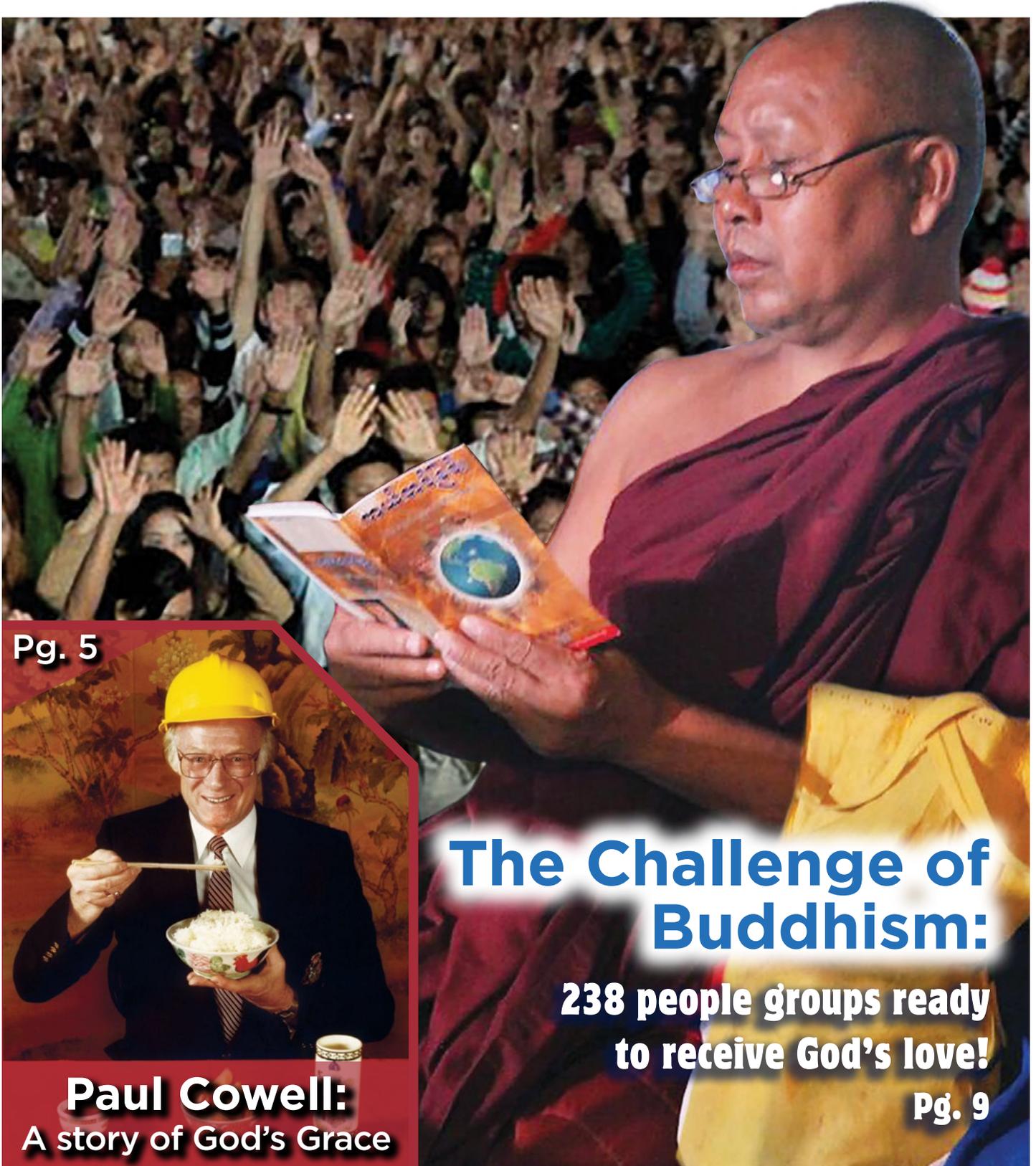


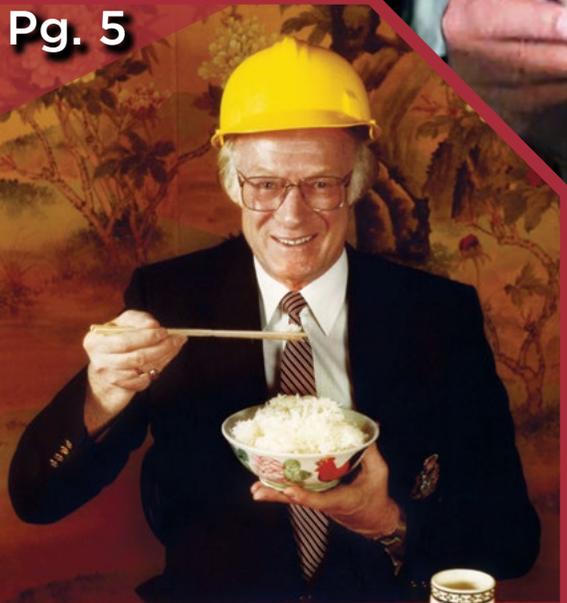


# IMPACT

WINTER 2018



Pg. 5



**Paul Cowell:**  
A story of God's Grace

## The Challenge of Buddhism:

**238 people groups ready to receive God's love!**

Pg. 9

Paul Cowell - God's Grace Wins	5
The Challenge of Buddhism	9
Dean Morris Reports From Mandalay	11
Reaching One Million	15
Opportunities are a Gift from God	18
Martin Luther and the "Schwärmers"	19
Story of Three Blind Men	21
VIP Family	22
Last Word with Taina	23

**Grace Prayer & Partner Centre**  
**1 (416) 745-1820**

### Text Giving

To get started, text the word "Give" to:  
**(289) 768-8934**

### Download The App

Get the official World Impact Ministries app! Search "Peter Youngren" on your Android or iOS device.

[www.peteryoungren.org](http://www.peteryoungren.org)

### Canada Address

WIM, P.O. BOX 62039 RPO Victoria Terr,  
 North York ON, M4A 2W1



<b>Publisher:</b>	<b>Peter Youngren</b>
<b>Design &amp; Layout:</b>	<b>Amanda Rasheed Irène Jarlsdotter</b>
<b>Proof Editors:</b>	<b>Betty Berezowski Aarthi Vijaykumar</b>
<b>Distribution:</b>	<b>Aarthi Vijaykumar</b>



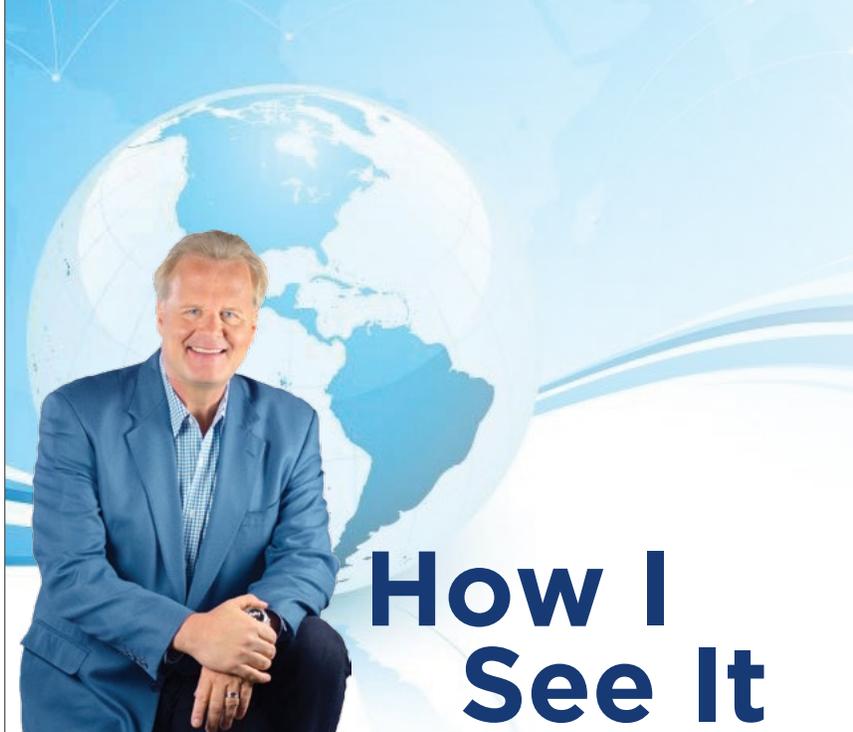
IMPACT is a publication of World Impact Ministries. Reproduction in whole or part without written consent is prohibited.

