

# CFH CHRONICLES

CHRIST FOR HUMANITY'S NEWSLETTER

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"AND THIS GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM WILL BE PREACHED IN THE WHOLE WORLD AS A TESTIMONY TO ALL NATIONS..."

## MIDDLE EAST UPDATE: PROPHETIC OR FOREBODING?

Currently, all eyes are focused on the violence in the Middle East. While much of the world wonders how the escalating conflicts will affect the global economy, many Christians view these events as the birth pangs for Christ's ultimate return. Students of the *Bible* know that Christ fulfilled all of the prophecies written over many hundreds of years concerning His birth, ministry, death and resurrection. As He ascended into heaven, the disciples were told that He "would return" one day to rule and reign on the earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. In the intervening years, the disciples' mission was to evangelize the world. With that admonition, the "Church Age" began, and after the destruction of the Temple and the Jewish diaspora under Rome in 70 A.D., God's dealing with His "chosen people" was suspended for a time. For nearly 2,000 years, the nation of Israel did not exist. Yet, despite persecution across the intervening centuries, the Jews continued as a separate and defined group, and because God is immutable, His promises to the nation of Israel one day would be fulfilled.

Many Christians believe that with the re-establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, the Bible's prophetic clock again began ticking. The Arab nations, which for centuries actively strived to achieve a one-world order under Islam, vowed to drive Israel from its re-established homeland. Yet, in the mid-twentieth century, the methodology of varying Islamic factions differed. The "radical" Muslims contrived to achieve world domination by infiltrating the political and educational systems of target countries,



while "militant" Muslims used terror, murder and chaos to gain control.

Until recently, the brains and the brawn of the Islamic world had not worked together. However, in 2012 a partnership between radical and militant groups resulted in the Arab Spring, which spread across much of the Islamic world. Today, Muslim forces are moving strategically through Arab countries toward Israel from three directions: North southward (Syria and Iraq toward Jordan); South northward (Sudan through the Sinai - where 1.2 militant Muslims currently are training and hiding); and from East to West

*Continued on page 2*

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# MIDDLE EAST UPDATE: PROPHETIC OR FOREBODING?

(continued from page 1)

(Palestinian bombardments of Israeli settlements). Russia (Magog of Ezekiel's prophecies) is now providing troops and advanced armament support to Arab countries. Finally, the evening news on July 28th, 2014, mapped a huge wave of anti-Semitism spreading across Europe, Russia, and the Middle East. From the Biblical perspective, current events seem to foreshadow the "End Times" scenario.

At a recent meeting with a Christian brother from the Middle East, CFH staff members learned of the continuing persecution of Christians by Muslim extremists since the start of the Arab Spring in 2012. In Egypt alone, during 2013: 92 churches were burned, 214 Christian businesses were destroyed, and more than 240 Christians were martyred for their faith. Yet, from the ashes of persecution, God is working a miracle in the Arabian Peninsula. He has opened "a window of opportunity" for His Church to impact the Islamic world for Christ. Conservative Muslims, horrified by the violence of the Islamic extremists, are now questioning their beliefs. In Egypt Muslims are openly asking questions about Christianity, and believers are explaining the Gospel message using the guidelines found in the book of Acts: (1) focusing on the deity of Jesus, God's nature, and the work of the Holy Spirit; (2) calling people to accept forgiveness based on Jesus's plan of salvation and; (3) including new believers within the church community. The result is that many people are accepting God's grace. And yes, Arab names are being added to the *Lamb's Book of Life*.

For the past three years, CFH has been helping the persecuted church in the Middle East, providing funds to purchase food for the Genesis Food Bank and supporting the Home Church Seminary Project. CFH will continue to

help the persecuted church in 2014, funding the distribution of essential food for families that have suffered persecution and damaged economies.

For believers living in Muslim countries, Christianity is a life – and possibly death – decision. Our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East seek prayer from their church family in America. Their prayer request is not that God will prevent persecution. Pray that the Middle Eastern Church has the strength to endure suffering in Christ's name that unbelievers may be drawn to Him by their faithfulness, even to the point of death.

