



The G.E.M.

Edition 6

The Grace Electronic Magazine

June 2007

FOCUS ON THE SPIRIT

Can you believe it, we are almost half way through the year already? Easter has come and gone and the next lot of school holidays are almost around the corner.

For those of you who might be looking for some good Christian entertainment for your children over the cold winter break, have a look at our **Winter Boredom Busters on page 2**. There are some great ideas there for children of all ages.

And if you are going away for the holidays, please drive safely.

With Pentecost having been last week, we have decided to have this issue focussing on the Holy Spirit, with an **article** dealing with the spiritual world on **page 3**.

Have a look at the **Father's Day gift ideas on page 4** for something special to surprise your dad with next week.

Finally, there is a small feature on *The Walk to Emmaus* programme, along with the supporting materials that are available through Grace Media.

Until next time,
God bless.✝



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BEARING FRUIT

From the many parables and metaphors in Scripture we know that God expects us to be productive. In some parables we see spiritual accomplishment being compared to investing and earning a profit for the master (Mt. 25:14-30 and Lk. 19:11-27), and in others it is compared to the construction of a building or temple (1 Cor. 3:9-17 & Eph. 2:19-22).

However, the most commonly used metaphor for accomplishment is that of bearing fruit. God compares his people with the fruit trees that must bear much fruit (Jn 15:5,8), and must do so until the end of our lives.

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'"

"Sir," the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.' (Lk. 13:6-9 NIV)

In this parable we see the emphasis that, spiritually speaking, a fruitless tree is worthless. We see that God is expecting us to bear fruit, and if we do not, we will be plucked out and thrown away. But it does provide some hope in that it shows that God will not give up on us as long as there is still hope that we will bear fruit.

But what kind of fruit does God expect of us?

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (Gal. 5:22-23 NIV). Along with these fruits, God also desires the fruit of good works and service to others (Tit. 3:14; Mt. 5:14-16; 25:31-46). All beautiful and desirable fruit indeed!

Stay healthy and strong spiritually, keep growing and bear much fruit.✝

DIARY OF EVENTS

BE SURE TO DIARISE THE FOLLOWING EXCITING EVENTS

Godly Revolution 2007

16 June 2007, 19h00-23h00, Gallagher Estate
For more information contact: letsie@radiopulpit.co.za

One Day of Worship

1 July 2007, starting at 06h00, Gallagher Estate
For more information visit: www.24thing.co.za

360° Leader with John Maxwell

23 July 2007 at Sandton Convention Centre
Registration: <http://www.entourage.co.za/pages/register.htm>

2nd Annual Christian Business Expo

19-20 October 2007 at Mosaiek Convention Centre
For more information visit: www.cbexpo.co.za

Michael W. Smith tour to South Africa

19-22 October 2007 at various venues around the country.
Book with Computicket.

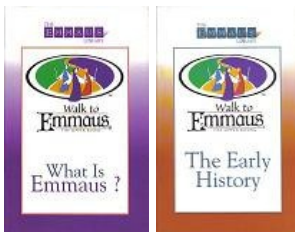


THE WALK TO EMMAUS

The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal programme intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. *The Walk to Emmaus* experience begins with a 72-hour short course in Christianity, comprised of fifteen talks by lay and clergy on the themes of God's grace, disciplines of Christian discipleship, and what it means to be the church.

The Walk to Emmaus is an adaptation of the Roman Catholic *Cursillo* (pronounced cur-SEE-o) Movement, which originated in Spain in 1949. *Cursillo de Cristianidad* means "little course in Christianity." The original *Cursillo* leaders designed the programme to empower persons to transform their living and working environments into Christian environments.

Although predominantly run in the Methodist church, *The Walk to Emmaus* programme is perfect for any congregation that is seeking to strengthen its witness in the community and in their own home and work environments. It is for people who want to grow spiritually, to build their faith and discipleship and will foster unity in Christ.



ALL WALK TO EMMAUS MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH GRACE MEDIA.

