

DESTINY ABLAZE

Issue 20 + Oct - Nov + 2025

"For some, destiny outweighs the security of the familiar."

D.L. Mauder, President DIBC

A MINISTRY OF DESTINY INTERNATIONAL BIBLE COLLEGE

Bringing to Peace Family Tension A Thanksgiving Story

Colossians 3:12-14

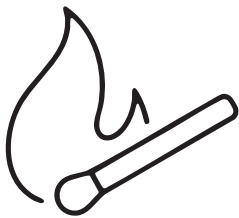


The Miraculous Here and Now

Matthew 27:51-53

Thanks giving

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



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Our prayer is that the anointing will be upon each issue and that the Lord will reach through this magazine and touch each reader's life.



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Destiny Ablaze is made free to readers through the generosity of donors.



POSTAGE PAID in Shoals, IN
Printed in the U.S.A.

Equipping individuals to discover, activate and fulfill their purpose and their **DESTINY**

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SNAPSHOT!

God's Creation

Fall in the Appalachian Mountains





From the President's Desk

David L. Mauder

Returning to the Heart of Worship

Recently, I woke up at 5 a.m. and began thinking about the changes both here at DIBC and in our businesses. The truth is, there are so many important things that demand our attention, and they often limit our personal time spent with God. Life is so busy that it occupies not only our time but our minds. I often feel like I am passing myself coming and going.

As I began to pray, the Lord started pouring into my spirit about returning to a place of more in-depth worship. Over the next hour, I realized this was not just a message for me but for the body of Christ. My mind immediately went to the words of a song: "I'm coming back to the heart of worship and it's all about You, it's all about You, Jesus. I'm sorry, Lord, for the things I've made it when it's all about You, it's all about You, Jesus..."

As a teenager, I would often stay after church to play my guitar and worship. It was just me and the Lord. I always locked the doors as the last person left. One night, to my amazement, I looked up and a small, old man was sitting toward the back, just listening to the praise and worship. After a few minutes, to my even greater amazement, he suddenly disappeared. For some, this may sound a bit crazy, but Scripture tells us we entertain angels unaware.

Another evening, I heard the sound of a heavenly choir that seemed to be coming from above. The sound was like nothing I had ever heard before or since. It was a hard time in my life, and I knew the Lord was letting me know that he heard my worship and that I had reached heaven.

As I've mentioned before, for years as I pray, a phrase comes up from my spirit: "I must have more, more of You." In Psalm 22:3, the Bible tells us that He inhabits the praise of his people. As we worship, the Holy Spirit draws closer to us. These are the times when He overcomes our doubts and confusion; it is when we receive revelation and direction. It is a personal experience between us and the God of the Universe. He comforts us, and we become assured that He is mindful of us, that He cares for us, and that He is in control.

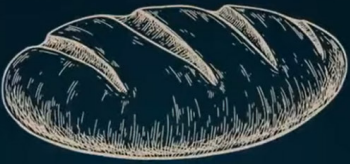
There are many reasons we don't worship like we should. Some have never been taught and, in turn, have never experienced the relational benefits that come from in-depth worship. Too many times in our ministries we become so busy "working for the Lord" that we are not spending time with Him in prayer and worship. Life is full of deadlines and commitments, all stealing our time. Often, the only time we worship Him is during the songs at the beginning of the service. We go to church but find ourselves going through religious motions, and we don't fully receive what we need and what He desires.

Here at DIBC and with our many ministries, we never want to lose sight of what it is all about. The best way to stay grounded is through in-depth worship and recognizing who He is.

"It's all about You, Jesus."

Daily Bread • A dive into the Lord's Prayer and its meaning.

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Each issue we answer questions submitted by our readers. Our responses come directly from our advisory board and seasoned ministers, ensuring you receive the most informed and experienced answers.

Submit your questions for future issues to:
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Why Indigenous Missions? Jeff Goldsberry

There are three main reasons, but first it might be good to establish what it is and what it is not. Indigenous missions is evangelizing people right where you are. We all should be "indigenous missionaries." If you hear someone say "native missionaries," that is the same thing.

