



# The G.E.M.

Volume 2 Edition 1

The Grace Electronic Magazine

January 2008



## TIME TO PREPARE

With the start of a new year, many church and ministry leaders are looking ahead and planning the future of their "organisations." Therefore in this edition of *The G.E.M.* we focus on the issue of church and ministry leadership by providing you with a couple of small articles on Christian leadership, as well as featuring a few resources to help you in your preparation.

Our main article on page 3 provides some Biblical guidelines of the characteristics we should be looking for in terms of selecting ministry leaders.

We have included our usual *Word Sudoku* on page 2, along with our next country in the *Missions Spotlight*.

Our *Top 25 Must Reads* this month is one that all Christians should read, especially those involved in leadership as it will give you a good grounding of the Christian faith.

We pray that you will have a prosperous year in all aspects of your life; family, ministry or business.



Until next time,  
God bless. †

## JUST AN "ORDINARY" CHURCH SERVICE

His name is Bill. He has wild hair, wears a T-shirt with holes in it, jeans, and no shoes. This was literally his wardrobe for his entire four years of college.

He is brilliant – kind of profound and very, very bright. He became a Christian while attending college.

Across the street from the campus is a well-dressed, very conservative church. They want to develop a ministry to the students but are not sure how to go about it.

One day Bill decides to go there. He walks in with no shoes – just his jeans, T-shirt and wild hair. The service has already started and so Bill starts down the aisle looking for a seat.

The church is completely packed and Bill cannot find a seat. By now, people are really looking a bit uncomfortable, but no one says anything.

Bill gets closer to the pulpit, and when he realises there are no seats – he just squats down on the carpet.

By this time the people are feeling very awkward and some are uptight – and the tension in the air is thick.

About this time, the minister realises that from way at the back of the church, a deacon is slowly making his way toward Bill.

Now the deacon is in his eighties, has silver-grey hair, and a three-piece suit. He is a godly man – very elegant, very dignified, very courtly. He walks with a cane and, as he starts walking toward this boy, everyone is saying to themselves that they cannot really blame him for what he is going to do.

How can you expect a man of his age and his background to understand some college kid on the floor?

It takes a long time for the man to reach the boy.

The church by now is utterly silent except for the clicking of the man's cane. All eyes are focussed on him. You cannot even hear anyone breathing. The minister cannot even preach the sermon until the deacon does what he has to do.

And now they see this elderly man drop his cane on the floor. With great difficulty he lowers himself down and worships with him so he will not be alone.

Everyone chokes with emotion.

When the minister gains control, he says, "What I am about to preach, you will never remember. What you have just seen, you will never forget."

"Be careful how you live. You may be the only Bible some people will ever read."

(Original Source Unknown – quoted from *Faith for Daily Living #423*) †

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## DIARY OF EVENTS

### Mighty Men's Conference

22-23 February 2008 at Rivers Church, Sandton  
For more information visit: [www.riverschurch.co.za](http://www.riverschurch.co.za)

### Daniel Conference with Angus Buchan

14-16 March 2008 at NG Gemeente, Moreleta  
For more information visit: [www.moreleta.org](http://www.moreleta.org)

### Mighty Men 2008 Conference

18-20 April 2008 at Shalom Farm, Greytown  
For more information visit: [www.shalomtrust.co.za](http://www.shalomtrust.co.za)

### Christian Business Expo

7-8 June 2008 at the Expo Centre, NASREC.  
For more information visit: [www.christianexpo.co.za](http://www.christianexpo.co.za)

## MISSIONS SPOTLIGHT

### Arab Republic of Egypt جمهورية مصر العربية

**Capital:**  
Cairo (largest city)

**Official Language:**  
Arabic

**Currency:**  
Egyptian Pound

**Population:**  
80 335 036

**Government:**  
Semi-Presidential Republic



Egypt is the most populated country in the Middle East and the second-most populous on the African continent, with an estimated 80 million people. Almost all the population is concentrated along the banks of the Nile (notably Cairo and Alexandria), in the Delta and near the Suez Canal. Approximately 80-90% of the population adheres to Islam and most of the remainder to Christianity, primarily the Coptic Orthodox denomination.

Religion plays a central role in most Egyptians' lives. The rolling calls to prayer that are heard five times a day have the informal effect of regulating the pace of everything from business to entertainment. Cairo is famous for its numerous mosque minarets and church towers.

