

Believer's Voice of

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VICTORY

February 2014



by
*Melanie
Henry*

When *Dara Maclean* heard the unmistakable voice of the Lord tell her to turn down the recording contract of her dreams, she turned to God's Word to rediscover her worth and sufficiency in Jesus alone.

LIVING FREE



Jerry Savelle
Jenny Kutz

Points to Get
You There

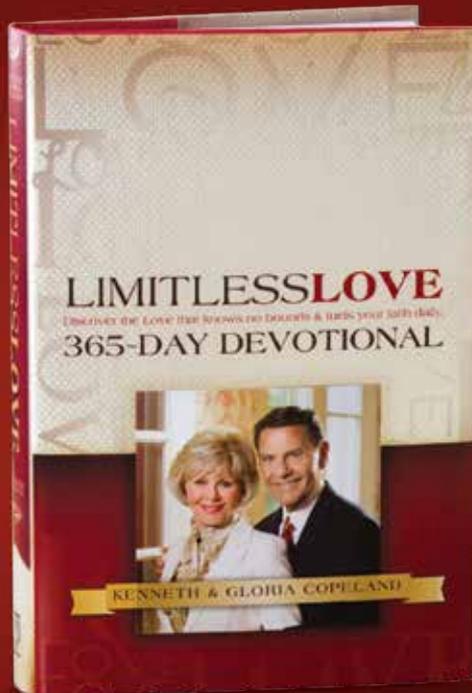
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Good News! That's what *Believer's Voice of Victory* has been bringing to you each month since 1973. For 41 years, it has been our joy to bring you good news through the teachings of ministers who write out of living contact with God, and through the testimonies of believers who took God at His WORD and experienced His victory in their lives. We are committed to teaching you how to live a life of faith and experience God's victory—every day!

Kenneth & Gloria



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Offers shown in this magazine valid until FEBRUARY 28, 2014.

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From the
Landfill to

the Boardroom

If you've been struggling with financial lack, here's some news that may surprise you: The solution to your problem is not more money.

Most people will tell you it is, but they're wrong.

Poverty—or lack of any kind—is not a money problem. It's a spiritual problem that came on mankind through the curse of sin, and it can only be solved by a revelation of what Jesus did about it on the cross. It can only be conquered by renewing your mind to the fact that "...though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9).

In the 46 years I've been in ministry, I've been shocked to see how dramatically that scriptural truth can transform people. When they stop believing what the world says about their financial condition and start believing what God said, poverty completely loses its hold on them. They move out of the landfill into the boardroom. They become living testimonies to the fact that God "raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy out of the dunghill; that he may set him with princes, even with the princes of his people" (Psalm 113:7-8).

I've seen it happen again and again. Not just in prosperous nations like America, but in some of the most poverty-stricken places on this planet.

Take Nigeria, for instance. Some years ago, I was there preaching at Bishop Benson Idahosa's church and he arrived to pick me up for the service in a snow-white Mercedes limousine. It was one of the most beautiful cars I'd ever seen, and in a nation where in those days even a bicycle was considered a luxury, it was a sign and wonder on wheels.

I know how Bishop Idahosa, who has since gone home to be with The LORD, operated in ministry. He lived by faith and taught the people in his church to do the same. So I knew there must be a story behind this car.

As we drove through the streets, the story began to unfold. Pointing to the ragged-looking peddlers along the roadside, Bishop Idahosa said, "You see those people? They're selling used motor oil. It's cleaned



What is the gospel to the poor?

It's the good news that we don't have to be poor anymore because Jesus set us free.

up and filtered and then they sell it cheap to people who don't have enough money to buy new oil."

I could tell just by looking at them it was a miserable business. The poor selling to the poor, and everyone staying poor in the process. So, Bishop Idahosa's next statement was a stunner.

"The woman who gave me this car used to be one of those peddlers," he said. "She was living on pennies a day, but then she got hold of The WORD of God. She found out that Jesus had delivered her from poverty and learned about sowing and reaping. She believed it and started acting on it. Before long, God put her in the real oil business. She went from selling the used stuff to selling the real thing—in a big way!"

I didn't have to ask him if she was successful at it. I was riding in the answer to that question. Clearly, God had done for that woman what no amount of charitable handouts ever could have. He'd lifted her out of poverty, not by sending people to give her money, but by sending her His WORD to get the poverty out of her!

Good News for the Poor

Don't misunderstand me. I'm not against giving to those in need. On the contrary, I'm highly in favor of it. I make it a priority in my life and ministry because Jesus did. What's more, I love it. It's a joy. But even so, I'm always aware that just giving someone money cannot solve the poverty



problem in his or her life.

If it could, Luke 4:18 would read differently. Jesus would have said there, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to raise money for the poor."

But that's not what He said. He said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor...."

What is the gospel to the poor? It's the good news that we don't have to be poor anymore because Jesus set us free. He bore the curse of poverty for us so THE BLESSING of Abraham

could be ours through Him.

I'll never forget how thrilled I was when I first heard this. I thought it was so wonderful that everyone would be as excited about it as I was. But once I started preaching it, I found that wasn't the case. One missionary in an impoverished country where I went to minister actually ordered me not to even mention that part of the gospel. "Don't preach to these people about prospering," she said. "Don't tell them about sowing and reaping. They're too poor to be giving anything to anyone."

It apparently didn't occur to her that some 2,000 years earlier people said the same thing about the believers in Macedonia. According to the Bible, those believers were in "deep poverty." They weren't just on food stamps. They were poor in a way that most of us can't even imagine. Yet, when they heard that Paul was receiving an offering to help Christians in another city, they begged him to let them give.

Why did they have to beg? Because the same warped idea prevailed back then that prevails today. People thought poor folks shouldn't be expected to give in an offering because giving would leave them more poverty-stricken than ever.

That's the kind of thinking that keeps poor people poor! But the Macedonians refused to buy in to it. They wanted to give and they would not be denied. As a result, Paul wrote this about them in 2 Corinthians 8:2-5:

In a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

Look again at that last sentence. It says the Macedonian believers had such a desire to be a blessing to others that they gave whatever they could—including their own selves! They said, "Here I am! Just tell me what I can do to help. Show me what I can do to be of service. I may not have much money but I'll give my time. I'll give my strength. Just let me give!"

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When we love all men and pray for those in authority, we place ourselves squarely inside the realm of God’s governorship.”

that? He called it the “grace” of giving; and he encouraged other believers to abound in it by following the Macedonians’ example.

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work (2 Corinthians 8:9, 9:6-8).

Start Paying Attention

Think about this: Those verses were written, not about rich people but about the poorest of the poor. They were written about people in deep poverty who had almost nothing to give except themselves. Yet, Paul said God would multiply the seed they sowed until they were rich enough to abound to every good work!

“Well, I just don’t see how that could happen,” you might say.

Then you need to read Matthew 14, because the Bible shows us there exactly how it happens. It tells about a time when Jesus made His own disciples rich enough to feed thousands of hungry people, even though just minutes earlier those disciples didn’t have enough for dinner themselves. You probably remember the story.

It took place out in the middle

of the desert. Jesus had gone there to be alone and the multitudes had followed Him. He was so moved with compassion for them that He ended up having an all-day healing meeting. About sunset, His disciples started to get nervous. After all, they were out in the middle of nowhere—no food, no water, in a dangerous place.

So what did they do? They interrupted the meeting. They came up to Jesus, who for hours had been healing people of all kinds of sickness and disease, and said, “This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals” (Matthew 14:15).

At the time, I’m sure the disciples thought this statement made perfect sense. But in reality, it was ridiculous. Did they really think Jesus, who had been working miracles all day, would be unable to figure out what to do about supper? Did they think He had lost track of time, or that He’d forgotten they were in a desert?

The very idea is ludicrous. Yet, if we’re honest, we have to admit we can relate. We all know what it’s like to face problems that seem so big they’re all we can see. We’ve all felt the pressure that comes from thinking panicky thoughts like, *If I’m late on this payment, they’re going to come get my car! What am I going to do?*

Here’s a good thing to remember: When you start thinking, *What am I going to do?* you’ve already missed it. You need to stop and realize that God isn’t dependent on your ability. Just because something looks hard to you doesn’t mean it’s hard for Him. For Him all things are possible!

Partners agreeing in prayer

Our agreement in prayer is one of the ways God uses our **partnership** to get things done for the advancement of His kingdom. Please join us in prayer in the following areas:

1 Persecuted Christians

Pray for believers being persecuted for their faith worldwide. “Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name’s sake, because they know not him that sent me.” (John 15:20-21)

2 America and her leaders

Pray for America and her leaders, present and future. “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.” (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

3 Expansion of Spanish ministry and opening a KCM office in Costa Rica

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

(Matthew 28:19-20, New King James Version)

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The disciples should have known this, and they would have if they'd been focused on what Jesus was doing and saying that day. But their fear about the food shortage had distracted them. They weren't paying attention... until Jesus made this attention-grabbing statement.

