



WITNESS INTERNATIONAL, INC. // JULY-SEPT. 2022

WORD OF WITNESS



The Opportunity Before Us

by

Rev. Howard Travers

You don't need to be anything more than a casual observer to know that something significant is happening in America. In the past few years, we have seen North America shaken to its very core by civil rights movements ... a 2-year pandemic ... a few natural disasters ... supply chain disruptions ... a couple of mass shootings, and one of THE most politically polarizing eras in history. Presently, we have a recipe that's ripe for disaster in our country. The violence, destruction and widespread tension has become so normal today that we simply have become numb to it all.

While some in our culture believe that the church and Evangelicals are part of the problem, I happen to believe that the church of Jesus Christ is the key to the solution.

In John 1:14 we read, "*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*" Jesus was full of grace AND truth. Jesus was certainly all about grace. Jesus welcomed sinners. Jesus ate and fellowshiped with tax collectors. Jesus had compassion on the thief hanging beside Him on the cross. But Jesus was also ALL truth.

Jesus condemned the religious leaders of His day. Jesus called out the liars and the hypocrites. Jesus chastised those in government authority. Jesus set standards. Jesus commanded all those who would be called His disciples to take up their cross daily and follow Him. Jesus demanded everything from His followers, even their very lives. Jesus was all-grace ... all-truth ... all the time.

But Jesus didn't come simply to give us an example of grace and truth. Jesus came to save us in grace and truth. It's only after we've been saved and have been made right with God that God says, "*Now that I have saved you through Christ, you need to know that I've saved you to look like Jesus.*"

The motivation to be full of grace and truth is not because we need to earn God's favor. The motivation to be full of grace and truth is because being a follower of Jesus Christ, means we look like the One we follow. We need to hear from Jesus that, "*the truth will set us free*" (John 8:32). We need to hear from Jesus that, "*everyone who sins is a slave to sin ... But if the Son sets us free, we will be free indeed*" (John 8:36). We need someone as gracious as Jesus to tell us the truth ... You are not okay ... I am not okay.

Only Jesus Christ can save hard-hearted ... hard-headed sinners full of lies and deserving of eternal judgment. Jesus Christ is truth that simultaneously makes you realize how horrible sin really is, and how loved you really are. And how only by union with Jesus Christ, can you grow in the same truth and grace that walked among us. Christ is grace and truth majestically woven together.

The more we reflect the fusion of grace and truth, the greater the alternative we offer people. Without Christ, people either get cheap grace or fake truth. We need grace ... We need truth ... We need Jesus ... And Jesus is Who we need to reflect in grace and truth to others in this great opportunity before us.



Board of Directors:

**Rev. Jerry Gray; Rev. T. David Hackett;
Rev. Howard Travers; Dana Travers**

*"Therefore,
my dear
brothers
and sisters,
stand firm.
Let nothing
move you.
Always
give
yourselves
fully to the
work of the
Lord,
because
you know
that your
labor in the
Lord is not
in vain."*

1 CORINTHIANS

15:58

Where Are They Now?



My name is Billy Frick and I first met Rev. Howard Travers in the Spring of 1998 when I was incarcerated at the Worcester County Jail in Snow Hill, MD. I was held while awaiting trial for stealing money from a client which I represented for my father's accounting firm. Rev. Travers became a beacon of light for me during these dark days. I had made a commitment to Christ in the fall of 1997 which led to my confession that landed me in the Worcester County Jail.

Since first meeting Rev. Travers in the spring of 1998, I have faithfully served in some sort of ministry. For several years I pastored in the United Methodist Church serving churches in Cambridge, Maryland, Nanticoke, Maryland and Paxinos, Pennsylvania. In 2016, I sensed the Lord leading me to pursue an opportunity to coach lacrosse and teach at North Central University in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Lord has been faithful as I have been married to my wife, Diana, for 20-years and we have a son, Bray, who is a Junior at Benilde St Margaret's High School. I am very active in missions and have been on numerous trips to serve at Teen Challenge - Jamaica. Looking forward to getting back on the mission field as the pandemic has put a hold on these trips the past 2-years.

The pandemic led to some major career changes as I now work in manufacturing at Renewal By Andersen. In addition to working making windows, I also serve with Marketplace Chaplains. My family is very active in our home church, Mercy Vineyard in Minneapolis, MN. We serve on the prayer team and I get the opportunity to preach at Mercy about once a quarter. Each Summer when we return to the Eastern Shore to see family, I get an opportunity to preach at Central Worship Center in Laurel, DE. While working in manufacturing on the third shift, it frees me up for opportunities and I am currently a mentor at Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge. When not involved in some sort of ministry, I can often be found on the golf course chasing the white ball.

I am thankful to the Lord that I have been free from drugs and alcohol since January 21, 1998, when the Lord set me free from those bondages. I have been blessed with some amazing men of God like Rev. Travers who have poured into me since the dark times while at the Worcester County Jail in Snow Hill, MD. One thing I hold onto is Ephesians 3;20, "*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us.*"




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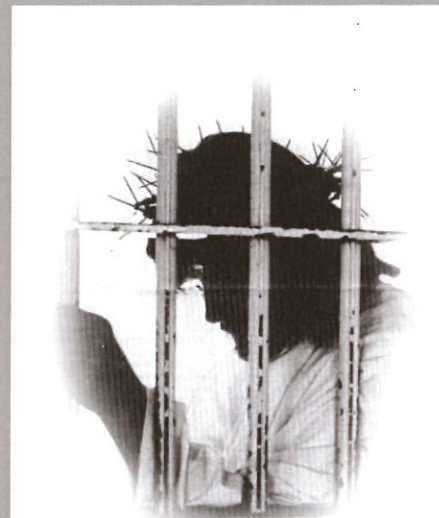


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