These precious men and women see "End Times" prophecy unfolding before them and feel a sense of urgency to lead as many people as possible into Christ's kingdom before He returns. Do we, in the comfort and safety of America, share that need to make Christ known to those we love? God's "End Times" game plan is found throughout the *Bible* – a sobering read for both believers and unbelievers.

**"But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world . . .' Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones into the eternal fire . . .'"**

(Matthew 25:31-34; 41)

## Mali Challenge Grant: So Close to Realization!

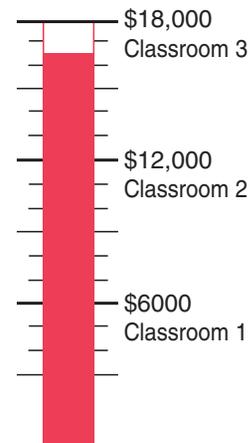
### Rehoboth Christian School 3 Classrooms (\$18,000)

Thanks to the generosity of CFH partners, the Lord has raised \$16,500.00 of the \$18,000.00 needed to complete all three classrooms needed by Rehoboth Christian School in the struggling country of Mali. With a deficit of only \$1,500.00, the goal is in sight. If the Lord so guides, please consider supporting the school project. A child in Mali needs your help to get an education and break the cycle of suffering that has defined this beleaguered country. At Rehoboth Christian School, children learn more than the "three R's." They are exposed to the love of Christ and have the opportunity to establish a saving relationship with Him.

**"Suffer little children to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."**

Matthew 19:14

### Christian School Grant Gage



# Celebrating Outreaches to the Hispanic Community at Home and Abroad

For several months, Tulsa's Fellowship Bible Church has been studying The Acts of the Apostles. In response to Christ's mandate found in Acts 1:8, – *“ . . . but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”* – church leadership pursued a new area of outreach for FBC involvement. The search focused on Southern Villa, a Hispanic mobile home community located near 86th and Lewis. This neighborhood, only three miles from FBC, seemed the perfect “Jerusalem” for developing friendship and spreading the “good news” of Christ.

On Sunday afternoon, June 29th, FBC sponsored a barbeque at Southern Villa, inviting residents to enjoy food, fun and games and encouraging church members to begin establishing relationships that would bring glory to God. The neighborhood's response to the event was extremely positive, and FBC sponsored 40 area children to attend the church's yearly Sports Camp the following week.



To fulfill Christ's command to witness, the church needed committed Christians to spearhead a long-term outreach at Southern Villa. Two men agreed to “stand in the gap:” Jerry Ledford, Jr. and Coy Hayes. In January 2012, Jerry left his engineering job to enter full-time ministry. He founded *LifeSteps International Ministries*, a mission dedicated to providing in-depth Bible training to pastors in third-world countries who have little access to biblically sound materials. Coy, Jerry's close personal friend, tested the waters of Christian outreach during a mission trip to India in 2013. Coy subsequently joined the *LifeSteps* board, for he and Jerry share the same vision of evangelism.

Not wanting to reinvent the wheel, Jerry and Coy turned to a veteran missionary serving in India who had developed a curriculum specifically for training indigenous church leaders. These training tools were so effective among India's Dalite and tribal peoples that Jerry asked to have them translated into Spanish to use in his target mission field of Colombia. For the past year, Jerry has been working in South America, and the response from Colombian pastors has been overwhelming. Additionally, Jerry has taken God's word into some of Colombia's darkest prisons. The reaction to the Gospel from hard-core criminals can only be described as *miraculous*.