"The multitudes don't need to depart. You give them something to eat."

Suddenly the disciples were all ears.

What? You've got to be kidding! they must have thought.

"All we have is five loaves and two fishes!" they told Jesus.

"Bring them here to Me," Jesus answered.

An Easy Command to Obey

If you want to know how God pulls people out of the landfill of poverty and promotes them to the boardroom of abundance, there it is, right there. He says to all of us what Jesus said to His disciples that day. "Bring what you have to Me."

Some people think that's a hard command to obey, but it's really not. Once you have a revelation of what Jesus wants to do for you, once you really believe that on the cross He became poorer than any person ever, that He bore the curse of poverty so that you could become as rich as He is, it's easy to put what you have in His hands.

Even if you don't have a penny to your name, you'll be so eager to give something to Jesus you'll go outside somewhere, find a decent-looking rock, polish it up and bring it to Him. You'll be like the Macedonians and make an offering out of yourself!

Why? Because you know He'll do the same thing for you that He did for His disciples when they handed Him those few loaves and fish. He'll take what you give Him and bless it; and as Proverbs 10:22 says, "The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it."

THE BLESSING of The LORD is what turned the disciples' paltry provisions into an "all-you-can-eat" meal for the multitudes. THE BLESSING is what caused the food

to multiply in the disciples' hands so that, as they gave it to the people, "they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up



of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full" (Matthew 14:20).

Will THE BLESSING do the same for you in your situation?

Yes, it will!

All you have to do is cooperate with it by putting faith in God's WORD. Believe what He said about your financial condition instead of what the world says. Then bring what you have to Him and say, "LORD, what do You want me to do? Who do You want me to feed? Who do You want me to serve?"

It doesn't matter if you're sitting there with five empty pockets and holes in every one of them. It doesn't matter if the hour is late and you're stuck out in the middle of a financial desert. Get yourself off your mind and determine to be a blessing to someone else. Give God something to multiply in your life.

He can make the desert bloom like a rose right where you're standing. He can turn your nothing into a Garden of Eden; and He can do it before you can say, "Bless it again!"

But it has to start inside you first. So grab your Bible and renew your mind. Take the water of The WORD and wash away every trace of that old poverty mentality. Move out of the landfill of lack and into the boardroom of abundance. As a joint heir with Jesus, that's where you belong. ♡



Enjoyed this article? For more insightful teachings, go to kcm.org.

1

On the cross Jesus took on Himself the curse of poverty so that you could be set free.

2 Corinthians 8:9: "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."

2

Even if you're starting at zero, God can prosper and promote you.

Psalm 113:7-8: "He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy out of the dunghill; that he may set him with princes, even with the princes of his people."

3

What looks hard to you isn't hard for God.

Matthew 19:26: "...with God all things are possible."

4

When you get your eyes off yourself and begin to give, God will turn your financial desert into a Garden of Eden.

2 Corinthians 9:7-8: "...for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work."

5

Jesus blesses what you put in His hands, and THE BLESSING causes it to multiply.

Proverbs 10:22: "The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it."



by *Melanie Hemry*

LIVING FREE

Candlelight flickered around the room as 22-year-old Dara Maclean leaned back against the wall and slid down onto the cream-colored carpet. Closing her eyes, she tried to make sense of it all.

Why did she always feel like she was never good enough? Like she was a failure?

Most of her friends were away at college, starting their careers and getting married. Dara had chosen a different path and found herself working at part-time jobs, as she worked toward what she felt called

to—the music industry. She volunteered her time serving at her church, being schooled in hands-on ministry, all the while believing she would one day be offered a contract with a major recording company and spread the gospel through music.

She felt like her life had

come to a standstill—like she was trapped in limbo, doing ministry, but not to the degree that was in her heart. It was a constant battle to believe the impossible could really happen. Now, she had just broken up with her boyfriend, a heartbreak that seemed to confirm her

sense of failure. No “happily ever after” with him and absolutely nothing to show for her efforts in music.

“You should always have a backup plan,” she’d been advised. “Earn a degree. Get a career. After all, the odds are against you. Do you have any idea how few people ever break into the industry?”



She had spent years ignoring such comments. But, in the midst of feeling so defeated, she began to think maybe she'd been wrong. Maybe it was time to face facts. Even the independent projects she had invested in hadn't garnered the response she had hoped for.

For as long as she could remember, Dara's parents, Dan and Judi, had encouraged her to work hard by the grace of God, and never doubt the work He was doing in her heart. They urged her to get into God's presence and see where He was directing her: "You were born for a specific purpose and with a God-given destiny. Our job is to reveal the Father's love for you and trust that He'll lead you into the dreams He has placed in your heart."

Dara had been 7 years old when she'd burst into her father's office and announced that she'd just written a song. She had warbled about the walls of Jericho falling down, and from that moment, she'd never stopped writing songs.

"The Lord gave me a vision!" she'd told her parents. "I saw myself singing in Africa—surrounded by the most beautiful people!"

Her parents hadn't once been condescending.

"That's right," they had agreed. "God is showing you your future. We serve the God of the impossible. The more impossible it looks—the better!"

In her heart, Dara knew what her parents said was true. Now, years later, the fact that she had been in negotiations with a music

“*Being Partners with KCM and*

growing up in Superkid Academy MEANT LIFE TO ME.

If you don't know about God's character and how to operate in faith and grace, how can you
attain His promises?”

company for months, and now had a recording contract in hand, was proof.

What could be better than this?

Dara picked up the contract and read it again. In her hands was the culmination of all her dreams. A recording contract with a Christian company.

Finally! Confirmation that she was good enough.

Finally! Proof that she *had* heard from God!

Finally! Her dream was becoming reality.

There was a drawback to being raised the way she'd been. She knew the voice of the Lord. And she knew without a doubt what He'd told her.

Don't sign that contract.

With a sinking heart, Dara thought, *That's the problem with putting your faith so far outside the realm of possibility. When you live in the land of the impossible, there's no bridge back. There is no backup plan. So at moments like this, there's nothing but gut-wrenching pain.*

Facing the Enemy— In the Mirror

“I felt like a failure, again,” Dara recalls. “As a little girl, I'd learned that we have an adversary whose goal is to steal our destiny. I'd made a firm decision that I wouldn't be robbed of God's plan for *my* life. But when I was finally offered a recording contract and knew I wasn't supposed to sign it, it felt so unfair.

“When I held that contract, it was as though I was holding my dream—only to have it snatched away. As I sat on the floor that day, I realized that I wasn't happy. I wasn't content. I was miserable. I'd become so focused on the call that I'd slipped into perfectionism. I didn't

feel as though I'd ever be good enough. I met my enemy face to face: It was me.”

Alone and broken, Dara put away the recording contract. She opened her Bible and began the process of rediscovering who she was in Christ. In His presence, she heard these words: *What matters to Me is that you get free. Will you worship Me for the rest of your life, even if no one ever sees you do it?*

“I will, Lord.”

I want you to stop focusing on the label. I want worship to be your lifestyle and for you to just love people. When you do what matters most to Me, you'll walk in the dreams I've placed in your heart, and nothing else will matter.

As an act of faith and obedience, Dara picked up her guitar and sang to the Lord. Like the psalmist, words poured out of her broken heart as she sang a new song.

“Hurting heart and broken wings cannot stop Your love from always finding me....”

When it was finished, she titled the song, “Free.”

Later, Dara went to her parents and shared her struggle with them.

“What's your first calling?” they asked.

“To fellowship with the Lord.”

“Concentrate on *that* call. In time, He will bring you out of obscurity.”

“But I've worked so long for this.”

“This season of your life is about character and integrity,” her father said. “Think about the season in Brother Copeland's life when God established his character and integrity. When that was done, God showed off in his life in an amazing way. What's *your* story supposed to be? Because when your character and integrity are firm, God will do the same for you.”

FEBRUARY

		Old Testament	New Testament
Sat	1	Ex. 18-19	Mark 9
Sun	2	Ex. 20-21	Mark 10
Mon	3	Ex. 22-23	Mark 11
Tue	4	Ex. 24-25	Mark 12
Wed	5	Ex. 26-28	Mark 13-14
Thu	6	Ex. 29-30	Mark 15
Fri	7	Ex. 31-32	Mark 16
Sat	8	Ex. 33-34	Luke 1

Sun	9	Ex. 35-36	Luke 2
Mon	10	Ex. 37-38	Luke 3
Tue	11	Ex. 39-40	Luke 4
Wed	12	Lev. 1-3	Luke 5-6
Thu	13	Lev. 4-5	Luke 7
Fri	14	Lev. 6-7	Luke 8
Sat	15	Lev. 8-9	Luke 9

Sun	16	Lev. 10-11	Luke 10
Mon	17	Lev. 12-13	Luke 11
Tue	18	Lev. 14-15	Luke 12
Wed	19	Lev. 16-18	Luke 13-14
Thu	20	Lev. 19-20	Luke 15
Fri	21	Lev. 21-22	Luke 16
Sat	22	Lev. 23-24	Luke 17

Sun	23	Lev. 25-26	Luke 18
Mon	24	Lev. 27-Num. 1	Luke 19
Tue	25	Num. 2-3	Luke 20
Wed	26	Num. 4-6	Luke 21-22
Thu	27	Num. 7:1-48	Luke 23
Fri	28	Num. 7:49-78	Luke 24

Preparation for Purpose

Dara thanked God for her parents' wisdom. She remembered being 8 years old and overhearing a conversation between them.

