheeler
Debra Wood
Billy & Patsy Sanders
Billy & Patsy Sanders
Seniors of Wisdom SS Class
Imogene Osborne





Burial of A Covid-19 Victim In Rwanda

Should Christians Be Cremated?

By: Dr. Stan A. Frye

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Introduction

Today I want to deal with a subject that has become of great concern for me as a child of God and also for many other believers who are perplexed by the larger and larger number of believers whose families are having them cremated at the time of death. For the past several years, I have noticed a growing number of believers who are conducting memorial services for their loved ones instead of having a celebratory worship service with the bodily remains of the departed loved one present at the time of the service. This has especially been increasing during this period of the coronavirus time. But as a pastor for over 55 years, I have done much to observe and inquire about why saved children of God are resorting to this undignified and basically pagan method of disposing of their family members' bodies. So, I have decided to deal with this subject and hopefully help many believers to make the right decision about this matter as they are faced with the death of another loved one. What you do with the information I am going to give you is left totally up to you, but I pray that you will follow the Biblical way to dispose of your family members, instead of the pagan way which is being adopted by so many today.

I think first I should tell you that there are many disagreements about when cremation started, but from my studies, I have come to believe that it probably started sometime between 3,000 and 2,000 B.C. with the Cycladic Culture among the many islands of Southern Greece. After this time, cremation was carried out by numbers of other nations, especially in the Greek and Roman culture. Then as time progressed, up until about the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries A.D., the act of cremation was practiced by many other nations which predominantly were given to paganism. Some of these pagan religions that practiced cremation were the Hindus, the Buddhists, the Sikhs, and the members of Zoroastrianism. During the many centuries leading up to the end of this period, cremation was almost a universal custom of Aryan peoples, Indians, Greeks, Romans, Slavs, and Teutons. (Pagan Creation-Or Christian Burial by AJ Pollock, Page 1, website). Also, in England the Druids, Celts, and early British burned their dead until the Christian reformation took place, which led to Christian burial in the Biblical way. However, modern cremation as we know it today, with ashes in an urn or box, did not occur until 1873, when an exhibition of a crematorium and cremated ashes were displayed in Italy. "The first cremation in America took place in 1876 accompanied by readings from Charles Darwin and the Hindu scriptures. For many years, relatively few persons (mostly liberals and freethinkers) chose cremation." (Page 1, from "Cremation Confusion" by Timothy George, Christianity Today)

"Only five percent of Americans were cremated in 1962; by 2000 it was 25.5%, but now, it is over 50%. In Japan, where burial is sometimes illegal, the cremation rate is 98%. The rise in cremations reflects many factors: concern for the land use; the expense of traditional funerals; the loss of community and a sense of "place" in modern transient society; and New-age-type spiritualities." ("Cremation Confusion" by Timothy George, 5/21/2002. Christianity Today) I would attest the fact that most Christians who practice cremation today instead of burial has more to do with the cost of funerals than anything else. In other words, our selfish American society is now reflected in the way we dispose of our dear love ones. Isn't it amazing that we now make decisions about disposing of our family members' bodies based upon financial cost more so than whether the funeral is one of dignity, with a body lying in repose. It would seem to me that we who call ourselves believers have now allowed money to take priority over dignity. Have you ever thought seriously about how much attention and expense we give to preserving the living body just before one of our family members or friend die, but then, just let this person die, and his or her remains are not worth paying the price to bury the body in a dignified Christian and Biblical way.

Let me now show you some Scripture where we find that the people of God always buried their love ones rather than have them burned like the pagans. In fact, it was considered a curse for a dead body not to be buried. **Isaiah** wrote of the king of Babylon, ***"But thou are cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcass trodden under feet. Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou has destroyed thy land, and slain thy people: the seed of evildoers shall never be renowned."***

"Jezebel was one of the most wicked women who ever lived. She stirred up her husband Ahab to perform incredible evil, and because of this, she was cursed of God. Part of the curse prophesied by God's prophet Elijah was that she should not be buried, but her body would be eaten by dogs." (**I Kings 21:23-25**) ("Should A Christian Be Cremated?" by William F. Dankebring, The Untold Story web site, page 2)

Jezebel died the way the prophet predicted and indeed was eaten by dogs until nothing but a few bones of her

were left. The custom of the Israelites was never cremation! Burial was the proper means of disposing of dead bodies, according to the entire record of the inspired Scriptures. Human burial developed from the belief that the dead rise again. Like a seed, according to this belief, a body is planted in the earth to await rebirth.” (The World Book Encyclopedia).

“Lack of proper burial was considered a curse in the Bible, when a prophet of God foolishly disobeyed the direct commandment of God, he was told by an old prophet in Bethel, ***“Thus saith the Lord, Forasmuch as thou has disobeyed the mouth of the Lord, and hast not kept the commandment which the Lord thy God commanded thee, But camest back, and hast eaten bread and drunk water in the place, of the which the Lord did say to thee, Eat no bread, and drink no water; thy carcass shall not come unto the sepulchre of thy fathers.”*** (I Kings 13:21-22”) (Should A Christian Be Cremated?, The Untold Story web site, page 3).