Egyptian culture has five thousand years of recorded history. Ancient Egypt was among the earliest civilisations and for millennia, Egypt maintained a strikingly complex and stable culture that influenced later cultures of Europe, the Middle East and Africa. After the Pharaonic era, Egypt itself came under the influence of Hellenism, Christianity, and Islamic culture. Today, many aspects of Egypt's ancient culture exist in interaction with newer elements, including the influence of modern Western culture, itself with roots in ancient Egypt.

### Missionary Organisation to Egypt:

#### Arab World Ministries

Website: <http://www.awm.org>  
E-Mail: [awmus@awm.org](mailto:awmus@awm.org)

## BUILD LEADERS NOT ORGANISATIONS?

Sir Winston Churchill once said that we create our buildings and thereafter our buildings create us. This is unfortunately often true of Christian organisations: we create our ministries and thereafter our ministries create us.

But organisations, ministries or mega-churches are not the ultimate goal; they are instruments, and are created to serve one or more specific purpose. This is reflected in the origins of the word organisation, which is derived from the Greek *organon*, meaning a tool or instrument.

In many organisations, the focus is on two things; vision and results. Vision starts the ball rolling and is what builds the initial excitement in the forming of the organisation. The results are what inspires us to continue and succeed. However, between these two there lies the essential ingredient to the whole process; people. Without them, having a vision is pointless, and the desired results will not be forthcoming.

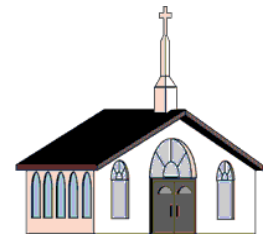
There needs to be a shift in our focus to one that focuses on building leaders and not organisations. This can be done in a number of ways, but the first

few steps are the most crucial, and the most simple.

Firstly, take a personal interest in their lives and get to know them better as individuals. Who are they? What are their gifts and talents? What are their needs, goals and desires for life? Find out more about their families. Just by taking a personal interest in the people they will open your eyes to a world of possibilities that you never knew existed.

Now that you know more about the people, train, equip, motivate and appoint them in the areas that suite them best. Allow them to develop and apply themselves, and together with your people, you can work towards the vision and achieve favourable results.

Then as the organisation grows, keep repeating these two. Before you know it, not only will you have the results, but you will accomplish the vision you were aiming for in the first place. †



## WORD SUDOKU

This puzzle works in the same manner as normal Sudoku, except that the numbers have been replaced with letters.

When complete, revealed in the shaded area will be the word that completes the following verse from Proverbs:

*He who despises his \_\_\_\_\_ sins, but blessed is he who is kind to the needy.*

Answer in next edition.

#### Last Month's Solution

T	I	C	R	Y	O	E	H	P
O	R	H	C	E	P	Y	I	T
E	P	Y	T	H	I	C	R	O
I	O	E	Y	P	T	H	C	R
H	Y	P	O	C	R	I	T	E
C	T	R	H	I	E	O	P	Y
R	E	O	I	T	H	P	Y	C
P	C	I	E	R	Y	T	O	H
Y	H	T	P	O	C	R	E	I

#### Letters Used:

B E G H I N O R U

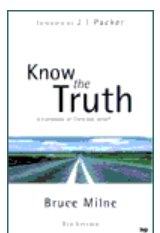
H			B					U
		N	U					
		U	R		E	N	I	
		B				E	N	I
U	O	R					B	
	G	E	I		U	H		
					G	U		
R					N			B

## Top 25 Must Reads

### KNOW THE TRUTH by Bruce Milne

In this concise handbook Bruce Milne summarises in masterly fashion what the Bible teaches in the major areas of Christian doctrine (the Bible, God, humanity, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the church and the last things). He explains the historical understanding and development of these truths from the early church to the present. In doing so he impartially highlights denominational and theological differences where appropriate. Here is a comprehensive resource for those wanting biblical material on all the essential doctrines.

**R140.00**



## CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

At the start of a new year it is often the task of church and ministry leaders to find people to fill the many leadership roles within the Body of Christ. Much discernment is needed as various names and people are put forward to fill the positions. But what are the characteristics that Christian leaders should have?