"We have to be in an environment of faith," her dad had said.

Soon after, the family moved to Fort Worth, Texas, so they could attend Eagle Mountain International Church and become more involved with Kenneth Copeland Ministries.

"I became a Superkid at 8 and loved it," Dara remembers. "Superkid Academy was a safe place for children to learn and grow in the Lord. As a child, I learned how to prepare for service, put together an offering message, and lead praise and worship.

"I volunteered in that ministry from age 8 to 22. All those years were laying the foundation for ministry in my life. I learned how to lead a band, direct a choir and dance—long before I realized I would need those skills to fulfill the call of God on my life."

As she focused on the Lord instead of the label, Dara's circumstances never changed—but her heart did. She fell in love with Jesus all over again. She awakened daily to her identity in Him.

God loved the world, she realized, but for Him it was always about the *one*: one lost sheep. One prodigal son. One shepherd boy. One Son. One Savior.

"Lord," Dara prayed, "I dedicate myself to You. I will love people every day."

When friends asked, "Dara, why won't you try out for American Idol?" she laughed. The answer was easy. The Lord had not led her down that path. He directed her to lead worship and then get off the platform and help one struggling person at a time.

She'd never felt so fulfilled in her life.

The Call

In addition to leading worship and a young women's group, Dara also agreed to lead worship for the class her dad taught at church called "Knowing Him Intimately." It wasn't a major venue, but who cared? Dara was satisfied—content in her soul. It wasn't about a crowd to her. It was all about Jesus.

On June 15, 2009, Dara's phone rang.

"My name is Susan Riley and I'm calling you from Nashville, Tenn.," the woman on the other end said. "Someone got a copy of your independent project to me. I want to

sign you as a songwriter."

"I *am* a songwriter," Dara explained, "but I believe I'm called to be a solo artist as well."

Just as the Lord had promised, the call came out of the blue. As Dara began negotiations, she discovered that it was a woman from her father's class who had sent a copy of her CD to Susan Riley.

"Two years passed while we worked on the contract," Dara recalls, "but this time the Lord gave me the green light. March 7, 2011, I flew to Nashville and signed a contract with Word Records, which is under the umbrella of Warner Brothers. The next thing I knew, I was on the road touring with Winter Jam, one of the biggest tours in the world."

Almost overnight, Dara's life had changed.

In 2011, she released her first album with Word, *You Got My Attention*, and was a performer on the K-LOVE Acoustic Christmas Tour. The following year, Dara found herself ministering at conferences and festivals all over the country, as well as touring with performers like for KING & COUNTRY, Jason Castro, Casting Crowns and other big names



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CONNECT UK MEETING

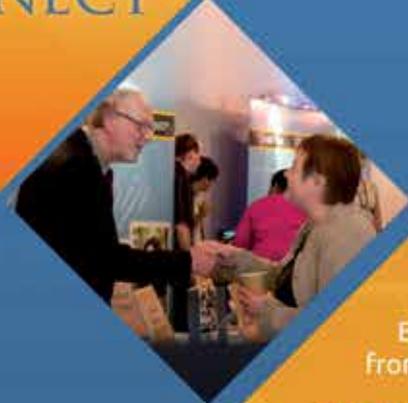
BALLYMENA
NORTHERN IRELAND

7th MARCH
2014



DOORS OPEN 6.30PM
MEETING STARTS 7.30PM

CONNECT



Dear Partners and Friends,

2014 regional CONNECT meetings are planned for Northern Ireland, Germany and Sunderland. If you missed out last year or are waiting to join us again, come and CONNECT with Kenneth Copeland Ministries at our first regional meeting in Northern Ireland.

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Northern Ireland

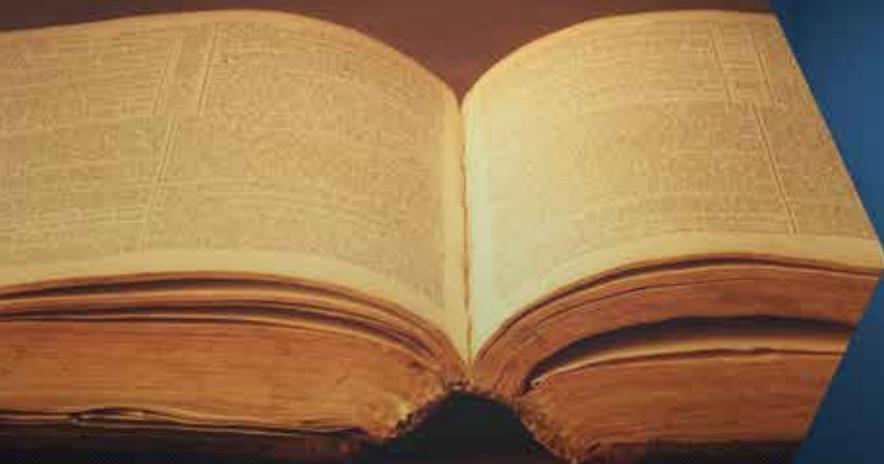
livingrivers.cc

2014 Connect Meetings

Germany Connect - 27th June
Church of the Open Door, Lorräch, Germany

Northern UK Connect - 19th Sept
Sunderland Chapel of Light, Sunderland, UK

meetings may be subject to change without notice.



“I’m so glad that my dad insisted we live in an environment of faith.”

in Christian music. She also released a Christmas album that year.

Another Piece of the Puzzle

“I finally let Jesus be enough for me,” Dara says. “I was busy touring when my very Italian father began making the most random comments. He’d say, ‘I met this kid. Amazing heart. Really loves the Lord. Good looking.’

“The ‘kid’s’ name was Donnie Petty, and God put it on my dad’s heart for us to meet. After our first date to the zoo, we were eating gelato when I showed Donnie my “what home looks like” board on Pinterest. It had pictures of art and things that inspire me. I showed him one of my favorites: a fabulous watercolor painting of a world map.”

Dara celebrated her birthday that week, and a few days later Donnie showed up with a scroll. “I got you a birthday present,” he said.

That’s weird, Dara thought. We hardly know one another.

“Donnie unrolled a massive watercolor painting of a world map!” Dara says. “He’d commissioned someone to paint it for me! He had my attention.”

Not long after that Dara received a call from Courtney Copeland, the granddaughter of Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, inviting her to do worship for her upcoming Reaction Tour to Kampala, Uganda.

“I knew it was the vision the Lord had shown me as a child.

“Courtney was also looking for strong Christian men who excelled in sports, and she asked Donnie to join the team,” Dara says. “Four months before we left for Africa, the Lord told me that Donnie was the man He had for me. During that trip, Donnie and I were so busy we didn’t see much of each other and were never alone. Then on our last day in Uganda, we finally got to spend some time together. We were shopping for souvenirs when we got caught in a sudden downpour,

laughing and running for cover. As we reached my bungalow, Donnie took my hands and shared his heart. Going down on one knee, he asked me to spend the rest of my life with him.”

Dara agreed, and on May 11, 2013, after the release of her third album, *Wanted*, she and Donnie said, “I do.”

“I’m so glad that my dad insisted we live in an environment of faith,” Dara says. “Being Partners with KCM and growing up in Superkid Academy meant life to me. If you don’t know

about God’s character and how to operate in faith and grace, how can you attain His promises?”

Today, Dara Maclean Petty is still living off the revelation she received in May 2009, when she penned the words to her song, “Free.” That song was the biggest single on her album, *You Got My Attention*.

God still has Dara’s undivided attention, and she is still living free. Free from doubt. Free from fear of failure. Free from limitations. ①



“All those years [with Superkid Academy and KCM] were laying the foundation for ministry in my life.”

