

EVANGELICAL PROTESTANT  
CHURCH(GCEPC)®, INC,  
LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL  
PROTESTANT CHURCH(LEPC)®

**BREAKING  
NEWS!**

The Counselor  
is Coming, ex-  
pected May 19,  
2013

Film at eleven, ED

**INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE**

Who we are	2
Bishop's Page	3
Followers, Converts or Numbers?	4
"Your Mess is Your Message"	7
When Anxiety and Worry Creep Into Our Lives Do We Hear God's Calm- ing Voice?	9
Thinking.....	11
Lets General Conference in Jerusalem	13
On the ground in Afghanistan... and	13
Pray and Seek His Face	15
Changes for Chaplains	18
Follow to Fish	19
Fresh Prayer	20
The "Back Page"	21

# The Evangelical Protestant The Magazine of the Lutheran Evangelical Protestant Church

SPRING 2013

FIRST ISSUE 1917

He Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed!

Sunrise at the Totem Pole and Yei-bi-Chei Formations  
Monument Valley Arizona



Evangelical Protestant  
Church (GCEPC)® Inc.,

Lutheran Evangelical  
Protestant Church (LEPC)®,

*GCEPC "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2: 8*

The Most Rev. Nancy Drew  
Presiding Bishop/President  
The Rt. Rev. Jessica Johnston  
Executive Bishop/Vice President

Bishop Consular  
Board of Advisors - Council of Bishops  
Bishop The Rt. Rev. Dr. David Church  
Bishop The Rt. Rev. Dr. William Dorn  
Bishop The Rt. Rev. Dr. Harvey Menden  
Bishop The Rt. Rev. Linda Dabney  
Bishop The Rev. Dr. Israel Ikpeka  
Bishop The Rev. Dr. Fred Macharia  
Bishop The Rt. Rev. Ralf Muller  
Bishop (Interim) Rev. Dr. Michael Norton  
Bishop The Rt. Rev. Dennis Overlien  
Bishop The Rt. Rev. Dr. Francesco Reale  
Bishop The Rev. Elijah Ruboneka

The Evangelical Protestant Journal "Kirchenbote" (Church Messenger) was established in 1885, Gustav Schmidt became editor. In 1917, the German Evangelical churches in the Pittsburgh area began publication of a monthly entitled The Evangelical Protestant. (Archives Smithfield UCC)  
Members may reproduce and distribute this issue.  
Members may upload this issue to their website.  
*The Evangelical Protestant* is the magazine of the Evangelical Protestant Church, Lutheran Evangelical Protestant Church, General Conference of Evangelical Protestant Churches, GCEPC, Inc.  
The full color *Evangelical Protestant* is published quarterly.  
Editor Rev. Steve Bacon

# We Believe

**1. The Holy Scriptures**, in the original tongues, is the inspired and inerrant word of God. (Matthew 4:4, 2 Timothy 3:16,17)

**2. There is one God**, eternal and self-existent, Creator and Ruler of the universe, and manifested through the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (John 1:18, Matthew 3:16-17) We are Trinitarian.

**3. Jesus Christ** is truly divine and truly human having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. (Matt.1: 18)

**4. Jesus Christ** died on the cross and shed His blood as a Sacrifice

for our sins; He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Majesty on High. (1 John 2:2)

**5. Humankind** was created in the image of God, but fell into sin causing separation from God. (Gen. 3:1-24)

**6. Salvation** has been provided through Jesus Christ for all; and those who repent and believe on Him are born again of the Holy Spirit, receive the gift of eternal life and become the children of God. (John 1:10)

**7. Water baptism** identifies us with the death and burial of Christ and that we should arise to

walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19-20)

**8. We believe in the ministry of the Holy Spirit** to glorify Christ, to convict of sin, to enable the believer to live a godly life, and to empower the Church to carry the gospel into all the world.

(Matthew 12:31, Acts 1:8.)

**9. In the personal and visible return of Jesus Christ** for His Church. (Matthew 24:30, Rev 1:7)

**10. In the bodily resurrection** of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved and everlasting separation from God of all those who reject Jesus Christ. (John 1:10-13, Rev 20:11-15)

## The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

AMEN.

# Bishop's Page



Hello and welcome to our 2013 Spring Edition of the Evangelical Protestant Magazine.

On Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> we celebrated Easter. The first night of Passover was March 26, 2013. What does Passover have to do with Easter? Passover was instituted by God in the Old Testament. It was to be celebrated every year by the Hebrews to commemorate the shedding of the blood of a lamb to protect the Hebrews from the Angel of death. When the Angel of Death passed through the land of Egypt killing all of the first born, the Hebrews would be safe. The Hebrews of Goshen put the blood of the lamb on their door post as God said through Moses so that they would be kept safe. After this occurrence God would then lead them out of Egypt to go to the land promised to their forefathers now known as Israel.

Passover is a picture of the coming of Christ as the Lamb of God whose blood would be shed to save mankind. Jesus, the only begotten Son of God

would be the first born risen from the dead. It was early on Sunday morning when the resurrection took place. There was no Easter bunny there that we know of, no chirping chicks, no chocolate rabbits and no colored eggs. But the angels of God and the Holy Spirit were in evidence as were the Mary's and others who came to dress the body of Jesus with sweet smelling fragrances.

An amazing and powerful miracle took place that day. Jesus who was dead was now alive and wanting to meet with the disciples in Galilee just as he had planned. Put it on your calendar he had said to his disciples. I'll see you in Galilee. When they saw that he was dead on the cross and lay in the grave, they thought all plans were off. Jesus never forsakes his word. A little death could not hold him and he kept their appointment that day. This is what Easter is about –it is about the sacrifice of the pure Lamb of God but without the resurrection there would be no Easter. Easter will come for each of us as well as children of the Most high. Because Jesus rose from the dead we will also rise!

Death cannot hold us. We will keep our appointment with Christ also just as he has planned for us.

