



# The G.E.M.

Volume 2 Edition 8

The Grace Electronic Magazine

August 2008

## TIME TO CELEBRATE

This month we are celebrating our second birthday. Our thanks go to all our loyal customers who have continued to support us.

With that in mind, in a couple of weeks we will be sending out our birthday promotion. Keep your eyes open for our mystery discounts and give-aways.

For Shekel Card holders, there will be extra bonuses, including double points on all purchases during the month of August. If you are not a Shekel Card holder, visit our website and join today!

To all our current Shekel Card holders, remember that you have until the end of August to earn points for this year. We will be sending out your Shekel Vouchers early in September, and donating an equal amount to a local charity. Visit us now and help to make a difference.

Be sure to pay our website a visit. We have rearranged the online ordering system to make it more user friendly, including a page dedicated to Alpha Resources. We will continue to add products to the site, but if there is anything that you are looking for that is not listed there, let us know and we will help you.

Until next time, God bless. †

**Order your  
2009 Diaries now!**

Available from early September.  
Contact us for more information.

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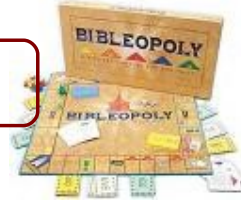
## 2nd BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

**Five Love Language  
Titles**  
Gary Chapman  
**from R110 each**



**If I Were a Butterfly &  
I Just Wanna be a Sheep**  
Children's Music CDs  
**R100 each**

**Bibleopoly**  
Board Game  
**R180**



**How Great is Our God**  
DVD+CD  
Louie Giglio  
**R180**



**Indescribable**  
DVD+CD  
Louie Giglio  
**R180**



Shekel Card holders receive double points when purchasing any items featured in The G.E.M.

Prices valid until 31 August 2008. E&OE

Visit our permanent Green Dot Sale in-store.  
**15% or more discount on top titles and other products.**

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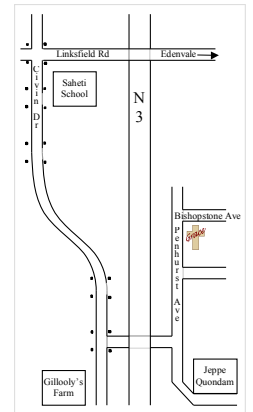
To advertise your church, ministry, business, event or product in *The G.E.M.* or on the Grace Media website, contact Glyn Williams on 011-454-6045 or [webmaster@gracemedia.co.za](mailto:webmaster@gracemedia.co.za)

## 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

### Socialist Republic of Vietnam *Cộng hòa xã hội chủ nghĩa Việt Nam*

**Capital:** Hanoi

**Official Language:** Vietnamese

**Currency:** Dong

**Population:**  
86,116,559

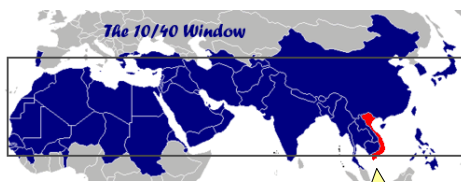


**Government:**  
Socialist Republic

Vietnam is approximately 331,688km<sup>2</sup> in area. The topography consists of hills and densely forested mountains, with level land covering no more than 20%. Mountains account for 40% of the area, with smaller hills accounting for 40% and tropical forests 42%. Comprising five relatively flat plateaus of basalt soil, the highlands account for 16% of the country's arable land and 22% of its total forested land. Because of differences in latitude and the marked variety of topographical relief, the climate tends to vary considerably from place to place.

The Vietnam War destroyed much of the economy of Vietnam. It also suffered from the trade embargo from the United States and most of Europe after the Vietnam War. Manufacturing, information technology and high-tech industries form a large and fast-growing part of the national economy. Vietnam is a relative new-comer to the oil business, but today it is the third-largest oil producer in Southeast Asia.