Postmaster: In US send change of address to WIM, PO Box 433, Winchester KY 40392.

Publications Mail Product Agreement No. 40011290

If you enjoyed this issue of IMPACT Magazine and would like to receive additional copies, they may be ordered at a cost of \$5.00 per issue. Please call 1 (416) 497-4940 ext. 4013, or email [info@peteryoungren.org](mailto:info@peteryoungren.org).

Send any comments or questions to the attention of The Publisher.



## How I See It

**THE** need has never been greater than now for a ministry where Jesus and his gospel are at the center. The hunger for God's grace is enormous around the world, but also here at home, especially among those who have been enslaved in religious legalism.

*Impact* emphasizes spiritual needs around the world, in this issue the focus is on the Buddhist world, but we are also concerned about the gospel in our country. More about that in a moment, but first some information:

### AARTHI FROM INDIA

I'm delighted to introduce two new key staff members, one from India, Aarthi Vijaykumar and the other one from Kentucky, Jakob Wendesten. Taina and I met Aarthi in Allahabad, India, where Manoj, who is now Aarthi's husband, was coordinating our Gospel Festival. We were struck with the excellence of both Manoj and Aarthi, and I believe the Lord had led it so that Aarthi is now our Partnership Director in our Toronto office. Don't miss her article on page 21 about how she first heard of our ministry. It is quite a miracle story!

### JAKOB FROM KENTUCKY

Jakob Wendesten has recently been appointed as International Gospel Festival Coordinator. He was ordained with the Pentecostal Church of God in 2015. In spite of his youth, Jakob has already served as pastor of the New Beginnings Worship Center in Cynthiana, KY. He has also already ministered in Ethiopia, Kenya, Haiti,



Jakob and Shana Wendesten

India, Myanmar, Sweden and Norway. The Lord used Jacob in a great way during the preparation time for the recent campaign in Burma.

### CAMPAIGN TO REACH ONE MILLION

Canada, United States and the whole Western world needs the gospel. On pages 14 – 16, as well as the back cover you can read about the launch of the *Light of The World* campaign with a goal to reach 1 million people in the West this year. I hope that you will join!

Many want to share the Gospel with friends and family, but do not know how. The 44-page pamphlet, *Enlightenment*, will open the door to conversations where you can share Jesus with others. A copy is enclosed in the polybag with this magazine.

Pastor Lars Kraggerud, who leads the *Amazing Grace Network* in Norway, taught in the pastors' seminar during our outreach in Burma. I showed him the *Enlightenment* booklet, and he decided to have it printed in the Norwegian language and to distribute it in the

city where he is a pastor. He commented: *Eternity is in the hearts of all humans, everyone has a longing for God. But most of do not know how easy it is to get in touch with God our Heavenly Father. The Enlightenment booklet makes it easy for anyone to connect with God again. I believe in giving this booklet to all my neighbors, friends and acquaintances.*

### TEN CAMPAIGNS

We have an ambitious schedule with ten campaigns planned, two campaigns planned for **Indonesia**, three in **Tanzania**, two in **Burma** plus campaigns in **Ethiopia, Pakistan** and **Madagascar**. My hope is that those who have supported World Impact Ministries in the past will continue to do so, and maybe even more. Then we need many new partners to join in 2018.

### WHERE SHOULD YOU GIVE YOUR MONEY?

The Bible gives a clear directive; *The elders who rule well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For Scripture says, "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain, and "The worker deserves his wages," (1 Tim 5:17 – 18).* Another translation says that they are worthy of double honor *who handle the affairs of the church well.*

The key word is **well** - ministry work should be handled well, and those who do well should be supported. There is no command to give money to everything that calls itself a church, or a Christian



Pastor Lars Kraggerud from Norway joined me in Burma to help teach at the Pastors' Seminar. Like Paul, 2,000 years ago in Athens, we went around in the city and looked at the altars, shrines and temples

organization. Paul never demanded title for himself. Our giving should be carefully considered, selective, well-informed so that money is put into the hands of those who work well.

*What then does it mean to rule or lead well?*

To do well is to be a ministry that is Christ-centered, and is actively involved in spreading the gospel to “every creature”. Paul was not interested in a spiritual club of mutual admiration where we support ourselves and our own interests. The focus is on a Christ and the world.

The expression “double honor” does not mean that preachers should live in luxury, with twice the salary of anybody else. No, the double honor is for the *work* of preaching and teaching the gospel. With this in mind, it is important to ask questions before you give:

- *Is this a ministry that places the overriding importance on Christ and his grace?*
- *How much of the money collected is for the work inside the four walls of the organization?*
- *How much of the money collected is for the spreading of the gospel?*
- *How much money is for social work, similar to the work done by the government, United Nations, the Red Cross and a host of other humanitarian organizations?*

- *How much money is for gospel work, the kind of work that the government, United Nations, the Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations give 0% for?*

## **DON'T MUZZLE WIM**

Paul quotes Deuteronomy chapter 25, to *not muzzle an ox while he is treading out the grain*. The ox needs to be strong, and now I'm talking about the ox known as World Impact Ministries. This year we plan to handle twice as many campaigns, plus the Gospel work on many other fronts.

As this magazine goes to print, our team is in Ethiopia working on a campaign in the second largest city of that country, **Dera Dawa**, where 71% of the population are Muslims. When we go there, you go through your prayers and finances. Thank you!

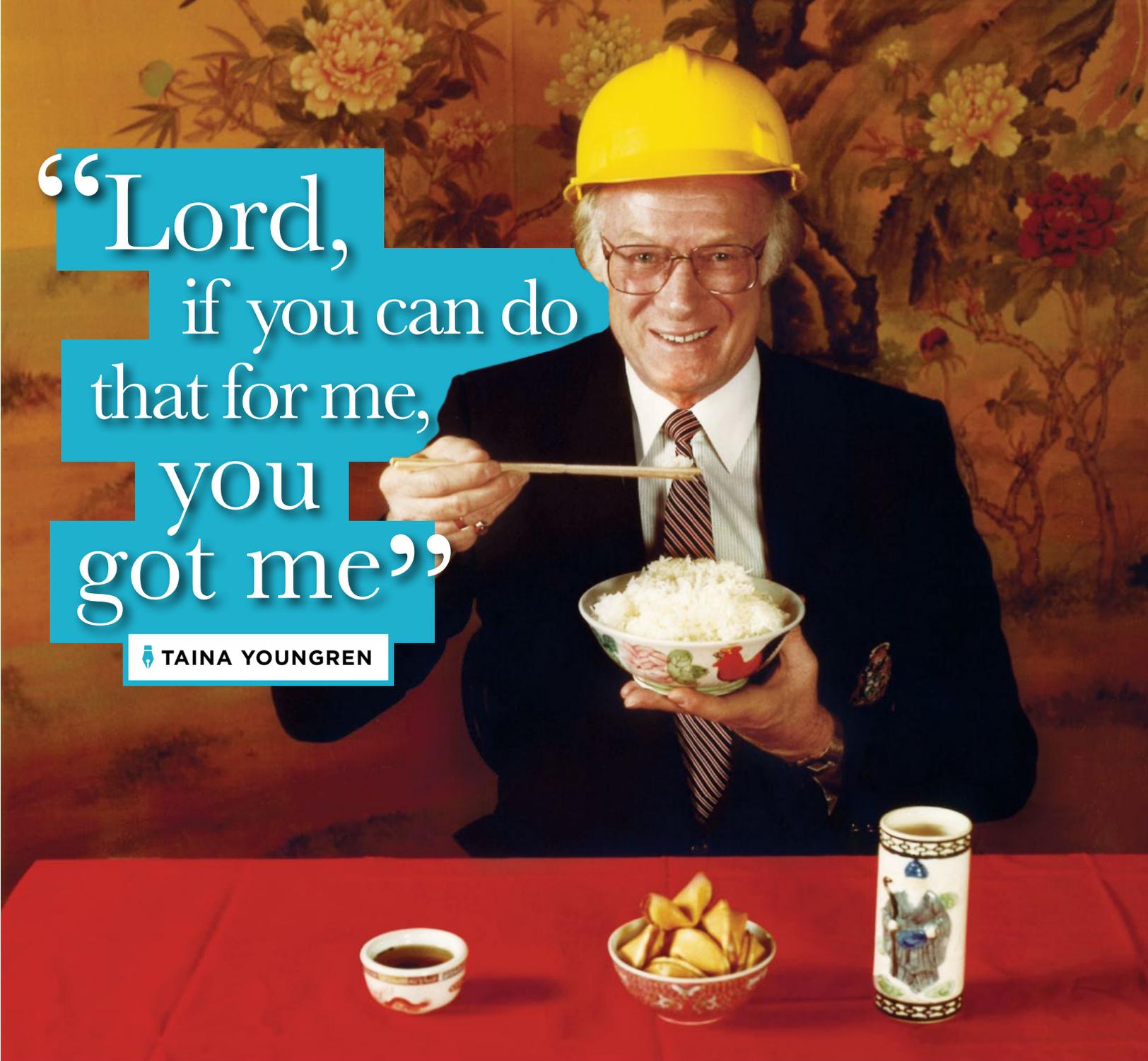
Taina and I and our team are ready to pray and believe God for you. God is no respecter of person, or for that matter, of any part of the world. What God does for people in far-off places, he does for you. We look forward to hear from you, to pray and to believe with you!