“Not to be buried properly is a sign of the displeasure of Almighty God, or an act of foolish ignorance and disobedience. When God curses a nation, and removes His blessing from them, He declares ***‘For thus saith the Lord, Enter not into the house of mourning, neither go to lament nor bemoan them: for I have taken away my peace from this people, saith the Lord, even loving kindness and mercies. Both the great and the small shall die in this land: they shall not be buried, neither shall men lament for them...’*** Jeremiah 16:5-6 (Ibid).

“What Does The Bible Teach?”

The first five books of the Old Testament are known as the “Pentateuch” or “The Law”. In the book of Genesis we read that Abraham, “the father of the faithful” (Gal. 3:9), who set us an example of faithful obedience to God, went to the children of Heth, after the death of his wife, Sarah, and said, ***“I am a stranger and sojourner with you: give me a possession of a burying place with you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight.”*** (Gen. 23:1-4) (Ibid).

Abraham bought a field that he might bury Sarah there, the field of Ephron, which was in Machpelah, and contained a cave (Gen. 23:8-17). When Abraham himself died, his sons, ***“Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah...there was Abraham buried, and Sarah his wife.”*** (Gen. 25:9-10) (Ibid).

Why does God give us all this detailed information in the very first book of the Bible as to the disposition of the dead? There must be a reason! Obviously, this instruction is written down for our admonition, as a guide for us today! (Ibid).

The apostle Paul explained: ***“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”*** (Romans 15:4) (Ibid). Jesus Himself said, ***“It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”*** (Matthew 4:4) (Ibid).

“God’s way for the disposition of the dead is **Burial!** The practice of cremation is pagan—idolatrous—heathenish—and wrong! The practice of cremation was inspired by no less than Satan the devil and his host of demons, as a part of his diabolical counterfeit superstition involving the belief of reincarnation and the immortality of souls. According to the pagans, the “purifying fires” of cremation prepare the soul for its flight after death of the body. Leslie V. Grinsell, in his book Barrow, Pyramid and Tomb, tells the story of the Ibn Fadlan who in A.D. 922 was an Arab emissary to Russia from the Kalif of Baghdad. As he witnessed the cremation of Viking chief on the Volga, he was told, “we burn him....so that he enters paradise at once.” (Ibid, page 5).

Surely by now we know that it was God’s intention from the beginning that the disposal of bodies after death was and is burial and not cremation. In the Old Testament we read of Joshua’s being buried. Then we read that Eleazar and Aaron died and were buried. Gideon was buried and of course, Moses was buried by God Himself on top of Mt. Pisgah. Samson died and was buried. Ruth made a promise to Naomi that wherever Naomi died and was buried that she too would be buried with her. Samuel also died and was buried. King David died and was also buried. You can read all of these stories in the Bible and God will attest the fact that it was and is His plan for God’s people to be buried in order to await the resurrection. “God intended men and women to be buried when they die, as a symbol of awaiting the resurrection, when they will rise from their graves. The patriarch Job knew this. He exclaimed in living faith ***“If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come. Thou shall call (at the time of the resurrection of the dead), and I will answer thee: thou will have a desire to the work of thine hands.”*** (Job 14:14-15) (“Should A Christian Be Cremated?” from the Untold Story web site, by William F. Dankenbring, page 8).

*“Later, Job exclaimed, **“for I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another.” (Job 19:25-27) (Ibid, page 8).***

I must tell you that I could go on and on and on declaring from the Scriptures that God has intended for His people to be buried at death and not be cremated. In the Bible when it talks about death and fire, it always refers to fire being the destructive element, which comes with God’s judgment upon wickedness and also as reward for eternal punishment. Listen to the words of the prophet Malachi as he wrote very explicit under the anointing of God. ***“For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven: and all of the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch...” (Mal. 4:1).*** Peter talks about the great fire of Gehenna, which will consume the bodies of the unrepentant wicked at the end of the age. He wrote, ***“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.” (II Peter 3:10).*** And, the apostle John describes the final fate of the wicked in the book of Revelation. He says, ***“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” (Rev. 21:8).***

Hopefully by now you have come to the conclusion that cremation was started with pagans and was never intended for saved believers. God gave us the greatest example of burial and resurrection when Jesus was buried and arose from the dead. Pay attention to what Jesus told His disciples about his forthcoming death and burial just before He died when the woman with the alabaster box of ointment came and anointed Him for His burial. He said to His disciples about this woman who anointed His feet with aromatic perfumes after Judas accused her of wasting this precious ointment. ***“Let her alone; why trouble ye her? She hath wrought a good work on me. For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always. She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever this Gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.” (Mark 14:6-9).*** In other words, Jesus set the example of how a body should be prepared and treated at the time of death for the child of God. The body of the dead believer should be treated with dignity because it has been housing the Holy Spirit of God. I personally believe that to burn through cremation the body of a saint who has gone on to heaven is to bring reproach upon the truth of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For sure, this is not the unpardonable sin, but it is a serious sin, which relegates this chosen vessel of a believer to nothing more than dust and dirt. Of course, we know that we all have been made from the dust of the earth, but when Jesus Christ brings new birth to the spirit of a man, surely the life and death of this re-born man should be with dignity and class.

