

april06

The Faith Voice of the Planet

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What Jesus taught us about leadership.
hallmarks of a servant leader.

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By: Laura Snider
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Of all the many blessings in my life, the one I am most excited about right now is this opportunity – the chance to talk with each of you through the World Christian Times! Within this section, I hope to talk with you each month about what you'll see in the issue and how it relates to our lives. I hope we are able to learn from each other and to grow – both spiritually and intellectually – through our relationship with the World Christian Times.

In this, my first issue as the new editor, we have begun using a new format – dividing our features into three sections: *Faith, Business, and Culture*. Each of these is a key part of our Mission (defined below). As we move forward, we hope to add even more of what you are looking for – more content – features, interviews, and news to

help you merge your faith, business, and culture. We strive to be relevant, exciting, interactive, and above all, informational. Are we doing the job? The section below, "Talk to Us," has been added specifically so that you can let us know. Contact us and tell us what you want to see more...or less. Or maybe you just have a great joke, church sign, or quote you would like to share – or a book you would like to see reviewed. Whatever it is – we want to hear it!

For this, our Jesus issue, we have focused our leadership section on our one true leader – Jesus Christ Himself! In future issues, this section will continue to highlight a relevant leader of our time – whether a business leader, a pastorpreneur, or someone who is spreading the word as a leader.

This issue also begins our examination of Christian persecution. It is important that we recognize these efforts, and critical that we pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ as they struggle in ways we can only try to imagine. We'll also reveal some good news for this Easter season, with soul saving in New Orleans and a traveling evangelist whose focus on students is helping a new generation stay off drugs and stay in school.

As always there is an abundance of important topics and so many blessings for Christians to examine – I hope that this and future issues will continue to provide you with the very best of these stories.

May Jesus Bless You this Easter and Always,

Laura

(perspectives)

talktous

You, the reader, are our reason for publishing. Your input, suggestions, comments, criticisms, kudos, and even notations of typos are what keep us on-track, ensuring that what you want is what you get. So what do you want?

WE WANT YOUR INPUT

We accept suggestions via e-mail at editor@worldchristiantimes.com or on the Web at www.worldchristiantimes.com. Let us know how we can better provide you with the news, features, and stories you want from the World Christian Times!

ourmission

The World Christian Times provides relevant information as it relates to the intersection of faith, business, and culture to create positive change throughout the world. We strive to publish information that presents the re-brand of Christianity, the brand it was originally intended to represent, one based on love of the spirit and love of our neighbors throughout the world. The World Christian Times fosters a value based society that is not judgmental or hypocritical, and that is interactive, exciting, and relevant. Ultimately, through the World Christian Times, our readers, corporate partners, sponsors, and advertisers will experience a positive shift in their personal, corporate, community, and spiritual relationships.

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goinghome Gordon Parks 1912-2006

Photographer, Composer, Director, Author, Filmmaker Gordon Parks dies at 93. Gordon Parks was probably most famous for the gritty photograph "American Gothic," but the wide variety of talents and successful works make even the briefest of recognitions incomplete. Parks works exposed the effects of poverty and racism, brought attention to cultural issues, and helped spawn a series of black-oriented films.

The star of Parks detective drama "Shaft," Richard Roundtree, believes the character was based on Parks, stating "Gordon was the ultimate cool - there's no one cooler than Gordon Parks."

spreadingtheword

Ronnie Hill – Student Ministries and Missions

He is the product of rape – a rape committed by his Father when his Mother was 17, and he is spreading the Word like wildfire in Texas, and throughout the world.

It was at the age of 14 that Ronnie Hill sensed God's call to the ministry. Ronnie surrendered to that call the next Sunday at church, and the folks of Rubottom Baptist Church in Oklahoma will tell you the place has not been the same since.

Today, at the age of 37, Ronnie Hill is one of the most dynamic, sought after speakers for school assemblies in the country. Speaking in over 200 schools a year, Hill's program, through his humorous and fresh approach, has encouraged students to stay off drugs and alcohol and see the importance of education.

Ronnie says "School administrators are tired of having speakers that have done drugs and alcohol, due to the fear that students may look at the speaker and think, 'If he did it and he is all right, then I can do it and I will be all right.'" Seeing the effects of alcohol on his family at an early age led Ronnie to decide never to touch alcohol or drugs, and he has upheld that promise.

