



The G.E.M.

Volume 2 Edition 11

The Grace Electronic Magazine

November 2008

TIME TO WORK

If you have not thought about your Christmas shopping yet, time is running out. There are only seven weeks left, and then before you know it, it will be 2009. So visit us in store and check out the some of the latest releases that are great for your family and friends as gifts.

For those of you who are homecell or Bible study leaders, be on the lookout for some exciting products in our store. We are now an official LifeWay distributor in the Edenvale and Bedfordview areas. Now is the time to plan for 2009. If there is anything that we can help you with, do not hesitate to contact us for more information.

As an added bonus, during the month of November, all Shekel card holders will receive a free DVD entitled *Wherever you Are* by Max Lucado when you purchase a DVD (limited to 1 copy per transaction).

If you are not yet a Shekel Card holder, check out our website for details or ask in store.

This month we focus on the Christian's responsibilities in the workplace, and also provide you with some information on a couple of great products to inspire and encourage you over the festive season.

Until next time, God bless and enjoy the rain.

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music to our God on the harp. He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills. He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call. (Psalm 147:7-9). †

In This Issue

- 10/40 Spotlight2
- Product Reviews 2
- Diary of Events2
- Top 25 Must Reads2
- Slaves and Masters3
- Fun Page4

HOT NEW PRODUCTS

R60 each



Assorted Metal Cross Pendants with Chain

R100



12 Ordinary Men DVD

R120



I Believe there is more CD (Don Moen)

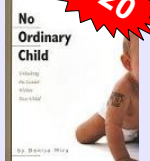


Reflections on the Lord's Prayer DVD



A New Hallelujah CD (Michael W. Smith)

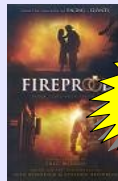
R120



No Ordinary Child (Denise Mira)

R120

COMING JANUARY 2009



Fireproof DVD

Order now and Save

FREE



SHEKEL CARD HOLDERS
Purchase any DVD during November and receive a copy of Max Lucado's *Wherever You Are* DVD absolutely free (1 copy per transaction)

E&OE, Prices valid while stocks last

www.gracemedia.co.za

www.ChristianGames.co.za

SA'S LARGEST DISTRIBUTOR OF:
BOARD GAMES - CARD GAMES - PUZZLES - PC GAMES
SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES & GROUPS!

To advertise your church, ministry, business, event or product in *The G.E.M.* or on the Grace Media website, contact Glyn Williams on 011-454-6045 or webmaster@gracemedia.co.za

SHOP TRADING HOURS:

Monday – Friday:

9am – 5pm

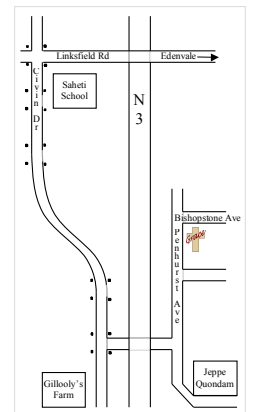
Saturday:

9am – 2pm

Closed Sundays and some Public Holidays

2 Bishopstone Ave,
Essexwold, Johannesburg
Tel.: 011-454-6045
Fax: 086-654-2996
www.gracemedia.co.za
shop@gracemedia.co.za

Directions: 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.



10/40 SPOTLIGHT

Mali
Republic of Mali



Capital: Bamako

Official Language: French

Currency: CFA Franc

Population: 12,324,029

Government: Semi-presidential Republic

Religions: Islam 87%, Traditional 11%, Christianity 1.9%, Other 0.1%

% of People in Poverty: 36.1%

Location:

Mali, the largest country in West Africa, is bordered by seven other nations. Algeria, Niger, Burkina Faso, the Ivory Coast, Senegal and Mauritania. Mali is shaped a bit like a butterfly, leaning to the north-west, with a much smaller left than right wing. The larger north-western region of the country, which extends into the Sahara, is almost entirely arid desert or semi-desert. In the central region, known as the Sahel, life follows the Niger River's annual flood cycle, with high water between August and November. In the south-western area, rainfall and rivers are more plentiful, and this region is marginally more lush than the rest of the country.

Mali's single most important geographic feature is the great Niger River, which is both a critical source of sustenance and a major transportation artery

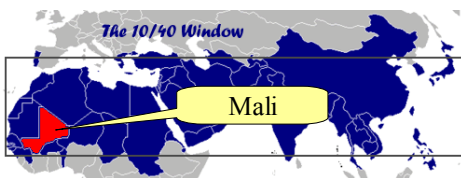
Religion:

Islam, the predominant religion in Mali, was introduced by traders who brought not only material goods but also a new religion. Muslims comprise an estimated 90% of the population; with the vast majority being Sunni. Approximately 1.9% is Christian, which is roughly two-thirds Catholic and one-third Protestant. Mali's constitution provides for freedom of religion, and the government generally respected this right in practice.