Jerry and Coy planned to use the Spanish language materials developed for Colombia in a weekly Bible study in Southern Villa. The study began on Tuesday evening, July 8th. The two men left that meeting realizing that the literacy needs of the community had to be met before in-depth Bible study could occur. They have turned to Tulsa-based Literacy and Evangelism for training and materials. Most of the adults living in the target community expressed interest in learning to read and write. Jerry and Coy are seeking Christians interested in teaching ESL and literacy classes. Anyone desiring to serve the Lord through this ministry should contact Jerry Ledford at [jerry@lifesteps.tv](mailto:jerry@lifesteps.tv). No prior experience is necessary, and training will be provided.



**NOTE:** For more than three years, Christ for Humanity's board has prayed for more opportunities to serve Tulsa's growing Hispanic community. In 2011 Pastor Mateo Perez's church, Iglesia Bautista Hispana, became the first Hispanic church to join CFH's Adopt-a-Facility program. That relationship enabled CFH to facilitate a meeting between Pastor Perez, Jerry and Coy in the hope that members from Iglesia Bautista Hispana would act as translators for weekly outreaches. CFH plans to partner with FBC in the future, providing food and other aid for people living at Southern Villa. God continues to answer prayers, drawing people from many ethnic backgrounds into His kingdom.

*“... and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cried out with a loud voice saying, ‘Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.’”* (Revelation 7:9-10)



*Pastor Mateo Perez and Bob Asbinburst*

# BLOGGERS PRAISE CHRIST'S COFFEE HOUSE

Christ's Coffee House, located in CFH's 13th Street facility in Tulsa, opened New Year's Eve 2013. Ronda and John Tyson, who host the weekly outreach to area young adults, are delighted that those attending on a regular basis find encouragement in their faith by socializing with fellow Christians. Below are comments from a few Coffee House regulars, giving this Christ for Humanity outreach 5-star ratings.

**Shastine Thompson (★★★★★)** - I love this place. The environment is so welcoming and the people are genuinely nice. Not to mention that open mic has truly helped to push me out of my comfort zone.

**Jason Powell (★★★★★)** Excellent place to get together and enjoy fellowship with other believers. Seeing everyone bring their unique gifts and talents to glorify God is a real treat! They have refreshments, snacks, fun and a great atmosphere with great people! Check it out!

**Marjorie Alaina Tyson (★★★★★)** Christ's Coffee House is a great place to hang our Friday night with a positive and Christian outlook. Everyone is treated like family. It's a great place to share about what God has done in the lives of his followers!

**Tashika Thompson (★★★★★)** Love it! Didn't know this place even existed but I'm so glad that I came! I really enjoyed the different gifts in the body of Christ that were presented. I will definitely come back!

**Ilovmattle Williams (★★★★★)** I love this place. I always enjoy myself when I go and enjoy fellowship with God's people.



## Bible Quiz Key

1. Moses and Elijah
2. Nehemiah
3. Balaam
4. Jeroboam
5. Peter
6. Ephesus
7. Mount Carmel
8. Antioch
9. Nineveh
10. The River of Healing
11. Acts of the Apostles
12. Philemon
13. Ephesians
14. Psalm 22
15. Hosea
16. Exodus 20
17. Matthew 5
18. Acts 1
19. I Corinthians 13
20. John 3
21. Esther
22. Mother of the sons of Zebedee
23. John the Baptist
24. Job
25. Solomon
26. e, d, a, c, h, f, j, b, g
27. Sanctification
28. Atonement
29. Providence
30. Election
31. Immutability
32. Justification
33. Deity
34. Trinity
35. Inspiration
36. Total depravity

## FROM THE CFH MAIL BAG



June 25, 2014

Dear Christ for Humanity:

Both my wife and I want to thank you for your gracious contribution to our upcoming mission's trip. Although it will be our first mission trip abroad, we know that here in Tulsa we still need to do God's work. We are grateful that we can partner with others to accomplish His goals. We are also pleased that we are involved with CFH and how you try to minister to those in need whether here at home or abroad.

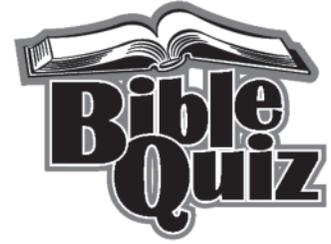
Again, thank you for your loving gift.