Now for what it is not... Indigenous missions is not the only way to reach the lost and not always the best way. It is a piece of the puzzle when doing an overview of the Great Commission. Let's look at the three main reasons why indigenous missions is so important in these last days.

First of all:

Many countries do not allow foreign missionaries. All Islamic states, by definition, do not allow proselytizing from any religion other than Islam. Many Communist countries do not grant long-term visas to any "Westerners," let alone ministers. The World Watch List identifies the ten most dangerous countries to promote Christianity. These places do not tolerate any profession of faith. Imprisonment, brutal torture, and even death are common for those submitting to Christ. Imagine how much worse it would be for one caught attempting to convert someone to Christianity.

The most dangerous places for Christians are (in order): Afghanistan, North Korea, Somalia, Libya, Yemen, Eritrea, Nigeria, Pakistan, Iran, and India. That means 1 in 7 Christians worldwide face violence for their faith. Destiny Global has recently worked with indigenous pastors in nine of these ten nations. Please lift up your brothers and sisters in these places and pray for their safety as they bring others into the glorious grace of God!

The second reason:

The second reason for indigenous missions is simply that they are often more effective because they can get up to speed much quicker. Imagine for a moment the difficulties a Chinese person who only speaks Mandarin would have arriving in your city today to share the Gospel with the lost. Language barriers, dialects, slang, culture, diet, weather, transportation, housing, customs, and laws would all delay their efforts. It's no different overseas for Western missionaries. I have often heard, "God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called." While that is very true of ministry in general, we don't see many Acts 2 experiences where everyone hears in their own tongue the wonderful works of God from a speaker who has never heard their language before. I have only met one individual who spoke in tongues and could instantly read and write that new language. While God can do anything, and many tongues are an unknown or heavenly language, it was still fascinating to hear this testimony. Certainly, in most instances, those with a mastery of speech, customs, and diet have a head start on those who do not.

The final reason:

The final reason is a practical one. Even if all countries were open to the presentation of the Gospel, some have a much higher cost of living than others. For the cost of placing a Western missionary family overseas (including housing, transportation, health care, and a meeting place), we can support 30 full-time church planters in Russia, 35 in Eastern Europe, 40 in Africa, and 150 in India. Some of this huge difference is simply cost of living, but some of it is also the expense of safe housing that is more in line with what the missionary is accustomed to. If a missions organization or missions-minded congregation is limited in resources, often sowing a small amount into indigenous servants of God can still foster tremendous Kingdom results!



David Runge

Christ Follower, Husband, Father,
Pastor, Pilot, and Author

I watched our 5-year-old son Daniel with great interest. His adorable curly blond hair, highlighted by the bright summer sun, clashed with his knitted, wrinkled brow and scrunched up face. He faced a dilemma and was wrestling with a decision he was about to make. We were at a wooden boat show on the Chesapeake Bay and a toy wooden submarine with a small weight and rubber band wind up propeller had caught his eye. What would he do?

“Dad, I really want to buy this boat,” Daniel said.

“I know Daniel, but it will cost all the money you have.”

“I don’t care. I really want it.”

We had given Daniel a specific amount of money that was his to spend on our vacation, and there were still several days left. My father’s heart went out to him.

“Daniel, I’ll give you a choice. You can either use up all your money and buy this yourself. Or you can let me buy it for you and trust I will give it to you later at the right time.”

Daniel cradled the little boat in his hands, gazing at it longingly for about thirty seconds, and then handed it to me. “You can buy it.” I gently took the little craft, paid the vendor, and then handed it back to my wide eyed son.

There were many things I asked of Daniel at that age. I expected him to pick up his toys, put his clothes away, and wash his face and brush his teeth before bed, among others. I was obviously pleased when he obeyed. But this was different. The trust he placed in me, his willingness to forgo immediate gratification, believing I had his best in mind, and that he was loved, touched my father heart. And we had great fun together, playing with that little submarine in our neighborhood pool when we returned home!