Enjoy your Passover and Easter celebrations commemorating the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Enjoy your children with their Easter Baskets and chocolate rabbits. Jesus said, "Do not offend any of these little ones, and do not look down on them for their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in Heaven. He told us we must be like them in their innocent faith and trust in him to be able to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus with the innocence, faith and trust of God's child gave himself for all of us and lives today because of it. Have a blessed Resurrection Day every day!

*My greatest desire for all of our ministers is that they would have a close walk with Our Lord, learning His ways, hearing His voice, knowing Him.*



*Bishop Nancy Drew*

## Followers, Converts or Numbers?

By Bishop Dr. David A. Church

**“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”** (Matthew 28:19-20 ESV)

*The Gospel itself has been totally distorted in today's Church by leaving us without any responsibility whatsoever, including that of repentance.*

As Director of Missions for the GCEPC/ LEPC one would guess that I have a heart for Missions and Evangelism, especially after reading any other articles I've written or have heard me speak. After the massive amounts of grace poured out on me I *must* share it with others, and I do it on a regular basis with not only addicts, alcoholics, gang members and

others caught up in sinful lifestyles, but also with those considered productive members of society but who don't know Christ.

I have serious concerns over what is considered Evangelism and Discipleship today. The typical “evangelistic meeting” or “revival” at a

church falls far short of what Christ meant. We can actually place the blame on Charles Finney for this type of meeting, because this was carried over into the ministries of Billy Sunday, Dwight L. Moody, Billy Graham and a host of others currently using this style of ministry. Persons are brought to the meetings in the hope of listening to a well known preacher and “believing in Christ.” They are asked to walk forward during an “alter call” where they are asked to repeat a short prayer after which they are declared saved, and if the preacher is of the “once saved always saved” persuasion they are told that no matter what they do after this they will still get to heaven. No repentance necessary, this “gospel” goes under various names such as the Love Gospel- “God loves you and has a plan for your life”, Easy Believism, Fire Insurance or the falsely called Free Grace- which is really nothing but anti-nomianism and a license to sin and is condemned by the Apostle Paul :

**“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?”** (Romans 6:1-3 ESV)

The Gospel itself has been totally distorted in today's Church by leaving us without any responsibility whatsoever, including that of repentance. As I read it the Bible says:

**“Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”** (Mark 1:14-15 ESV) or

**“And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”** (Acts 2:38 ESV)

Without repentance- METANOIA:Greek, from metanoiein to change one's mind, repent, from meta- + noein to think, from nous mind- there can be no salvation **because God cannot be turned to unless our sin and old lifestyle is turned from.** We must confess (agree with God) about our lost condition and continuous violation of His Law, and trust in Christ's propitiation and in His righteousness as imputed to us which alone saves us from the wrath coming upon all unbelievers. But believing on Jesus Christ as Savior is not the same as believing in facts about Jesus.

(Continued on page 5)

*(Continued from page 4)*

## Followers, Converts or Numbers?

By Bishop Dr. David A. Church

***“You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!”***

(James 2:19 ESV)

The true faith is trusting in Christ’s death upon the Cross as payment for our sin and in His resurrection as the promise of our resurrection. And being in the faith requires bearing fruit.

***“As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.”***

(Luke 8:15 ESV)

***“So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.”***

(Matthew 7:17-20 ESV)

***“What is bearing fruit? Essentially, it is becoming like Jesus. Spiritual fruit will show itself in our lives as a change in our character and outlook. As we spend time with Jesus and get to know Him better, His thoughts will become our thoughts. His purpose will become our purpose. We will become like Jesus.”***

Greg Laurie

Let’s take a look at what we are actually commanded to do:

1. **“make disciples of all nations”**- there is no place the Gospel is not to be taken, and no place the Name of Jesus is not to be lifted up as Lord and Savior to all mankind. This includes our own city and neighborhood we dwell in. We all know people that do not know Christ, and many who barely know about Him. If we are not proclaiming Christ to them we are sinning by omission and disobeying a direct command of Christ. Also, we need to remember our oath given during our ordination as ministers and priests:

***“Are you resolved to build up the Church as the body of Christ and to remain united to it within the order of bishops under the authority of the GCEPC/LEPC? Are you resolved to equip God’s people, maintain the bond of unity, encourage maturity and attaining to the fullness of Christ for his Body?”***

Presentation of the Bishop-Elect

2. **“baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”** – regardless of our view of Baptism, whether “Believers Baptism” or “Paedobaptism”, it is still symbolic of our Baptism into the Body of Christ by the Holy Spirit. It brings us openly into the community of fellow believers. To not be baptized at all is in direct disobedience to Jesus Christ unto whom ALL authority has been bestowed. Those teaching otherwise are in grievous error.

***“but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.”***

(Matthew 10:33 ESV)

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Followers, Converts or Numbers?

By Bishop Dr. David A. Church

*(Continued from page 5)*

3. ***“teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you”*** - Whatever Jesus taught His disciples were given as commands were to be taught to others in order that they too would observe them. This goes against the grain of many “teachers” today who have a false or distorted view of Law and Gospel. Many separate the Law into what only the Jews were to observe while the Gospel is for everyone else, free of commandments. But is this what the Bible teaches? The Apostle John states:

***“And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.”***

**(1 John 2:3-6 ESV)** also Paul states:

***“Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.”***

**(Romans 3:31 ESV)**

In his "Introduction to Romans," Luther stated that saving faith is, ***"a living, creative, active and powerful thing, this faith. Faith cannot help doing good works constantly. It doesn't stop to ask if good works ought to be done, but before anyone asks, it already has done them and continues to do them without ceasing. Anyone who does not do good works in this manner is an unbeliever... Thus, it is just as impossible to separate faith and works as it is to separate heat and light from fire!"***

If our Faith is alive and we desire to truly follow the “Great Commission”, we are to make disciples, not “converts. The numbers of “conversions” claimed at crusade and revivals do not add up to the numbers that become active in churches and become true disciples. These numbers are considered to be ***“evangelastic”***- a stretching of the reality and truth concerning numbers of conversions. We ought to realize only the Holy Spirit can truly convert a person. As ministers of Christ we ought to be teaching the whole counsel of God and not trying to get people to “receive Christ” by emotional manipulations during an altar call to “show” our effectiveness as ministers and worthiness to pastor a church. Our call is to sow the seed and to water that which is planted. Our assignment is to live out the Faith in the sight of others. But only the Holy Spirit is able bring the conversion and growth in those He has called to Christ. With that settled let us put our hands to the plow and get to work.