A good starting point is the passage found in 1 Timothy 3 dealing with overseers and deacons. These, along with other key verses, and by looking at the lives of various leaders throughout Scripture, we can easily define some key traits of a Christian leader, as well as some red flags to be wary of.

### SPIRITUALITY

**Faith:** Christian leaders should have a faith that is strong and active. They need to be fully committed to the Faith and desire the truth and power of God. They must be devoted to prayer (cf. Eph. 6:18); and people should find hope, comfort and encouragement, through their faith.

**Red flags:** They rarely or never pray, or they do it only as a matter of duty or when asked to; they are overly tolerant of other religions or false teachings (cf. Gal. 1:8,9); they are uncertain in their faith, or have no vision.

**Knowledge:** Christian leaders do not need to have gone through formal theological training, but they must know enough to minister to people (cf. 1 Tim. 1:7). Knowledge of the contents of the Bible, theology, church traditions, heresies and teachings of other faiths, and the current issues the church faces are all highly recommended.

**Red flags:** They are ignorant of the contents of the Bible; unable to use the Scriptures in theological discussion.

**Sanctification:** Christian leaders are to exhibit a growth into Christ-likeness (cf. Rom. 12:2), showing the fruit of the Spirit in their lives (cf. Gal. 5:22 ff); they must not live in bondage to sin, but be filled with the Spirit, seeking to live in obedience to God's Word; when they fail, they must be willing to confess and seek correction (cf. Matt. 18:15-17).

**Red flags:** They show no concern for spiritual growth but actually may be living a worldly existence (cf. 1 Jn. 2:15-17); they show no evidence whatsoever of the sanctifying affect of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

**Worship:** Christian leaders with a strong faith that is growing in the Word will be devout worshippers; even if they are not responsible in the leading of

corporate worship, an understanding of worship, its liturgy, music, ritual, piety, and what fellowship is all about, is recommended (cf. 1 Cor. 14:26 ff).

**Red flags:** They may have no sense whatsoever of how all of it works together and what it means to worship; they may be more interested in other phases of the work such as the programme than to the developing of spiritual gifts in the worshipping community.

### PERSONAL GROWTH

**Maturity:** Christian leaders must demonstrate that they are both mature and maturing; they should be developing in wisdom, self-control, gentleness, and a well-balanced temperament (cf. The book of James); they should be respected by the Church, their families and the community (even if not agreed with), and be trustworthy.

**Red flags:** They exhibit frequent immature reactions and attitudes; they refuse to seek help when counselled to do so; they have little respect.

**Healthy Family Life:** Christian leaders must have cultivated proper marriage relationships (cf. Heb. 13:4); family life should be healthy, or at least clearly moving towards a solid standing; problems in the family must be handled effectively; children should respond to authority with respect.

**Red flags:** They have a cavalier attitude to marriage; they refuse counselling and responsibility; they show no effort to train their children in the faith.

**Effective Relationships:** Christian leaders must be able to work with other people with patience and mercy; they must be able to inspire or enable others to develop their gifts (cf. 1 Thes. 5:11); they must be hospitable, personable, and gracious; they must be good listeners (cf. Jam. 1:19), aware of life, and have a good sense of humour.

**Red flags:** They do not like people, lack social grace, not very hospitable, unwilling to take time with people, or only want to preach to people.

### SPIRITUAL SERVICE

**Sacrificial Love:** Christian leaders are to be servants, submissive to those in authority, to one another, and to those in need; they must be willing to lay aside pride and prestige, and with genuine humility serve others rather than seek to be served (cf. Jn. 13:1-17); they must be forgiving, generous and passionate.

**Red flags:** They are arrogant; have a condescending attitude; want to be served; are hardly ever willing to put themselves out for others, or for lesser

tasks; are too preoccupied with money and benefits.

**Ability to Teach:** Christian leaders must have the ability to interpret and correctly apply the Bible; they must demonstrate clear thinking and be able to present logical arguments (cf. 1 Pet. 3:15); they must have good communication skills so that they are clear, interesting, relevant, and powerful; they must be good listeners and know their audiences.

**Red flags:** They are unable to explain the text (cf. 2 Pet. 2); and effectively communicate, be it in writing or speaking.

**Ability to be taught:** Christian leaders must also exhibit an ability to be taught; willing to accept the correction and guidance of the elders and senior pastors of the church; they respect the theological positions of others and will always refer back to Scripture to find the correct answer, always willing to change their opinion if it is proved incorrect (cf. Acts 17:11).