Is it also not so with our Heavenly Father? There are many commands in God’s Word that we do well to obey. Yet it is the trust we place in Him, even when circumstances scream otherwise, that touches His heart and enables us to experience the joy of His pleasure. Brennan Manning describes this pleasure in his book Ruthless Trust.

“... the splendor of a human heart which trusts that it is loved gives God more pleasure than Westminster Cathedral, the Sistine Chapel, Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, Van Gogh’s Sunflowers, the sight of ten thousand butterflies in flight, or the scent of a million orchids in bloom. Trust is our gift back to God, and he finds it so enchanting that Jesus died for love of it.”

“But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.” Psalm 13:5

Trust v/s Obedience

Part 1

The LORD is my strength and shield. I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving. Psalm 28:7

David Runge takes a fresh look at pleasing God in **Commended – Finding Your Joy in God’s Approval, Affirmation, and Pleasure (Even on Your worst Days)** available at Amazon and at www.davidrunge.com.



God uses ordinary men to do EXTRA ORDINARY things!

Never underestimate what God can do through you...

By Wallace VanSlyke

Just a couple days ago I ran across the title statement on Facebook.

I do not know who first said it—if I did, I would give them the credit. However, it set my mind to whirling. I used this illustration in our Bible study last evening: If you were to take a piece of electric wiring and strip both ends of both wires, then get someone to hold one end (and please do not literally do this), and then take the other end and plug it into an electric outlet, the amount of jolt they receive has nothing to do with how powerful *you* are. The only thing that determines the amount of jolt is how much power is in the outlet.

Please understand the amount you can accomplish in your ministry has nothing to do with how powerful you are but who you are connecting others to. God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things because ordinary people help others to make the contact to the real power source, which is God. And when God is brought on the scene God does the unexpected.

I’m 81 years old and was just voted in as pastor last Sunday. But you see, I learned years ago that I never just go get a thought and preach out of my own ability. Rather, I go to the throne room of heaven, and there God speaks a thought into my spirit. We, as this end-time church, are living in desperate times, and ordinary church is not going to get the job done. We must become so desperate that God can use us to see the extraordinary.

I have been in a series of Bible studies for probably 10 weeks on what we titled “*The Lord’s Prayer*.”

Two things have really stood out to me while teaching this series. Number one: there are no personal pronouns in this prayer. *Our Father*... We must come to understand that everyone has needs—not just me. So when I say “*Our Father*,” I’m asking our Father to do just as much of the unexpected for them as I am for me.

Number two: while teaching on repentance it dawned on me—what got the devil expelled from heaven was not the sins of the flesh (lying, stealing, sexual sins, etc.), although these are definitely wrong. What got him in trouble was pride and self-centeredness. So often we look at our outward life and think, *I’m doing pretty good*. All the while we are full of pride, deceit, bitterness, etc. And if God would expel one of the leading angels already in heaven for this, maybe we need to ask ourselves: can I go there with the same things in my heart?

You say, *but you are writing about ordinary men doing extraordinary things*. Yes, and I believe wholeheartedly it will become a common thing. But what I’m saying is this: let’s get anything out of our lives that would hinder us, so the Glorious God of heaven can use us.

Someone once said, “*When we have things in our life that aren’t covered by the blood of Calvary, they become handles the devil can grab ahold of and drag us down*.” But when we repent, we break those handles off. And when the enemy reaches out to stop us, he has nothing to grab onto. Instead of being held back, we surge ahead into the extraordinary. And God does the unexpected in our ministries.

Luke 7:11-16 11 And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people. 12 Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. 13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. 14 And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. 15 And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother. 16 And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people.

continue...

John 8:4-5
4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?
The woman caught in the act... They expected Him to say, stone her, but instead, Jesus didn't condone her sin—He forgave her. The unexpected, for sure.

We have lived and are living in a very lukewarm church age. It seems we must just give in. We should just accept the inevitable and go about our usual.