Bishop Dr. David Church

# “Your Mess is Your Message”

By Bishop Jessica Johnston, Spirit Soul and Body Ministries



*My prayer and blessing for you is that you will discover and uncover the mysteries of God in His ways and His word. I pray for you a revelation of His grace in your life and that all lessons imparted to you through your mess will become revelatory teaching for the flock of God.*

Have you ever wondered if God can do anything with the mess in your life? You know the mess.... the mistakes, the abuse, the poor choices, what has happened to you as well as what you have done to others, the hurt, the pain, the loss, the drama, the trauma and anything that seems to take on the look, smell and feel of mess. I assure you He can and He will.

As we come to know the Lord we find that He is weaving a tapestry of His grace through our life. Once we choose Christ, follow Christ and seek to know Him, obey Him and to be whole in Him our lives begin to take on form and substance and how He keeps us and changes us through the mess of the past and present become a testimony to others.

Many times it is our testimony, our lessons learned, the fact that we are alive and full of His Spirit after all that has happened to us that draws others to Christ. People think that their mess is worse, that God can't and won't forgive or be able to use it. But when they hear and see of how God has taken us from death to life, from alcohol to sobriety, from abuse to healthy relationships, from bitterness to forgiveness, they see hope.

God loves to create beauty from ashes. He loves to show His glory in our lives. He is not a respecter of persons so what He has done in one life He will do in another. This is why He came. Christ stood in the temple and proclaimed:

## The Year of the LORD's Favor

Isaiah 61: <sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,<sup>3</sup> and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

<sup>4</sup>They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. <sup>5</sup>Strangers will shepherd your flocks; foreigners will work your fields and vineyards. <sup>6</sup>And you will be called priests of the LORD, you will be named ministers of our God. You will feed on the



(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

## “Your Mess is Your Message”

wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast.

<sup>7</sup> Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance. And so you will inherit a double portion in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours. <sup>8</sup> “For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them. <sup>9</sup> Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the LORD has blessed.”

<sup>10</sup> I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup> For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.”

The Lord came to turn our mess into our message. He came to proclaim liberty, to rebuild the ancient ruins of our life and make something new. This scripture shouts redemption, restoration and reconciliation to the land and the people. This is not just to the Jews but to the Gentiles, for we are grafted in and receive the same promises.

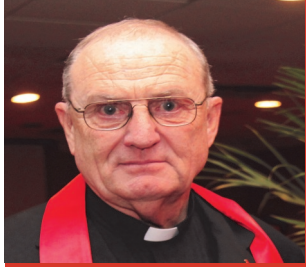
So don't think that your mess was just something you suffered through. Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.” Ask God to show you Himself in the midst of the mess, reflect upon what He has done in you, through you and through others in the mess. Ask for the opportunity and people to share with about how God has and is turning your mess into your message of hope, love, reconciliation, redemption and transformation.

My prayer and blessing for you is that you will discover and uncover the mysteries of God in His ways and His word. I pray for you a revelation of His grace in your life and that all lessons imparted to you through your mess will become revelatory teaching for the flock of God. This is the time of the Lord's favor in your life to turn your ashes into beauty, your mourning into joy and replace your despair with praise, sooner rather than later says the Lord. Life, wholeness and health are yours. Be blessed in knowing that what is your mess is now your message.





## When Anxiety and Worry Creep Into Our Lives Do We Hear God's Calming Voice?



Rev. Dr. Thomas Peavy

*Luke 10:41-42  
(41) The Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha! You worry and fuss about a lot of things. (42) There's only one thing you need. Mary has made the right choice, and that one thing will not be taken away from her."*

For some weeks now my Sunday School Class and I have read and discussed Joanna Weaver's book **Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World**. The writing tells of the two sisters we read about in Luke 10: 38-39 and how anxiety and worry appear to enter into the events when Jesus is in their home. In Luke 10:41 the Lord says to Martha, "You are worried and upset about many things." As our class has discussed this and other portions of the book we are coming to realize that anxiety and worry are more a part of our lives than we may realize and in that there are burdens we carry.

The Bible tells us not to worry and it is not a suggestion only but a command. Even knowing this, the "Worry Bug" seems to find its way into our lives. Interestingly, studies suggest that there is nothing we can do with about 70 percent of our worries. Data may tell us we are unable to do much with our worries and that it is a waste of time, yet it seems we find ways to worry anyway. Some suggest we are simply wired-up to worry, and since Adam and Eve this has been our lot as humans. The reality is we are not molded to be fearful. If we want to live healthy lives we have to find ways to address our ongoing anxiety.

In our class discussions we have looked at worry versus concern. When Jesus told us not to worry, that was not to mean that we are not to be concerned. We have looked at worry and its offspring of fear, uneasiness, obsession, calamity, dread and a host of other ills and thought of them as "spiritual termites" that can invade our spiritual being and nibble away at our foundation and structure. We have looked at concern as something legitimate to address. Usually concern is a specific thing and the problem can be addressed and solved at some level. Worry we have decided is usually unfounded and created more of our own design than it is specific. We see worry as a kind of thinking that is generalized to other situations and has us obsess about the problem. As the obsession continues it creates more problems and we look to others or ourselves for answers. As the generalized fear spreads we liken this to "spiritual termites" nibbling away at faith structure. Bit by bit the foundation and structure are weakened and left unchecked, there can be collapse of the structure. The bible tells us to avoid fear and worry because God knows that these invaders take our focus off our relationship with Him and we focus on the situation rather than on our relationship with Him.