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MEETING ITINERARY

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- Pre-Service Prayer with Terri Copeland Pearsons
- Superkid Academy for ages 6-12
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20051 NE 16th Place | North Miami Beach, FL 33179
1-305-653-8155 | wordsoflife.com

Peru Victory Campaign: June 6-7

Eduardo Dibos Coliseum | Between Intersección Angamos and Aviación Ave.
District San Borja | Lima, Peru

Venezuela Victory Campaign: Sept. 5-6

Sports Center "Pedro Elias Belisario Aponte"
Ave. 25 con Prolongación Circunvalación
2, con Ave. 5 de Julio
Maracaibo, Estado de Zulia, Venezuela

2014 International Faith Conference: Sept. 8

Living Word Christian Center
7306 W. Madison St. | Forest Park, IL 60130
1-708-697-5100 | billwinston.org or livingwd.org

Join Dr. Stephen and/or Kellie Swisher at:

Walk on the Water Faith Church: March 16

959 Nichols Road | Osage Beach, MO 65065
1-573-348-9777 | faithman.org

Europe Partner Meeting and Pastors Conference: May 17-18

Jubilee Church
Bouwingstraat 74 | 4902 AK Oosterhout (NB)
The Netherlands | Jubilee.nl

Blessing by Faith Church: May 20

Colmanstraat 12 | 9290 Berlare | Belgium
blessingbyfaith.com

Greater Harvest Church of God in Christ: June 7-8

1144 Olive Ave. | Long Beach, CA 90813
1-562-437-9128 | thegreaterharvest.org

Dunamis Power Ministries: June 8

2000 W. Olympic Blvd. | Montebello, CA 90640
1-562-965-3007

Join Terri Copeland Pearsons at:

Gulf Coast Women's Convention: Feb. 27-March 1

Boardwalk Beach Resort Royal America
9400 S. Thomas Drive | Panama City Beach, FL 32408
1-850-872-1188 | goodnessofgodchurch.com

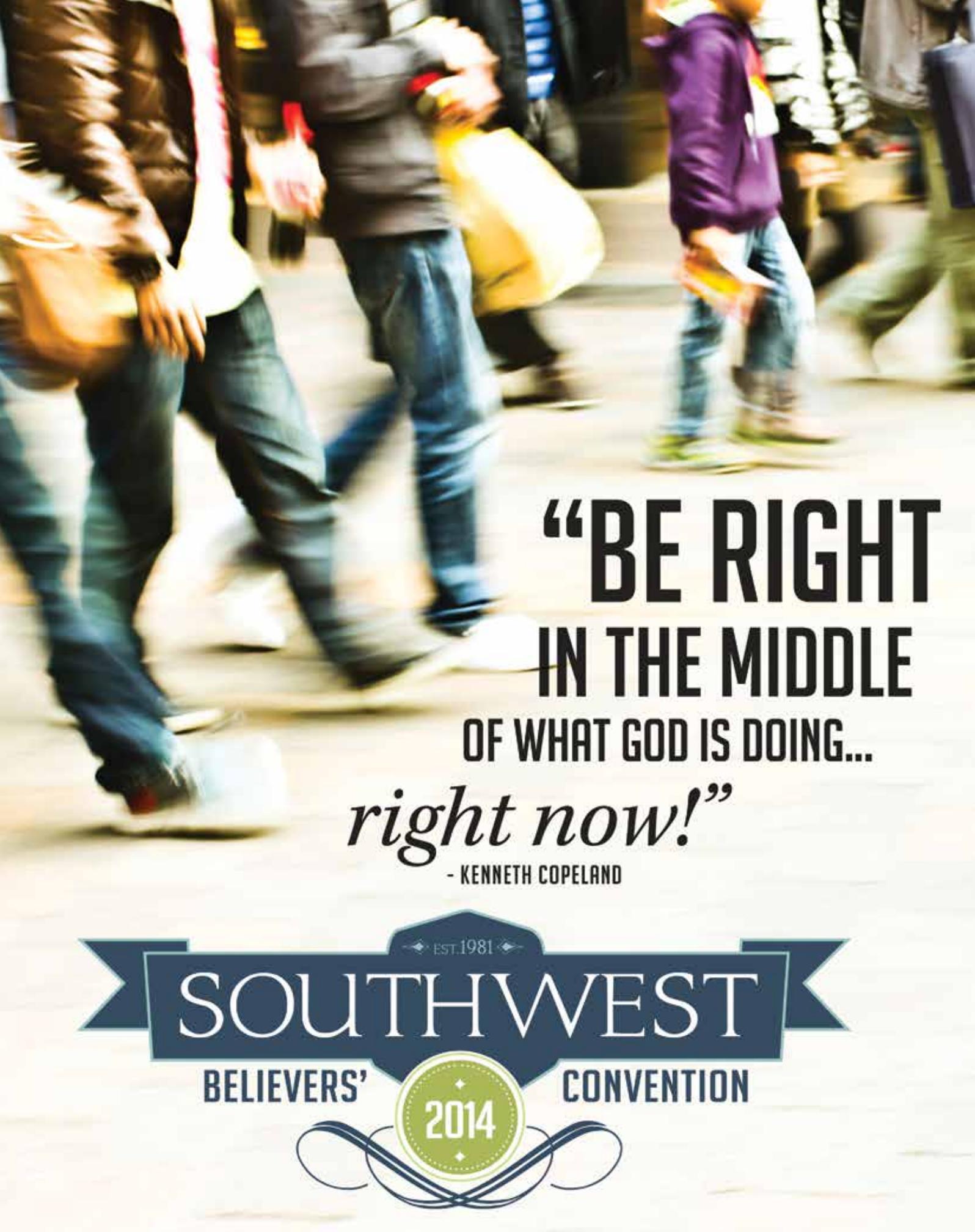
Glorious 2014 Women's Conference: Oct. 10-11

Jesse Duplantis Ministries International Headquarters
1973 Ormond Blvd. | Destrehan, LA 70047
1-985-764-2000 | jdm.org

Join Marty Copeland at:

Kingdom Health/Wealth/Harvest Conference: Feb. 19-21

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GoodNewsGazette

“If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land.” (Isaiah 1:19, *The Amplified Bible*)

God Raised Him Up

I sent in a prayer request in January 2013 after hearing that a co-worker had been struck by a car just before Christmas. He was in a

coma for 10 days. March 1, he walked back in to work as though nothing had happened. Glory to God! He says it was nothing he did and

that all the credit goes to God. Praise the Lord, and thank you for your prayers.

Mike D. | New Orleans, La.

With God's Help, Nothing Is Impossible

When I was about 5 years old I was diagnosed with photosensitive epilepsy, which meant I would miss what was being said in class. I was given medicine to stop it from happening as much, and years later God healed me!

Before He did, I had to have extra help with math, English and a few other subjects. I struggled with math the most, as I had missed some of the basics. My teacher told me I likely wouldn't get a very high grade in math in the future.

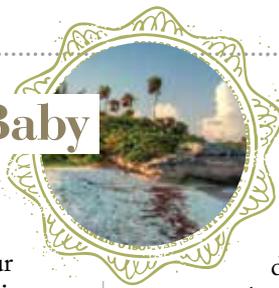
But praise God, He knew what I was capable of and helped me rise above. My most recent math exam grade—an A! This was so exciting to me, because I got a C on the exam before, and God moved me up not one grade, but two. My grades are important because I'm in my first year of General Certificate of Secondary Education studies. I know this was God's doing and I will forever be grateful to Him. Thank you, KCM team, for the *BVOV* broadcast and magazine. My family and I enjoy them very much!

Hannah F. | United Kingdom

Our Miracle Baby

A few months ago, my husband and I planted a small seed into KCM and asked for prayer for our baby. After 10 years of marriage we didn't have any children, and the doctor said there was almost no chance of conceiving...that it would be a miracle. But God said something different, that I would have a son—a very sweet baby boy, a mighty man of God.

I believe that miracle happened according to God's plan, in a totally different way. In March 2013, my mummy called to ask if I wanted a baby which was about to be born—the mother was in critical condition. So we prayed for the mother and baby's health, and asked for God's



leading. Many people had asked us to adopt a child, but every time we refused, because God didn't lead us in it. But this time was different.

God said to me, *Hesitate not for I have a plan and purpose in that baby's life* (Jeremiah 1:4-5) and *I will provide all his needs.*

Despite the mother taking very strong medication during pregnancy, which could have caused the baby to die, he is fine, healthy and well. Even the doctors are amazed!

He was 7 days old when we brought him home and from that day on, God has provided each and every need of his. He is a true blessing to us!

R.R.K. | Fiji

Just in Time

Thanks for praying in agreement with us a few years ago. Our faith car has arrived just in time! The old Buick died and a day later we were gifted with a 2005 Ford Taurus. It's a beauty and rides like a cloud. Praise the Lord!

L.M. | Canada

Our U.S. office receives an average of 15,273 letters a month from prisoners.

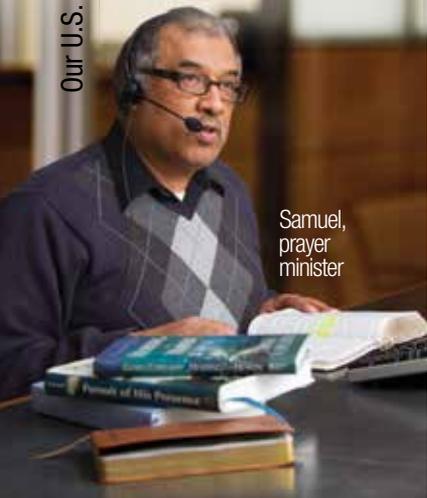
Standing on God's Word Pays Off

Thank you, KCM, for praying and believing with me for a job. When I first became unemployed, my wife and I made some decisions: We doubled our tithing on my wife's part-time income as a way of declaring that God is our Source. And, we prayed for the right job at the right time, with the right colleagues, fewer overall hours and with a higher salary than my previous job.