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Your prayer needs are important. Call our Prayer Centre at (416) 745-1820 or leave your prayer request online at [www.peteryoungren.org](http://www.peteryoungren.org) or text your prayer request to Pastor Peter's prayer phone at (437) 776-3366 (text only)



**Photo from a previous campaign in Ethiopia, we will be back in a few weeks.**

A photograph of Paul Cowell, an older man with glasses, wearing a yellow hard hat and a dark suit with a striped tie. He is smiling and holding a bowl of white rice with chopsticks. The background is a traditional Chinese floral painting. In the foreground, on a red tablecloth, are a small bowl of dipping sauce, a bowl of dumplings, and a tall ceramic cup with a decorative design.

“Lord,  
if you can do  
that for me,  
you  
got me”

 TAINA YOUNGREN

***Paul Cowell’s story is a reminder that in spite of life’s ups and downs, God’s grace gets the final word.***

**MANY** friends of World Impact Ministries know Paul Cowell (83) because of a phone call where he shared an uplifting word. You don’t need to spend a lot of time with Paul to know that he is a warm-hearted gentleman, who loves people, loves God and he sure does love Southern Gospel music. When you visit Paul and Suki in their St. Catharines, Ontario home you will soon hear the sounds

of Bill and Gloria Gaither, the Booth brothers, or one of their other favorites. When interviewing Paul, I was fascinated by the many seemingly disconnected seasons of his life, and yet how those seasons all fit together for God’s purposes! The conversation went quickly to Paul’s childhood, and his dad, Alf Cowell.



Paul with former Ontario Premier Frank Miller.

- Dad had a strong influence on me; he was a hardworking farmer, machinist, General Store owner and a lay pastor in the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. He was a deeply religious man with fierce convictions. There was one spiritual lesson that I've always been grateful for – the principle of tithing. I believe that tithing makes us generous when we experience God's provision firsthand. When my father brought his pay packet home, he took 10% out of it, making sure that we kids knew what he did.

I asked Paul if he had a lot of fun growing up.

- My dad taught me to “work for a living”. There were no “free rides” in his worldview. He was strict when it came to sports and other things that one usually enjoys as a child; no organized sport was allowed. I loved hockey, and this negative religious attitude was a turn-off for me. There was a lot of “do nots” in our religion.

Paul's answer reminded of another one of his passions, sports, and not only hockey, but also football. Paul is a longtime fan of the Hamilton Tiger Cats. I can remember a few rivalries between Paul and Megan Thurber (long-time WIM worker), who roots for the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

Paul has achieved a lot, so it was natural to ask him about formal education, and I quickly find out that like for many of his generation, there was little time to pursue higher education; everyone was expected to contribute to the family finances.

- Public school was in a one room school house. Somehow I managed to go through high school, though I was a terrible student. My focus was to get a job and earn money. At the age of twelve I worked on farms during my holidays picking vegetables– I started my “career” on my 16th birthday with the Bank of Nova Scotia. My pay was \$15 dollars every two weeks. I gave half of it to my mother, as I lived at home. I learned to “pay my way”.

## PAUL - THE POLITICIAN

My husband, Peter, has many stories about Paul's ability to deal with politicians and governmental leaders. For about 10 years Paul set up the Friendship Festivals that World Impact Ministries conduct around the world, and this brought him into contact with prime ministers, governors, mayors and police chiefs, many of them from non-Christian religions. In the 1980s, Paul was involved in city politics in Hamilton Ontario.

- I became the President of the Real Estate Board at the age of 30, and that led to running for public office. I was fortunate to surround myself with good people and was elected the first time around. I served as Alderman and Regional Councillor, Chairman of the Economic Development, on the City's Executive Committee as well as several other Boards. Looking back, I realize how God gave me favor among people from all walks of life.



Paul and Suki.

## LOVE IN A HONG KONG COFFEE SHOP

Paul's political life took him to Asia, and when he was finished with politics he started a Canadian immigration business in Hong Kong. That's where he met his wife, Suki,



Peter and Paul together on the TV set.

who Paul refers to her as his “beloved soulmate”. Naturally I wanted to know how he charmed her, especially as Suki didn’t speak a word of English when they first met. As you can imagine, it’s a romantic story:

- Suki worked in a coffee shop. I have always liked my coffee, so I visited there often. I don’t know how exactly I charmed her, but I invited her to church and on one day, to my surprise, she came. Suki, a Buddhist at the time, got interpretation of the sermon through earphones and got saved! – There was something in Suki that grabbed my heart. That’s how our wonderful journey began; I thank God for her every day.

### GRACE ON THE QEW

During the years in politics and business Paul himself had drifted from the faith of his childhood, trying to make his own way through life. While in Hong Kong Paul’s dad had been diagnosed with terminal cancer, six months to live. Paul flew home and discovered that his dad was calm and looking

forward to eternity, often quoting the Scripture: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

- After visiting dad in the hospital, I went back to Hong Kong, but dad’s condition got worse. I returned and was amazed by the last weeks of his life – people came from all over Canada to pay their respects and dad ended up praying with them, not for him, but for them. He was a man of prayer; that’s another spiritual lesson he conveyed me.

Peter has interviewed Paul several times in church as well as on the *You Are Loved* telecast, and often the story goes to what happened on the Queen Elizabeth Hwy between Toronto and Hamilton the day after his dad’s funeral. For Paul it was a dramatic encounter, a little bit like when the apostle, after whom Paul is named, encountered Christ on the road to Damascus, only this happened while driving on the QEW! Paul says, I simply told the Lord, “If you can do for me what you have done for my dad, you got me”. That experience is still very real, and Paul says that he gets goosebumps every time he drives by that spot on the highway.

### ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Our conversation goes to the 10 years when Paul represented World Impact Ministries to political and religious leaders. In hindsight it is clear that the Lord



With Nathan and Megen Thurber in Madagascar (2006). Paul worked for almost 10 years setting up Friendship Festivals.

had prepared Paul for this mission that would result in thousands coming to the Lord.

I felt comfortable when meeting dignitaries due to my past experiences. One memorable moment was when I met His Royal Highness, the Emir of Kaduna State, in Nigeria. Local pastors were afraid to meet a Muslim national leader. I told the Emir that we will leave his people in a better state because of the power of the gospel message that Peter Youngren would present. He let me pray with him and all Muslim leaders that were present. What a gospel Festival it was! There were many occasions like that, one time in Madagascar – we needed to get an approval for the Festival from the national Head of military and God gave me such favor. I will never forget these types of happenings in Pakistan, Indonesia and other countries. When I met these “dignitaries”, I always had the realization that everyone seeks for God who loves them.

There were many adventures. Nathan Thurber often recalls when he and Paul were flying over Ethiopia, being sure that the plane would crash, and the relief when they finally landed safely. Peter commented, “Paul has an exceptional

gift with people. We saw historical breakthroughs in many places where Gospel campaigns had never before been conducted, and Paul played a vital role. God worked through him to open doors. Today when I visit those countries and meet the same leaders, they always ask about Paul, he made a real impact in many lives”.

Paul’s only regret is that he didn’t turn to Christ earlier, because that would’ve made his life even richer. Still, he realizes that his steps have been ordered of the Lord. Paul and Suki have been a part of the VIP family, those who partner with WIM every month, for many years. They are committed to the gospel and want to encourage everyone to do the same. I leave the closing comment to Paul:

- It’s all about God’s grace and I’m very, very grateful for everything. What a privilege it is to serve Him! ✨

FAMILY: Paul has 4 beautiful married daughters including twins, 8 grand children, 4 great grand children. They all are very special to him and he appreciates every precious moment they spend together.