When we think of concern and how it is a part of our lives it seems we define it as taking our problems and as specific as they can be defined, we look to God for answers. In this we see how to mitigate against the spiritual termites of fear and anxiety. In our lighter moments, we have looked at this way of conceptualizing our problems as concerns, and this becomes God's way of offering us a detection device to ward off the "spiritual termites."

When we hear God's word as it is expressed through Paul's writing in Philippians 4:6-7, the calming voice is present. Three concise and practical steps are voiced:

1. Be anxious about nothing.
2. Be prayerful about everything.
3. Be thankful for all things.

*(Continued on page 10)*

## When Anxiety and Worry Creep Into Our Lives Do We Hear God's Calming Voice?

*(Continued from page 9)*

Paul meant every thing he wrote. He is telling us nothing is too great or small in our lives that we cannot bring it to God and fretting only magnifies the problem. Our concerns are to be turned into prayer and are not to be our burdens. Much depends on our perspective and we have a choice that can lead to peace. The ability to focus and be rational comes when we focus on God's voice and His ability to be with us in all things. When we are able to do this we find as Paul wrote in Philippians 4:7, "the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

I offer tribute to Joanna Weaver for her inspiration in making these comments based on her writing and I trust my words will be pleasing in His sight.

Rev. Dr. Thomas Peavy



## Thinking.....

Thinking about Jesus and His Kingdom...

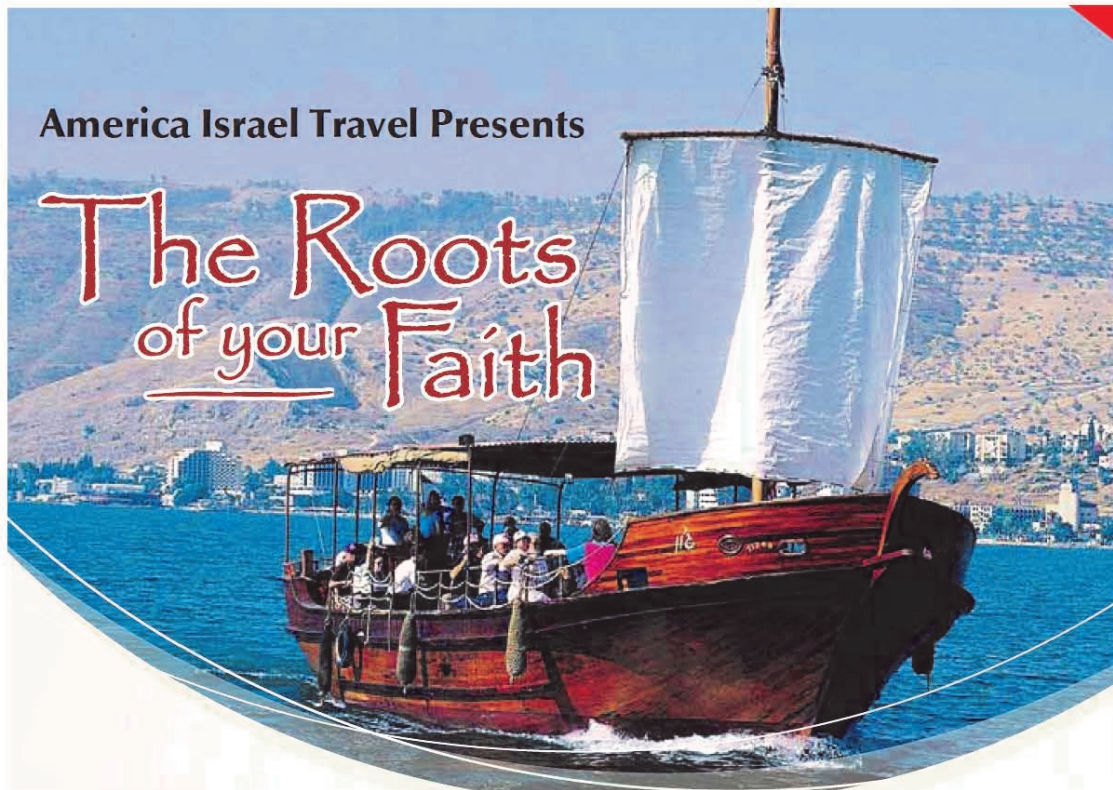
*Thinking  
about.....*

Jesus was asked when the kingdom of God would come. Jesus answered, "Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you." (Luke 17:21) The Kingdom of God is not something that can be found or seen by external seeking. We do not have to go looking for it. We can experience the Kingdom internally " seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness," Jesus declared, "and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). We can gain all that we need by focusing on the inner plane that is within us. Every day we who believe meet the world with Jesus in us. Jesus in us is the wisdom we need. Jesus in us is a secret weapon to drive away the evil one from us. Jesus in us defends us. Jesus in us reaches out to the world around us. The world views faith as something external. Jesus said, repent (change your way of thinking) the Kingdom of God is nigh unto you." When we believe, the Kingdom of God is in us and Jesus takes His place on the throne.

Bishop Nancy



## Let's General Conference in Jerusalem February 2014



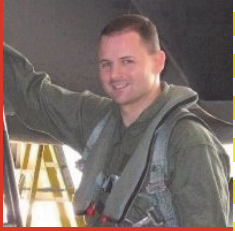
For more information and to sign up please contact the General Conference Office and begin the journey of a lifetime.

