

EXTENDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD...ONE PERSON AT A TIME.

ONE-TO-ONE[®]

Winter/Spring 2005

Facing the *Future*

Charles Simpson shares
about extending
Christ's Kingdom in
and through your life.



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Winter/Spring 2005

ONE-TO-ONE™

VOL. 20 NO. 1 WINTER/SPRING 2005

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One-to-One™ is a non-subscription magazine supported by the contributions of its readers. Those who contribute to any activity of Charles Simpson Ministries automatically receive a one-year subscription, which is updated with each contribution. If you have questions about your subscription, write us or call us at (251) 633-7900 or (888) 811-2276. If you move, please notify us at least six weeks in advance.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *One-to-One™*, P.O. Box 850067, Mobile, AL 36685.

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Reader Feedback

Dear CSM: Thanks for your magazines. They are very uplifting and they give me courage. I pray for the continuation of your work, and that God will be with you...and with me to strengthen us for His cause. —Shirley K., Brooklyn, NY

Dear Charles: Your new CD, "Christ's Passionate Resolve" was super! I love to hear your messages. Thanks, —Butch N., Ramsey, MN

Editor's Note: "Christ's Passionate Resolve (CD159) and many other great resources are available online at www.csmpublishing.org.

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All Things New

Discover the Healing Power of Good News

By Stephen Simpson

WHEN I WAS A KID BACK IN THE 1970s, one of my favorite television programs was *"The Six Million Dollar Man."* During the introduction of each show, there would be a review of the life of the main character, astronaut Steve Austin, who was terribly injured in a training accident.

Each week, we would hear the words of his government boss saying, "We can re-build him...better...faster...stronger! And rebuild him they did. The "Bionic Man" could jump higher than a tall fence and run quicker than a sprinter on steroids; he could fight like a wildcat, and he killed him a bear when he was only three...whoops, wrong show.

At any rate, I was thinking of the Bionic Man as I was putting this issue of *One-to-One* Magazine together. Take for instance, this very article. I have written and rewritten it several times on two different computers, both of which have locked up, crashed, and dumped information as I was working. Back at the CSM office, we've had some recent—even more spectacular—computer crashes that have significantly affected and hampered our work.

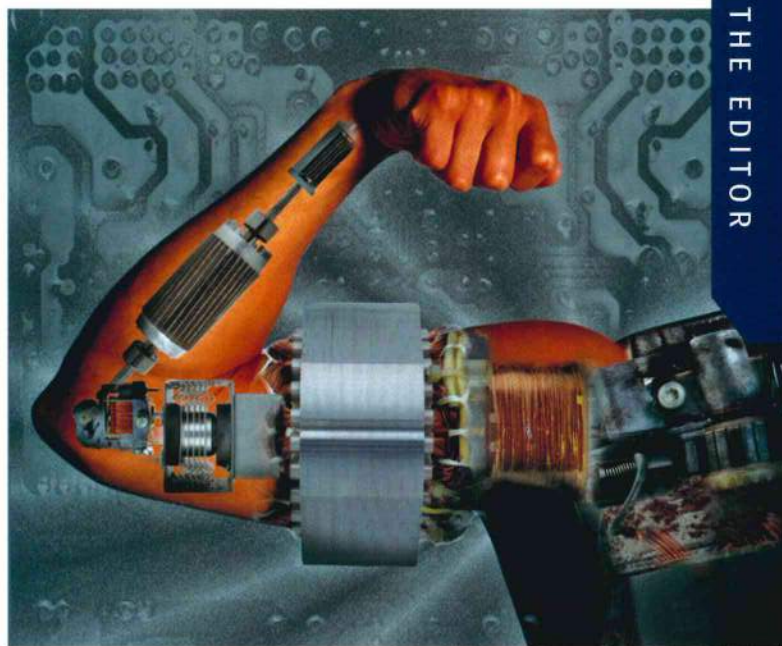
Early this morning, as I was reading Scripture, I came across the passage in Revelation 21, where the Lord promises to wipe away every tear from our eyes and says, "Behold, I make all

things new." Sitting in front of the rattling hulk of my computer, I say, "Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus."

In the meantime, a new year has dawned and with it comes new hope, new vision, and new energy to move forward in the mission. This promise of God—to make all things new—not only applies to that day when we shall stand before Him in heaven, but it applies to God's plan and economy right now, right here on earth.

God makes all things new. **All things.** Sometimes, the new thing that He does is something that has never been done or seen before...something that emerges out of nothing. Sometimes, the new thing that He does is in the renewal of something that was once old, broken, and useless. There is the **new**, and then there is the **renewal**.

I listened to Pastor Jack Hayford give a superb teaching four years ago, when he discussed wine and wineskins. He noted that while you cannot put new wine into an old wineskin, there is a process by which old wineskins can be made new. Back in biblical days, wineskins weren't merely discarded after one season or after their contents had been emptied. They were taken, soaked, stretched, and prepared so that they were renewed. And then they received the new wine again!