# YOU ARE LOVED

## TV Schedule

<b>February 5 - 11</b>	Killing “Sacred” Religious Cows.
<b>February 12 - 18</b>	Seven Motivations to Propel You to Your Destiny.
<b>February 19 - 25</b>	Problems Keep Coming - So Do God’s Solutions.
<b>February 26 - March 4</b>	Miracles - Acts of God Beyond Natural Ability.
<b>March 5 -11</b>	Powerful Principles for Success by God’s Grace.

For further listing see [www.peteryoungren.org/tv-broadcast-schedule](http://www.peteryoungren.org/tv-broadcast-schedule)  
 Watch You Are Loved Daily at [www.peteryoungren.org](http://www.peteryoungren.org)



# The Challenge of Buddhism:

## 238 people groups waiting for the good news!

 PETER YOUNGREN

Young Bamar Woman - 99.9% are Buddhists.

*-Doctors gave no hope, I was diagnosed with liver cancer and given six months to live. I traveled from temple to temple, asking for prayer, but to no avail. When I heard of the Friendship Festival in Yangon in 2016, I didn't know what to expect. It was there that I heard of Jesus for the first time. Now 12 months later I stand before you, healed and a believer in Jesus.*



Mera Ko Saw had never heard of Jesus.

Mera Ko Saw is typical of people in the Buddhist world. While many countries in this part of Asia are experiencing greater political freedoms and better economies, the Gospel light remains dim. Buddhists are overlooked, even among those interested in Christian missions, or at least they are viewed as a lesser priority.

In his book, *People of the Buddhist World*, Paul Hattaway writes: "The Buddhist world, particularly monks and nuns, have come to be viewed as unreachable and untouchable. With their shaved heads, orange and saffron colored robes, and mysterious rituals, millions of Buddhist monks in Asia are left alone by Christians."

Buddhism is practiced by approximately 575 million, representing about 8% of the world's population. Whether through meditations, sacrifices or the pursuit of merits, the

ultimate goal of Buddhist worshipers is Nirvana, a transcendent state of freedom from the effects of karma and the cycle of reincarnation. There are three main branches of Buddhism.

*Mahayana Buddhism*, which means "greater vehicle", is practiced in Japan, Korea, Vietnam and China, and emphasizes that the faith of the individual is linked to the larger group. Many Buddhists believe in a large number of heavens and hells, in addition to the ultimate Nirvana.

*Theravada Buddhism* is practiced in Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Sri Lanka. Theravada Buddhists believe that the path to Nirvana is an individual pursuit of salvation by earning merits for good works.

*Tibetan Buddhism* technically falls under Mahayana Buddhism, but it is distinctive because when Buddhism arrived in Tibet around 600 A.D., it incorporated many of the practices and beliefs of the ancient religions of the area.

There are at least 238 ethnic groups where Buddhism is practiced. Among the groups least reached with the gospel are the 37 million strong Bamar people of Myanmar [99.9% Buddhist and 0.1% Christian], and the Thai, the main people group of Thailand which numbers almost 50 million [99% Buddhist and 0.4% Christians].

Just like in Christianity, among Buddhists there is a gap between those who *profess* and those who *practice* their religion daily. Often a community has high respect for Buddhism, while daily participation in religious practices is in decline.

In spite of almost 200 years of Christian missions, the story is one of lack of progress. Among the Thais we find one confessing Christian among 250, in spite of the fact that Thailand has over 1000 resident missionaries. Among the Bamar only one in a thousand profess faith in Christ. Still in Thailand and Myanmar, you find a few thriving churches, but when you look closer you realize that most of the worshipers are not from the main people groups, but tribal people or immigrants, primarily Chinese.

**“AFTER ALL, THE GOSPEL IS THE POWER OF GOD, SO WHY HASN'T IT HAD A MORE POWERFUL EFFECT AMONG BUDDHISTS?”**

Many of the Buddhist people groups have the Bible in their native language, as well as the Jesus film. Still progress has been limited. Why? After all, the gospel is the power of God, so why hasn't it had a more powerful effect among Buddhists? To address this question in depth would take much space, but I believe there are two, often overlooked, keys to effectively reach Buddhists.

First, we must learn from Jesus and the apostles how to present the gospel. Too often we speak in terminology best understood by Christians in the West, while those words may have little relevance to non-Christians. We must teach the true biblical meaning of words like “sin”, forgiveness “, “salvation”, “repentance” and “eternal life”. Preachers in the West often talk about “Christianity” and “revival”, words that Jesus or the apostles never used. In our ministry we do not urge people to become Christians. Instead we invite people to receive the new life that Jesus has provided. Our goal is to open people's eyes to see who God is and who they are to God. The Book of Acts chapter 17 is a great example on how to present the gospel to people of other religions.

Equally important is that the gospel is presented with signs and wonders. What we do would be impossible without Jesus proving himself alive through healings and miracles. Without

this, I doubt that anyone would listen to us. People's hearts are opened to our message when they recognize that Jesus Christ is indiscriminately healing and blessing people. Pastor Tha Hla, the chairperson for our recent campaign in Burma said,

*-Peter, there is a deep impression made on a Buddhist audience when they see Buddhist monks testify that Jesus has saved and healed them. In the words of the apostle Paul, we do not want people's faith to be established on man's wisdom, but on the power of God.*



Thai Woman - Many live and die without ever hearing the gospel.

The Buddhist world is a huge mission field, and World Impact Ministries will continue to take every opportunity. It is almost unfathomable to Christians, who live in the Western world, where churches, Christian television, Christian books and movies are readily available, that many Buddhist have never heard the name of Jesus.

Based on statistics and the poor results of the past, some experts would suggest that Buddhists are resistant to the gospel. Others would suggest that Buddhists are not predestined for salvation. The words of Jesus, as well as my personal experience, tells me something different. Time and again, in Mongolia, Thailand and in Burma I have found Buddhist to be as open and receptive to the gospel as any people – they are just waiting for someone to tell the good news of what God in Christ has done for them. ✨



Buddhist man from Vietnam. There is a small chance that such a person will ever hear the message of salvation.

**“Amazing to see  
Buddhist monks  
with lifted hands,  
calling on  
the name of  
JESUS”**

**I WILL** never look at the Gospel the same again. Growing up in America in a charismatic or evangelical church, it is easy to develop ideas about how we must do certain things to encounter Jesus: the atmosphere must be just right, the worship a certain length and style, and hearts must be prepared to receive through personal effort of pushing through for your miracle. And of course, we must be “Christian enough” to receive blessings and healings. Not so according to the Gospel!

The Gospel has power because of one name: Jesus. Burmese Buddhists experience this first hand, as the name of Jesus impacted thousands in Mandalay night after night. Our mission was simple – to lift up Jesus so that God’s indiscriminate love would be shown to all people, regardless of ethnicity or religion. When Pastor Peter preached the name of Jesus, not the religion of Christianity, people from all religions and cultural backgrounds received.

Night after night, Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims traveling from all over the area filled the large venue to hear about

the love of God. I will never forget the first night when a Buddhist monk came to the platform to share how Jesus healed his deaf ears! Immediately it was clear to everyone that God’s love would be shown, regardless of religion. This is the true Gospel. In the nights to follow, multitudes began to respond the salvation, trusting Jesus with their lives. Pastor Lars from Norway paints the picture, “It was amazing to see Buddhist monks with their hands lifted high, calling on the name of Jesus during the prayer of salvation.”

Such glorious moments don’t come without a fight. Behind every great step forward in the kingdom of God, there is a tenacious faith of people who are willing to put in hours upon hours of hard work, going against all odds. In fact, when our team departed from Canada several days before the Festival, there was still no Festival to be had, we were waiting on the long promised, final permissions from the government. Believing that God was at work, and that we were in the center of his plan, we boarded the plane ready to see Myanmar impacted!

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 14**



"It makes a deep impression in a Buddhist culture when a



The first testimony of healing was from a Buddhist monk who had been completely deaf. People were astounded that Jesus opens deaf ears.