The vast majority of Vietnamese people of Asian religions practice Ancestor Worship, although this may not be strictly considered a religion. For much of Vietnamese history, Mahayana Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism have strongly influenced the religious and cultural life of the people. About 85% of Vietnamese identify with Buddhism even though they do not practice on a regular basis. About 8% of the population are Christians (about 6 million Roman Catholics and less than 1 million Protestants, census of 2007). Christianity was introduced first by the Portuguese and the Dutch traders in the 16th and 17th centuries, then further propagated under the French colonists in the 19th and 20th centuries, and to a lesser extent, by American Protestant missionaries during the presence of American forces during the 1960s and early 70's. The largest Protestant churches are the Evangelical Church of Vietnam and the Montagnard Evangelical Church.



Extracted from Wikipedia.com .

Vietnam

## PRODUCT REVIEWS



### THE RENOVATION by Terri Kraus

★★★★★

A romantic drama where a contractor meets a young journalist in a small American town. Having lost his wife and having to bring up his only son on his own, emotions are brought to the surface. For both of them they open past memories, creating a shaky relationship at first, but ultimately finding forgiveness. They learn that forgiving each other and asking God for forgiveness is the only way to happiness and contentment in the future.

A well-written, thought provoking and moving novel that is well worth the read.



## GOSPEL SHADOWS

★★★★★

If you grew up with the music of the Shadows in the 70's and 80's, then this is the album that you will appreciate.

With classic titles like *As the Deer*, *Old Rugged Cross* and *Open Our Eyes Lord*, performed in the classic style of the Shadows, this album brings back memories of family holidays listening to tunes like *Mustang* while driving along the coast, yet at the same time appreciating music that gives praise to our Lord.

A relaxing yet exciting album that gives a different feel to the Praise and Worship genre. †

## COMING SOON

# ORDER NOW & SAVE

### Sunset

Book 4 of the Sunrise series  
Karen Kingsbury  
R44  
**R99**



DUE FOR RELEASE  
IN OCTOBER

This is Our God  
Hillsong  
**Save 10%**



DUE FOR RELEASE  
26 AUGUST

## DIARY OF EVENTS

### PlanetShakers SA Tour

10-14 September 2008

Dates & venues subject to confirmation. See our site for details.

### UnderOath SA Tour

23-27 September 2008

Tickets available through Computicket

### Rich Man Poor Man Men's Conference

27 September 2008

Linder Auditorium, Johannesburg

### A Night of Worship with Darlene Zschech & Hillsong

27 September 2008

NG Moreleta, Pretoria. Tickets available through iTickets.com

## Top 25 Must Reads

### More Than a Carpenter by Josh McDowell

Josh McDowell thought Christians must be "out of their minds." He put them down. He argued against their faith.

But eventually he saw that his arguments would not stand up. Jesus Christ really was God in human flesh. Josh became a speaker on college and university campuses, challenging people who were just as sceptical as he had been.

In *More Than a Carpenter* Josh focusses on the person who changed his life – Jesus Christ. It is a hard-hitting book for people who are sceptical about Jesus' deity, his resurrection, and his claims on their lives.

**R 60.00**



## REMINDERS FOR STRANGERS

**B**ut you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. - I Peter 2:10-12 (NIV)

Peter tells us, that as believers, we are "aliens and strangers in the world." The idea here is of a person who lives for a period of time in a land that is not their own. They are there long enough to need accommodation, maybe even employment, but is not a permanent resident. They have no legal rights, no social standing, an exile almost, who lives in a foreign land.

These words are describing who we are as children of the Lord. We are living in this world, but this world is not our home (see Philippians 3:20). We are here just long enough to need a house to live in, and a job to clothe and feed us, but not as permanent residents. We are merely strangers living in the midst of an alien culture.

Whenever we meet someone from another culture, we soon realise that they think and act differently to us. As believers, we are supposed to think and act differently to the people of the world. By being born again we have a new nature and are all citizens of heaven. As a result, we are to be heavenly minded. We are not to live by man's standards. They are lower than those of heavenly citizens. We are to obey the laws of the land, but the law and will of God is far superior to those of the world. In other words, if we are truly citizens of heaven, we are to live as such. This is what Paul had in mind in Colossians 3:1-3 when he said "set your mind on things above."