### Just a Few Highlights:

- Explore Megiddo and the Valley of Armageddon (Revelation 16)
- Sail on of the Sea of Galilee on a wooden boat as the disciples did 2,000 years ago
- Visit Yardenit – the baptismal site on the Jordan River
- Stand atop Mount of Beatitudes (Matt. 5,6,7,8) where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mt.
- See the Dead Sea and float in its' salty waters
- Experience a breathtaking panorama view from the Mt. Of Olives, toward Old City Jerusalem
- Visit the western prayer wall. Explore the Southern Temple Mount archeological excavations
- Visit Bethlehem, and the birth place of Christ .Visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and the Garden Tomb...and much, much more

# On the ground in Afghanistan... and Jesus is here!

Chaplain Brian Jones



Chaplain Brian Jones

*Chaplain Jones has been called up for active duty, and is deployed in Afghanistan*

This is a popular verse from Mathew 18, and I have to admit, until this point I didn't fully realize the rich and global meaning of Jesus'

words. I arrived here at Camp Marmal/Pratt, Northern Afghanistan on Sunday February 24, exhausted and wondering what on earth the Lord had gotten me into! I began to miss my wife Clare and son Kevin more than ever, and I experienced major culture shock. Things got worse as I was taken to our living area, and realized that I would be spending the next five months living in ten person tents with 6ft by 8ft of personal space, walking thirty yards over rocks to portable shower and latrine trailers, hot showers as the exception not the norm, and so on and so on. I fell asleep that night asking the Lord to grant me strength to stop complaining, to refocus my energy, and to be a visible reminder of His grace and presence.

"For Where Two or Three Gather in My Name, There am I with Them..."

The next morning, I walked out of my tent, and witnessed a gorgeous sunrise over the mountains right next to us. I traveled with SGT Devick, my faithful Chaplain Assistant and bodyguard, back over to the "barn" (our HQ, where my office is, and yes, it looks like a barn!) I immediately started interacting with soldiers and had my first counseling sessions. By the end of the day, I realized that God has placed me exactly where He wants and needs me to be. Yes, the conditions can be challenging at times. We are in a combat zone, far from family, and all of us leave behind the comforts of home. However, the ministry is amazing and the possibilities are endless! I hear so many people lament that this current generation is going to be the ruin of us; how they are lazy, undisciplined, selfish, etc...well, after

spending time with our gifted soldiers, airmen, and sailors the past two weeks, let me just say that I have nothing but admiration and respect for what these young folks are capable of. Trust me- we are in good hands!

The testimonies I have been blessed to hear are incredibly uplifting, and the examples of discipleship and Christian love that our soldiers display are an example for all of us. As I was preparing for my first worship services late last week, I felt some trepidation. I just didn't know what to expect, and I meditated on Mathew 18:20, and was reminded that even if only 1 soldier shows up for worship, we were going to give all praise and glory to God and" make a joyous noise." SGT Devick asked if he could lead music and try out the praise band that he had recently put together. With a knowing smile and excitement, I told him to go for it, and I could sense the Holy Spirit at work here.

Sunday morning rolled around, and we arrived at the Marmal Chapel about 2 hours early. SGT Devick brought a beautiful guitar he has, two more guitarists showed up, one civilian and one Army, and a drummer, who is Air Force, rounded out the band. As they rehearsed their songs, I was utterly blown away by how good they were, and I was fired up for our services. At 10:30am, dozens and dozens of people from several different countries (this is a NATO base) filed in. We sang songs and rocked out with the band, prayed together, shared communion and peace, and found comfort in the words of promise and hope given to us by our Savior.

As I'm writing this a couple of days later, I'm still glowing from our worship services this past weekend. To think that we have people from all walks of life thrown together on a

*(Continued on page 14)*

# On the ground in Afghanistan... and Jesus is here!

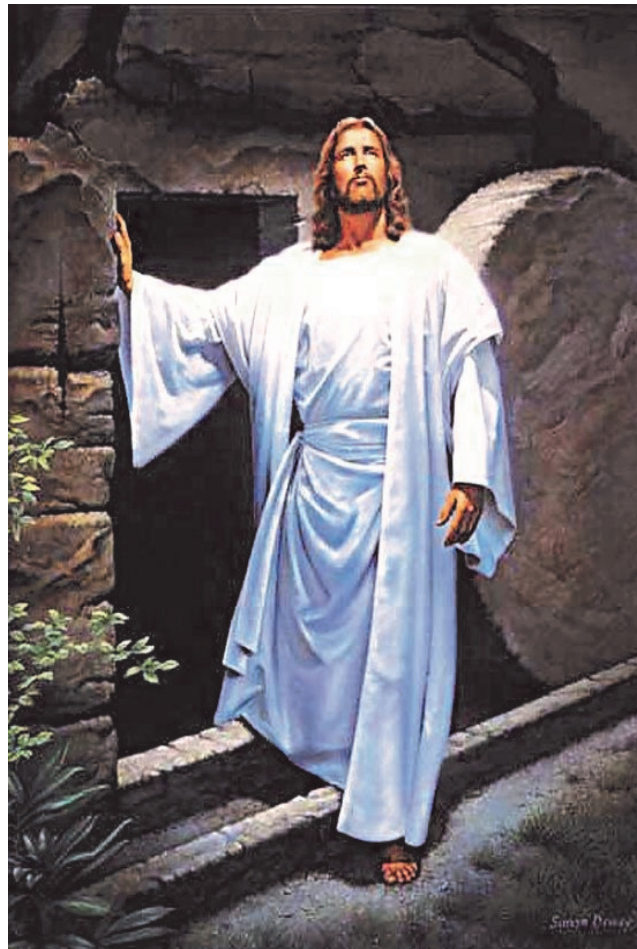
Chaplain Brian Jones

*(Continued from page 13)*

NATO base thousands and thousands of miles away from home, and what is the one thing that unites us? Jesus our Lord! Despite all of our natural differences and the challenges, we are building Christian community, sharing in discipleship and hospitality, and pondering the many ways that we can witness to Christ. My sermon was on James 5, and we are all using prayer as our primary tool for patience and endurance, encouraging one another and making a difference together in the name of our Lord and for His glory. My view of Mathew 18:20 has been expanded beyond words, and I give all praise and glory to God! Please keep our personnel and their families in your constant prayer, and may God richly bless you and yours this Easter season!