Challenges for Christians:

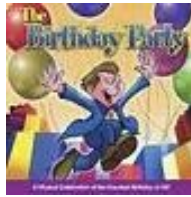
A 2003 UN report listed Mali as the fourth least livable country in the world. One reason is due to Mali having one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world at 119 infant deaths per 1,000. Mali is also on the UN's list of least developed countries based on a Gross Domestic Product below \$900 per capita, a low quality of life and its economic vulnerability.

Muslims have a negative idea of the word 'Christian' based on what they have been taught and on what they know of the history of Muslim/Christian relations. They do, however, have a positive view of Jesus. For this reason, the handful of Christians north of Kayes in Mali go by the name of "followers of Jesus."



PRODUCT REVIEWS

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY CD
Agapeland



If you had to give Jesus a present for His "birthday", what would you give Him?

This is the dilemma faced in this delightful musical story for kids, that celebrates the true meaning of Christmas.

I love this album and still have a vinyl copy of it at home. It is the kind of album that your children will look forward to hear every year, not only for the fun and inspirational songs, but also because of the valuable lessons it teaches.

Other great titles available in this series are:

The Story of Little Tree
Nathaniel the Grublet
Sir Oliver's Song
The Amazing Book
The Amazing Children
The Amazing Miracles

A must have series of albums for children of all ages.

HELLO LOVE CD

by Chris Tomlin



Following his 2006 Gold-certified record, *See the Morning*, Chris' Tomlin's latest project *Hello Love* has to be his best album yet

Chris explains that "With each new record, I continue to strive to create songs that will help people voice their worship to God. Worship is a massive word with a very broad scope, but in the end, it is very simple. It is love! It's our response in love to our great God who loved us first."

This is an excellent CD! Chris' worship songs meet the listener wherever they are. The explosions of joy expressed in some of the songs, including *Sing, Sing, Sing*, and *Love*, contrast with the inspirational *All the Way My Savior Leads Me*. The uniqueness of each song reflects many of the facets of the Love of God to the hearts of His people.

Chris Tomlin never fails to deliver, and *Hello Love* is right on the mark, delivering awesome lyrics and superb musical quality. This is a must have praise and worship CD that will be in my player for quite some time. †

DIARY OF EVENTS

Hillsong United SA Tour

14-25 November 2008

Various venues across SA. Tickets available through iTickets.com

Christmas with Richard Cock

7 December 2008

Linder Auditorium, Johannesburg

L'Abri Conference

12-13 December 2008

Christ Church, Midrand. visit www.labri.za.org

Children's Ministry Conference

21 March 2009

Bryanston Methodist Church

Top 25 Must Reads

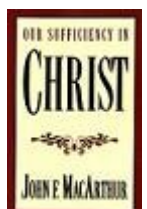
Our Sufficiency in Christ

by John F. MacArthur

Pure Christianity needs no embellishment whatsoever. We find complete sufficiency in Christ and His provision for our needs. But too many Christians have bought in to the notion that all the spiritual resources we gain at the moment of salvation are not adequate to meet the real needs in today's complex world. So they look for something more – an emotionally exciting and self-edifying experience not found in God's Word.

This book exposes the main ways Christians have displaced their spiritual resources and explains how to avoid the same error. It will make you aware of how completely God provides – and give you a renewed understanding of what it means to be complete in Christ.

A must for every Christian leaders library!



R 130

SLAVES & MASTERS

This is the last article in a series of three dealing with the rules for a Christian household found in Colossians 3.

Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favour, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favouritism. Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.” (Colossians 3:22-4:1)

Roman Slavery

Under Roman law slaves were considered things. When the slave became to old or unfit for work, he could be thrown out to die. He did not even have the right to marry or have children. But if ever there was a child born to the slave, the child belonged to the master, just as the lambs of the flock belong to the shepherd. A slave could also not inherit anything making Paul's statement about our inheritance (v24) all the more powerful.

Thankfully in our society we do not have slaves but these principles apply to any kind of honest employment.

Obedience

The first principle is that of obeying our employers at all times, even when they are not looking. How easy it is for us to do our own thing when the boss is out, and to quickly pick up where we left off when he comes back in.