How then do we conduct ourselves in this alien culture? This passage has something to say about that as Peter shares some Reminders For Strangers that we need to take heed of.

### Our Previous Condition

We have a Dark Past (v9) – We are reminded that Jesus called us out of the darkness of sin. He found living as we pleased, unaware that we were living a life that "leads to death" (Proverbs 16:25).

We have a Hostile Past (v10) – We are reminded that when Jesus saved us, we were not even part of a people. We were outcasts, part of a fallen race of people, with sinful "minds hostile to God" (Romans 8:7).

We have an Unrighteous Past (v10) – When the Lord came to save us, we were totally unworthy of His mercy and grace. God owes us nothing. The truth is we deserve to be sent to Hell. Yet God reached down in grace, into our darkness, delivering us. It was grace and grace alone that made the difference in our lives (See Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 Corinthians 15:10)

### Our Current Situation

We are a "Chosen People" (v9) – The term "chosen people" has to do with the glorious truth that God reached into the multitude of people in the world and chose a people for Himself. He did this according to His own will and He took these people He chose and made them citizens of His Kingdom.

Essentially we are a new race. In the same way as when the Lord called Abraham, the Hebrew race, which had not yet existed, came into being. So too we are a distinct race. Physically we may be the same as others, but we are different on the spiritual level. That is why the world does not understand us. It is why they do not accept us and our beliefs. This is the reason why we are "aliens" in this world!

We have a "royal priesthood" (v9) – When we were lost, we were totally separated from God. Now, in Jesus, we have been "brought near" to God by the blood of Christ (Ephesians 2:13). In this new relationship we have unrestricted access into God's presence. We do not need another mediator for our Mediator, the Lord Jesus (1 Timothy 2:5), has "destroyed the barrier" that stood between us and God (Ephesians 2:14-19). Therefore we can "approach the throne of grace with confidence" (Hebrews 4:16).

We are a "Holy Nation" (v9) – Through Jesus we have been changed into what we never could have been before: Holy. The lost have no spiritual good in them (Romans 3:12). They can produce things that are good from a human perspective, but never anything that is spiritually good in the sight of God (Isaiah 64:6). However, when a person is saved, they are given a new nature (2 Peter 1:4) with the capacity, through the Holy Spirit, to produce works that are pleasing to the Lord. A believer can and should be holy. This is the will of God (1 Peter 1:16) and is possible when we live as new creatures, delivered from darkness into the light!

We are a "Peculiar People" [KJV] (v9) – This verse has often been misquoted and used out of context. According to Webster's Dictionary, the meaning of "peculiar" is "that which belongs to a person in exclusion of others." As Christians we are precious treasures of God, belonging to no-one but Christ. Malachi uses a similar picture when he refers to those who will fear the Lord as being His "treasured possession" (3:17).

**"We should seek to promote the culture of Heaven in this world in an attempt to leave it better than the way we found it."**

### Our Responsibilities

To Declare the Truth About our Saviour (v9) – The phrase "declare the praises" means to vocally declare what the Lord has done for us. The word "praises" is referring to the qualities that make God who He is. We are to declare to a lost and dying world the character and person of God. We should be quick to declare the truths of the Gospel and what He has done for us. We should be vocal people and willing to share Him with the world.

But, there is a right and a wrong way to do this. We are to be open about our relationship with Jesus, but are not to be obnoxious about it. We are to point men to Him without drawing attention to ourselves

Demonstrate our Salvation (vv11-12) – Not only is there is a vocal side to our witness, but also a visible side. These two verses speak about that aspect of our walk with the Lord.

Walk in Purity (v11) – Since we are citizens of Heaven, we are to avoid living like the citizens of the world. When we live at a worldly level, our witness is ruined and our lives enslaved by the power of the lusts of the flesh.