IHS

Chaplain Brian  
CH (CPT) Brian Jones  
Battalion Chaplain  
1034<sup>th</sup> CSSB-TF Hawkeye  
[Bjones605@msn.com](mailto:Bjones605@msn.com)



# Pray and Seek His Face

Bishop Bill Dorn

As we suffer one tragedy after another tragedy in this country it has become glaringly obvious to me that the words of 2 Chronicles 7:14 ring as loud today as they did in the time of King Solomon.

If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear them from heaven and forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Obviously this passage was not written about modern day America. It was actually a response from God to King Solomon's request in 2 Chronicles Chapter 6 concerning provisions for the people when they sinned.

While this is not a promise specifically to our country, I do believe it is a promise to God's people. We should not exclude ourselves from all promises we find in God's word. I do believe we have to carefully look at God's word and discover how it applies to us today in its context of scripture.

If my people who are called by my name

Two concepts are basic here... (1) Israel belonged to God; His name had been called upon them; (2) just like them, we must acknowledge this and submit to his authority.

And pray and seek my face

Not only are they to pray to God, but they are not to settle for less than being admitted into his presence. They must see him.

Turn from their wicked ways

God will not hear the prayer unaccompanied by repentance. Repentance means to turn 180 degrees away from your sin, as well as being remorseful for your sin. Being contrite / sorry for your sins.

Hear... forgive... heal

When once the ear of God is reached, He will not only remove the guilt but will restore to health and usefulness.

The above was taken from the Broadman Bible Commentary.

(Continued on page 16)

*If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear them from heaven and forgive their sin and will heal their land.  
2 Ch 7:14*



# Pray and Seek My Face

Bishop Bill Dorn

*(Continued from page 15)*

God answered Solomon with four Conditions of forgiveness....

1. humble yourself by admitting your sins.
2. pray to God, asking for forgiveness.
3. seek God continually.
4. turn from sinful behavior.



True repentance is more than talk- it is changed behavior. Whether we sin individually, as a group, or as a nation, following these steps will lead to forgiveness. God will answer our prayer.

This applies to us today as individuals, as a church, as a nation. We have been blessed as a nation since the beginning of our existence. But God does not love us anymore as a nation than he does any other nation.

What this is saying to us as individuals is that we need to get our life in line with our heavenly Father. This will take true repentance. We are all living lives that fall short of the Glory of God. We struggle with sin. We hold on to wrongs that were done to us by others. We turn our backs on God all too often. We allow the things of the world to take us away from that precious time of worship with the family of God. All things of which we need to repent.

We as individuals live lives that bring the Father glory, His church will be stronger than ever. We will see revival. We will experience His presence. There will be an outpouring of His Holy Spirit in our midst.

When the church becomes the church, we will see things change in our nation. I believe we have no one to blame except ourselves when it comes to the current state of the nation. We have taken God out of the classroom and most places in America. We have sat back and watch millions of babies killed and it called choice. We have seen the breakdown of marriage as ordained by God and it's called progress. We have failed to live out God's word in our world. We have become a nation of wimpy Christians who are scared to stand on the Word of God. Or we have become Sunday Christians who look no different than those who are lost in sin.

What should we look like? The answer is real simple, Jesus ! As I recall, the only times Jesus was angered was when he was dealing with "church" people. To the outcast of society Jesus was kind, compassionate, a friend. Did he overlook their sin? No, but he sure didn't belittle them or treat them as outcasts. He loved them. He cared for them. And His kindness exposed their sin. They became aware of the sin in their lives. It's only through that same love, compassion and kindness that we as individuals can make a difference in our church and in our nation.

*(Continued on page 17)*



# Pray and Seek My Face

Bishop Bill Dorn

(Continued from page 16)

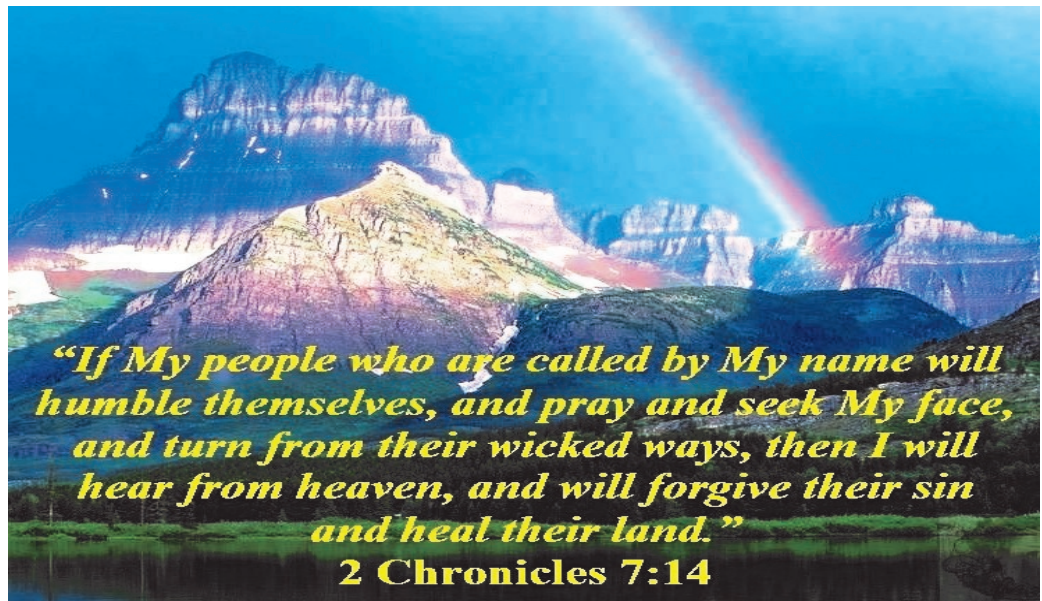
Why do so many people think that Christians are such angry, mean, vindictive people? Because that is too often their experience with Christians. We must show the love of Christ to a hurting and broken world. We must show compassion, and kindness. We need to accept people as they are and let God do the changing. As the song says, "Come just as you are Hear the spirits call. Come just as you are. Come and see, come receive. Come and live forever. Life everlasting, strength for today. Taste the living water and never thirst again."