In His Majesty's service,

Pastor Eric Bush  
Southwood Bible Church

# How Well Do You Know Your Bible?

## Take the Bible Quiz!



### Who did the following?

1. Appeared with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration
2. Directed the rebuilding of the wall around Jerusalem
3. Was going to curse Israel but had to bless Israel instead
4. Became the first king of the 10 tribes that broke away
5. Was rebuked by Paul for refusing to eat with Gentiles

### Where geographically did the following events take place?

6. A silversmith caused a riot
7. Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal
8. Believers were first called Christians
9. Where God instructed Jonah to go when he fled to Tarshish
10. The river where Ezekiel received a vision from God

### In which book of the Bible do you find the following?

11. Peter visits Cornelius and learns that God accepts Jews and Gentiles.
12. Paul asks a runaway slave to be welcomed back by his owner.
13. The Armor of God is described.
14. The words in the Old Testament, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
15. A prophet marries a prostitute.

### In which book and chapter(s) do you find the following?

16. God first speaks the Ten Commandments.
17. The Sermon on the Mount
18. The Great Commission
19. "But these three remain: faith, hope, and love and the greatest of these is love."
20. A religious leader hears, "Unless a man is born again he cannot enter the kingdom of heaven."

### Who said the following?

21. "If I perish, I perish."
22. "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left..."
23. "He must increase; I must decrease."

24. "I know my Redeemer lives and that in the end He will stand upon the earth."
25. "Give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong."
26. **Arrange the following events in proper chronological order.**
  - a. The giving of the Law
  - b. The atoning death of Christ
  - c. The Judges rule over Israel
  - d. The promise to Abraham
  - e. Creation and fall
  - f. Exile in Babylon
  - g. Pentecost
  - h. David is King over Israel
  - j. Malachi prophesies

**Match the verse with the doctrine it best supports: providence, atonement, election, justification, immutability, sanctification, inspiration, deity of Christ, Trinity, total depravity.**

27. Just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do. **1 Peter 1:15**
28. God demonstrated his love for us in this, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **Roman 5:8**
29. What you meant for evil, God meant for good. **Genesis 50:20**
30. He chose us in him before the foundation of the world. **Ephesians 1:4**
31. I the Lord do not change. **Malachi 3:6**
32. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not count against him. **Romans 4:8**
33. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **John 1:1**
34. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Matthew: 28:19**
35. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. **2 Peter 1:21**
36. There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. **Romans 3:10-11**

Answers found on page 4

# TO ATTEND OR NOT TO ATTEND

## The Importance of Church Connectivity: From a sermon by Dr. David Jeremiah

In post-Christian America, Sunday is the new Saturday. Church-goers are now in the minority to Sunday golfers, joggers and sleepers, who see no reason to attend church. These individuals fail to realize that formal and informal connectivity between believers is an imperative for Christians to promote love for one another and God, to stimulate good works for His glory, and to provide encouragement to members of the body who are struggling. [ *“. . .not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”* (Hebrews 10:25) ]

What would it be like if people used trite excuses for attending sporting events the way they often approach church attendance. Below are eight reasons a sport's fan might use to stop going to "the game:"

1. Every time I go, they ask me for money.
2. The people I sit with aren't friendly.
3. The seats are too hard and uncomfortable.
4. The coach never comes to see me.
5. The referees make decisions with which I don't agree.
6. Sometimes the game goes into overtime, and I'm late getting home.
7. My parents forced me to attend too many games when I was growing up.
8. My kids need to make their own decisions about which games to follow.



Do any of these sound familiar? The importance and the incentive for church members to remain connected is the promise of Christ's coming. We are to be faithful to the imperatives He established for His followers. When we ultimately stand before Christ, each of us should deeply desire to hear Him say, *"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness."* (Matthew 25:23)

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