When God called Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem, it was the burned and broken stones that were used in the rebuilding. Scripture is full of examples of God's redemptive plan and His renewing power. Through Isaiah, he promised to "renew our youth like the eagles."

I don't know about you, but there have been times when I have felt like an old wineskin or a burned stone. I find tremendous hope in God's promise not only to renew me, but to use me in His plan. He says that His plan for us is "for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11). Isn't it amazing who God can and will use?

The Lord can look at a pile of charred rocks and see a temple made with living stones. He can look at a sad and broken life and see a restored, healed, joyful, and productive citizen of His Kingdom.

The issue is, are we willing to be His? Are we willing to allow His process to work?

Better...faster...stronger. He can rebuild us, if we will let Him. He can renew us, and fill us with the new wine of His love, joy, and peace...new wine that will not only quench our thirst and revive us, but will touch the nations. The Good News is that the same God Who heals our brokenness and renews our strength can and will do the same for others. 121

Stephen Simpson is the Editor of *One-to-One* Magazine. To contact him, please call Charles Simpson Ministries at (251)633-7900 or e-mail: stephen.simpson@csmpublishing.org.

Facing the *Future*

How to Escape from Escapism and See Christ's Kingdom
Extended in and Through your Life **By Charles Simpson**

RECENTLY, I WAS WITH A GROUP OF CHRISTIANS

when a lady asked, "Brother Charles, do you believe that Jesus is coming soon?"

I sensed that she did, and knew that she was part of a church that was focused on the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. I thought that she probably hoped that He would come before 2005. I could certainly join her in that!

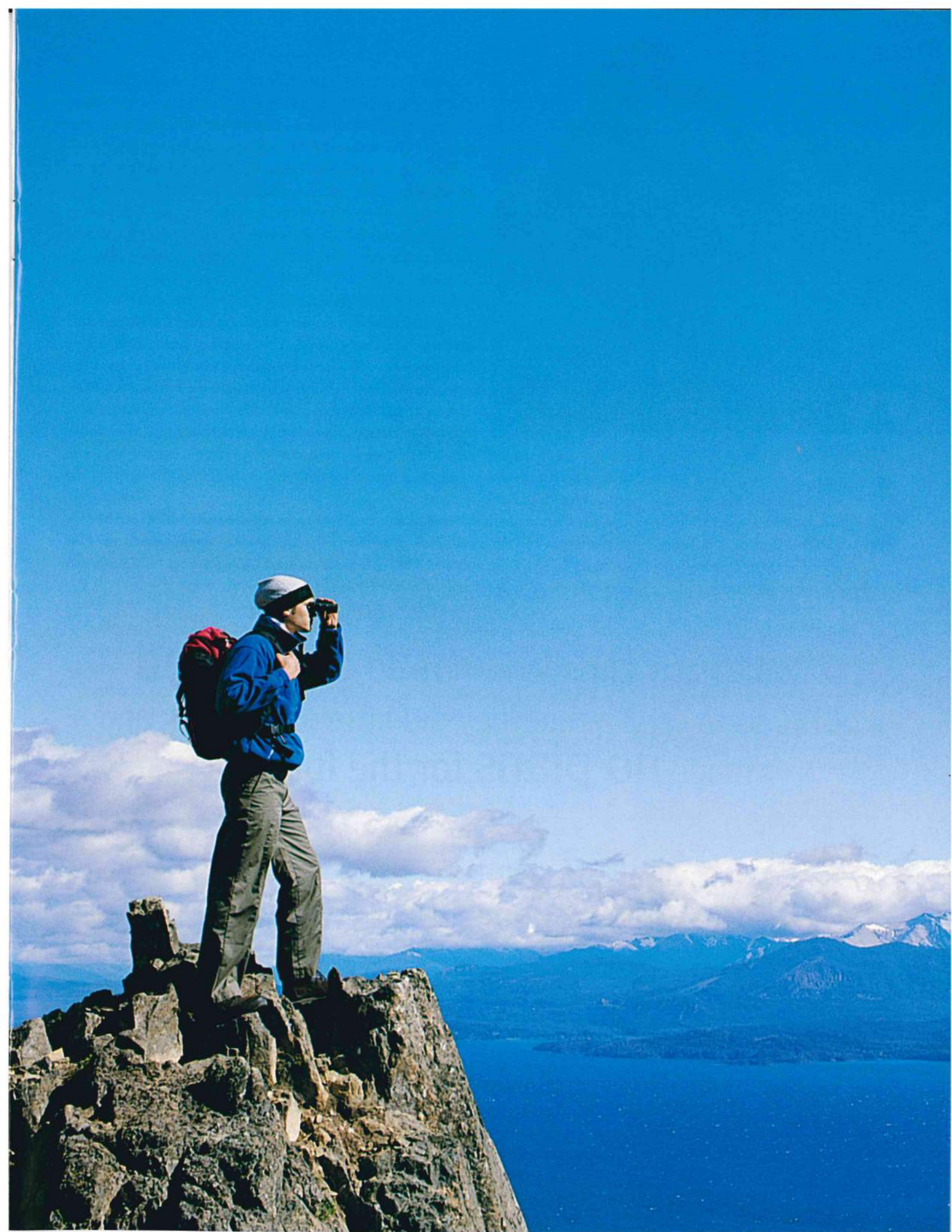
I grew up in a church focused on the Second Coming of Christ. I know the scriptures regarding His return and our love for His return. And as a pastor, I often referred to them. Scriptures such as Matthew 24 and Acts 1:7 tell us several significant aspects about this subject:

- ▶ We should not say that the Lord delays His coming
- ▶ We should be found ministering in righteousness when He comes
- ▶ We should love His appearing
- ▶ No man knows the day or the hour of His return

I have heard and read many predictions regarding the Lord's return, including dates, as I am sure you have. A lot of books have been sold that offer such predictions and scenarios. That is not my calling, however.

THE OTHER QUESTION

There is another question which, if my memory serves me correctly; no one has ever asked me: "Brother Charles, what should we do if





Jesus does not come soon?" I suppose that someone might think it heretical to ask such a question. While we must live in readiness for His return, we must also live in readiness for the possibility that He may not return immediately. In other words, we must focus on our mission and His Kingdom as we know it.

So, suppose He comes back in 2005...are you ready? Or suppose He does not, what will you do in the days and months ahead? Some

and some security. Of course, its existence would be short-lived.

The writer of Hebrews (who is unknown to us, but who I believe to be the Apostle Paul) was seeking to establish these Christians to face the future and not to draw back due to disappointment.

This inspired book is a rich source for us as we face the future, sometimes discouraged by events, and desiring the security of former days. It is tempting to love His appearing for the wrong reason—not because we love Him, but because we want to “get out of here!” But there is another, better view: victory that overcomes the world (see 1 John 5:4).

LESSONS FROM HEBREWS

We are here today because many of our forefathers and mothers faced the future. Yes, some gathered in houses and on mountains to wait for Jesus to come back—but most did not. Most Christians loved His appearing, but obeyed His commission to face the world and the future. I am sure they took courage from the Hebrew epistle and we can too.

It would be impossible to cover the entire book of Hebrews in this article. However, I want to draw some personal lessons from it and recommend them to you as we face the future.

CHAPTER 1: Jesus Christ is the *supreme revelation* of the Father and *Heir of all things*. Verses 1-4 are a beautiful statement of the Gospel. Jesus is both Creator and Consummator. All things began and will end in His hands!

“Some early Christians were so convinced of His soon return that they did little or no work and made no plans for the future.”

will ask, “What in the world will I do?” Others will ask, “What can I do in the world?”

Most of the early Christians were Jews who accepted Jesus Christ. The New Testament indicates that many of them (and also Gentile believers) expected Jesus to return in their lifetimes. They lived in very difficult times and under great persecution. Many were killed. Some were so convinced of His soon return that they did little or no work and made no plans for the future (see 1 Thessalonians 5). It is evident that the Apostle Paul lived in expectation of Christ’s return; however, he never lost his sense of mission.

The book of Hebrews is a letter written to Jewish believers, some who were contemplating a return to Judaism because Jesus had not come back as soon as expected (see Hebrews 10:35-39). And some were discouraged by the sufferings that they and others endured. The temple was still functioning in Jerusalem and it represented tradition

CHAPTER 2: Don’t neglect or forget what you have heard. The words that we have received were confirmed supernaturally, and we are stewards of His purpose.

CHAPTER 3: Jesus Christ is faithful to his Apostolic and High Priestly Calling. This means, He is the sent forth One and Mediator between God and man to reveal the purpose of God. We are partakers of His calling.

CHAPTER 4: Faith in Christ will bring us to rest. Rest is not merely a day; it is ceasing our own labor and entering into His will. Our High Priest knows our condition and we can trust Him. We can come boldly to His throne of grace and find mercy and grace in a time of need.

CHAPTER 5: Jesus’ high Priesthood is eternal. In contrast to Aaron, He is a priest forever (see verse 6).

CHAPTER 6: We are called to go beyond the foundations of faith to inherit the promises made to our father Abraham, “Surely blessing I

will bless you and multiplying I will multiply you." God swore by Himself to uphold this promise in spite of all conditions. This hope is an anchor to our souls and is rooted in His presence where Jesus has gone into heaven's holiest and highest place.