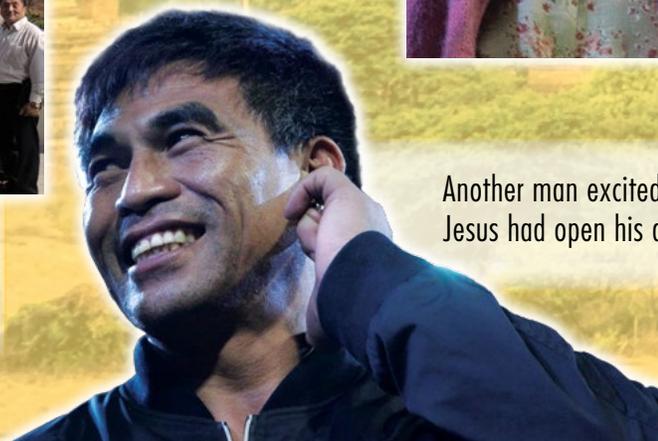
Taina is checking the back of the neck of this Buddhist woman where a large growth had disappeared.



Buddhist nun received healing from deafness.



Tania and I with Pastor Lars Kraggerud from Norway together with Buddhist leaders. Notice the pagoda in the background. Pastor Lars helped teach in the Pastors' Seminar.



Another man excited that Jesus had open his deaf ear.



## monk openly acknowledges Jesus Christ" – Pastor Tha Hla



Young girl healed of blindness.



This man, was carried on a mat by group of friends, was paralyzed for 12 years. Jesus healed him.



More than 40 people received healing from deafness, this young lady was one of them.

Dew Che Che, had cancer of the blood. She attended the Friendship Festival in Yangon 12 months ago and now she came to testify that Jesus had healed her cancer. She shouted to the audience "I was a Buddhist my whole life, but now I'm a Christian!"



Dean Morris, who wrote the article from Mandalay, is pictured here rejoicing with a woman whose blind eyes had opened.



There were powerful testimonies of people who have been healed of cancer last year in the Festival in Yangon, Burma.

We arrived on Friday, and immediately I visited the stadium with Jakob Wendesten, WIM’s Gospel Festival coordinator. There were just 48 hours before the first Festival night, and the final permission was still needed. For several months we had been promised, “you will have it next week”, or “in a few days”, and here we were still waiting. The large platform was ready, advertisements were happening all over the city, and volunteers were being trained ... but without the permission there would be no Festival. That night Pastor Peter met with us, and simply said, “We have done all of the work we can. We need the Lord to help us, and all I can tell you is that He has helped us many times before.”

I couldn’t help but think that the Lord has never failed anyone, and He would not fail us now. Saturday morning came with glorious news... we had received the permission. The Festival was going to happen after all,



WIM’s coordinator Jakob Wendesten carrying packages of books for new believers.

the name of Jesus was going to be lifted up and lives and families were going to be changed for eternity. God gave us the faith and that’s what made the whole team work so hard.

The fight was real. It wasn’t easy. Jakob commented, “Opposition came against us from every direction, the resistance

was unreal, but we kept going forward regardless. It looked hopeless and dark but by the grace of God we had a fantastic festival.”

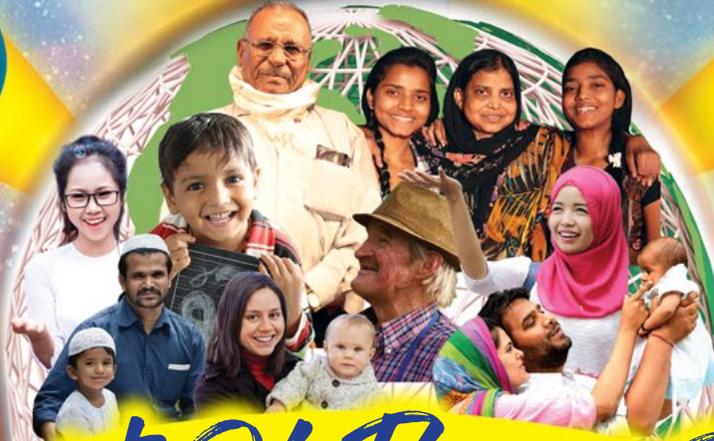


More than 20,000 received follow-up for new believers.

Looking back now, I am even more convinced that when our purpose is to life up the name of Jesus to let his love be experienced by all, the Lord will make a way even when there seems to be no way. ✨



TOGETHER  
we can reach  
ONE MILLION!



Light of The World



Campaign **AIMS TO REACH** One Million in 2018.

 PETER YOUNGREN

It is time for Canadians, Americans and people across the Western world to encounter the gospel. That's the reason for the *Light of The World* campaign and the 44 page booklet, *Enlightenment*.

Personal salvation testimonies are important, but the gospel must also be presented with biblical substance without threats and condemnation. Jesus didn't condemn the world and neither do we. So called Gospel presentations with a message that you belong to the devil, you are one heartbeat from hell

unless you quickly say this prayer, are woefully inadequate and often cause collateral damage from people who are turned off. Jesus drew people with love, and his messages about hell and the devil were reserved for self-righteous Pharisees.

Sometimes the gospel is presented *judicial* rather than *relational*. God is described as a vindictive, austere judge ready to punish, and Jesus' death as a mere legal transaction. Often this is followed by an invitation to live by the Ten Commandments, in spite of the reality that the

commandments provoke all manner of evil desires in us (Rom 7:8). Sure, the commandments are holy, righteous and perfect, but they cannot make us righteous. Many experienced this when our parents told us, “don’t”, and it aroused a desire to do the very thing we were asked not to do.

The gospel must not be reduced to a legal transaction where Jesus pays the Father for the forgiveness of the world’s sins. No, it is about a restored relationship with God, and that relationship produces holy living.

Many believers are uncomfortable in sharing the gospel. Some feel it is an outright drudgery. I hear comments like, “I don’t want to push my faith on others”. John wrote that Jesus is *the light who enlightens everyone*. This makes it clear that the gospel is not just my personal faith. It is for “everyone”, and it is a privilege, not a burden, to share it.

For years I exhorted believers to become soul-winners, to reach out. I realize now that something was desperately wrong. If we must plead with believers to share the Gospel, it indicates that we have not yet discovered how good the good news really are. The Gospel is the best news ever, but if we don’t see it that way, why would we want to share it with others.

**Enlightenment** is a brief, yet substantive presentation that can lead Christians to a re-discovery of the Gospel, and non-believers to discover that God it is just like Jesus Christ, full of grace and love.

## WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

**#1. Everything began in Love.** Before the world was created, there was God and God is love. The loving Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – spoke the creative words; *Let us make man in our own image*. Since we are created by a loving God, we need to be loved and to love.

**#2. Love was rejected.** Sin at its core is rejection of the love that we were intended for, and that’s what Adam did in the Garden of Eden.

**#3. Love was forgotten.** Centuries passed and the darkness of the human mind became so great that God’s love was forgotten. By the time Jesus came, the darkness was complete; *No one knows God except the only begotten of*

*the Father who was in the bosom of the Father, (John 1:18).*

**#4. Jesus showed that God is love.** He enlightened darkened minds to see who God is; *He who has seen me has seen the Father (John 14:9)*. Hebrews states, *Jesus is the express image of God’s person*, and Paul wrote, *In Jesus dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, (Col 2:9)*.

## JESUS’ BLOOD – WHY?

Christians may be so familiar with Jesus’ death and blood that they never ask questions about it, yet to a nonbeliever these are not self-evident.

The pagan view is that blood sacrifices are necessary to appease an angry deity, or that God demands it. Isaiah describes this mindset concerning Jesus; *We esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted, (Is 53:4)*. But they were wrong, and many (including Christians) are

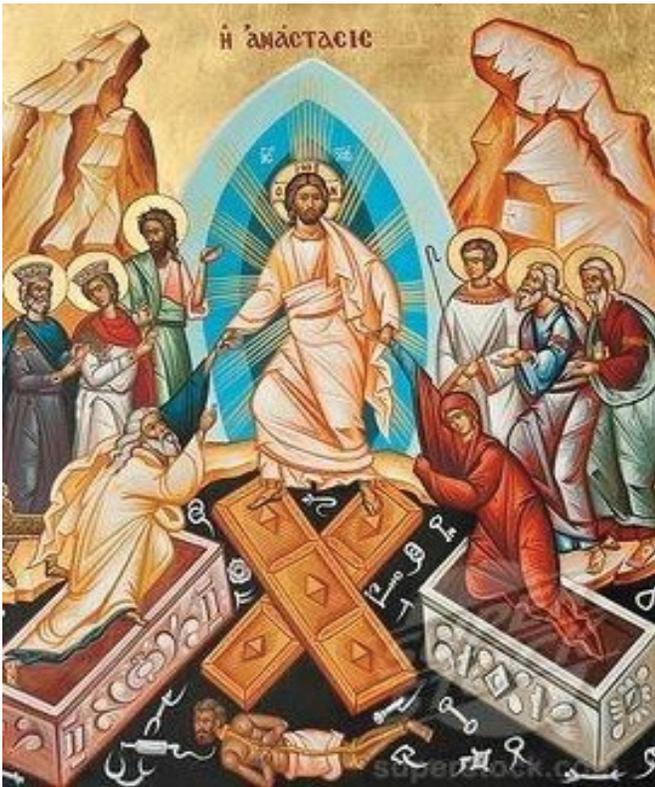
still wrong today -God didn’t afflict Jesus. Isaiah gives the actual state of affairs in the next verse, *But he was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, (Isaiah 53:5)*. Jesus died, not to appease an angry God, but for our sins.