At times it was a challenge, but we continued to stand while I applied for jobs, attended a few classes and worked an occasional short-term job. During this time, we've had money to tithe, pay the bills and help others when needed.

Recently, I accepted a generous job offer—it was everything we prayed for. Thank you for teaching us about walking in love and faith, and how to pursue and stand on God's Word. I'm happy to return to work!
D.R. | Canada

From Faith to Faith email daily devotional is now available in French, German, Spanish and Russian.



Samuel, prayer minister


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our priority.

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7.30-17.00 UK time

Permission Granted

Praise God! Our daughter, Leanne, has been given permission to work in the U.S. for the next 17 months. Thank you for praying with us. God gave us Proverbs 21:1 to stand on, and He is faithful to His Word. Rosie H. | United Kingdom

salvation prayer

If you do not know Jesus as your Saviour and Lord, simply pray the following prayer in faith, and Jesus will be your Lord!

Heavenly Father, I come to You in the Name of Jesus. Your Word says, "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved" and "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Acts 2:21; Romans 10:9). You said my salvation would be the result of Your Holy Spirit giving me new birth by coming to live in me (John 3:5-6, 15-16; Romans 8:9-11) and that if I would ask, You would fill me with Your Spirit and give me the ability to speak with other tongues (Luke 11:13; Acts 2:4).

I take You at Your Word. I confess that Jesus is Lord. And I believe in my heart that You raised Him from the dead. Thank You for coming into my heart, for giving me Your Holy Spirit as You have promised, and for being Lord over my life. Amen.

connect with us

If you have just prayed this prayer, please let us know of your decision. We have a **free Salvation Package** to help you begin your new life in Jesus!

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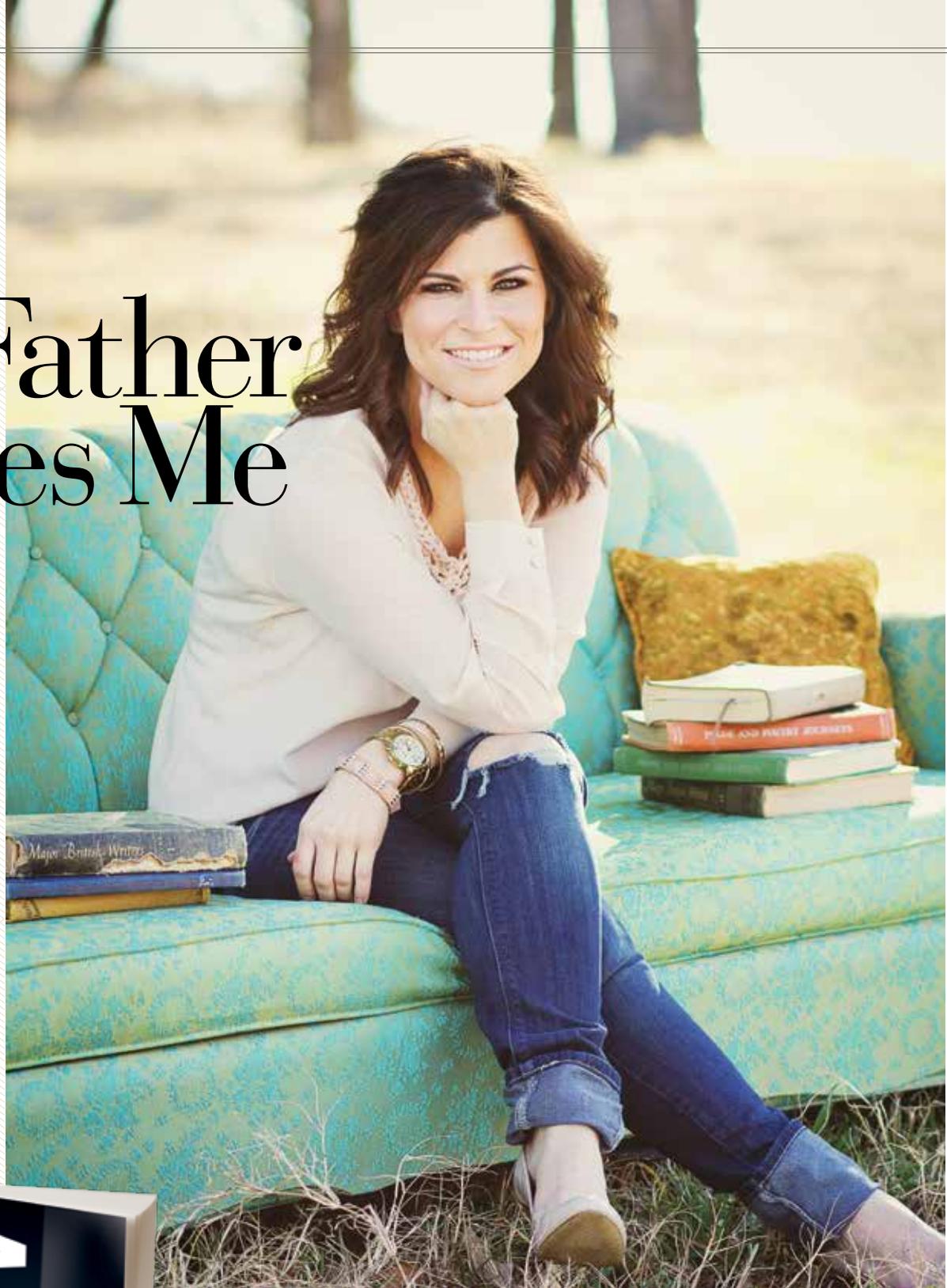
Tick the circle on the order form that comes with this magazine.

by Jenny Kutz

My Father Loves Me

*At age 17,
Jenny Kutz*

experienced the pain of her parents' divorce. It was a pain that initially left her feeling hopeless—as though a ceiling had been lowered that limited her future. In her new book, titled *ABBA*, Jenny shares how in the years since then, God has been faithful to keep and sustain her. And He has a wonderful plan—not only for her—but for every child in a divorce situation. In her book, Jenny encourages others in similar situations that in spite of the circumstances they may experience growing up, life is not over and hope is not gone. There is hope in Jesus Christ, and their adventures are just beginning. The following is adapted from *ABBA*.



*I remember once
being face to face
with a woman who
was thinking about
ending her life.*

She came up front in response to an altar call given in the service and told me that suicidal thoughts continually plagued her. She felt like she didn't measure up to anyone's standards. She kept saying, "I don't deserve to be taken care of because of all the things

I have done. I've let my husband down. He works so hard to care for me, but I have only let him and my children down." She went on and on about her mistakes and failures.

I began to minister to her and share God's forgiveness and grace. Even though I explained God's wonderful promises to her, she kept repeating her mistakes, failures and unworthiness. Even though God's freeing truths were being shared, her own thoughts kept her from receiving them. I felt like I was getting nowhere. No matter what I said, she kept telling me all the reasons why she was "unworthy."

Finally, in the middle of one of her rants about her mistakes and failures, the Spirit of God rose up in me and I asked her directly, "Did you know that your Father God loves you?"

human heart to rescue her. I believe she's alive today because of the power of God and the revelation of how precious she is to Him. She changed when she began to see God, not as an impersonal being, but as a Father who knows her every mistake and still loves her dearly. She began to see God as a Father she could run to and trust.

You were also chosen by God to be the one whom He loves and protects. Just look at what Jesus said in John 15:16, "You didn't choose me. I chose you" (*New Living Translation*). He chose to love you just the way you are. You may feel like you don't deserve to be loved, accepted or taken care of because of things in your past, but your past doesn't change the way God feels about you or His commitment to take care of you. In fact, He already

as a little girl. I saw myself running into His arms. It wasn't a leisurely jog; I was running full speed, wholeheartedly into His arms. I never turned around. I just kept my eyes completely focused on Him.

When I finally reached Him, I could sense Him smiling at me. I could feel the love in Him. He picked me up and swung me around and around, just like a daddy would do with his little girl. When the spinning stopped, He placed me on His lap. I remember feeling so innocent, so secure. All of my fears and worries melted away in His great love. That's the kind of father God longs to be to us.

As I grow older, I am determined to keep a childlike faith that will take every opportunity to both cry out to and run to my heavenly Father. Close

Your past doesn't change the way God feels about you or His commitment to take care of you.

Suddenly, silence took the place of our conversation. I could tell this question hit her like a ton of bricks as a sense of calmness rushed over her and she realized she had a Father who loved her so much. After a while, she managed to whisper, "My Father loves me."

I said, "Yes, just let that sink in. Let's say it again."

Every time she repeated this, healing and love began to stir in her heart. The more she let the truth sink in, the more she believed it. All the previous talk of what she had done stopped, and now only the goodness and forgiveness of God were on her lips. I gave her scriptures on God's love and continued to encourage her.