With a Powerful Witness (v12) – Peter tells us to live right in front of a lost world. We may be criticised for our standards or for the things we oppose, but if we are consistent and holy in our walk and dealings with them, they will be affected by our good works. He even indicates that some will be saved as a result as the phrase "the day He visits us" indicates. One never knows who is watching and what a difference will be made because of the way we live.

Until Jesus comes, we will continue to be "aliens and strangers" in this world. Let us always remember that we are surrounded by an alien culture that needs to hear about Jesus and to see His truth lived out by those who claim to know Him. We should seek to promote the culture of Heaven in this world in an attempt to leave it better than the way we found it. †

**"As Christians we are precious treasures of God, belonging to no-one but Christ."**

## Highly Recommended

### Hell's Best Kept Secret

by Ray Comfort

Why are so many unbelievers turning away from the message of the Gospel? Doesn't the Bible tell us how to bring sinners to true repentance?

This book breaks away from modern methods of evangelism and calls for a return to Biblical evangelism.



**R 130.00**

## 10/40 RECIPE

### Banana Cake with Cashews (Vietnam)

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 3 eggs
- ¾ cup of cream
- 180g very ripe bananas
- 1 cup of coconut
- 1 cup of sugar
- 1½ cups of flour
- 1 cup of coarsely chopped cashews

#### TO PREPARE:

1. Preheat oven to 180° celsius.
2. Using a low speed, beat eggs and sugar together in an electric mixer until mixture is thick and pale. Pour cream into bowl and beat for a little longer, just enough to mix.
3. Sift flour, add to bowl, and stir with a wooden spoon.
4. Peel bananas and smash flat with a spoon, but do not mash. Add to batter with nuts and coconut. Stir only until ingredients are combined.
5. Grease two 20cm pans and dust with flour, shaking out any excess. Bake in oven for 1 hour or until top is golden brown.
6. Serve warm or cold.

Taken from the book *Recipes of the 10/40 Window*.



## Inspirational DVD

### Canvas

with Louie Giglio & Andy Stanley

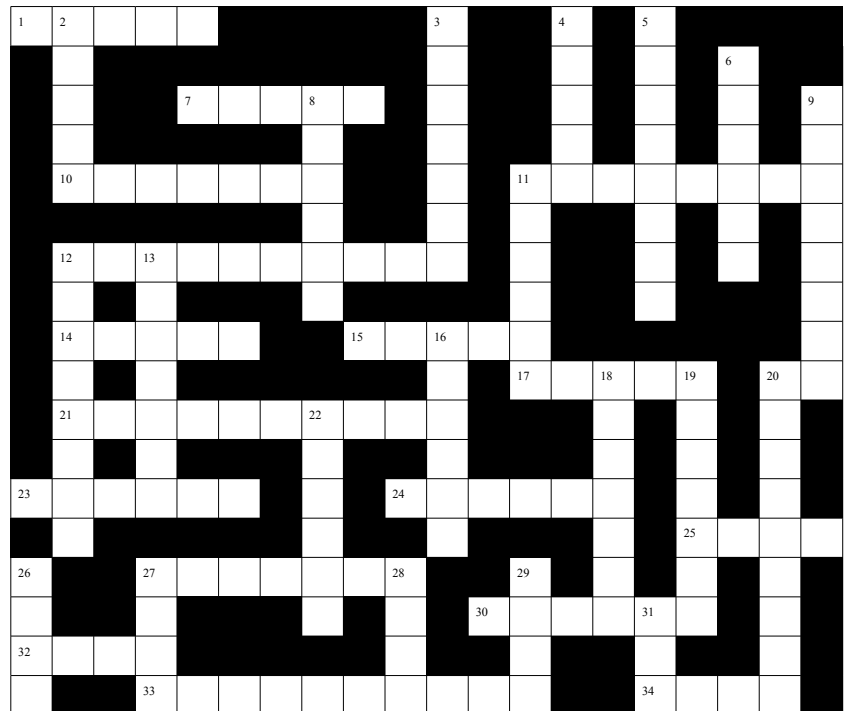
God created a world that was designed to reflect His glory. Our lives are tapestries created by Him. He is working on the canvas of our lives so we can bring glory to Him.