Acts 2:17
And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

But what I'm witnessing all around the world is that there is a group of people refusing to just lie down and play dead. Instead, they are rising up, saying: *"God promised, and we will tarry until we are endued with power from on high."*

And guess what? The God who made the promises is doing the unexpected.

All over the world, people are being endued with power. Miracles are happening.

People of God, listen: God didn't start this church running on 8 cylinders for it to cross the finish line running on 3 cylinders. Rather, He said He would present to Himself a glorious church.

What about it, church? I believe God wants us to rise up, earnestly seek Him, and again witness the glory and power of a God who specializes in doing **"THE UNEXPECTED."**

God uses ordinary men to do **EXTRA** ORDINARY things!

Never underestimate what God can do through you...



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Times of Transition

Samuel and the Lessons of Change

By John Hattabaugh

Samuel was a prophet of Israel — but not just any prophet. His father had two wives. One had given him several sons and daughters, but his wife Hannah was barren. Elkanah loved Hannah, and when she wept he asked her why, saying, *"Am I not better to thee than ten sons?"*

Hannah prayed for a son and vowed that she would give him unto the Lord. She prayed in her heart, moving her lips but making no sound, so that Eli the priest accused her of being drunk. When Hannah conceived and bore Samuel, she brought him to the temple to Eli after he was weaned, declaring that as long as he lived, he would be lent to the Lord.

Samuel was blessed and exalted all his life. He was the last of the Judges of Israel, and his death brought chaos to the nation.

At one point, King Saul had driven the witches out of Israel, but after Samuel's death he sought out a witch and asked her to call Samuel from the dead to give him spiritual counsel. It was a time of transition for Israel — and transition often brings about chaos.



One definition for chaos is *"complete disorder and confusion."* Often when transitions such as a job change, a marriage, a divorce, or a move occur, everything feels chaotic and out of order. Sometimes we feel confused and lost. Change often means the familiar is gone, replaced with what is unfamiliar.

A friend of mine once told me a quote that rings with truth: *"Change is the essential process of all existence."* Interestingly, although it rings true, it was actually a line from Spock, a fictional character.

Individual churches go through times of change — perhaps a new pastor arrives who does things differently than how "it has always been done." One minister might mingle and shake everyone's hand, while another might remain on the platform. Missionaries also face many changes as they leave their homes, families, and countries. Once they arrive on the mission field, there are new pressures to succeed, and often their support from family, friends, and churches depends on it. Missions are possible because of those answering the call in their hearts. Missionaries leave all they know because of that calling, but just as vital are those who provide the emotional, spiritual, and financial support needed for the mission to be accomplished.

Not all change is good. When Samuel died, Israel and Saul were lost without his spiritual wisdom and guidance. A retiring missionary or pastor may still carry the burden of their calling, but at times, due to age and health, they cannot continue and feel useless and without purpose. An active minister may pass away, leaving behind a widow who may have to move and who often feels the loss of her identity, tied so closely to her husband and their ministry. The loss of a job may also force a transition.

There never seems to be a convenient time for transitions, and history does not always repeat itself. When soldiers returned home from WWII, they traveled by ship and were met with great welcomes and celebrations. When Vietnam soldiers returned home, they traveled by plane, arriving almost immediately from the battlefield, and were met not with celebration but with a divided and angry nation.

We are in a time of transition in the world today. Israel and the countries surrounding it are constantly in transition. We need to recognize that change will come; it is a necessary part of our existence. Hold on to your faith. The need for salvation is always present. The call of God is always present. The greatest danger is for our children. In this electronic age, they have cell phones and computers with access to enormous amounts of information — both good and bad. We are living in the most transitional time in history.

And so, we can say,
"And Samuel died."



Give Thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Bringing Peace *to* Family Tension

By Alice Benavides

"Can you believe what your brother said? Who does he think he is?" Sara fumed.

"Yeah! He tries to tell us how to raise our kids when his own kids act like that!" Ted said, looking dejected.

This is a typical scene as extended families gather for the holidays. Friction can build as family groups come together with their own ideas of right and wrong. Adult children often have unresolved anger toward siblings, parents, and other relatives about situations that occurred years earlier. Then, add in a possible clash of values, and differences in faith and ideas of how to raise children. And just when you least expect it, things can go very wrong.