She wasn't truly able to receive God's forgiveness and grace until she realized the truth of His love for her. *My Father loves me.* Those four words changed the entire course of her life. God's love plunged to the depth of her

knew you were going to make the mistakes you've made and He still chose to love you.

God's love is deeper than any other love you will ever find. No matter how high or how low you go, *nothing* can separate you from His love. You can't run away from His love, even if you tried. He will *always* love you, whether you choose to love Him back or not. But even though His love is so great, He still gives you the choice to accept it. He lets you decide if you will call Him "Father." You are so precious to Him that He made a way for you to call Him "Father."

I remember crying out to God when I was hurting one night, and He showed me a picture of myself

your eyes and picture God taking you up in His loving arms. Let all fear and shame melt away in His presence. Give Him all your worries and let them fade away.

Let Father God be Abba, Father to you. Anytime you begin to worry about a situation in your life, just say out loud, "My Father loves me. My Father loves me." Let those words resonate in you.



Jenny Kutz, minister and author, has been a part of ministry for as long as she can remember. As the granddaughter of Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, she has had hands-on training in ministry through various mission outreaches, serving in the local church and assisting her grandparents as they minister. Jenny currently serves as Outreach Minister at Kenneth Copeland Ministries.

order ABBA today! £7.00 : €8.90 #30-7911

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a Heritage of Favor



Before God ever spoke forth the words "Let there be light," setting in motion the creation of all things that exist, He had a marvelous plan for mankind.



As Paul wrote in his letter to the Galatians, that plan was for all people to be blessed: "And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, 'In you all the

nations shall be blessed.' So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham" (Galatians 3:8-9, *New King James Version*).

The covenant God made with Abraham extended to both his natural and his spiritual posterity.

Abraham's natural lineage included his son Isaac and his grandson Jacob, who later became Israel, after whom the whole Hebrew nation is named. The term *gentile* applies to all non-Jewish people, tribes and nations. By faith in Jesus Christ,

gentiles become the spiritual seed of Abraham, as Paul goes on to explain:

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise (verses 13-14, 16, 29, *NKJV*).

The Bible tells us that if you and I belong to Christ—if we’ve made Jesus the Lord of our lives—then we “are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” In other words, whatever God promised to Abraham, He has also promised to us, as we see in Romans 4:16: “Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace [divine favor], so that the promise might be sure to all the seed...” (*NKJV*). The Apostle Paul tells us that these promises are sure to the seed—or as we might say today, God’s promises are a sure thing.

God intends for us to enjoy the fullness of every blessing that He promised to His people in Deuteronomy 28. As heirs of God’s promise, these blessings are our heritage. If we are living without the fulfillment of God’s promised blessings in our lives, then either we lack an understanding of our heritage or we are simply ignoring the promise that comes to us through our covenant with God.

Genesis 12 contains a particular promise that God made to Abraham—one that applies to us as Abraham’s spiritual seed. God said, “I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing” (verse 2, *NKJV*). The *Amplified* version of this scripture says, “I will bless you [with

abundant increase of favors].” In other words, God promised to increase His favor in Abraham’s life.

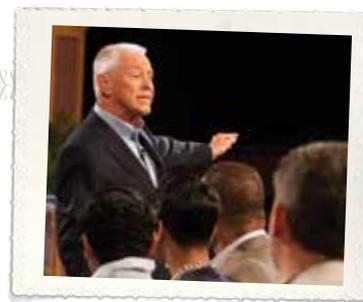
An Abundant Increase

An abundant increase in favor brought good things into Abraham’s life, and it will do the same for us. This kind of abundant favor is our heritage; it is available for us because we are the seed of Abraham. We can’t even imagine the good things God’s favor will accomplish in our lives, because God “is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20).

As the Bible unfolds Abraham’s story, we see that God’s favor on his life caused him to become a very successful, prosperous and powerful man. No enemy could defeat him as he walked in the favor of God. Regardless of where he was or the circumstances he was facing, Abraham came through victoriously every time. At one point God said to him, “Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you” (Genesis 12:1, *NKJV*). When Abraham left his family and his country, he ended up right in the middle of the desert—but God still made him a winner. Of the end of Abraham’s life, the Bible says that “Abraham was now very old, and the Lord had blessed him in every way” (Genesis 24:1, *New International Version*).

God’s intent in establishing a covenant with Abraham was to create a channel by which He could bring blessing into Abraham’s life. Through the promise made to Abraham, God also has a channel through which to bring blessing into our lives. God wants us to walk in divine favor—the kind of favor that opens doors men say cannot be opened.

Please remember that walking in divine favor does not mean we will never have any problems, face any opposition or experience any hurts. The point I’m making is simply that if we take the time to gain an understanding of our heritage of favor and then determine to walk in that favor on a daily basis, we will



An abundant increase in favor brought good things into Abraham’s life, and it will do the same for us.

This kind of abundant favor is our heritage; it is available for us because we are the seed of Abraham.

experience God moving in our lives in new and powerful ways.

God Is Disposed to Show Favor

The earliest record of God’s interaction with mankind paints a beautiful picture of His very nature, which is disposed to show favor: “Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth’” (Genesis 1:28, *NKJV*).

God’s grace and favor were manifested in the first blessing He pronounced over the man and woman whom He had created in His image: Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, subdue it and have dominion. Within this one blessing, we see the very heart of God and the great favor that He has bestowed upon mankind. However, many people—even many Christians—are still in need of a revelation of this favor.

I remember flying back to Fort Worth after ministering at a large meeting in Tulsa, Okla. When I took

When we truly understand just how important we are to our heavenly Father, doubt and insecurity will vanish, and we will walk in the fullness of the heritage of favor that is ours in Jesus Christ.

the middle seat in my assigned row, a woman in her 60s was already in the seat by the window. We smiled and said hello to each other, and then I sat quietly while the rest of the passengers boarded, including a group of people who had attended the meeting where I had just preached.

When they saw me, they greeted me with, "Hello, Brother Jerry!" and "How are you, Brother Jerry?" and "We sure enjoyed hearing you preach this week."

Despite what some Christians might tell you, God does not object to our having pleasure in this life.

After I had exchanged a few pleasantries with the group, and they had taken their seats, the woman beside me turned and said, "I assume you must be a minister."

"Yes, madam, I am," I told her.

"Well, I'm glad to know that," she said, "because I need prayer, and I need it right now."

I listened as she told me about something she was going through. When she finished, I talked to her about the favor of God and explained the impact it could have on her life. Then I prayed for her. Afterward, she commented about how wonderful it must be to be loved and respected by

so many people. I said, "Well, madam, all I can tell you is that it's the favor of God that I talked to you about; and it is an honor to have His favor." I believe that woman went home with a brand new revelation of God's favor.

Sometimes when Carolyn and I get to thinking about the favor of God, we're amazed. We're not any different from anybody else, but God has blessed the work of our hands in amazing ways. He has definitely fulfilled His promises in our lives! In

return, we have spent the past 40-plus years striving to fulfill a promise we made to God when we first started in ministry. We promised Him that no matter how far this ministry went, no matter how big it got, and no matter how well known we might become, we would remain the same people we were then. We determined never to become high-minded or to forget those who helped us get where we were going. Instead, we would always show the same favor to others that God had shown to us. That promise is the reason I still go to preach in small churches that may have no more than 50 people in them.

Recently, I went to just such a church. The pastors, a married couple, were up in age and the church was in a bind financially, yet they did everything they could to take care of me while I was there. Before leaving home, I had decided that I would take care of my own expenses—and whatever the offering was, large or small, I would give it back to that precious couple and plant it into their lives as a seed.

It turned out that the offering they received the night I spoke was the biggest they had ever had in that small congregation. The pastor was delighted as he handed me a check just prior to my departure. I looked at him and asked, "Now, Pastor, is this check all mine?"

"Oh, yes, Brother Jerry," he said, "it's all yours."

"You mean it's mine with no strings attached, and I can do with it whatever I want?"

"That's right, Brother Jerry."

I took a pen, endorsed the check, and then handed it back to the pastor and said, "Now this check goes to you and your wife; it's yours."

When he asked me why I was giving them the check, I said, "Just call it favor. It's the favor of God."

God created us in His image, and if

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Thu. 10 a.m. Marty Copeland/Dr. David Robinson
Thu. 7 p.m. Ken Harbaum
Fri. 10 a.m. Marty Copeland/Dr. David Robinson
Fri. 7 p.m. Jeremy LaBorde

Praise and Worship with
Mandy Senor

Special Youth Service
with Selo Lozano, Wed. 7 p.m.

(Schedule is subject to change.)

He is disposed to show us His favor, should we not also be disposed to show favor to others? As we sow seeds of favor into the lives of those around us, we will begin to grow in favor in our own lives, just as Jesus did. The Bible says, “Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man” (Luke 2:52). If Jesus had the ability to increase in favor with God and man, then so do we.