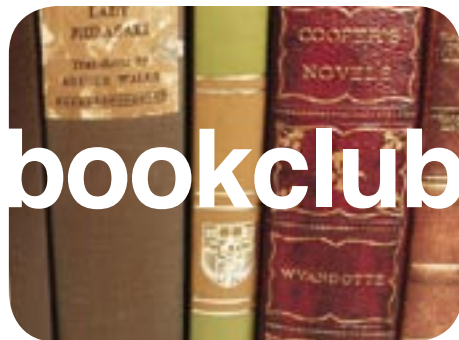
Ronnie's program also includes demonstrating the financial difference between a high school drop out and a high school graduate at retirement age. His 30 minute assembly is colorful and contains a message that is straightforward and aimed at the students of today.

In addition to his school engagements, Ronnie is a full-time evangelist who travels the world spreading the message of Christ with his wife Jennifer and son Jake. Ronnie has spoken in Brazil, Germany, Africa, Canada, and in many parts of the United States.

My son and I were blessed to hear Ronnie speak recently in Alpharetta, GA, where Ronnie's message led my son, along with dozens of others, to recommit his life to Christ. Ronnie is the author of three books – *It's All About Jesus*, which takes believers through knowing Jesus personally, *Engage Your World*, with guidance on how to share your faith with individuals from other non-Christian backgrounds, and *Shoot The Bull*, which explains how to get almost any conversation around to the gospel. Ronnie's message is clearly one of witnessing, witnessing, and Ronnie certainly does his share through his ministry work. Although Ronnie has helped bring thousands to Christ, his favorite save is one from many years ago – his own father.

Ronnie Hill is a full-time evangelist traveling around the world to spread the message of Christ. Ronnie earned his Doctorate of Ministry degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, TX. For more information on Ronnie Hill ministries, go to www.ronniehill.com.

► **Have you ever wanted to be a book reviewer? Want to join a book club? Be a WCT reader!**



Ever since Oprah started her own, Book Clubs have become the hottest gathering around. Friends, Sunday School classes, family members, and others gather once per month and discuss the book they all read together the previous month. Book Club members offer their own responses to the book, individual reviews and commentary, and a summary of what the book meant to them, what it taught them, and whether they will recommend the book to others.

Some book clubs focus on specific types of books, others simply read the "hottest new thing." The World Christian Times would like to invite YOU to be a part of our very own Book Club. We will focus on a wide variety of books, including some that contribute to the relevant issues of our time, some that help us to fulfill God's plan for our lives, and some that simply inspire and entertain. Readers who read the book of the month can contribute to the review provided in a future issue. With enough reader interest, we can open a blog on our Web site for readers to discuss the books together.

If you would like to be a part of the World Christian Times Book Club, pick up a copy of Jeffrey D. Sachs *The End of Poverty*. This New York Times Bestseller offers economic possibilities for ending poverty in our lifetime and includes a forward by Bono, who has worked tirelessly for this same goal. This landmark exploration of the roots of economic prosperity is an engaging look at a possible escape from extreme poverty for the world's poorest citizens. I strongly encourage each of you to read the book and send in your comments, reviews and responses.

Read it and decide for yourself – is ending poverty possible in our lifetime? Do you believe this book offers a true roadmap for the leaders of the world? Do you see steps we can all take to help? Or do you think there are issues of true poverty not explored by the author? Is it what it claims to be – a work with the power to remake the world? Your answers to these questions and your responses to the book will be reviewed by our team and used to present this book in an upcoming issue.

Quick Coverage of Issues Affecting People of Faith



Afghanistan: Abdul Rahman, 41, a medical aid worker who converted from Islam to Christianity 16 years ago is on trial for doing so, and if convicted, faces death for his beliefs. UPDATE: Just prior to press the WCT learned Abdul was given safe haven in Italy!

California, USA: High-school and college students hold a "Reverse Rebellion Rally," declaring "Battle Cry" against secularism. A future issue of World Christian Times will review the *Battle Cry* movement.

China: China believes it's "one-child" policy is a success, ending hopes that it might relax the controversial policy.

Iraq: Russia may have revealed the U.S. war plans to Saddam Hussein prior to the invasion and in time for him to hide any remaining WMD's.