Sometimes it seems impossible to iron out the differences, but Colossians 3:12-14 talks about eight qualities we can *"put on"* to help us do our part. And with Thanksgiving around the corner, it's a good time to see what the Word of God has to say about this.

"Put on tender mercies..."

God is always ready to shower us with His mercy. All He asks of us is to show mercy to others. Showing mercy to a loved one means letting go of revenge. It also means accepting others just as they are.

"Kindness..."

There are many ways to show kindness. Putting others first is a great kindness that communicates love.

"Humility..."

This is a willingness to maintain unity and harmony by setting aside all attempts at personal gain. Such an attitude lets your loved one know how highly you think of him or her.

"Meekness..."

Meekness is not weakness. It is a gentle and quiet inner strength. We can show meekness by listening to our loved one's point of view.

"Longsuffering..."

Longsuffering is like patience. Many times, another's inappropriate behavior is a sign of unresolved anger. Remembering this helps us to be patient with someone who has been hurt.

"Bearing with one another..."

To forbear is to maintain self-control when we feel misunderstood or angered. Using forbearance keeps us from saying something we will later regret.



“And forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.”

Jesus gave us the most beautiful example of forgiveness while on the cross. Long before any of us were born, He had already suffered and paid the price for our sin. Since Jesus has so freely forgiven us, it’s now our turn to extend that forgiveness to others.

“But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.”

Love is perfect!
If we truly desire to walk in God’s perfect will, then we must show love. Love will always touch a loved one’s heart, for “Love never fails,” (1 Cor. 13:8).

“Sara, how about we be patient with Steven. He’s been through a lot since his divorce.”
“You’re right. This Christmas will be his first major holiday without his children,” Sara said thoughtfully.
“I know he’s struggling with that.”

✦ *Sara and Ted chose forgiveness and forbearance to keep peace in this family setting.*

As we prepare to gather with family for Thanksgiving Day, it’s a good time to take stock of the blessings God has given us in family. And even though we don’t deserve it, Jesus loves us. Let’s share His love with others.

Prayer: Lord, since things don’t always go smoothly at our family gatherings, I ask for Your help to do my part in bringing peace instead of strife to our holidays. Help me remember what Your Word says about these eight qualities.



Alice Benavides
lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma, with her husband, Benny. They attend Redeemer Covenant Church where they serve in that congregation. They have three grown children and six grandchildren all living in the Tulsa area.



“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.”

Colossians 3:12-14 NKJV





He Restores My Soul

Psalm 23:3a

A Mental Health Moment

“Perfect Peace”



Pamela R. Karandos, LMHC, EdS, NCP

Licensed Mental Health Counselor,
Psychotherapist, Life Coach

Have you ever been anxious and worried?

Each day we have distractions, so many things that can pull our attention here and there. In Matthew 6:27, Jesus says, *“Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?”*

In Luke 10:38-42, we read that, *“Martha was so distracted”* by many things and even asked Jesus to *“tell her (sister Mary) to help”* her. But Jesus answered, *“... Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her...”*

What was the part that Mary was doing? She was sitting at the feet of Jesus listening to His teaching. This is what we are called to do to calm ourselves from the distractions and worries. Jesus calls us to come sit at His feet, to trust in Him. Only one thing is necessary, stay in His presence and soak in His wisdom. How do we do this? We do this by spending undistracted time with Him, staying in His word, praying, talking and sharing our hearts with Him.

What are you choosing in your life? Listen, Jesus is calling you to sit at His feet and rest in His perfect peace.



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"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward"

Psalm 127:3

Bible Wordsearch

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

WORD LIST		
ADAM	EVE	HOLY
ANGEL	FAITH	LORD
ARK	GOD	NOAH
EDEN		

Magazine Scavenger Hunt!

All of these items are in this issue. Find them all!