Walking in the favor of God brings pleasure to our lives. Psalm 5:12 says, “For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; with favor You will surround him as with a shield” (*NKJV*). The *Amplified* version of this scripture puts it this way: “As with a shield You will surround him with goodwill (pleasure and favor).” Despite what some Christians might tell you, God does not object to our having pleasure in this life. As a matter of fact, being a believer should be fun. After all, Jesus prayed for His disciples “that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves” (John 17:13).

As Jesus’ prayer suggests, our joy is meant to be a reflection of His own joy. The messianic prophecy of Isaiah says of Jesus that “the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand” (Isaiah 53:10). Living a life characterized by joy and godly pleasure is another way that we show forth the image of God in which we were created.

Crowned With Glory and Honor

Throughout the years I’ve been in ministry, I’ve encountered many people who have not enjoyed the victories that belong to them, because they have such a poor self-image. Jesus said we should love others as we love ourselves, but I’ve found that there are a lot of folks who don’t even love themselves. The Word directs us to “be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 2:1). In other words, we are not to be weak where the favor of God is concerned. We are to be strong and have a

positive outlook regarding the favor of God. Many believers, especially those who were not raised in environments where they were praised and encouraged, have difficulty grasping this truth.

Carolyn and I were driving home following dinner one evening when she noticed a bumper sticker on the car in front of us. At first glance it appeared to be one of those positive messages announcing that a child is an honor student at some particular school. But when we looked closer, we read these words: “My child is the number one inmate at the Texas state prison.” Now, I’m sure that when those people put that sticker on their car, they did it because they thought it was funny—not because they wanted their child to end up in prison. But the point I want to make is this: When a child grows up hearing words like these being spoken over his or her life, it’s quite likely that the child will fulfill what has been decreed.

I’ve had people ask me, “Do you mean that confessing things like that over my children will cause them to turn out that way?”

My answer is always, “They will unless there’s divine intervention.” The Word of God teaches us to “train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). The words we speak over our children, good or bad, carry great power. This is why it is so important to declare God’s divine favor over our families on a daily basis.

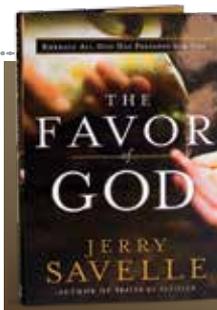
For those who were not brought up hearing words of grace and divine favor spoken over them, I have good news. The Word of God can be used to tear down “arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5, *NKJV*). Paul described the Word of God as “living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit,

and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12, *NKJV*). Through the Word of God, we have the ability to change our thinking and cause it to line up with what God says about us. God says we are made in His image. We have been crowned with glory and honor. We walk in authority and dominion.

Armed with the Name of Jesus and the Word of God, we can take authority over the untruths and disheartening circumstances that seem to be controlling our lives. God’s favor can change even the most impossible-looking situation.

Remember Psalm 84:11? “The Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace [divine favor] and glory: no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.” I don’t care how dire your circumstances may be or how much money you may need or how negative a report you may have received from the doctor or the lawyer—or even how many times you may have been told you would never amount to anything. When the favor of God comes on the scene, failure and defeat are no longer inevitable. The favor of God brings good things into your life; it brings prosperity.

When we truly understand just how important we are to our heavenly Father, doubt and insecurity will vanish, and we will walk in the fullness of the heritage of favor that is ours in Jesus Christ. 📖



This article was excerpted from the book *The Favor of God* by Jerry Savelle.

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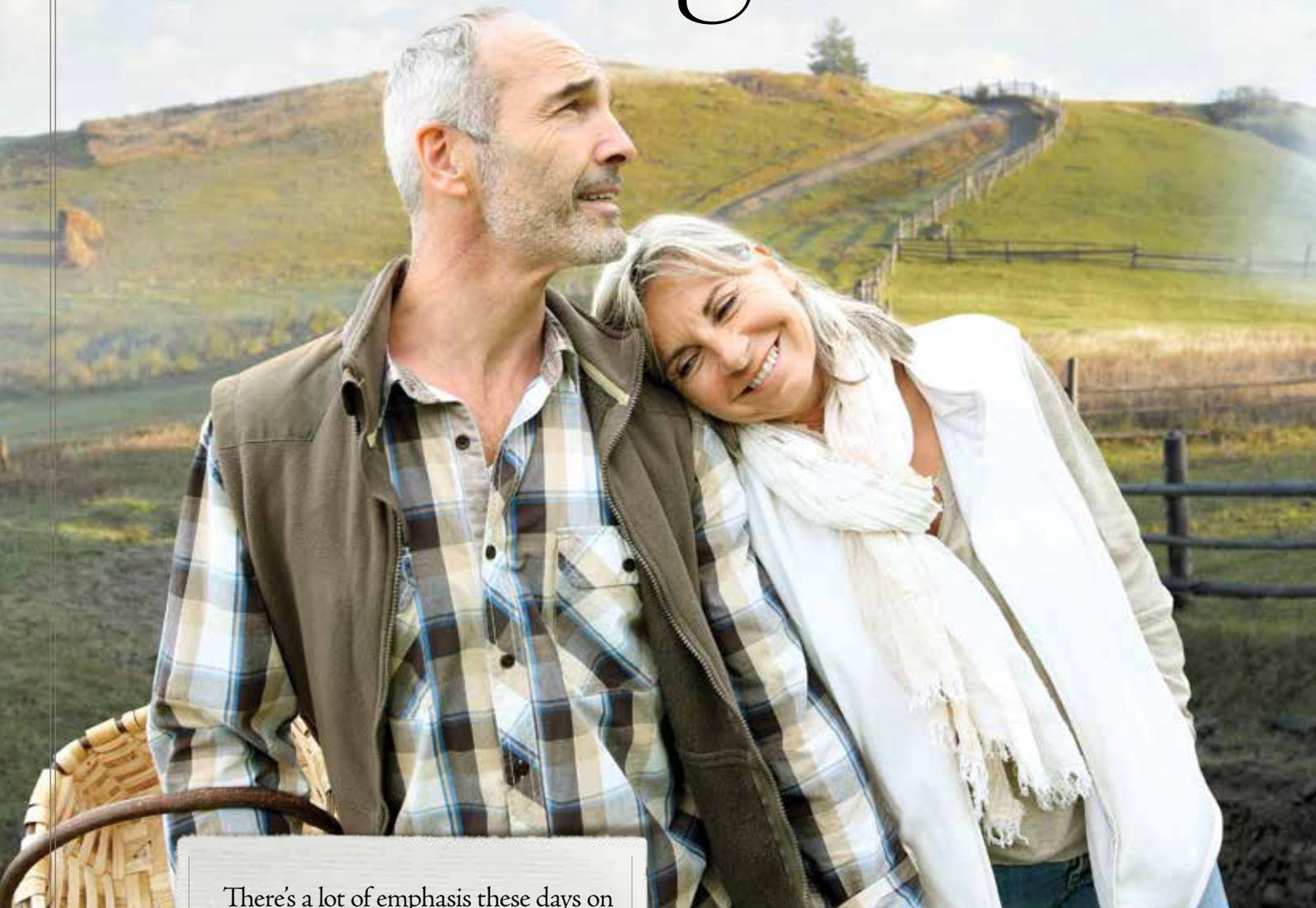
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Jerry Savelle is president and founder of Jerry Savelle Ministries International and founding pastor of Heritage of Faith Christian Center in Crowley, Texas.



Seeking Life



There's a lot of emphasis these days on various kinds of lifestyles. People talk about healthy lifestyles and unhealthy lifestyles. They talk about urban, suburban and rural lifestyles. There was even a television show some years

ago called *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*.



Although those things are fine, I suppose, to me there's really only one lifestyle worth living: the lifestyle God describes in His Word.

I call that lifestyle *The Seeking Life*, because Jesus told us how to tap in to it by giving us these instructions:

Do not worry and be anxious saying, What are we going to have to eat? or, What are we going to have to drink? or,

What are we going to have to wear? For the Gentiles (heathen) wish for and crave and diligently seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows well that you need them all. But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given to you besides (Matthew 6:31-33, *The Amplified Bible*).



by Gloria
Copeland



I got born again reading those verses, so I've known about the seeking life for almost 50 years now. I was excited about it from the beginning. But as I've grown older, I've gotten smarter. So I'm more sold on it today than ever.

Why?

Because the seeking life is **THE BLESSED LIFE**. It's the kind of life that opens the door to God's highest and best will for us. The seeking life not only offers us health, prosperity and success, it also provides us with

peace, joy and every other good thing.

Over the years, I've discovered that the more I seek God, the happier and more wonderful my life becomes. I've also learned it's much better to cultivate a God-seeking lifestyle than it is to just coast along until I get in trouble and then look to Him for the way out. Even though He's merciful to us anytime we sincerely call on Him, we can avoid a lot of upset and pain by sticking close to Him every day. We can enjoy more smooth sailing in our lives if we continually seek to do things God's way.

Not Just a Once-a-Week Event

"Well, Gloria," someone might say, "I think I'm doing all right when it comes to seeking God. After all, I go to church every Sunday."