Now let me be quick to say that if you have agreed with your family members and have had a loved one or friend cremated, I assure you that this is not an unforgivable sin. You certainly cannot go back and change the way you had someone’s body finalized. But hopefully, from what I have tried to share with you, you will know better in the future. Then too, I pray that in the future you will not allow even the financial cost of a funeral to deter you from having an appropriate burial for a love one or friend who dies. God does indeed forgive our sins and mistakes, but we must learn from these sins and mistakes and not make the same ones again. Regardless of what a secular world says and practices, the born again child of God should be buried, as was our Lord, in preparation for the great day when we will get new glorified bodies when Jesus comes again.

I also want to assure those of you who have already had some dear believing loved one cremated that this will make no difference when Jesus comes to give that individual a new glorified body. I promise you that He knows where every dead believer’s body is, and when He returns for the rapture of the church, these saved loved ones and friends will rise up in the air to meet Him in brand new glorified bodies. You can find this promise in **First Corinthians Chapter 15**. How they were disposed of here on this earth will not affect them at the resurrection. I also want to remind you that when a body dies here on earth, the soul of the departed one goes to either heaven or hell based upon what that person did with Jesus Christ when he or she had the opportunity to be saved. If the person rejected Christ, then that soul is lost forever. But if that person gives his or her life to Christ, “to be absent from the body”, the soul is then present with the Lord. Paul tells us this in **Second Corinthians 5:8**.

Before concluding this article, I feel that I need to mention another reason why I believe that the burning of

bodies is pagan behavior. This reason is because of the burning of the bodies of little children and others during the worship of Molech. "The Bible contains the heart-breaking tale of child sacrifice practiced in the name of Molech, a god of the Ammonites. Molech worship was practiced by the Ammonites and Canaanites, who revered Molech as a protecting father figure. Images of Molech were made of bronze, and their outstretched arms were heated red-hot. Living children were then placed into the idol's hands and died there or were rolled into a fire pit below. Some sources indicate a child might also be 'passed through the fire' prior to the actual sacrifice in order to purify or baptize the child. Molech worship occurred in the Hinnom Valley near Jerusalem. Because of this, the valley became associated with the idea of Tophet, or hell. You can read about Tophet or the hell mentioned here in **Isaiah 30:33** and **Jeremiah 19:12-15.**" (got Questions?org. "What does the Bible say about child sacrifice?", page 1).

"God prohibited Israel from child sacrifice in general and Molech worship in particular. **Lev. 20:2-5** states, ***'Say to the Israelites: Any Israelite or any foreigner residing in Israel who sacrifices any of his children to Molech is to be put to death. The members of the community are to stone him. I myself will set my face against him and will cut him off from his people; for by sacrificing his children to Molech, he has defiled my sanctuary and profaned my holy name. If the members of the community close their eyes when that man sacrifices one of his children to Molech and if they fail to put him to death, I myself will set my face against him and his family and will cut them off from their people together with all who follow him in prostituting themselves to Molech.'***" (Ibid, page 1).

God was adamantly against the burning of children in the worship of other gods, and I believe this is a revelation of why burning the bodies of our saved loved ones associates this act with pagan worship as well. We must be very careful that we don't give any indication that we are associating the burning of bodies with the worship of other god. I fear that this truly might be what we are doing, if we are not careful.

Finally, I would just mention that many of our Native American Indians burned the bodies of their dead loved ones for different reasons. Of course, each body that was burned had to do with the person's spirit and where it would go. Some tribes believed that the person's spirit would depart from the flames and fly up into the air and become the moon, which was good. Others believed that the spirits would fly upward from the flames and become coyotes, which was bad. The Se-nel Tribe in California was best known for this this type of cremation ("The Wall Street Journal" website, "Native Americans" 'Cremation'", Page 1).

Clearly, the burning of family members' bodies was a ritualistic type of worship and thus should be foreign to Christians who believe in death, burial, and resurrection. I could go on and on talking about different peoples who have practiced cremation, but I believe I have covered enough to convince any objective minded believer that he or she should not have the bodies of saved family members or friends cremated.

Let me also tell you that I sincerely hope and pray that this article might be used by many believers to give Biblical direction for the disposal of our dear loved ones with acts of dignity and class. The Lord truly knows that we have too few believers who have convictions about these valuable Christ-honoring traditions. If you want to discuss this with me, you may do so by giving me a call. If this article has helped you make a decision not to cremate one of your family members or friends, I would like to know this. May God give you His peace about this matter!

Dr. Stan Frye

President of GIMI

John 11:24-26



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