**Red flags:** They exhibit a know-it-all attitude and are unwilling to consider another person's position or knowledge; they teach as though they are the final authority in a matter.

**Mission and Evangelism:** Christian leaders must have an interest and active participation in the spread of the Gospel, especially through the task of preaching the Word, so that people can come to a saving faith in Christ and be disciplined (cf. Matt. 28:16 ff).

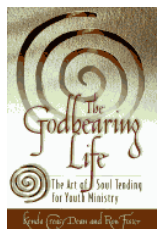
**Red flags:** They cannot explain the Gospel in simple, clear terms; show no interest in the mission of the Church to the world; are unable to proclaim a message of reconciliation.

In conclusion, because people and situations differ, do not treat the above as a checklist of what your leaders should or should not be like. Let it serve as a guide as you prayerfully discern, select and evaluate your leaders. †

## Youth Ministry

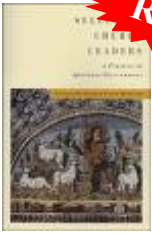
### *The Godbearing Life* by Kenda Dean & Ron Foster

If you have grown tired of youth ministry books that offer little more than thinly veiled "to-do" lists for the overworked youth worker, then this is the book you have been waiting for.



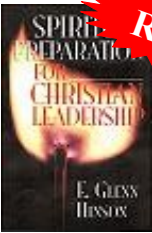
**R110.00**

**LEADERSHIP  
TITLES**



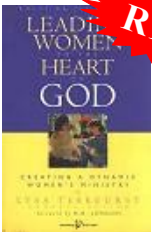
**R65**

*Selecting Church Leaders*  
by Charles M. Olsen  
& Ellen Morseth



**R90**

*Spiritual Preparation for  
Christian Leadership*  
by E. Glenn Hinson



**R130**

*Leading Women to  
the Heart of God*  
by Lysa Terkeurst



**R230**

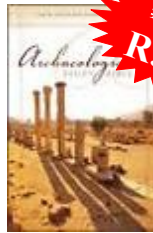
*Effective Men's Ministry*  
by Phil Downer, Editor



**R110**

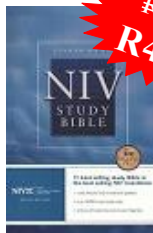
*Spiritual Leadership*  
by Henry & Richard  
Blackaby

**THEOLOGY  
RESOURCES**



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R520**

*NIV<sup>®</sup> Archaeological  
Study Bible*



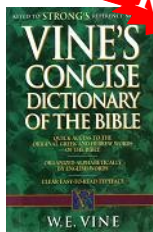
**R450  
R420**

*Zondervan NIV<sup>®</sup>  
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**R200**

*Strong's Exhaustive  
Concordance of the Bible*



**R180**

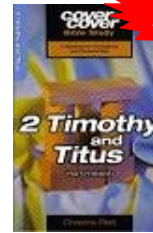
*Vine's Concise Dictionary  
of the Bible*  
by W.E. Vine



**R330**

*An Introduction to  
the New Testament*  
by D.A. Carson  
& D.J. Moo

**SMALL GROUP  
RESOURCES**



**R72**

*Cover to Cover  
Study Bible*  
2 Timothy  
and Titus



**R65**

*InterActions  
Study Guides*



**R63**

*New Community  
Study Guides*



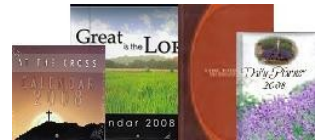
**R90**

*The Upper Room  
Study Guides*

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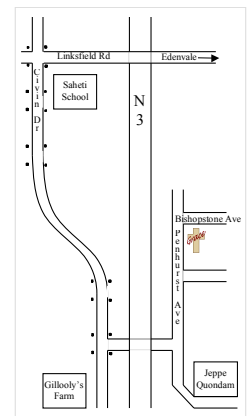
**Saturday:**

9am – 2pm

*Closed Sundays and  
some Public Holidays*

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[shop@gracemedia.co.za](mailto:shop@gracemedia.co.za)

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 t-  
junction turn left. Through the boom. We  
are ± 200m on the right hand side.  
Entrance is in Penhurst Ave.



*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example  
for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.*

1 Timothy 4:12