Texas, USA: Hurricane Katrina evacuees living in Texas scored considerably worse than local students on statewide tests and are struggling to catch up.

USA: Abortion resolutions increase across the states and issues continue to divide



the nation. Examples: Michigan's Governor signed a law giving women considering abortion the chance to see an ultrasound first, Georgia is working to adopt similar legislation, and the Tennessee Senate passes a bill requiring Doctors to preserve fetal tissue from abortions performed on girls under 13 years of age.

UK: Britain's highest court has dismissed the claims of a British teenager who claimed her human rights had been violated when she wasn't allowed to wear an all-encompassing Muslim dress to school.

Washington, DC, USA: The Department of the Navy tells chaplains to pray only "non-sectarian" prayers when they are part of any function outside the chapel doors.

inspiration.

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us.

We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?' Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.

We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not just in some of us, it is in everyone. As we let our light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

- Nelson Mandela

leadership

What Jesus Taught About Leadership: 10 Hallmarks of a Servant Leader

by Rev. Jerry Bowers

In this section, we examine a leader each issue who has made a difference in the intersection of faith, culture, and business through their leadership. We will examine leadership styles and offer advice from prominent leaders of our world. For this, our Jesus issue, we focus on the greatest leader of all – Our Lord, Jesus Christ!

In a world where modern business leadership teaches self-advancement at all cost, the servant leadership model of Jesus stands in sharp contrast. Much of what is done in today's church is influenced by the business world. Goals and objectives are used to measure one's effectiveness. Self-actualization is extolled as a virtue and success is measured by the size of a leaders' congregation. In contrast to the world's methods of advancement, however, the teachings of Christ bid us to humble ourselves, take up a cross, and follow His example as a leader who sacrifices that others may be advanced. The 10 Hallmarks of a Servant Leader based on biblical principles are:

01. Servant Leaders seek to affirm the worth of others.
02. Servant Leaders encourage others to look beyond where they are and to believe in what they can be.
03. Servant Leaders learn to trust God for the results and give him the credit.
04. Servant Leaders understand that accountability and discipleship are a part of good leadership.
05. Servant Leaders are motivated by compassion and mercy more than the rewards of success.
06. Servant Leaders seek to honor other leaders and see them as more important than themselves.
07. Servant Leaders practice humility by being teachable and willing to receive counsel from others.
08. Servant Leaders practice a lifestyle of forgiveness and grace.
09. Servant Leaders pursue intimacy with God and other Leaders.
10. Servant Leaders seek to walk in the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and in the sphere of leadership God has called them to, as affirmed by the Lord and by other leaders.

Let us seek to lead like Jesus and reflect his examples of working with others. For a full explanation of each of the 10 hallmarks, including biblical references, view the complete article at <http://www.nppn.org/Articles/Article053.htm>.

church sign of the month

“Easter is more than something to dye for”
Oklahoma City, OK, USA

prayersforthe persecuted

In this section, we plan to highlight persecuted Christians each month. Our goal is to raise awareness of Christian persecution and to increase prayers for those giving their all for the right to worship Our Lord.

Shabaz Kaka boarded a bus bound from Lahore to Faisalabad in June 2001. When the bus stopped at Jamia Mosque in Faisalabad for a break, Shabaz visited the restroom along with

the other passengers. The leaders of the mosque saw he was wearing a cross and began to question him. Learning of his Christian faith, the authorities objected that he had visited the restroom adjacent to the mosque and therefore accused him of desecrating the Koran saying he had torn out pages and trampled them under his feet. This is a common lie used by Muslims to trap Christians. They contacted the nearest police station and filed a complaint. Shabaz was arrested and charged with committing offenses under articles 295a and 295b of the Pakistan Penal Code generally referred to as the Blasphemy Law. He was held in the local jail. The authorities did not advise his parents of his arrest or imprisonment. For more than a year, his parents did not know what had happened to their son or where he was. More than three years after his arrest, Shabaz appeared in court in Faisalabad for his hearing. On September 25, 2004, Judge Shahid Rafiq made the final decision of life in prison for this young man. His attorney has appealed this decision.

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tickles to share

A new pastor was visiting in the homes of his parishioners. At one house, it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door.

Therefore, he took out a business card and wrote, “Revelation 3:20” on the back of it and stuck it in the door.