So how does this passage apply to us today?

We must humbly come before the Lord, seeking His forgiveness. We need to seek Him continually and turn from our sinful behavior. It's then and only then that He will heal our land. Remember His healing may not look like you think it should. But His healing will be so much better that what we could have ever imagined.

Let's truly experience revival in our lives, in our churches, and in our nation. Let's live out our calling as "little Christ's". Then we will experience a great harvest of souls for the Kingdom of God. And God will truly heal our land.

Bishop Bill Dorn



Subject: NAECC LETTER RE: DoD'S  
MEMO ON SAME-SEX BENEFITS  
From: Russell Gunter  
<[RGunter@nae.net](mailto:RGunter@nae.net)>  
Date: Fri, February 15, 2013 5:34  
pm

Chaplains, Chaplain Candidates, Cen-  
turions and Friends,

By now most of you have seen the SECDEF's 11FEB13 memo to the military detailing new benefits that have been extended to same-sex couples in the military. We are saddened by this turn of events but not dismayed. The Lord is still our Sovereign and He is still in control. Chaplain Cyr has asked me to forward his personal letter to you (see attachment) with his thoughts on this matter. Feel free to forward and share this letter with anyone you wish, especially your church or denominational leadership.

Notwithstanding this DoD memo, our calling and ordination still determines what form our ministry will take. The NAECC stands with you during these trying times. Let us know how we can assist you and remember, we are standing with you and will be available for consultation and advice at any time.

Blessings,

**Russell O. Gunter**  
**CAPT, CHC, USN (Ret)**  
**Administrator, NAE Chaplains Commission**  
**P. O. Box 23269**  
**Washington, DC 20026**  
**(571) 535-0547**



## CHAPLAINS COMMISSION

15 February 2013

### Commission Officers:

Ron Brovold  
V.P., Chaplaincy Services  
Int'l Ministerial Fellowship  
Chairman

Scott McChrystal  
CH (COL), USA, Ret.  
Vice Chairman

Daniel A. Miller  
CH (COL), USA, Ret.  
Secretary

### Commission Staff:

David H. Cyr  
Ch, Brig Gen, USAF (Ret)  
Executive Director

Russell O. Gunter  
CAPT, CHC, USN, Ret.  
Administrator

Dear Chaplains, Chaplain Candidates, Board Members, Centurions and friends,

On behalf of the NAE Chaplain Commission Executive Board, I bring you greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Most of you are aware of the recent DoD policy memorandum mandating benefits for same-sex couples by 1 August 2013. The domestic partner of the military member will receive benefits previously afforded solely to military spouses. These benefits include a DoD ID card, commissary privileges, family center programs, joint duty assignments, child care, legal assistance and many other benefits.

While we are saddened by the direction DoD is taking in light of our Evangelical belief in traditional biblical marriage, we are also concerned how this new policy will affect our chaplains who have boots on the ground. It was indeed providential that we were successful in attaching provisions to the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) protecting chaplains' right to conscience. However, we realize that our chaplains will increasingly need the wisdom of Solomon and the boldness of David in accommodating the religious needs of all those entrusted to their care.

Chaplains, be assured that we will continue to support you as you navigate these uncharted waters. We will continue the fight for biblical values and beliefs inside the Beltway. We will pray that God grants you wisdom, strength and courage for this hour as you endeavor to support all DoD personnel and their families. Hopefully, the traditional accommodation policy will remain in effect where what a chaplain cannot provide directly, can be supported through referral to other available resources.

We rejoice over the reports we consistently receive from our military, VA and institutional chaplains who are bringing vital spiritual care to those who are in dire need of God's love and grace. May our Lord bless you and guide you in the work.

Your brother in Christ,

David H. Cyr  
Ch, Brig Gen, USAF (Ret)  
Executive Director



# Follow to Fish

In Hebraic terms “follow” means come after me with the intent of becoming a disciple. There were many in those days, just as in our day, who considered themselves “masters” who were looking for a following. But Jesus was the only one as the Creator who could make man, truly make man, into something that he was not.

Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee when he saw Peter and Andrew and called them to be fishers of men just as he would later do with James and John.

When Jesus looked at these men he was able to see their futures in them. He saw their hearts and what could be accomplished if they would “follow” him. He did not say to them “I see how qualified you are so follow me.” He did not say, “Follow me and I will help you become famous.” His offer required something of them and in return He gave a promise that he would “make them.” He was going to form them into something they were not but he stated his call in a manner that they could understand from where they were at that moment in their lives (*Harry*)

Jesus knew but these disciples did not know just how drastically their lives were about to change. They were about to be confronted at every turn by the God of the Universe. They were about to learn how to do things God’s way.

If we are to become fishers of men we will have to follow Jesus to do it. We cannot say “Yes, I will follow.” and then just take every evangelism course we come across, knock on a 1000 doors a month and give out tracts until our hands feel like they want to fall off. Becoming fishers of men requires following Christ to Make us Lord. We commit to follow. Make hear what he is saying, to see what he is doing, to learn us fishers of men. what he is teaching, to pray what he is praying just as his disciples did. Not us making us fishers of men but Jesus making us fishers of men because of who he is, what he knows and all he is capable of doing.

*Bishop Nancy Drew*



“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” Matt. 4:19



(Harry Anderson 1906-1996).

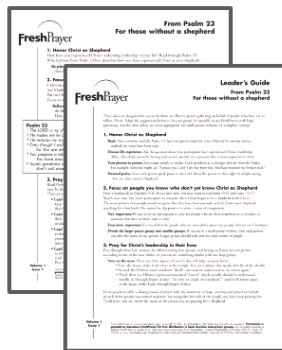
These disciplines of following take time and energy but can not be done legalistically. No, following Christ must involve the Holy Spirit just as Jesus’ seeing and hearing and doing what he saw the Father saying and doing required the Holy Spirit’s work in him. Jesus said, “Follow me, I will make you....”