Titles available:

- What is Emmaus?
- The Early History
- Music Directors
- Spiritual Directors
- Sponsorship
- The Board of Directors
- Spiritual Growth through Team Experience
- Coming Down from the Mountain
- Walking Side by Side
- The Group Reunion

ALL TITLES R35 EACH

WINTER BOREDOM BUSTERS



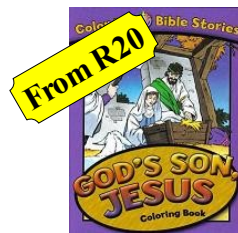
Assorted 100-piece VeggieTales™ Puzzles



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SPECIAL

Until 30 June – Buy 2 Get 1 Free



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Holy Spirit: from the Greek *hagios pneuma* (ἅγιος πνεῦμα): meaning separated from sin and therefore consecrated to God, sacred.

QUALITY QUOTES

"All sin has its being and origin in the fact that man wants to be his own judge. And in wanting to be that, and thinking and acting accordingly, he and his whole world is in conflict with God. It is an unreconciled world, and therefore a suffering world, a world given up to destruction." - Karl Barth



"Get a friend to tell you your faults, or better still, welcome an enemy who will watch you keenly and sting you savagely. What a blessing such an irritating critic will be to a wise man, what an intolerable nuisance to a fool." - Charles Haddon Spurgeon



"In this world where men forget us, change their attitude toward us as their private interests dictate, and revise their opinion of us for the slightest cause, is it not a source of wondrous strength to know that the God with whom we have to do changes not? That His attitude toward us now is the same as it was in eternity past, and will be in eternity to come?" - Aiden Wilson Tozer



"Things that matter most must never be at the mercy of things that matter least." - Johan Wolfgang von Goethe



"The quickest way to correct the other fellow's attitude is to correct your own." - King Vidor

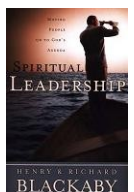
Recommended Reading

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

by Henry & Richard Blackaby

Moving People on to God's Agenda.

R110.00



THE REALITY OF THE SPIRIT WORLD

Somewhere in every one of us there is a deep longing to make contact with the spiritual world. This is true at all levels, from the pensioner reading her horoscope, to the witchdoctor in some remote tribe, to the scientist probing outer space and seeking to discover the secrets of the universe.

It was God who placed this longing within us, but his enemy, the devil, has devised ways to divert the seekers into deceptive evil systems that bring them into bondage to himself. What do we need to know about it, and where can we find accurate information?

True Source of Information

Can we go to science to find the answer? The spirit world, by its very nature, would not be composed of matter or atoms. A basic dictionary definition of spirit is "a supernatural being or essence". The scientific world has very little to say about things that it cannot study in a laboratory. Have you ever tried putting a spirit under a microscope? So clearly science does not have an accurate answer.

What about religion? Most religions do have something to say about the spirit world, especially many of the Eastern religions and the New Age movement, but are they reliable? If you look closely at what they say, many of their teachings contradict themselves. So too, religion cannot give an accurate answer.

This then brings us to the Bible. Of

all the books that deal with the spirit world, the Bible is the only one that has been shown throughout the centuries to be a reliable source of information, separating the good from the bad of the spirit world – for certainly there are two opposite sides to it. The Bible is also the only "religious" book that does not contradict itself when dealing with the issue.

“THE BIBLE IS THE ONLY “RELIGIOUS” BOOK THAT DOES NOT CONTRADICT ITSELF”

Two Sides

On the good side of the spirit world, we find many references in scripture of angels and the Holy Spirit. Both with the purpose of protecting and comforting people, and more importantly, working in the lives of people in fulfilling God's plan of salvation (Heb. 1:14).

But what about the other side of the spirit world – the "dark world" (Eph. 6:12). We could enter a long theological discussion as to the origins of the dark world and how God allowed it to happen, etc. so I will not go into that here. What we do know is that the Bible does say that it exists, describes it and also tells of the dangers of delving into it.

How then do we recognise the evil side of the spirit world?

Even though we have never directly seen the devil or any of his demons (also described in the Bible as fallen angels), we as Christians who are familiar with the teachings of the Bible, are more than able to recognise their influence in this rapidly degenerating world. The influence itself is nothing new, but its prevalence in society certainly is. Those dark arts that have been banned for centuries are now more widely accepted, and in some cases, even recognised as official religions, as is the case with Wicca in America and Great Britain.