When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this message, “Genesis 3:10”

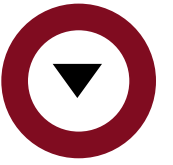
Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter.

Revelation 3:20 begins, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock.”

Genesis 3:10 reads, “I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked.”

faithatwork

is work a spiritual activity?



By: Gerald R. Chester, Ph.D.

A newlywed couple began to experience marriage problems and the wife moved out. The father of the young husband was an old college friend of mine. He sought a marriage counselor for them, but didn't want to pay for the counseling. He believed that the church should provide the counseling at no charge. When I asked if he believed in paying medical doctors, he said yes, because they deal with physical issues, not spiritual issues. He reasoned that because marriage counseling is about spiritual matters it should be provided at no charge by the church. To the father, work in the physical world was not spiritual activity. This perspective is common, but is it correct?

The typical paradigm of Christianity in the United States minimizes the value of work in the physical realm and exalts work in the spiritual realm. Spiritual reality refers to issues of eternal significance. Many argue that since spiritual reality is not limited by time, as physical reality is, then spiritual reality is more significant. Work in the physical realm is viewed almost as a necessary evil, as simply a vehicle to make money with little or no eternal significance. Such thinking, frequently called dualism, bifurcates physical and spiritual reality into lower and higher forms of work.

The history of dualism can be traced back about 2,000 years, but in the United States its impact goes back about 150 years. In the middle of the nineteenth century, Christians lived holistically, meaning that Christianity permeated their worldview. In all aspects, daily living was about discerning and obeying God's will. At that time Christians viewed God as the Creator and sustainer of all reality; that is, as sovereignly in control of all reality. A holistic view of reality, therefore, does not separate physical and spiritual work – both are equally valued since both are about discerning and obeying the will of God.

Since the middle of the nineteenth century, the following five factors have melded to promote a dualistic paradigm of Christianity in the United States:

1. The rise of the modern corporation
2. The Blaine amendments
3. The development of dispensational theology
4. The wholesale rejection of the social gospel
5. The hyper-focus on eschatology

Prior to the middle of the nineteenth century, the workplace in the United States was largely the farm. There were few sizable organizations. As technology advanced, farming became more efficient, which increasingly released men to work outside of farming. Inventions such as electricity, the telephone, railroads, and the automobile provided unprecedented business opportu-

nities. Organizations were formed to capitalize on these new technologies. As these organizations grew, money was viewed as the necessary fuel to drive the growth that was a prime agenda of these nascent organizations. There was nothing wrong with growth, but when growth rather than God's will became the focus, holistic living was abandoned. Money drove decisions for many business leaders, which drove a wedge of separation in holistic living. Dualism gained a foothold, albeit in many cases the businessmen were strong Christians who apparently were unaware of the impact that the focus on money had on them as individuals and on Christianity as a whole.

Also, during the last half of the nineteenth century, many states adopted what were known as the Blaine amendments, named after James G. Blaine. The purpose of these amendments was to block the use of any public money in support of church-sponsored education. Coupled to these amendments was the view that public education should be stripped of its theological foundation. Public education was to be secular with no relationship to Christianity. Under the misguided guise of separation of church and state, dualism found more support. Since the latter half of the nineteenth century, separation of church and state has grown as an operating practice in this country, further instilling dualism in our culture.

Another phenomenon of the late nineteenth century was a theology known as dispensationalism. This perspective divided time into ages during which God related to human beings in different ways. For example, the Israelites were required to obey the Old Testament Law, but during the present Church Age, there is no such requirement for Christians. Personally, I have found value in dispensationalism, but I also see dangers. Dispensationalism helped me see the flow of God's purposes over time. However, it has led some to a view that marginalizes the value of the Old Testament today, because now, in the Church Age, we are no longer under the Law. Given that much of the revelation in the Bible about work in the physical realm is in the Old Testament, a worldview that marginalizes the Old Testament truncates a biblical theology of work. Since the New Testament's focus is on the redemptive work of Christ, the New Testament teaching about work is not as extensive as that of the Old Testament. A dualistic mind-set is easy to develop when the Bible as a whole is not embraced as a source of revelation about God's view of work in the physical realm.