Paul reminds us here that the eye of the Lord is watching. It is a Christian's duty to always obey their boss, not to gain personal recognition, but as a ministry to the Lord. We are to show singleness of heart and give our full devotion to our employers. Our work is to be done heartily, not grudgingly, and as to the Lord and not to men.

These instructions emphasise the positive side of obedience. Employees are to obey in order to please God, not just to avoid punishment. Even if our employer does not commend or recognise us. Our reward will come from the Lord. In the same manner, if we disobey, the Lord will deal with us even if our employers do not. God does not show favouritism and will treat us all in the same manner on Judgement Day (Acts 10:34; Romans 2:11; Ephesians 6:9; James 2:1, 9).

As Christian workers we should also be the best workers on the job. We are to be examples to the rest of the staff, showing that we obey orders and do not argue, serve Christ and not only the boss, and work whether anybody is watching or not. If we follow these principles, we will receive our reward from Christ. Therefore one must pursue excellence in the way we work.

Lying, theft, back-stabbing, laziness, sexual innuendo, etc. may be commonplace in the secular work environment, but they are incompatible with serving and representing Christ. This is an excellent opportunity to let our light shine in the darkness (Matthew 5:16), even if sometimes it results in mistreatment from fellow workers because it exposes their poor behaviour. Do you have a reputation for having both integrity and humility? If so, you are allowing God to work through your job to build the kind of character that attracts others to him.

If you are into bumper-sticker philosophy, you will have probably seen the axiom, “I owe, I owe, it's off to work I go.” For many people this is the best reason they can muster for going to work each day. But if God's purposes are to be fulfilled, we must not have this attitude and neglect the ordinary tasks in pursuit of the glorious ones. Meals must be cooked, bins emptied, assembly lines manned, and children attended to.

Does your work seem like a waste of time? Imagine what life would be like if nobody bothered to do the job you do. Consider your office to be a place of ministry. Perform your duty as if you are doing it for Jesus Himself, after all, He is the one you are really serving (v23).

Favouritism

Favouritism (v25) is the interesting Greek word *prosopolepsia* which is derived from a combination of 2 root words, *prósopon* (face) and *lambáno* (receive), and it literally means to “receive face”. The Oriental custom of greeting is to bow one's face to the ground. If the one greeted accepts the person, he was allowed to lift his head again. The accepting of the appearance of a person is a Hebraic term for “partiality”. The idea behind *prosopolepsia* is that one judges on the basis of externals or pre-conceived notions, and shows partiality or favouritism.

The early Christians wore simple robes (an idea retained in the present-day use of choir robes) to show that cultural, social, and racial distinctions were no longer of importance in the body of Christ (v11). But just as there was no preference given to one Christian above another, neither was there given a privilege to commit sin.

Therefore as employers we too should not be showing any favouritism to our employees based on face value.

Godly Masters

While some of us may be masters on earth, we must exercise this function with the full understanding that we too are but servants of the Lord Who is Master over all. Our conduct must be just and equitable toward those who we have charge over. This view should transform how we regard and treat our staff and is a radical departure from the practice of secular masters who often treat their employees as little more than property, and not as men and women

made in the image of God. In Paul's day few unsaved Roman masters ever thought of treating their slaves with fairness, for in their estimation, slaves deserved nothing. On the other hand, it is notable that wherever Christians have constituted a significant segment of the population and have followed Paul's directions here, the slave system has died.

Are you treating your employees like you would desire the Lord Jesus to treat you?

Ambassadors for Christ

Christians must realise that these issues, such as how we supervise and how we serve in the work place, are a crucial part of our spiritual life. We are called to be ambassadors and must represent Christ well

in the workplace (school, ministry, etc.), during the weekdays, as well as at church on Sunday! In fact, Christians should be known as the best workers at their work-places. They should be the most respectful and obedient to supervisors, the most industrious and conscientious and honest, and the most loving and genuinely interested in people.

Such Christ-like behaviour will open doors to the most rewarding occupation anyone could ever hope for, the privilege of sharing with other the person who enables you to live and work “right side” up in a “post-Christian” society which is for the most part “upside down.”

Our Reward

What a paradox that a slave who was owned and owned nothing is pictured as receiving the reward of an inheritance because the slave is the freeman of the Lord and, therefore an heir of God. What wonderful grace, and how remarkable a reversal of fortune!

Our inheritance as believers consists of eternal life which is not only an endless existence, but one that has a quality far beyond our imaginings. It is not about the rewards here and now that shady business dealings can provide, but about a richer, far more satisfying reward of spending eternity with Christ. †



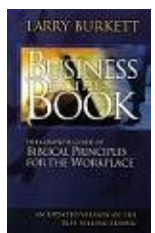
“Employees are to obey in order to please God.”