Not one Scripture says that Jesus’ death was to remove the Father’s wrath. The totality of Scripture is clear that Jesus’ blood was shed for our sins; *He Himself is the sacrifice for our sins and not for ours only but also for the whole world (1 John 2:2)*. Peter, the apostle, wrote: *He carried our sins in his own body on the tree so that we might be dead to sin and live for righteousness, (1 Peter 2:24)*.

- God didn’t need Jesus to die in order for God to love us – God always loved people. *We* needed Jesus’ sacrifice to know God’s love.
- Jesus’ blood was not a payment to God, because God didn’t require payment. Jesus’ blood was to cleanse us from sin, shame, guilt, and condemnation.
- God didn’t need to be reconciled to us, because he had no ill will towards us. *We* needed to be reconciled to God through the death of Jesus Christ.

The depths of these truths are almost too much for words, but let me try: *God – the eternal storehouse of love – poured His*

“THE GOSPEL IS THE BEST NEWS EVER; BUT OF WE DON’T SEE IT THAT WAY, WHY WOULD WE WANT TO SHARE IF WITH OTHERS?”



Jesus' victorious descent into hell has been depicted in Christian art throughout the centuries.

*love through the blood that flowed through Jesus' open wounds, in order to provide forgiveness and new life for every person.*

In the light of this, what is our message to the world? It is the same as the one that Jesus gave to the lame man – “your sins are forgiven!” And throughout our Christian life, the Holy Communion reminds of this forgiving love; *This is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins (Matt 26:28).*

### WHY DID JESUS RISE?

The cross is incredibly important, but without the resurrection there is no salvation; *If Christ is not risen, your faith is futile, you're still in your sins (1 Cor 15:17).* What really happened in the resurrection and why is it so important?

*Hades*, often translated hell in our Bible, was the word for the Kingdom of Death in Greek culture. In order to enter Hades, one had to die; physical death was the ticket to Hades. That's why Jesus had to die – he had to go to hell in order to defeat sin and death. Death was to be swallowed in victory; *Death where is your sting? Hades, where is your victory? (1 Cor 15:55).* Jesus said, *I have the keys of hell, and of death (Rev 1:18).* The Apostolic confession declares that Jesus went to hell, and this has been a popular topic within Christian art. Often Jesus is depicted with keys in his hands, as he raises Adam from spiritual death. Death, sin and shame are forever defeated. Once our spiritual eyes are enlightened to these truths it becomes natural to want to change our minds and receive the Good News.

### WHOSOEVER!

*Whosoever* is a word frequently used by Jesus. God's love is for everyone, the gospel is a basic human right, but in spite of this there are millions who are born, live and die in areas where the chances are slim that they will ever hear of Christ. Others, typically those in North America or Europe, could easily visit a church where they could potentially hear a gospel presentation, but they don't because they think that the church has nothing to offer them.

That's why the 44 page **Enlightenment** booklet is critically needed. That's why the **Light of the World** campaign has as a goal to reach 1 million people, especially in Canada and the United States, in 2018. One person has already sponsored the printing and distribution of 25,000 copies, while others have sponsored 1000 or 5000.

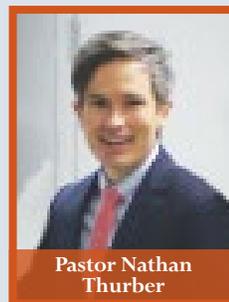
Do you want to join in this campaign? Share this Gospel presentation the people that you meet. Have 50 or 100 copies on hand, or even better organize a distribution in your neighborhood.

**Enlightenment** is about the strongest power in the world – God's love. Nothing can melt the heart like an experience of the width, the length, the depth and the height of God's love in Christ Jesus. ✨



Dr. Betty Norris

*“The Gospel is precious, and we need to give the people that we encounter something they can read and think about the next day. Everywhere I go, whether the bank or grocery store, I pass out Enlightenment booklets. I always have several copies in my purse, one by one, I know they make a difference.”*



Pastor Nathan Thurber

*“Enlightenment is a powerful tool to share Jesus! It is ONLY the life transforming good news of the Gospel, no condemnation. This is a Gospel pamphlet that you will be confident to give others.”*

# Opportunities Are Gifts From God

By Nathan Thurber



**THE** Greeks had two words for time: kairos and chronos. Chronos represented the *quantity* of time. Kairos represented the *quality* of time.

An image similar to the Grim Reaper symbolized the Greek god Chronos, depicted as gruesome and depraved, one who takes

your life and then eats you. The Greeks believed the quantity of time would wear a person down until they gave up hope for the future and the joy of life.

The Greeks also had a depiction for **Kairos**, *the god of opportunity*, with an inscription under his statue:

“Who are you?’ ‘I am Kairos.’  
‘Why are you on your tiptoes?’ ‘Because I run fast.’  
‘Why do you have wings on your feet?’  
‘Because I come fast, I catch the wind, and when I come by you can hardly see me.’  
‘Why is your hair so long in the front?’  
‘Because when you see me coming, you’ll have a chance to reach out and grab me.’  
‘Why is there no hair on the back of your head?’ ‘Because when I pass you by, you can’t catch me.’  
‘What is your name?’ ‘My name is opportunity.’”

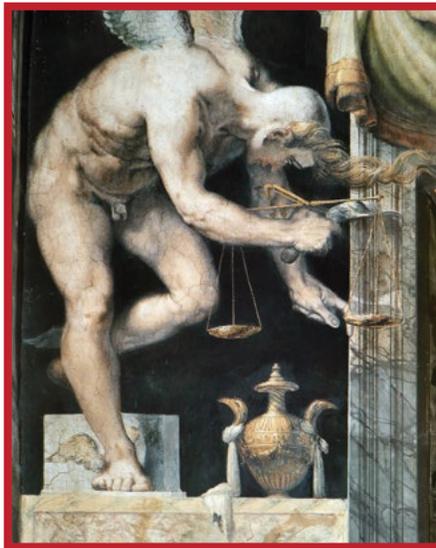
Opportunities come towards us quickly, then they pass by and are gone.

The Greeks believed a person must be alert, ready to grab opportunity at all times.

## OPPORTUNITIES ARE OURS TO TAKE

The Apostle Paul wrote in the Greek language. In Galatians 6:9 he used kairos, not chronos, for time. “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

There is a connection between “kairos” and “harvest”. A harvest is the fruit or benefit of seed sown in the ground. The scriptural foundation for the “harvest” is the fruit of Jesus’ life “sown” for us. Jesus is the “seed” that was put in the ground and died to produce a harvest for all people (John 12:24), a harvest of abundant life (John 10:10), and every good and perfect thing is included, (James 1:17). Opportune moments are a part of the harvest!



The Greek god Kairos depicted the reality that opportunities must not be wasted.

Opportunities are gifts from God that take back what time (chronos) has tried to steal. God freely gives opportunity for our family, our finances, our health, and our destiny. With the word Kairos in mind, Paul taught us to follow his example: “One thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead” (Philippians 3:13). Opportunities won’t last forever, Kairos opportunities from God are ours to take today.

Nathan Thurber is the Lead Pastor of Toronto International Celebration Church and Executive Director for Celebration Network of Churches and Ministries.

