



The G.E.M.

Volume 2 Edition 5

The Grace Electronic Magazine

May 2008

TIME TO SHINE

Thanks to Eskom, will our 'light at the end of the tunnel' be switched off? This I am sure, is the sentiment of many people in South Africa today, Christians included. What are we to do about it? In this month's edition of *The G.E.M.* we address the issue of light, particularly God's Light.

We as Christians live in light, and we are to rejoice in it. I pray that the words of this month's devotional encourage you to do just that.

The subject of evangelism is a scary one for many people, so in our main article on page 3 we look at how we are to share the light with others.

Our focus in our Missions Spotlight shifts to an area called the 10/40 Window. An area between 10 and 40 degrees longitude that contains most of the poorest and unreached people groups of the world.

Our usual Word Sudoku, is on the back page, along with another picture for the children to colour, and a great recipe for you to try for the coming cold nights of winter.

Our website is becoming increasingly more popular, so be sure to visit it regularly. Our events page in particular will keep you updated on coming Christian events in your area. Visit us at www.gracemedia.co.za

Until next time, God bless. †



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

REJOICE IN HIS LIGHT

The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. - Psalm 119:130

We are living in times of darkness, not only spiritually, but also literally. South Africa is being plunged into darkness on a regular basis for several hours at a time due to insufficient electrical power. Disruptions have been great, and many in our nation are growing more negative about the state and future of the country.

Are you distressed by events in our nation and the world? Are you concerned about the conditions of your life? Is your outlook of life becoming more negative as the days progress? Fortunately we serve a God who has a positive outlook. In Genesis 1 when there was just darkness all around, God said "Let there be light" and there was light. What could be more positive than that?

In the New Testament there is a story of a blind man named Bartimaeus. When he heard that Jesus was coming down the road, he called out to Him. Many rebuked him, but Jesus asked for Bartimaeus to be brought to Him. Jesus then asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?"

Bartimaeus' answer was simple, "Rabbi, I want to see." Here was a man whose life was surrounded by darkness. Not knowing what it is like to see a sunrise, all the colours of God's creation, and everything else we are able to feast our eyes on.

For those of us who are blessed with sight, we can not imagine what it is like to be blind. We can have a small sense of it if we are blindfolded, or if our home or office is plunged into darkness, especially at night.

Fortunately, God has provided us with light sources that man can never put out – the sun, moon and stars. So even during load-shedding, God has provided light for us to go about our lives, even if we are a little inconvenienced due to other electrical items being without power.

God has also provided light for us to walk in through His Word. Because of it, we do not have to walk around in the darkness of the distressing circumstances surrounding us, we do not have to stumble around in uncertainty. The light of God's Word comforts us. It shows us where we can safely step. Our hearts rejoice in His light (see Psalm 19:8 & 119:105).

We frequently need to read God's Word and to allow the Holy Spirit to bring understanding and light into our lives. When we do this, we will start to be lights ourselves. As Jesus said in Matthew 5, we are the "light of the world" and we are to let our light shine. It is a light that the world cannot put out and will be seen by everyone we come into contact with.

In the same way that a lighthouse sheds light on the ocean to warn ships of the shoreline, and to provide them comfort that they are a safe distance away from danger, we too are lighthouses in a world of darkness. We show the rest of the world where the dangers lie and provide comfort and hope to those around us, leading the lost to Christ.

May the light of Christ shine through you this month as you be a beacon of hope to a world in darkness. †



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SHOP TRADING HOURS:

Monday – Friday:

9am – 5pm

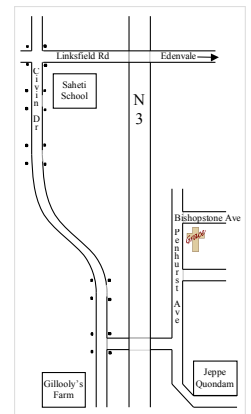
Saturday:

9am – 2pm

Closed Sundays and some Public Holidays

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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.



MISSIONS SPOTLIGHT

Preăh Réachéanachâkr Kâmpŭchea" Kingdom of Cambodia

Capital: Phnom Penh

Official Languages: Khmer

Currency: Riel

Population:

13,971,000

Government:

Constitutional monarchy



Cambodia has an area of 181,035 square kilometres, sharing an 800km border with Thailand in the north and west, a 541km border with Laos in the northeast, and a 1,228km border with Vietnam in the east and southeast. It has 443km of coastline along the Gulf of Thailand.