There are many practices in the modern world that fall into the dark side of the spirit world, and they are being thrust into our faces on a regular basis. One only needs to turn on the TV and see the

influences of Satanism, Wicca, Voodoo, mediums and the Ouija board. Not to mention all the other forms of divination that are so prevalent, like astrology, fortune tellers, palm reading and Tarot cards. And again, we could go on for hours looking at what the Bible says about each one of these.

Simply say "No!"

What then are we to do about it?

In this day and age it is becoming even more difficult to stop these dark influences being a part of the world, but we can protect ourselves and our families. When enticed, we must simply say "No!". We must not fold under the pressure from friends and loved ones, no matter how innocent it may seem. We need to put God and his Word first.

God, who knows exactly how the devil and his demons work, emphatically warns us to have nothing to do with them. God's Word is clear "Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them." (Lev. 19:31)

Instead, we need to focus on God and his Holy Spirit, trusting him only, with our past, present and future. By drawing closer to God, we will move further away from the evil forces. Through prayer, Bible study, meditation and occasional fasting, we will be greatly strengthened and will successfully resist the devils temptations and schemes.

When faced with things that we may seem unsure about, we need to ask ourselves the question, "Would Christ approve of this?" If there is the slightest hint that he would not, and with all of the dark things I have mentioned here it would be an emphatic "No!", then

we need to steer clear of it. We must not allow the devil to gain a foothold – our spiritual life depends on it – not to mention our mental welfare and physical life too.

As James so eloquently puts it, "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you." (4:7-8a). †

“WE NEED TO FOCUS ON GOD AND HIS HOLY SPIRIT, TRUSTING HIM ONLY, WITH OUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE”

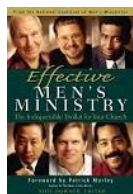
Pick of the Month

EFFECTIVE MEN'S MINISTRY

by Phil Downer, Editor

The Indispensable
Tool kit for your
Church

R230.00



BOOKS FOR FATHER'S DAY



R40

Promises from God for Father
Gift book



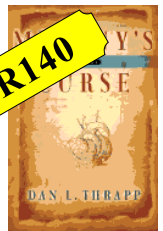
R85

God's Little Devotional Book for Dads



R100

Daily Inspiration for Leaders
365 daily devotions
by John C. Maxwell



R140

Mutiny's Curse - A Novel
by Dan L. Thrapp



R310

The NIV® Devotional Bible for Dads

GIFTS FOR FATHER'S DAY



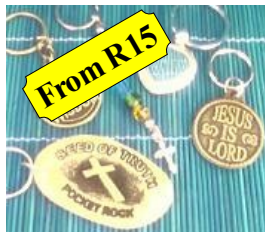
R70

Stainless Steel Insulated Mugs



From R30

Assorted Mugs



From R15

Assorted Keyrings



From R40

Assorted caps and T-Shirts



R60

Deluxe Pocket Notepad (includes Pen)

MUSIC & DVD'S



R135

WOW Worship Aqua
Various Artists



R135

Lifesong Live
by Casting Crowns



R170

Facing the Giants
DVD



R200

The Visitation
DVD



R200

[UP] Unified Praise Live Worship DVD
by Hillsong & Delirious?

JUST ARRIVED



R200

The Nativity Story
DVD



R275 each

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TRADING HOURS:

Monday – Friday:

9am – 5pm

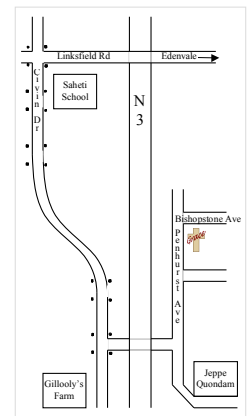
Saturday:

9am – 2pm

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From the N3, take the Linksfield Rd off ramp. Turn right up hill. Stay in left lane. Turn left into Civin Dr. At 4th set of lights, turn left under bridge. At 1-junction turn left. Through the boom. We are ± 200m on the right hand side. Entrance is in Penhurst Ave.



VISIT THE STORE FOR MANY MORE FATHERS DAY GIFT IDEAS