Join Louie Giglio and Andy Stanley as they explore the canvas that is our lives.

**R 220.00**

## ALIENS & STRANGERS



#### ACROSS:

1. "Set your minds on things \_\_\_\_, not on earthly things." (Col. 3:2)
7. "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to \_\_\_\_." (Prov. 16:25)
10. "God is exalted in his power. Who is a \_\_\_\_ like him?" (Job 36:22)
11. "For there is one God and one \_\_\_\_ between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 2:5)
12. "Let us then approach the throne of grace with \_\_\_\_" (Heb. 4:16)
14. "the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and \_\_\_\_." (Mk. 1:7)
15. "no one can \_\_\_\_ the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit." (Jn 3:5)
17. "Do not be \_\_\_\_ together with unbelievers." (2 Cor 6:14)
20. "\_\_\_\_ in Moab is ruined, destroyed in a night!" (Is. 15:1)
21. "But your \_\_\_\_ have separated you from your God" (Is 59:2)
23. "Blessed are you who \_\_\_\_ now, for you will be satisfied." (Lk 6:21)
24. "for the kings of the earth \_\_\_\_ to God" (Ps. 47:9)
25. "When you sit to \_\_\_\_ with a ruler, note well what is before you" (Prov 23:1)
27. "You rule over all the kingdoms of the \_\_\_\_." (2 Chr. 20:6)
30. "I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is \_\_\_\_ in you" (Gal 4:19)
32. "Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet." (Mt. 22:44)
33. "\_\_\_\_ they turned their backs and stopped up their ears." (Zech. 7:11)
34. "For Christ \_\_\_\_ for sin since for all" (1 Pe. 3:18)

**NOTE:** All verses taken from the New International Version.

#### DOWN:

2. "not by works, so that no one can \_\_\_\_." (Eph. 2:9)
3. "the sinful mind is \_\_\_\_ to God" (Rom. 8:7)
4. "But by the \_\_\_\_ of God I am what I am" (1 Cor. 15:10)
5. "Through these he has given us his very great and \_\_\_\_ promises" (2 Pe. 1:4)
6. "all our righteous acts are like \_\_\_\_ rags" (Is. 64:6)
8. "All have \_\_\_\_ away, they have together become worthless" (Rom 3:12)
9. "I am a \_\_\_\_ on earth" (Ps. 119:19)
11. "ruin and \_\_\_\_ mark their ways" (Rom. 3:16)
12. "A righteous man is \_\_\_\_ in friendship" (Prov. 12:26)
13. "\_\_\_\_ is too hard for you." (Jer. 32:17)
16. "I have \_\_\_\_ you in the furnace of affliction." (Isa. 48:10)
18. "The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly \_\_\_\_." (2 Tim. 4:18)
19. "If a kingdom is \_\_\_\_ against itself, that kingdom cannot stand." (Mk. 3:24)
20. "Once you were \_\_\_\_ from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour." (Col. 1:21)
22. "Do not cut your bodies for the dead or put \_\_\_\_ marks on yourselves." (Lev. 19:28)
26. "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to \_\_\_\_ you as wheat." (Lk. 22:31)
27. "Let the wicked fall into their own \_\_\_\_, while I pass by in safety." (Ps. 141:10)
28. "whoever eats \_\_\_\_ grapes—his own teeth will be set on edge." (Jer. 31:30)
29. "be \_\_\_\_ in all you do" (1 Pet. 1:15)
31. "Christ is the \_\_\_\_ of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes." (Rom. 10:4)

Answers in next edition.

Answers: Across: 1. Sound 3. Refuse 6. Fall 7. Fight 9. Firm 10. Donkeys 12. Enemy 13. Contrary 16. Seat 18. Dreams 20. Arrows 22. Trembling 23. Soldier 25. Sins 26. Faith 27. Jericho 28. Pleases 30. Deep 31. Knocks Down 1. Slavery 2. Nothing 3. Righteous 4. Troop 24. Dying 29. Ask

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?