Cambodia is the successor state of the once powerful Hindu and Buddhist Khmer Empire, which ruled most of the Indochinese Peninsula between the eleventh and fourteenth centuries.

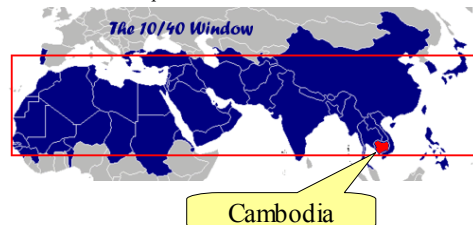
The dominant religion, a form of Theravada Buddhism (95%), was suppressed by the Khmer Rouge but has since experienced a revival. Islam (3%) and Christianity (2%) are also practiced. Christianity was first introduced into Cambodia in 1660.

Khmer culture, as developed and spread by the Khmer empire, has distinctive styles of dance, architecture and sculpture, which have strongly influenced neighbouring Laos and Thailand. *Angkor Wat* (Angkor means "city" and *Wat* "temple") is the best preserved example of Khmer architecture from the Angkorian era and hundreds of other temples have been discovered in and around the region. The Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, the infamous prison of the Khmer Rouge, and Choeung Ek, one of the main Killing Fields are other important historic sites.

With more than 50% of the population less than 21 years old, there is a lack of education and productive skills. This is particularly true in the poverty-ridden countryside, which suffers from an almost total lack of basic infrastructure.

Cambodia is a source, destination, and transit country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labour with countries like Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam. Trafficking for sexual exploitation also occurs within Cambodia's borders, from rural areas to the cities

Extracted from *Wikipedia.com* and *CIA - The World Factbook*.



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No Fuss!**
**God's Light is
sufficient for us.**
**Grace Media
remains open.**



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DIARY OF EVENTS

Global Day of Prayer

11 May 2008

For more information visit: www.globaldayofprayer.com

Beauty for Ashes Women's Conference

16-17 May 2008, Mosaiek Teatro, Fairland

For more information visit: www.beautyforashes.co.za

Louie Giglio's Passion Tour

9 August 2008, Gallagher Estate

Tickets on sale from 9 May 2008. See our site for details.

Christian Business Expo

October 2008

For more information visit: www.christianexpo.co.za

Top 25 Must Reads

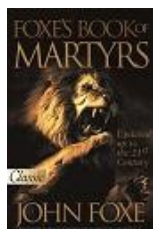
Foxe's Book of Martyrs
by John Foze

Would you suffer and die for Christ?

This classic title is filled with stories of people who have done just that. In 1563, John Foze began a memorial of martyrs starting with Stephen, the first to die for the cause of Christ, and ending with the most recent martyrs of his day: those killed during Bloody Mary's reign.

This updated edition in modern English contains stories of persecution up to 2001, and also features a full-colour timeline.

R 100.00



SHARE THE LIGHT

Do the work of an evangelist.
2 Timothy 4:5

There is one single act that seems to scare more Christians than any other, and that is sharing the Faith. Palms become clammy and knees start to tremble merely at the thought of it. Despite the many reasons that people give as to why they do not evangelise, it is commanded of us to share the Good News about Jesus throughout the world.

In this verse written by Paul to Timothy, Paul is enforcing the Great Commission given to the church by Christ before He ascended into Heaven: "go and make disciples of all nations" (see Matthew 28:16-20). Timothy must not only fulfil the tasks he has to look after the church under him in Ephesus, but must also go out and bring people into the Faith.

What we need to remember here is that the Great Commission is a command, and not a suggestion. Jesus was not saying, "I suggest you tell other people about me," but rather "go and tell them about me." He has given us a specific task to carry out, and it is not a matter of choice.

I recently read somewhere on the Internet that 97% of Christians do not share their faith with others. If this statistic is true, then the church is in serious trouble. But before we continue, let us look at another statistic.

In a survey conducted on 14,000 people in response to the following question: "What or who was responsible for your coming to Christ and your church?" the following eight responses were rated*:

A special need	1-2%
They just walked in	2-3%
A pastor	5-6%
Church visitation	1-2%
Sunday School	4-5%
Evangelistic crusade/ TV Show	0.5%
A church programme	2-3%
A friend/relative	75-90%

So often we tend to think that the job of evangelism is that of the pastor, the well-known evangelists or someone called to foreign mission fields. But as these statistics show, the most effective people for the task is you or me. The ordinary man or woman on the street. It is clearly not something that is to be left to the preachers and elders, but that it is everyone's responsibility to carry out this great task by sharing their faith with people around them.