I'm glad you do! That's a good start. But the seeking life isn't just a once-a-week event. If you really want to be **BLESSED**, you need to go after the things of God every day. You need to keep the Word of God in front of your eyes, in your ears and in the center of your heart all the time.

That's what it takes to keep your thinking straight.

The reason is simple: We live in a world that's inundated with darkness. We're surrounded by a crazy culture that thinks bad is good and good is bad. The devil is constantly using every means available to confuse us and darken our minds. So, even if you go to church on Sunday morning and Wednesday night, you're going to get off track if you do what everyone else does on the other days of the week.

A lot of Christians don't seem to understand this. They think it's OK to come home from work every day and sit in front of the television watching the same ungodly programs their unsaved neighbors do. I'm not just talking about the ugly stuff on the pornographic channels, either. I'm talking about the trash on all the other networks that dishonors God or promotes immorality.

Although it's easy to just go with

the world's flow and watch whatever comes on the television screen, you can't live the seeking life by just floating along and being lazy. You have to resist the devil and choose to do things God's way. That means sometimes you have to turn off the TV altogether and open your Bible.

In other words, you have to take action.

Seek is an action word! According to the dictionary it means "to go after something with intense effort; to try to find, to ask or inquire for; to learn or discern."

I was reminded of this several years ago when I lost my Daytimer. All my appointments for the next few weeks were listed in it, so I was desperate to locate it. As you can imagine, I looked and looked for that book. I went through my desk drawers. I dug through my closet. I searched through my car and Ken's car.

Even though it took a lot of effort, I kept seeking and seeking because I had to have that book. Sure enough, I finally found it.

Later it occurred to me, if I was willing to look that hard for something that would just affect a few days or weeks of my life, how much more willing should I be to seek after the things of God—things that will affect my entire life, all the way into eternity?

The Sentence That Changed My Life

Another definition for *seek* comes from a Hebrew root word which means "to tread or to frequent." I like that definition because to be God-seekers we must frequently tread, or spend time, in His Word and in prayer.

Personally, I've never had much problem spending time in the Word. I've loved reading and studying it ever since I got born again. I rarely let a day go by without spending time in the Bible. I must confess, however, I haven't always had the same attitude about prayer. I didn't really make it a daily priority in my

life until 1982. That's when I was in a meeting listening to Brother Kenneth E. Hagin. He delivered a prophetic word that contained one sentence that changed my life.

"Just spend an hour or two a day with the Lord in prayer," he said, "and all will be well with you."

I had followed Brother Hagin's ministry for years. I knew that what he prophesied came to pass, so those words caught my attention. My son, John, was a teenager at that time and he wasn't living for God. I was concerned about him and I thought, *OK, I'm going to start getting up earlier and praying one hour a day because if*

I do, all will be well with me and John will be all right. He'll turn around and start serving the Lord.

I don't mind telling you, in the beginning those early morning times of prayer were hard! It was wintertime, so when the alarm went off it was dark and cold. My flesh would complain. I'd think, *I don't want to get up!* But I'd make myself get out of bed anyway and spend an hour in prayer. I may have missed a few times, but for the most part I stuck with it until it became a habit.

Many years later, I figured up how many hours I'd prayed because of that one step of obedience. I was shocked

to realize it was thousands of hours. Do you think those hours of prayer affected my life? Certainly they did! Not only did John turn out to be a godly man and the executive director of our ministry, many other things turned out well for me, too.

That one decision, to seek God by praying an hour a day, has probably changed my spiritual life as much or more than any other thing I've done since I got saved and filled with the Spirit. Think what I would have missed out on if I'd passed up that opportunity. Imagine all the good things that would not have been added to me if I'd just taken the easy way out and stayed in bed!

If you don't want to miss out on anything God has for you, I encourage you to make prayer a priority in your life, too. Don't just coast along expecting others to do your praying for you. Don't hit the snooze button and think, *If I get in trouble, I'll just call the prayer warriors at church.*

Those prayer warriors might be praying for themselves when you call. They might not be there when you need them. What's more, they're not called to babysit you like a spiritual 2-year-old for the rest of your life. You're supposed to grow up and get your own prayer life going. So if you haven't already done so, determine right now to seek God daily in prayer and in His Word.

Just Do It!

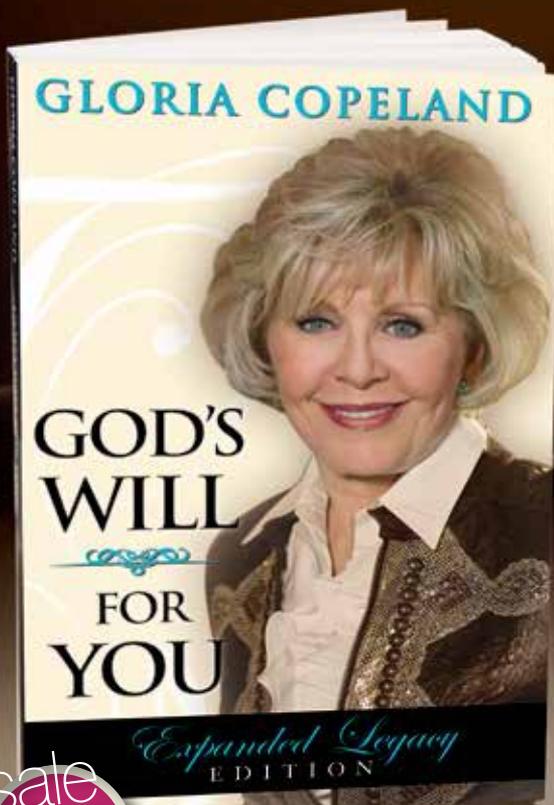
What will happen when you really commit yourself to a lifestyle of consistently seeking God?

You'll not only find Him, you'll find the door to a truly BLESSED life!

Jesus guaranteed it. He said, "Keep on asking and it will be given you; keep on seeking and you will find; keep on knocking and [the door] will be opened" (Matthew 7:7, AMP).

It's wonderful to receive what you've asked for. It's marvelous to find God and to see Him open the door to His wonderful will for your life. But when

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it happens, there's something more you need to do. You need to step out by faith and obey Him.

Obedience is a vital part of the seeking life. When God reveals His will to you, if you don't act on it, **THE BLESSING** is not going to function for you like it should.

Ken and I learned this back in 1967, when the Lord dealt with Ken to move our family to Tulsa, Okla., and enroll at Oral Roberts University.

We had only been born again and filled with the Spirit a short while when God gave us those instructions, and they made no sense to us! After all, Ken was 30 years old at the time. We were broke. We had little children to take care of and a mountain of bills to pay. It didn't look to us like Ken needed to go to school. It looked like he needed to work two jobs and try to make a living.

Yet, he still kept getting this leading from the Lord in his spirit: *Go to ORU.*

For a while, he resisted it. He kept thinking, *There's no way. It's ridiculous. We can't move. We don't have any money. How will we live?* (Or, as Jesus put it, What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?) So, for a while we didn't obey. As a result, our circumstances—which were already pretty bad—got even worse.

Finally, deciding it would be better to starve in the will of God than starve outside of it, we piled our few belongings into a little U-Haul and headed to ORU. When we got there, Ken enrolled as a full-time student, just like God told him to do. From that moment on, amazing things began to happen.

Ken's school tuition was supernaturally paid. He was immediately hired as co-pilot of Brother Roberts' airplane. He got to fly to all Brother Roberts' meetings, work beside him and learn the ministry of healing and deliverance

under him. In addition, we had the opportunity to attend seminars on faith by Brother Hagin that changed our whole lives.

All those things were great. But we didn't know they were going to happen when we left Arkansas. All we knew was that Ken was called to preach and God had told us to move to Tulsa.

That's the way it is with the seeking life. You can't always figure things out. When God gives you a leading, it often seems like He's asking you to do the impossible. But you're supposed to step out by faith and go for it anyway. If you don't, if you wait until you can see how everything is going to work, you'll miss out on God's plan.

Today, Ken and I are so glad we didn't wait until we could afford for him to go to ORU before we obeyed God. We would have been waiting forever! Why? Because as long as we were out of the will of God, we were getting deeper in debt instead of coming out.

But when we obeyed the light God gave us and went to Tulsa, we saw miracles. We not only survived, Ken got the training he needed and a little more than a year later he was in ministry and all our debts were paid.

Can God do that same kind of thing for you?

Certainly He can...and He will if you're living the seeking life. So make a fresh commitment to do it. Make a quality decision to give God's written Word first priority in your life every day. Believe and obey what He's already said in black and white, then seek Him in prayer about His specific plan for you. Ask Him for wisdom. He will give it to you and show you what to do next.

When He does, act on it. Take a step of faith. Go wherever He leads you, and do whatever He puts in your heart to do.

Step into the lifestyle of **THE BLESSED!** 📍



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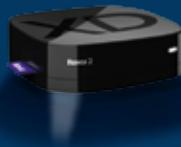
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- Feb. 17-21** God's Calendar and the Signs of the Times
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