Dualism progressed in the 1920s, when many evangelical Christians rebuffed efforts by other Christians to return to holistic living. The social gospel, as it was called by many, was an attempt to make Christianity relevant to all of life again. The rise of the modern corporation effectively com-

partmentalized Christianity's purview to the church and family. Dualism was driving the de-Christianization of business and government. Granted, the so-called social gospel crowd probably had many flaws, including a poor understanding of the gospel. But they were correct in seeking a more holistic practice of Christianity.

In the 1960s and 1970s, there was a great deal of interest among Christians in eschatology. One of the popular theories taught to baby boomers was that they were the terminal generation. Christ would be making His appearance soon; hence, there was no reason to think and plan long-term. This perspective led them to view work in the physical realm as a temporary activity with little value beyond the need to make a living—more fuel for the dualistic fire already raging.

Over the past 150 years, the confluence of factors listed above fanned the flame of the dualism fire. Hence, dualism has gained increasing momentum and is now systemic in the paradigm of Christianity in the United States. It is therefore not surprising that my old college friend viewed work as he did—dualistically.

If you grant that the paradigm of Christianity in the United States has moved from holism to dualism over the past 150 years, and that dualism is now systemic in the paradigm of Christianity, and this dualism leads most Christians to compartmentalize work in the physical realm as less important to work in the spiritual realm, the question becomes: Which is correct? Is dualism correct or is holism correct?

For this answer, let's look at creation. God, a spiritual being, created the physical universe. He declared the physical creation to be good, suggesting that He valued it. God then created man and put enough of Himself in man so that man could rule the physical universe (Genesis 1:26–28). There is no indication in Scripture that God ever rescinded this mandate; hence, we must assume that the mandate given to man to rule the physical universe is still in effect.

Ruling is about multiplying and subduing. Multiplying suggests that we are to grow in numbers and in our ability to rule. Subduing suggests that we are to master the physical universe through research and development in all fields of knowledge. The twin activities of multiplying and subduing should be conducted with the view of reflecting the image of God. Furthermore, parables such as the one found in Luke 19:11–27 illustrate that God values work in the physical realm and even rewards us for good stewardship of His creation.

The story of redemption does not countermand the Genesis mandate. But the fact is that human sin does not facilitate obedience to the Genesis mandate. What does facilitate the divine mandate is the work of people who have victory over sin. Re-

deemed people should be the best workers in the physical realm because they are positionally free from the bondage of sin.

The fact that God is a spirit being and made us in His image suggests that work in the physical realm should be rooted, to some degree, in spiritual reality. Spiritual reality includes a philosophy, values, and principles that are aligned with God's attributes. Hence, a more accurate paradigm of Christianity views work as spiritual reality that is manifested by physical activity.

In an integrated or holistic paradigm of Christianity, spiritual activity is not limited to the church as a dualistic view might promote. Rather the church should be the equipping center to convey the spiritual reality needed for all life—personal, family, work, and government. The church should be seeking to impart the requisite biblical philosophy, values, and principles needed to define the spiritual reality that undergirds all the physical activity that occurs in life.

All physical work is subject to God's principles as revealed in general revelation (nature) and special revelation (the Bible). Whether we like it or not, God has defined the rules that govern physical and spiritual reality. When any organization or person seeks to redefine the rules, it is called sin.

I submit that all work is ultimately rooted in spiritual reality; hence, physical work is simply the outward manifestation of spiritual reality. A person's work cannot be separated from his or her philosophy, values, and principles. Every decision that we make reflects the intangible reality that is at the core of our beings.

Sadly the dualistic paradigm of Christianity has blocked us from seeing reality as God made it. Instead of valuing work in the physical realm as God does, we marginalize it. Instead of being the best workers in the workplace, we Christians are many times some of the poorest workers. Because of the ubiquitous dualistic theology of work in American Christianity, we miss a great opportunity to glorify God by working with excellence and a great opportunity to preach the gospel through our work in the physical realm. May we repent, reject dualism, and return to holistic living!

Dr. Gerald R. Chester is the president of Strategies@Work, LLC (www.Strategies-Work.com), a privately held management consulting firm focused on helping organizations achieve excellent performance through the implementation of biblical philosophy, values, and principles.

Dr. Chester is a recipient of the Christian Business Leader Award and is the author of Beyond Babel, a book which presents a model for building world-class organizations based on biblical principles. Dr. Chester can be contacted at Gerald@StrategiesWork.com.