So let us explore the subject of evangelism, there are three essentials that we need to learn and constantly remind ourselves of, in order to be effective communicators of the Gospel.

Our Motivation

As with everything in life, we must make sure that we never let wrong motives take control of our mission and priorities in evangelism. Jesus warned us about this in the Sermon on the Mount when he said, "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them." (Matthew 6:1)

The apostle Paul had the proper motivation. In 2 Corinthians 5:14 he says that Christ's love compelled him in his ministry. The Greek of this word also means to hold together. In the mind of Paul, it was the love of Christ that was driving him in his ministry, but not only that, it was also holding his ministry together.

When we think about our own lives and why we do not evangelise, are the reasons rooted in love, or are they in opposition to it? Quite logically, the latter. The love of Christ is to be the driving force and the sustainer of our lives. If Christ desired that no-one should perish but to have eternal life, then that love should also be consuming us and driving us forward to desire the same. (cf. Matthew 18:10-14)

You need to allow the love of Christ to become the driving force in your lives so that you too will want to bring lost souls to Christ.

Our Message

In Acts 8 we find the account of Philip talking to the Ethiopian eunuch about the passage of Scripture that the Ethiopian was reading. As the conversation unfolds we come across an amazing verse that says: "Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus" (v35).

We see many similar examples of the message being taught in the book of Acts, where the simple message of the Gospel is taught, and lives are changed (cf. Acts 2; 10 & 16).

The Good News of Christ is very simple and easy to understand. It is so easy in fact that even a three-year old can understand it. Why then do we try and make it so complicated? No wonder so many people feel as though they are not knowledgeable enough or equipped to evangelise. How often do we find new converts eager to go out and share their faith? For them the message is simple, and they just want to share it.

What is the message we are trying to tell people? Are we trying to find ways on how to convince a person why their belief is wrong, or where other religions fall short? No, it is about telling them the Good News.

Let us stop complicating the issue and begin to preach Christ. We must never underestimate the power of the Gospel, and we should never stop preaching it (cf. Rom. 1:16-17; I Cor. 9:16).

Our Tools and Method

There are so many methods we can employ today to effectively preach the Gospel. We can use the Internet by setting up a website or sending out e-mails. We can work in one-on-one situations by being involved in existing evangelistic outreaches (or start up one of our own) such as soup kitchens, crusades, the Alpha Course etc. We could even go out and start preaching on the street corner if we so desire.

There are also many tools that we can incorporate into our evangelism. Things such as Evangelism Explosion, the Way of the Master, the Four Spiritual Laws, to name but a few, are all at our disposal. Some lack in certain areas, while others are excellent tools to always bear in mind as we share.

However, whatever tools or methods we choose, we need to make sure that in each case, we are using a tool and a method that does not compromise the teachings of Scripture and is also suited to our own gifts and talents. It is no use standing in front of a crowd to preach, when our talents are more suited to one-on-one. Our message may come across weak and unconvincing.

What are your talents? How can you use them to share the Light? I encourage you to explore them and find ways to bring others to Christ through them.

In Conclusion

Evangelism is not easy but that is no excuse to shy away from spreading the Gospel. We have a responsibility to the Lord and to His church, and we need to take it seriously. You never know when you will find someone who needs to be changed by the cross. So I encourage you to take advantage of any opportunity to teach someone. You will make a difference!

"I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ." (Philemon 6)

* taken from *The Master's Plan for Making Disciples* by Win & Charles Arn, p46 †

What is the message we are trying to tell people?

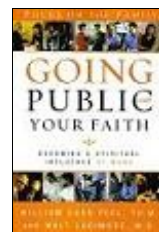
97% of Christians do not share their faith with others!

Inspirational Read

Going Public with your Faith
by William Carr Peel & Walt Larimore

In every part of the world, people are looking for spiritual answers. You do not need to travel to an exotic country to find hungry hearts. You spend hours every day in the most strategic place of impact in the world – your workplace!