LOAF OF BREAD	A FORK	A ROCKET
MAN WITH GLASSES	A TREE	A PUMPKIN
A SPIDER	AFRICA	A BIBLE

Can you find the Destiny Ablaze Match?

It's hidden somewhere in this magazine!
Good luck!

Trivia!

Can you answer these questions?
Answers on the bottom of page

- 1 What ship did the pilgrims sail on?
- 2 What is the most popular Thanksgiving dessert?
- 3 Which president made Thanksgiving a national holiday?
- 4 Who baptized Jesus?
- 5 How many apostles did Jesus have?



1. The Mayflower 2. Pumpkin Pie 3. Abraham Lincoln 4. John the Baptist 5. 12

The Miraculous Here and Now

Do We Miss God’s Unexpected Power?

Keithetta Mauder

I was reading an article the other day concerning miracles, and the writer brought up the concept of incidental miracles. He defined these as events that occur spontaneously or in ways that were not the primary focus, often highlighting God’s unexpected power.

One such miracle he cited was the earthquake that split the rocks and opened tombs at the time of Christ’s death. The Bible records it this way:

“And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city and appeared unto many.” (Matthew 27:51–53, KJV)

Raised to Believe

I was raised in a Christian family with Christian parents and pastors who believed in miracles today. Many times during testimony services, we would hear people share the things that God had done.

I myself was healed of a broken jaw as a young child. I was very young and don’t remember many details. I do remember falling while pulling my brother up a hill in a wagon, hitting my chin during a family get-together at our home. I remember sitting on my great-grandfather’s lap, crying, while he and other family members prayed for me.

The next day, when I was unable to eat an egg salad sandwich, my parents took me to the doctor. They X-rayed my jaw and told my parents it was broken and would need to be wired shut. I would only be able to eat through a straw while it



healed. Between that visit and the scheduled procedure, my parents attended a service where I was prayed for again. Before my jaw was to be wired, they requested another X-ray — and it showed my jaw was no longer broken.

Why do I know that story so well? Because my parents told it over and over again to others, along with many other miracles and healings they had experienced.

The Unseen Protection

There are countless times when we are miraculously protected from harm. Maybe we miss a flight or it is delayed. Maybe we forget something at home and have to turn back. In the moment, we are often frustrated, never realizing that God might have protected us. Perhaps the missed flight leads us to sit next to someone who needs encouragement or a word from the Lord.

We often overlook what many might call *“the goodness of God,”* but for the person most affected, it is a true miracle — something that happened only because of God’s intervention.

No one would deny that the rising of the dead from the tombs on the day of Christ’s death was a miracle, though it is not the miracle most often mentioned when that story is told. We usually hear of His death and of the temple veil being torn,

giving us direct access to the throne of grace without a priest. But the other miracles are often overlooked or even unknown to many.

The Power of Testimony

One of the saddest moments of my life was during a conversation with someone I loved deeply, an important part of our family unit. He was very ill and getting worse. I said to him, *“You know Jesus can heal you?”*

His reply broke my heart: *“Yes, but that doesn’t happen very often.”*

I could tell he believed in healing, but he had no faith that it would happen for him. He wasn’t actively seeking it. The question is: why? Why did he think it doesn’t happen very often?

Because we do not testify.

Many of us have convinced ourselves — or allowed others to convince us — that miracles are merely incidental. Yet the second definition of *“incidental”* from Oxford Languages is: *“liable to happen as a consequence of an activity.”*

Do Miracles Happen Today? Yes!

Miracles happen today, here and now. But we must believe, acknowledge them, and share them over and over again. That is what builds faith.

Then, when the time comes that a miracle is needed, people will not say, *“Yes, but that doesn’t happen very often.”* Instead, they will be able to pray, quote the Word and His promises, and believe that those promises are for today — believing that yes, miracles still happen.

The Miraculous Here and Now

Testimony Fuels Faith



Too often, miracles are forgotten almost as quickly as they happen. Both unbelievers—and even believers—tend to overlook or explain them away. Yet it was remembering the miracles of the bear and the lion that gave David the courage to face Goliath with unshakable confidence.