In TORONTO visit the  
TORONTO INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION CHURCH

EVERY SUNDAY

8:30 AM  
THE CHAPEL

10:30 AM  
FAMILY SERVICE

2:30 PM  
ENCOUNTER SERVICE

190 RAILSIDE RD, TORONTO ON | (416) 497-2508 | WWW.TICC.CA



# Luther, the *Schwärmer* and modern day fanatics

 PETER YOUNGREN

2017 was the year for remembering Martin Luther and the Reformation. Almost everyone, from Pope Francis to German Chancellor Angela Merkel, applauded the historical happenings from 500 years ago, while noting Luther's flaws, most notably antisemitism.

October 31st, 1517 Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the church doors of Wittenberg, Germany and changed history. He was not trying to start a new religion, but wanted to stop abuses, especially the selling of indulgences, and bring the Roman Catholic Church back to a focus on Christ.

The first 2 of Luther's theses deal with salvation by grace alone, while the remaining 93 are criticisms of practices, which Luther considered contrary to Scripture, notably the sale of indulgences which was viewed by many as a "get out of hell free" card. This "selling of salvation" was a fund-raising method, as poor peasants gave up their lifesavings, in hopes of rescuing a dead relative from the tortures of purgatory.

This article is not the about the 2017 celebrations, but about an incident a few years after the nailing of the 95 theses.

## THREE "PROPHETS" FROM ZWICKAU

On December 27th, 1521, three "prophets" from the town of Zwickau, Germany arrived in Wittenberg. They claimed a deep spirituality and direct revelations from the Holy Spirit, with special insights concerning the interpretation of the book of Revelation and the end times. Led by Thomas Muntzer, they quickly stirred up unrest, and the matter was brought to Luther's attention. In response to what he perceived as fanaticism Luther preached eight sermons, which he entitled *Schwärmer* (fanatics).

The dictionary translates the German word **schwärmer** as, *enthusiast, dreamer, or fanatic*. They were not unique to



Luther's time. We have them today, and they still do damage to the cause of the gospel. Reading about the "Zwickau prophets" made me think about issues that we face today.

One larger Christian websites featured recent headlines like "Ex-witch sees Lucifer in church", "Signs in the sky that Christ is coming soon with the judgment of the Scorpion." "New prophetic words: the Lord is releasing a new season of strategy" "Prophetic word: the Lord is erecting a healing zone in Hersey, Pennsylvania," and so on and so on.

In light of the finished work of Jesus my response is blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. What if Lucifer actually showed up in church? What difference would it make? After all, he is totally defeated by Jesus Christ. And the Hersey, Pennsylvania prophecy, that's one that comes in many versions. One so called prophet says the revival will start in one town and sweep east to west, while another prophet names a different town, claiming the revival will go west to east.



## FANATICS TODAY

A few months ago a “prophet” on television told an audience of maybe 40 or 50, “today God says that all financial problems are solved, this organization [referring to his host] will never again face financial needs, the power of debt is broken from this day”.

The same prophet asked people in the crowd where they were from, and proceeded to prophesy that at the very moment he would lay hands on them, God would do something tremendous in that country or province. One person received a word that such anointing, and such power of God would be present over his particular province, that as soon as people drove across the border, the power of God would “hit” them, and they would be saved.

One man informed that he was from Norway. Immediately the “man of God” spoke that God says that every Muslim in Norway’s capital Oslo will suddenly be born again, only to stop himself in mid sentence that God only meant the majority of Muslims.

This is *schwärmeri* -fanaticism- and it damages the cause of the gospel. Many who listen to this nonsense, could potentially be carriers of the Gospel, but instead, they are caught up in this self-centered, blessing-seeking religiosity.

Ask yourself, was the “prophecy” true? Did the person or organization, mentioned above, “never again have a concern about finances”, or do they still face financial needs? Is God’s way that we lay hands on one person, and then the province of that person’s origin is somehow mystically touched by the gospel? Or, should every person hear the gospel?

Here are some signs for your discernment that of functionalism (Schwärmers):

- *Schwärmers* talk about reaching others with the Gospel, but rarely do anything significant about it.
- *Schwärmers* talk about that something “big” is about to happen, a great revival is just around the corner, God is about to move, but fail to take action in response to the Great Commission.
- *Schwärmers* are proud of their unique “revelations.”
- *Schwärmers* bank on human forgetfulness. They make grandiose “prophecies”, knowing that most people will forget what was said.

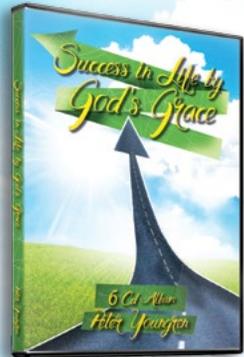


Wittenberg, Germany

- *Schwärmers* have little to say about the finished work of Christ, but much about what we must do.
- *Schwärmers* drain energy from believers, causing some to quit in disgust at the foolishness they witness, while others become increasingly self-absorbed in pursuit of self-aggrandizing religion.
- *Schwärmers* create a false sense that something powerful is happening “in the spirit”.
- *Schwärmers* thrive when there is little or no discernment between soul and spirit, and whatever thought comes into somebody’s mind is judged to be from God.

What can we learn? Run from anything, especially pseudo-spirituality, that takes your focus off of the gospel. ✨

*Peter's Newest Release*



*Success in Life by God's Grace*

**ORDER NOW!**

Phone: 1 (416) 745-1820  
Online: [www.graceworldministries.com](http://www.graceworldministries.com)  
Use the order form enclosed with this magazine or send your order to:  
WIM, P.O. Box 62039 RPO Victoria Terr,  
North York ON, M4A 2W1

# The Story of Three Blind Men

**WIM's newest staff member shares about how she first heard about the ministry**

**By Aarthi Vijaykumar**



Aarthi and Manoj with their children.

**IT** was a typical hot, humid day in the small village of Kedgaon, close to Mumbai, India. I volunteered at a women and children's rescue center, working closely with 28 children who were born blind, and with another 53 blind women that the government had branded 'destitute'. I saw the children struggle each day from the moment they woke up – their fingers moving slowly across the window sills trying to find their toothbrush, and sometimes bumping into the furniture. Here I was, who had learnt from Sunday School that Jesus heals blind eyes, but when I prayed, not even one of them got sight! Questions plagued my mind and I prayed to God for answers.

The heat was scorching and I decided to pamper myself with a cool glass of buttermilk at the local Coffee Shop. Three men sat at one table and to obey the cultural norm, I picked a seat at another table. The men were loud and they laughed almost infectiously. From their attire and accent, one could easily make out that they were from out of town. They talked about a newspaper article that reported how three men had been arrested for creating a ruckus, only for the police to later find out that they were blind beggars, who were rejoicing because they had received sight at a Gospel Festival in the city of Nagpur. Wow – oh – wow! I was ecstatic and felt like a treasure hunter who had just been given the final clue. I asked them who the preacher was and they said "Peter Youngren". I quickly found out there was another upcoming Festival in Allahabad in Northern India.

It took two train trips and an overnight bus to get to Allahabad. I visited a local Church office and they promised to arrange for someone to take me to the Festival. I waited for two hours in the Hotel lobby, but nobody arrived. Just when I was going to retire to my room, the local office person walked through the door, almost shocked to see me and exclaimed "I completely forgot about you!" I asked him nervously if the Gospel Campaign was over and he said "No, I can take you there, but

there is a problem, I have only one car and that is for Pastor Peter Youngren. Would you sit in the car with him?" Before

**“ A POLICEMAN TOLD ME TO GET ON STAGE ”**

I knew it I was in the car, sitting beside Taina and Pastor Peter.

The situation was extremely tense with a lot of

religious protesters on the streets. Pastor Peter had an armed Police Officer in the car and there were Police Escort cars in front and behind. As we approached the Campaign grounds Peter and Taina got on stage and I knew it was my time to slip back into the crowd. However, I had hardly taken a step that a Policeman stopped me and told me to get on stage. I tried to explain that I was not part of the team and that Pastor Peter did not even know me, but he said for 'security reasons' I had to obey. So there I was on stage, again Pastor Peter and Taina smiling at me, perhaps wondering what I was doing, but I believe God positioned me so that I could have the closest view of the miracles.

The campaign was amazing and there are no words to articulate how I experienced the presence of God. I could almost feel the tangible presence of God when Pastor Peter said "Jesus is here". It is something beyond what human logic, and the so called educated, conditioned mind can decipher or comprehend. I saw blind eyes open, the lame walk, the deaf hear, tumors and fibroids fall and many other miracles as the people rejoiced. It was my life changing experience. I also had my own wonderful miracle of meeting my now-husband at the campaign, but that is a whole other story!