R 140.00



10/40 RECIPE

Why not surprise your mother this Mother's Day with a traditional Cambodian dish;

BANANA RICE PUDDING

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 medium banana, sliced
- ¼ cup water
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 cup non-fat milk
- 1 410g can fruit chunks
- 2 tablespoons honey
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 ½ cups cooked brown rice *

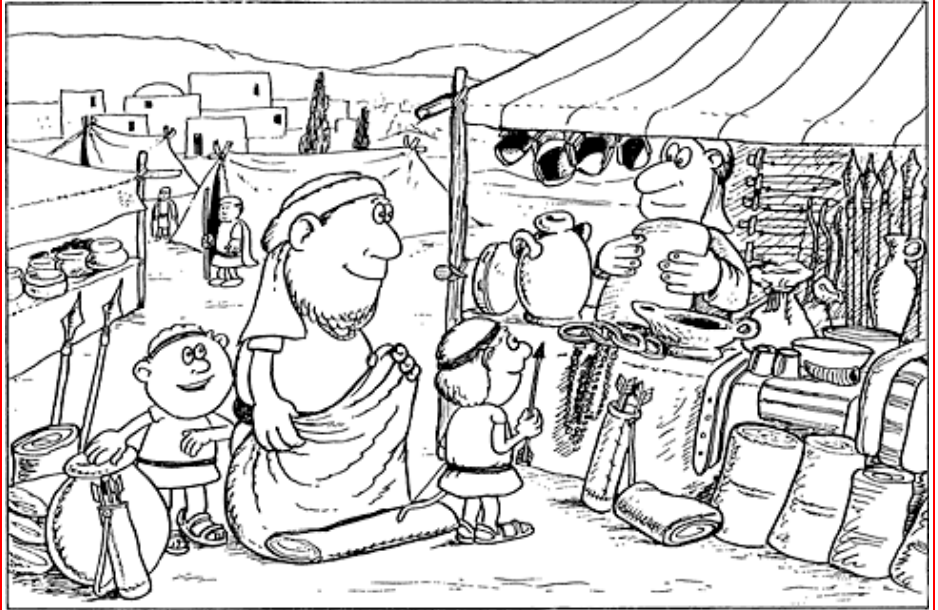
TO PREPARE:

1. In a medium-size saucepan, combine the banana and fruit, water, honey, vanilla, cinnamon and nutmeg.
2. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat, and simmer for 10 minutes or until quite tender but not mushy.
3. Add the rice and milk and mix thoroughly. Bring to a boil and simmer 10 more minutes.
4. Serve warm.

* Make sure you cook the brown rice well in advance as it takes 20-30 minutes to prepare.

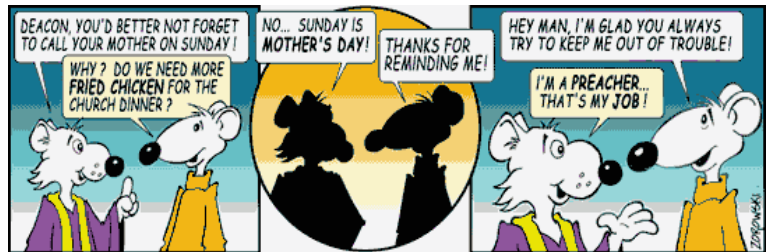
Recipe taken from the book *Recipes of the 10/40 Window*.

COLOUR ME IN



Shopping in 2000BC

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."
(Matthew 5:6)



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 name of the book in the Old Testament that the following verse comes from:

*How great you are,
O Sovereign LORD!
There is no one like you,
and there is no God but you,
as we have heard
with our own ears.*
[7:22]

Last Month's Solution

S	G	T	E	U	H	I	R	O
I	O	R	T	G	S	H	E	U
H	E	U	I	O	R	G	S	T
O	S	H	U	R	I	E	T	G
R	I	G	H	T	E	O	U	S
U	T	E	G	S	O	R	I	H
E	R	O	S	H	T	U	G	I
T	U	I	O	E	G	S	H	R
G	H	S	R	I	U	T	O	E

Answer in next edition.

Letters Used

A E L M O S T U W

W		S		A	L		
	T			L		S	E
		E			U		O
				W	L		T
S				E		M	W
	M			T			S
O							W M
		T			W	E	A U

Inspirational Read

Recipes of the 10/40 Window

Experiencing the countries of the 10/40 Window is as close as your own kitchen. This unique cookbook is full of fun and easy recipes that can be prepared alongside children.

R 120.00