Look for future articles in the World Christian Times to continue to examine the issue of connecting faith and work.

franklingraham

“A Celebration of Hope” and Hope for a New Graham

Evangelist Franklin Graham took his message of spiritual hope and renewal to New Orleans, but will his direct approach resonate as well as his father’s inclusive messages?

Franklin Graham spread the word of Christ to a city still overwhelmed by economic uncertainty and worry about the next Hurricane season, with the help of a special guest – his father, the Reverend Billy Graham. The arena took in more than 30,000 people, plus those who sat outside and viewed the events on big screens set up to accommodate the overflow. Over 1,360 made decisions for Christ during the event, which was supported by 215 local churches. What a blessing!

Despite such overwhelming results, some still wonder whether Franklin will have the success his father has had. Billy Graham is known for his ability to reach Christians and non-Christians, as well as public figures on both ends of the political spectrum. Billy’s spirit of inclusion welcomes people of faith – no matter the religion. Even Billy’s prayers are inclusive, referring to “Our Lord,” “God,” and “Father,” rather than “Christ” or “Jesus.” Franklin, on the other hand, has been widely criticized for some of his comments, including comments against other religions – most notably, Islam. Franklin is also clear in his intentions – he focuses on bringing people to Jesus Christ, and he does not apologize if that offends others. Some commend him and say that Franklin is going directly to the heart of the matter – that one must go through the Son to get to the Father. Others have said that while saving souls is the goal, such strong tactics will ensure that only the “churched” are saved because others will not listen.

After a wild youth that Franklin discusses in his memoir *Rebel With a Cause*, he returned – the prodigal son. Perhaps his history is what leads him to speak his mind so quickly, and to be so outspoken on topics that the less controversial Billy patently avoided.

It is natural in our society of political correctness to rebel against “absolutes.” We want to include everyone and respect all opinions – and this desire can lead either to the sharing of ideas and healthy discussion of beliefs, or it can lead to divisiveness and controversy. The question remains – which will be more effective in bringing souls to Jesus? Will it be the one who is inclusive and respected – or the one who is clear in his message and makes no apologies for the one true absolute – the road to salvation?

During the recent New Orleans visit, the Senior Graham told attendees that “no one will ever forget the scenes of these people standing on roof tops, waiting to be rescued” and that “when God sent His Son to earth, it was a rescue mission to save us from our sins.”

Yet just a few months ago the younger Franklin commented on why there are problems in New Orleans by saying, “This happens when we take God out of our schools and God out of our society.” Though he later said to CNN that he would “never say [the hurricane] was part of God’s judgment,” he also insisted that the city was filled with sin, specifically Satanic worship, voodoo, and sexual perversion, and that God would use the storm to bring a revival.

God does indeed have a plan – for each of us – and his plan for Franklin Graham appears to have him in the role his Father is leaving. Yet his strong and often controversial opinions may make it difficult for him to have the impact, and the widely held respect, of his famous father. Franklin once said that being the son of Billy Graham would not get him into heaven. It has, however, provided him with a place of leadership in the Christian community – the question is what his challenging nature will bring forth – both in terms of souls saved, and indeed, for the respected Graham name.



www.billygraham.org

think on these things

words to live by

The World Christian Times presents *Words to Live By*, a daily dose of thought provoking, life changing and relevant information directly to your mobile phone! These inspiring and motivating messages will jump start your day and encourage you to fulfill your daily purpose. The faith messages are delivered every day directly to your cell phone as a text message, and the small \$4.99 per month charge is added to your mobile phone bill. That’s less than 18 cents per day, and a percentage of this fee will go toward spreading the message of relevant faith and hope throughout the world!

To sign up, simply text FAITH to 50555 on your mobile phone. When you receive the confirmation text message, respond with “Y” as the message to start receiving daily doses of inspiration and guidance!

You can unsubscribe at any time by texting “STOP” to 50555. For complete terms and conditions please visit <http://help.mobileaccord.com/faith>.