Should Christian Families
**CELEBRATE
HALLOWEEN?**

BY LOREN JONES

We give you two sides of the conversation
and let you make the decision.



Every October, a lot of Christians find themselves asking the same question: should we embrace Halloween as harmless, family fun, or avoid it altogether because of possible dark roots?

Let’s dive into the two views, read the facts and we’ll let you readers evaluate them and test it against their own convictions to make your decisions for you and your family.

Yes We Celebrate

For our family, Halloween has always been more about lighthearted fun than anything dark or sinister. We see it as an evening where we can laugh together, dress up in creative costumes, and walk the neighborhood as a family. It feels more like Disney’s Hocus Pocus — playful, silly, and imaginative — than anything like a frightening Hollywood horror film.

From the start, we dedicate the day to God. We pray before heading out, asking for His protection and to keep our hearts focused on Him. Then we enjoy the laughter, the costumes, and the candy, thankful for the chance to spend time together. When we return home with bags of sweets, we gather again to pray — this time offering thanks for a safe and joyful evening.

For us, Halloween is not about celebrating evil but about redeeming the night for family bonding and community. We believe Christians can engage in the day respectfully, having fun, being creative, and giving gratitude to the Lord for every blessing.

Rather than focusing on what Halloween was, we focus on what it can be — a chance to enjoy our families, bless our communities, and invite God into every part of the day.

No We Stay Away

For our family, choosing not to celebrate Halloween has been a prayerful, deliberate decision. While costumes and candy may seem harmless on the surface, we believe it’s important to ask not just, “What’s wrong with it?” but rather, “What’s right about it?” Halloween’s origins are rooted in pagan rituals, and today it still emphasizes darkness, haunted houses, and imagery that glorifies fear. Scripture reminds us to “have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them” (Ephesians 5:11).

Instead of joining in, we’ve built our own family tradition on October 31st. We keep the porch light off, stay home together, and use the evening as a time of worship, reflection, and fun that honors Christ. We share what God is doing in our lives, encourage our children to stand firm in their faith even when the culture pulls the other way, and then spend the night laughing, playing games, and enjoying one another’s company. We bond, without the distractions of a holiday that doesn’t align with our convictions.

There are many wonderful things in this world that God has given us to enjoy. But for us, Halloween isn’t one of them. We believe the best way to honor Christ is by setting ourselves apart from celebrations that highlight fear, death, and darkness. By saying no to Halloween, we are saying yes to building up our family in faith and joy.

Some of the quotes we got when we asked around...

“You’re gonna get a lot of mixed answers about this topic. Better get some popcorn.”

“Me personally, no. Individual choice. To each his own.”

“Nope. it’s a pagan holiday, and it celebrates death.”

“Me? I celebrate it for the fun of it. Candy and costumes. Others may not as they see it as demonic.”

“Yes!!! I don’t give the devil that day. I give it to the Lord and let the light of Christ shine.”



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- Destiny Global Funding

Kenya Mission Update

From: Samuel Njiru

We trust and believe that everything so far has been by the Lord’s grace. With deep gratitude for this grace, we thank God for enabling us to walk in faith, even as we continue to trust Him in the midst of our challenges.

The mission of **Youngsters for Christ** goes far and beyond, reaching places where others would not want to go. This is because of the amazing call and the zeal we have through the transformational Gospel of Jesus Christ. In our journey in the mission field, we have witnessed the brokenhearted, wounded souls, widows, and orphans in desperate need. We have seen communities rising against one another, young girls unable to leave their homes due to embarrassment and shame, many being trapped by men against their will, and young men committing suicide.

By God’s grace, the Kenya mission of Youngsters for Christ has become a bridge of hope for these souls, with many giving their lives to Christ.