Make us Lord. We commit to follow. Make us fishers of men



# FreshPrayer



## About WayMakers

### Vision Statement

We envision local movements of united prayer seeking to pray for every person throughout entire communities in order to prepare the way for great gospel harvest and community transformation. We envision such a prayed-for world becoming an evangelized world in which Christ is glorified openly and served faithfully in every people.

### Mission Statement

To impart vision and training for leaders of local movements of united prayer that will prepare communities for evangelization and spiritual awakening.

To impart vision and practical passion for the greater glory of Christ so that people lead fruitful lives in God's global purpose.

I've heard from friends who have enjoyed praying *Seek God for the City* this year, asking when we'll publish more. I am already crafting more prayers to be published in the future. But to help people form their own best prayers right now—or anytime—I created Fresh Prayer. Check the latest issue of FreshPrayer, posted on the WayMakers website (<http://waymakers.org/pray/freshprayer/>) as a no-cost, downloadable pdf. Every issue of FreshPrayer contains specific ideas to guide robust, insightful praying for people near to you that are still far from God. The latest issue comes from 1 Thessalonians 5, "For God to fulfill His call."

Here's the story of how this particular issue came about:

*One of the key leaders of my church once asked me to pray for his son, who had gotten into some kind of trouble. Instead of doing the praying myself, I urged him to say a few words of prayer and then I would echo his prayer. He looked blankly at me, mumbling something about not knowing what to pray. "Well," I asked him, "what has God been doing already? What scripture can we pray?" His father-heart was anguished, but he still had no idea what could be prayed. Right then I mentioned a short line of scripture: "Faithful is He who calls you, who will bring it to pass." I quoted that verse and urged him to pray with that truth. Wow. You should have heard him pray. Suddenly he was praying with articulate passion and hope about the calling God had placed on his son's life.*

This issue of FreshPrayer can help you, and others you know, to pray for others with refreshed clarity from the Bible. Each issue comes with a page of creative ideas to stimulate and guide others to pray. It's all part of how we're trying to help ordinary people pray with persistence and confidence. Sign up for FreshPrayer updates at <http://waymakers.org/pray/freshprayer/#signup>

Yours in hope,

Steve Hawthorne  
Director, WayMakers

P.S. The past couple of weeks a lot of people have expressed interest in the "Ways to Pray" prayer guides. Take another look at these pocket-size booklets to see whether they might not be fitting for you or others to pray effectively in situations in your community or your mission efforts in distant lands (<http://waymakers.org/pray/ways-to-pray/>).

# The "Back Page" Analog Man Joe Walsh 2012

## Pastor Steve Bacon

Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord,

### Analog Man

Welcome to cyberspace, I'm lost in the fog  
everything's digital I'm still analog  
when something goes wrong  
I don't have a clue  
some 10-year-old smart \*\*\* has to show me what  
to do

Sign on with high speed you don't have to wait  
Sit there for days and vegetate  
I access my email, read all my spam, I'm an analog  
man.

The whole world's living in a digital dream  
it's not really there  
it's all on the screen  
makes me forget who I am  
I'm an analog man

Turn on the tube, watch until dawn  
one hundred channels, nothing is on  
endless commercials, endless commercials, endless  
commercials

The whole world's glued to the cable TV  
It looks so real on the big LCD  
murder and violence are rated PG, too bad for the  
children  
they are what they see  
Joe Walsh 2012

Joe Walsh, rock guitar and jammer for the James Gang, The Eagles and his own solo career. 66 years young and still touring playing

I agree that we are becoming one dimensional, living on a screen, no longer dealing with reality.

We hide in our screen and create perfection because the real world is messy.

In another 20 years we will lose all artistic creativeness because we won't be using paint, paper, pen, pencil, instruments or our own vocals.

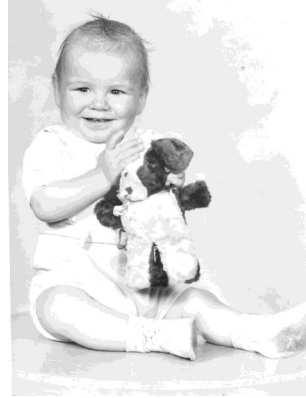
The new art is one dimensional, the new music is synthetic with maybe 8 words.

None of it can be presented live because it is all done on a computer.

Many people also see God as analog. They feel that time as passed him by and it is time to reinvent him.

How wrong they are. Every time we come up with something new, God must raise his eyebrows and think, "you finally got that?" God is way past digital, God IS.

We are living in an "I deserve this environment".



Steve & Teddy 9/28/1951

Waiting for a reward is unthinkable. We must have it now, we deserve to have it now, it is our right to have it now.

Really? Are we really serious? What we deserve right now is instant judgment. What we deserve right now is eternal damnation for the lifestyle that we have chosen. What we deserve right now is the Second Coming.

What we are getting however is God's grace. God most assuredly could end it all right now but he isn't finished with us yet. Jesus came that all could be saved.

We were given our walking orders, Matthew 28:18-20 When

Jesus came near, he spoke to them. He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (19) So wherever you go, make disciples of all nations: Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (20) Teach them to do everything I have commanded you. "And remember that I am always with you until the end of time."

God is way past digital, God is waiting for us to catch up.

God does not need to be reinvented, we just need tell the story, share the Good News, the world will do whatever it thinks is right for the moment, but we can make a difference.

For the confusion we have a simple solution, better than vinyl, better than 8-track, better than CD, Better than streaming in the cloud. God Is, Jesus Is, you need it.

Blessings,

Pastor Steve

Evangelical Protestant Church(GCEPC)®,Inc,

Lutheran Evangelical Protestant Church(LEPC)®



hard pounding rock and commenting on the world as he sees it.

## From the Editor From the Editor

Thanks for all of your contributions. Remember, for this magazine to be a success you must be the reporters and the photographers. I will try and put it together in the best light and we will all praise God in the process.

May the blessings of Christ be with you all. ED.



Is he done yet?