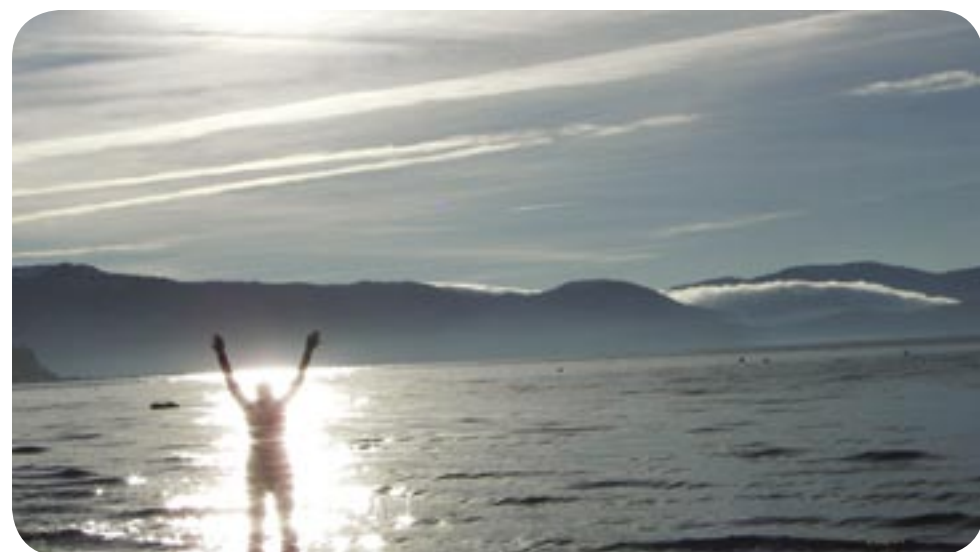


faithlifts.

how has god touched your life?



We all have many blessings in our lives, but some of us have especially inspirational stories – times when God has revealed His grace in amazing ways! Were you touched by an especially encouraging story revealed to you by a friend? Have you received a miracle? Do you have a testimonial that you believe could inspire others? The wonder of God continues to touch our lives every day, and recognizing His work in our lives helps others to appreciate God more fully in their own. If you have a story, we want to hear it! Send your inspirational story to editor@worldchristiantimes.com. Be sure to include contact information so we can follow up with you if we decide to include your story in an upcoming issue. Reach others with your testimonial through the World Christian Times!



music to soothe the soul

Ron Kenoly – “Dwell in the House”



While I may not always get a chance to get the newest music, I do know what I like when I get around to finding it – and Ron Kenoly’s *Dwell in the House* is definitely what I like. Although this R&B based, spirit-lifting CD was released in 2005, I have only just been blessed with it. The songlist includes *Seek Your Face, Move Spirit Move, You Are, Mighty King, Grandma’s Hands, Praise Him, You Alone,*

All the Way, My Quiet Place, A New Anointing, That City, and my favorite, the title track, *Dwell in the House*. Though Ron Kenoly has always performed great worship music – from his days as a Sunday morning congregational hymn leader to now, almost 15 years later, as the most popular praise and worship leader in the country. Ron has distinguished himself with such hits as “Lift Him Up,” “Use Me,” and “Let Everything That Has Breath Praise the Lord,” but his praise-ability is reaching new heights with this CD. The songs are fresh and bluesy, there are pieces to cry with and others to jump up and praise with, and all will help you worship through music like never before. This CD is unconventional for Ron, but definitely true to today’s praise musical styles – hot, rich in spirit, and something you look forward to hearing again and again. Enjoy!

welcome new partners

welcome to all our new ministry partners

The World Christian Times has been blessed this month with six new ministry partnerships – these organizations and all our ministry partners around the world are a critical part of the ministry of the World Christian Times. We count on our readers to both support these partners and to pray for them and for their leadership. Welcome!

our new partners	Ronita Tubbs Divine Destiny Austell, GA www.high-point.org
	Keith Strawn Blessing the Children Int. Kawkawlin, MI www.blessingthechildren.org
	Chris Musgrove Future Now Valdosta, GA www.futurenow.us
	Charles Blair Blair Foundation Kawkawlin, MI www.blessingthechildren.org
	Elisha L. McCrary E.L.M. International Ministries Jacksonville, FL www.rormi.org
	Jeffrey A. Hill Be Light Christian Centre Church Waycross, GA

personal growth

Pastorpreneur Dr. John C. Maxwell on Personal Growth

By: Dr. John C. Maxwell

I vividly remember a conversation I had many years ago in 1974, which marked a turning point in my leadership journey. I was sitting at a Holiday Inn with my friend, Kurt Campmeyer, when he asked me if I had a personal growth plan. I didn’t. In fact, I didn’t even know you were supposed to have one.