Photos from the Kenyan Mission



Photos from the Kenyan Mission

- Germany
- Slovakia
- Italy
- Spain
- Ukraine
- Moldova
- Romania
- Albania
- Serbia
- Afghanistan
- Pakistan
- Bhutan
- Nepal
- Cambodia
- Turkey
- Iran
- India
- South Sudan
- Burundi
- Uganda
- Kenya
- Rwanda
- Zambia
- D.R. Congo
- Malawi
- Tanzania
- Cameroon
- United States
- Haiti
- Nicaragua
- Ecuador

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.
James 1:27

Our hearts cry for this generation, even as we remain willing to be used by God. As we share this with you, we invite you to pray for the Kenya mission of **Youngsters for Christ**: for God’s protection, for unity of mind among our leaders, and for your hand of partnership so that this ministry may bring transformation to others as the Lord leads and speaks to your heart.

Please pray that our country may remain peaceful as the nation faces growing tribal tensions in the approach to election year.
Please pray as we seek 65 Study Bibles, each costing \$38 USD, for village pastors and home cell group leaders we have trained.
Please pray for our children’s feeding outreach, which faces challenges due to a lack of food. A gift of \$15 feeds one child three times per week for an entire month.
Please pray for our girls’ sanitary towel outreach. Just \$3 supplies one girl for a month, lifting her spirit while positively affecting her education and participation in group activities.



Give Thanks When Giving Thanks is *Hard*

Nannette Elkins

Enjoy your Thanksgiving Day with your family and friends. Jesus will be there too.

Holidays can be difficult and wonderful all at the same time. They are wonderful because we are with friends and family and they are difficult because some of those same people are no longer at our holiday table.

“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.” Colossians 3:15

There are other life pressures that make being thankful just plain hard. Nothing seems to be going right, finances are tight, the job is unsteady at best, the world is in chaos and relationships are shaky.

Be thankful? For what?

- When I feel like it?
- When everything is going well?
- When I am happy, upbeat and positive?
- When my kids like me, my boss praises me and my wife still smiles when I enter the room?

Yes, be thankful when everything is going well. And when it is **not**. The Bible doesn’t tell us to thank God only when things are going perfect, it actually says, “In everything, give thanks.” In everything!

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7

If we believe the Word then look at that scripture again: Don’t worry, pray about everything, tell Him what you need and THANK HIM for what He has done.

And if you do that? Then you will experience God’s peace! The Bible says that peace is greater than anything we can understand! Will your circumstances change? Maybe not, but His peace will guard your heart and your mind as you live in Christ Jesus.

Wow.

We hear so much in this present world, when someone has a beautiful family, a job promotion, a new house, a new baby, and on and on: “*You are so blessed.*” And it is true, we never take lightly the good things in this life, we give God the praise in all things!

But does that mean that the one who is not experiencing good things, prosperity or over-abundance is NOT blessed of God? I dare say, “**No.**”

These things, if not of our own doing, are just part of living in this sinful world. Bad things happen to good people but in all things, in everything, God is faithful and sovereign. He never changes and He is always fair and just.

So, on this National Day of Thanks, remember you might be sitting beside someone who is struggling, who has forgotten that they still have much to be thankful for, someone who is finding it isn’t easy to Give Thanks...this year.

Maybe they have lost a loved one and the chair beside them is empty. Possibly they are separated from their spouse or about to lose their job. Perhaps they are just fearful of world events. Whatever the reason that Giving Thanks Isn’t Easy, would you try to be an encouragement to them? Speak words of love and affirmation, remember that you have been in their shoes at some point and that God hasn’t forgotten them.

And if you, the reader, right now, are the one going through dark trials, can I tell you Jesus Loves You? He knows right where you are and loves you more than the sparrows that He takes care of every day. He will never, never leave you and never forsake you. There is comfort in His presence, in giving your needs and cares to Him and letting Him be your Burden Bearer.

He’s already paid the price for YOU and one day soon He will come back for YOU and take you to be with Him.

So even though Giving Thanks Isn’t Easy, there is power in praise and strength will come back to you. Remember what God has done in the past and thank Him. Then don’t forget to praise Him for what He is GOING TO DO!



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DESTINY ABLAZE

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workmanship, created
in Christ Jesus for
good works, which
God prepared
beforehand, that we
should walk in them”**

Ephesians 2:10

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