Highly Recommended

Business by the Book

by Larry Burkett

This book offers radical principles of business management that go beyond the Ten Commandments and other Biblical maxims., and provides a Biblical step-by-step presentation of how a business should be run.



Whether you are an owner of a business, a CEO, or a manager, this is the book for you.

R 140

THAT'S IN THE BIBLE?

How well do you know the Good Book?

- Who is the most frequently mentioned woman in the Bible?
 - Eve
 - Sarah
 - The Virgin Mary
 - Rachel
- Who is the most frequently mentioned man in the Bible, after Jesus?
 - David
 - Abraham
 - Moses
 - Paul
- Which Old Testament book is most often referred to or quoted in the New Testament?
 - Psalms
 - Isaiah
 - Daniel
 - Genesis
- Which book of the New Testament quotes from the most Old Testament books?
 - Matthew
 - Luke
 - Hebrews
 - Revelation
- What is the most often used noun in the Bible?
 - Lord
 - Israel
 - Water
 - God
- What is the only book in the Bible that does not mention God?
 - Esther
 - Ecclesiastes
 - Song of Songs
 - Lamentations
- Apart from Genesis, which other book in the Bible begins with the words "In the beginning"?
 - Matthew
 - Mark
 - Luke
 - John
- What book of the Bible is a collection of five smaller books?
 - Proverbs
 - Psalms
 - Ecclesiastes
 - Lamentations

Answers in the Next Edition

Buy you 2009 Diaries and Calendars NOW before it is too late!

Limited stocks and designs left.



- 2 year Pocket Planners - R 20**
- Ladies Diaries - R 80**
- John Maxwell Diaries - R 110**
- Small Calendars - R 20**
- Large Calendars - R 40**

HEAVENLY HUMOUR



Three sons of a lawyer, a doctor and a pastor, respectively, were talking about how much money their fathers made.

The lawyer's son said, "My father goes into court on a case and often comes home with as much as five thousand rand."

The doctor's son said, "My father performs an operation and earns as much as twelve thousand rand."

The pastor's son, determined not to be outdone, said, "That's nothing. My father preaches for just twenty minutes on Sunday morning and it takes four men to carry the money."

A certain congregation was about to erect a new church building. The building committee, in consecutive meetings, passed the following resolutions:

- We shall build a new church
- The new building is to be located on the site of the old one.
- The material in the old building is to be used in the new one.
- We shall continue to use the old building until the new one is completed.

☺ ☺

Sunday School teacher: What are the Epistles?

Student: I guess they are the wives of the Apostles.

"Did they like my sermon?" the anxious young minister asked his wife on their way home.

"I think so dear," she replied. "At least they were all nodding."

OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS

G I H C A L A M Q E Z E K I E L Q V G J N J O S H U A L Z N H
 K E S F R F S U Q W S Z E P H A N I A H U A R E H T S E M A A
 I M N E D M Q F A E U R U T H L X R Z E M I E Z U R Z R I R G
 N I Q E L X T O T M A Q J S D A S B U M B O J S A N J M L K G
 G R P A S C W A Q L N T B K E A W U O L E O J M O E E J E H A
 S P S Y J I I I M E F N S U L G N I C Q R W O C R H O X O A I
 N P S J B S S N E Z G P C K E W D I V I S S H E E N O I B C Q
 D E U T E R O N O M Y N Z K U A B U E P T A M N A D F A A I M
 J O B L N T B A U R E M W A M O A Z J L I I J H U O X K D M U
 T O C R U F U R S Z H I J B A L M V W A A C V S Y L H W I U H
 E C G X R I O K R Q P C T A S G N O S H S B R E V O R P A O A
 E L A M E N T A T I O N S H G H A I R A H C E Z L U V Y H G N

Find the books of the Old Testament in the above grid.

Last Month's Answers: Across: 1. Older 6. Disciples 11. Love 12. Timothy 13. Abraham 14. Praise 19. Guilt 20. Rain 21. Eternal 22. Hades 23. Encouragement 27. Tongue 29. Purities 30. Seen 31. Parents Down: 2. Discernment 3. Wisdom 4. Receive 5. Truth 7. Life 8. Woman 9. Zion 10. Glory 15. Spirit 16. Death 17. Inherit 18. Sandaled 23. Spare 24. Shows 26. Moses 29. Christ

Come work for the Lord. The work is hard, the hours are long and the pay is low. But the retirement benefits are out of this world!