Up until that point, the best term for my growth would be “accidental growth.” I didn’t grow on purpose, but I loved people and worked hard so that I caught a few things along the way.

That night with Kurt, I realized that to grow like I wanted, my personal development couldn’t be hit-and-miss. I needed to initiate and activate. I made a decision to devote myself to personal growth. I literally made personal growth my personal mission.

In my book *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*, I talk about the Law of Process, which says, “Leaders develop daily, not in a day.” Our natural inclination is to overestimate the event and underestimate the process. We wait for a special occasion or an intense experience to boost our growth instead of appreciating the process. In the words of my friend Kevin Myers: “Everyone is looking for a quick fix, but what they really need is fitness.”

We don’t mature momentarily, but over the long-term. As we continue on our quest to become more skillful as leaders, let’s look at seven statements about the growth process.

1. Growth is not automatic. Paul Harvey said it best: “You can tell you’re on the road to success; it’s uphill all the way.” You can’t coast uphill. Growth doesn’t happen by itself; it requires an active investment of time.

Earl Nightengale said, “If you’ll spend one hour a day, every day for five years on a given subject, within five years you’ll become an expert on that subject.” In 1974, I made that decision—to set aside one hour per day for personal growth. Over thirty years later, I find that the more I learn and grow, the more precious that hour is to me.

2. Growth is the great separator between those who succeed and those who do not. When I see a person beginning to separate themselves from the pack, it’s almost always due to personal growth. As Bennis & Nanus say, “It is the capacity to develop and improve their skills that distinguishes leaders from followers.”

When I went to college, there was no gap between me and my peers, none at all. Since 1974, I have diligently followed through on my commitment to grow an hour every day, and now the gap, in most cases, is wide. Am I smarter than my former classmates? Not at all. Many of them danced circles around me academically. The growth factor—my long-term commitment to personal development—made the difference.

3. Growth takes time, and only time can reveal certain lessons to us. We’ve all heard, “Experience is the best teacher,” but it never has been and never will be. Evaluated experience is the best teacher. Reflective thinking is required to turn experience into insight. If you’re a young LW subscriber without a wealth of personal experience, borrow the experience. Ask questions, listen, and learn from a successful leader that has gone before you.

4. The more we grow, the more we know we need to grow. In other words, when you start developing yourself, instead of feeling wise, you’ll be struck by how much you don’t know. Alvin Toffler, in *Future Shock*, once observed, “The illiterate of the future are not those who cannot read or write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.”



5. Growth equals change. To develop, we must step away from comfort and welcome fresh and challenging experiences. Growth demands a temporary surrender of security. It may mean giving up familiar but limiting patterns, safe but unrewarding work, values no longer believed in, and relationships that have lost their meaning.

6. Growth inside fuels growth outside. The highest reward of our toil is not what we get for it, but what we become by it. At the age of 17, I decided to read extensively, file my favorite articles, and prepare lessons. Little did I realize that out of the simple discipline of reading, filing, and preparing lessons, I would receive content, develop creativity, begin to speak, and eventually author numerous books.

7. Choose to grow in the areas of your strengths, not in the areas of your weakness. There are only four things I do well, just four, and I focus exclusively on them. I lead, communicate, create, and network. That’s it. I spend all of my time on one of those four strength zones. The secret of successful people lies in their ability to discover their strengths and to organize their life so that these strengths can be applied.

Benjamin Franklin personifies the spirit of inventiveness of the modern world. His accomplishments read like an almanac of greatness:

Inventor; poet; philosopher; pamphleteer; distinguished member of three national academies of science; America’s first Post master General; founder of Philadelphia’s first police force, lending library, and the academy later to become the University of Pennsylvania; founder of the first fire insurance company; delegate to the Constitutional Convention; Drafter of the Declaration of Independence; one of America’s most effective statesmen and ambassadors.

Yet for all of his achievements, the epitaph that Franklin wrote for himself simply reads, “Here lies the body of Ben Franklin, printer.”

In honoring his humble roots as a printer’s apprentice, Benjamin Franklin reveals the mystery to his greatness. It was in the world of printing where Franklin was first exposed to new books, writers, and ideas. His fame, accomplishments, and accolades would never have been possible without the love of learning and habits of growth imprinted in his life during his early days as a printer.

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