---

**Aarthi now works as Partnership Director for World Impact Ministries**



The VIP family is for people who care deeply about Christ and about the world. Your participation will bring hope to others, and it will bless your life.

## WHAT IS A VIP?

VIP stands for Very Important Person, but also for Visionaries In Partnership. The VIP Family are people who:

1. Have a vision to reach others for Christ.
2. Participate in convenient and consistent monthly giving. Monthly gifts are automatically deducted from the bank or credit card.
3. Want to be involved in an ongoing commitment to Gospel Advancement.
4. Enter into partnership, with Christ, and with the VIP family to see Christ's Gospel available to everyone on earth.



Grace Prayer Centre



Friendship Festivals



Pastors' Training



Outreach to Political & Religious Leaders



TV & Media



Ministry in Israel



Follow-up for New Believers



Missionaries



Literature & Resources



International Bible Schools

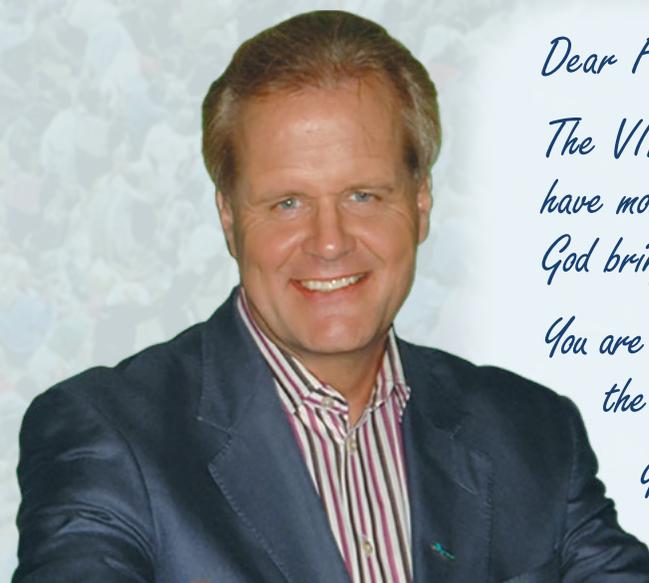
# 10-Point Plan for World Evangelism

*Dear Friend,*

*The VIP Family forms the backbone in our ministry. Because we have monthly partners we are able to accept the opportunities that God bring to us.*

*You are much needed. Thank you for having the faith in your heart to join the VIP Family. The enclosed response form will tell you more.*

*You can also call Aarthi at (416) 497-4940 ext.4013*



# Last Word with Taina

## Into Something New



**THERE** are moments when step into something new; something that we have never experienced before. Those moments may be filled with excitement and expectancy, but also with fear, stress, and anxiety, because we are afraid of losing control.

I was inspired when I interviewed *Paul Cowell* for the article about his life, *see page 4*. Paul has had the ability to let go off things of the past and move on. There is a person in the Bible who had difficulties in letting go – paradoxically until she did just that, she was hopelessly stuck. I’m talking about the *bride* in the *Song of Solomon*.

### A CONVERSATION TO LEARN FROM...

The bride describes her bridegroom from a distance as if he was unreachable. She says how the bridegroom tries to see her, to be with her, but he is behind the wall. The bridegroom urges the bride to come to him, and uses the most beautiful language to get her attention, “Come with me”.

The bride is anguished, because at first she can’t find the groom. Finally she reaches him and brings him into her mother’s house, into the very room where her mother conceived her, referring to her natural circumstances. I’m sure she loved her mother dearly, but it doesn’t work so well in a marriage, if the wife just wants to hang out with her mom.

This situation may relate to us – we are naturally used to our surroundings, circumstances; how everything is. We can be sick and tired of a situation, but we still hold on to it, because we feel comfortable even in our misery. Familiarity? Comfort zone? Illusion of a perfect life?

Sometimes we know that we should take the next step, but something, maybe fear of the unknown or lack of resources, keeps us stuck where we are. All we can do is to say, “Jesus, help me!”

### DO I NEED A PINCH?

It’s as we were watching our lives from the outside, not from the inside. The question is: Are YOU living your life? Or – Are you LIVING your life? One time Peter and I had a situation where we both felt uncomfortable, and I said to him: “It only happened so that we would know we are alive!” Sometimes we obviously need a little pinch. If we are going to follow Him, the Love of our lives, Jesus Christ, sometimes we will get a bit uncomfortable!

Jesus says, “Come with me, trust me, I will take care of you! I have an exciting plan for you, but I need you to COME WITH ME.” Our response is, “I’d like to, but my circumstances are not the best right now – I’m sure you understand, Jesus.” I imagine Jesus saying, “Leave your circumstances and step into MY circumstances!”

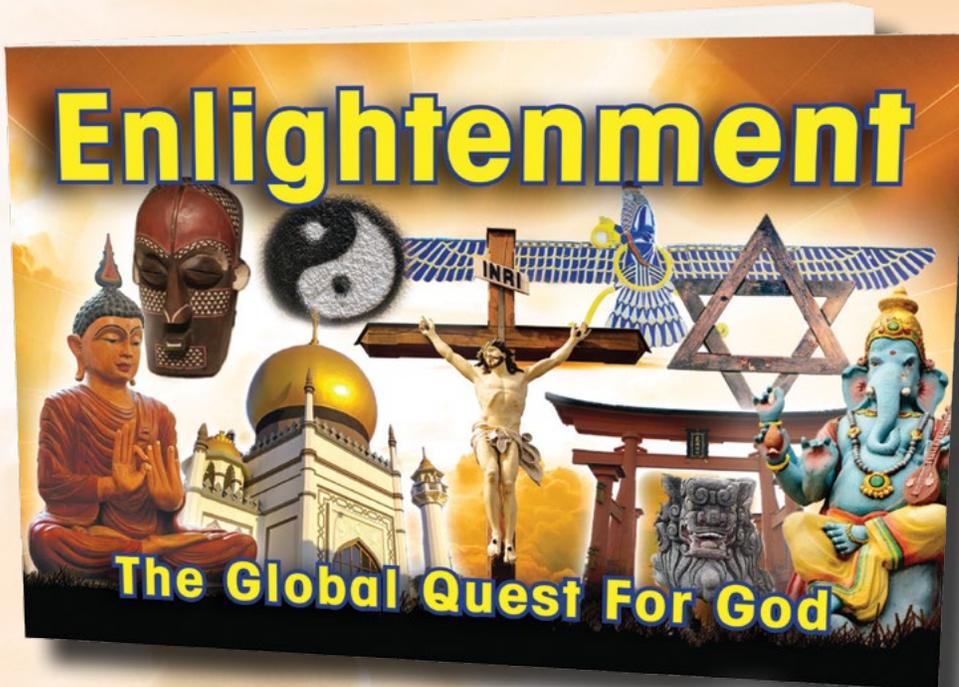
### THE REMEDY

This can also apply to physical or emotional healing. We can be so stuck in our emotions that we are unable to move on. Letting go off feelings of rejection and anger may seem unreasonable, especially if one has been abused in some way. The danger is that if we don’t let go, we start to compensate our emotional frustrations with bad attitude and behavior. The good news is that the way to freedom is available to everyone; it’s found in Jesus Christ.

When we realize that God truly has a great plan for our lives; that He truly is trustworthy, we let go of past hurts. We open our hearts to new dimensions, into realms we never even dreamed of. That’s when we discover the meaning of Jesus’ words that He has given us an “abundant life”. The bride in the *Song of Solomon* was changed by the bridegroom’s love and God’s perfect love changes us! If that love is new to you, then step into the new! Allow the rivers of God’s love to flow through you. -**Taina Youngren**

# Don't Miss This

## 44 Power Packed Pages Presentation of the Gospel



50 for  
\$25

100 for  
\$40

200 for  
\$62

*Perfect to carry with you,  
to have ready in your  
pocket or handbag.*

To order, use response form, or call 1 (416) 497-4940 ext. 4028

For orders of more than 200 contact Aarthi at [aarthiv@peteryoungren.org](mailto:aarthiv@peteryoungren.org)



CAN: P.O. Box 62039, RPO Victoria Terr, North York, ON M4A 2W1 | 1.416.497.4940

USA: P.O. Box 433 Winchester KY 40392-9800 | 1.760.751.3374

Grace Prayer and Partner Centre: 1.416.745.1820 | [www.peteryoungren.org](http://www.peteryoungren.org)