CHAPTER 7: We are called to tithe our increase (what we redeem from the world) to the higher priesthood of Jesus Christ. Even Father Abraham tithed to Melchizedek, the Priest of Salem, who is a type of Christ—without beginning or end.

CHAPTER 8: Jesus obtained a more excellent ministry and established a better and more lasting covenant. The laws of God and His covenant are written, not in stone, but in our hearts. He has fulfilled the promise of Jeremiah 31:31-34. (Note: The temple was destroyed shortly after the Book of Hebrews was written.)

CHAPTER 9: The New Covenant was ratified, not with the blood of animals, but with the blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. By His blood, Jesus obtained eternal redemption for us. By His death, the covenant was put in force. There is no other covenant that offers divine guarantees of our salvation—through any season.

CHAPTER 10: Because of Christ's sacrifice, no other sacrifices of blood are needed. What we are called to do is to do His will. Salvation was finished at the cross; now, only the mission is before us! Jesus did not draw back, and neither must we.

CHAPTER 11: Faith in God's Word has been the substance of history. The examples are numerous and heroic. These heroes of faith were pilgrims and strangers to the world system, and they lived and died in faith for a better city.

CHAPTER 12: In the face of historical witnesses, we are called to run with patience, endure, and keep our eyes on Jesus as we run. As with Jesus, there is a joy and reward set before us. Avoid bitterness and keep your eyes on what we are coming to—the unshakable Kingdom.

CHAPTER 13: Walk in love, avoid sin, and know that the Lord will never leave or forsake you. Support your leaders, be a joy and not a

grief, and be prepared to be led out of the city gate as Jesus was. Continue to offer the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving (you will especially want to read verses 20-21).

BEING ESTABLISHED

So, how does the letter to the Hebrews help you and me to face the future? In a word, it establishes us.

It anchors us in Christ, His Covenant, His Kingdom, and His purpose in the earth. It enables me to launch out in faith to do His will, whatever the cost. It reminds me that He understands my need and is now, at this very moment, praying for me. It declares to me that as He was in history, so shall He be in the future. It helps me to be patient and endure, and to know that victory is assured regardless of what appears to natural eyes.

I love the hymn "Christ, The Solid Rock." I especially love the verse which says, "*His oath, His covenant, His blood, support me in the whelming flood, when all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.*"

My prayer is that we will plant our feet on Christ and our hope in Christ; that we will not be tossed about or shaken and that we will commit ourselves to His will as our fathers have. I want my children to know, and my spiritual sons and daughters to know, that we have an anchor for the storm, and a help in times of need. By His grace, we are more than conquerors through Him Who loves us.

I urge you therefore to know your leaders...support and pray for them as unto the Lord. Be ready should the Lord suddenly appear—or should you suddenly appear before Him. And, please pray for us here at CSM, that we may finish our race in strength and joy. God bless you! **121**



Charles Simpson is Editor-in-Chief of *One-to-One* Magazine. He ministers extensively throughout the United States and among the nations.

Charles Simpson

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An Interview with Paul Graves

By Jonathan Simpson

PAUL GRAVES IS THE DIRECTOR OF DESIGN STRATEGY FOR A U.S.-BASED BRAND STRATEGY and communication design company. He is also involved in pastoral and prophetic ministry. I sat down to interview Mr. Graves against the backdrop of coffee and beignets in the famed New Orleans French Quarter. You might be wondering, “Why the French Quarter?” And “What is a beignet?” Well, Paul happened to be there, speaking on creativity and innovation nearby at the annual LavaCon conference in the context of “Project Management in a Recovering Economy.” As for beignets, you’ll have to experience those tasty treats yourself. Just keep the napkins handy.

Paul’s work has spanned consumer and business-to-business environments for organizations including Virgin Atlantic, Toyota, Lexmark, Glaxo, and Schlumberger. He is an Englishman now relocated to Seattle, Washington, where he heads up a newly launched satellite office to company headquarters in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Using a mix of his professional experience, as well as his recently acquired specialist MBA in Design Management, Paul’s work requires him to analyze strategic landscapes in which companies position and differentiate their brands. Paul helps his clients implement and manage total design-based methodologies that move business vision and objectives into reality and competitive advantage. It is in this context that Mr. Graves is also found operating in his pastoral and prophetic ministries. How is that you ask?

Here we go...

121: How does your business relate to your ministry?

PG: In 1998, I was called to take a year off. The Lord was speaking to me about stewardship and ministry. While on the one hand my sphere of influence was geared towards the marketplace context, my work in itself—as I believe it does for many of us—had become my all encompassing identity, rather than a vehicle for God to outwork His purposes through me. In many ways it had become an idol of self-identification rather than an instrument for His purposes! It was at that point that I gained a deeper revelation of the power of Galatians 2:20, and what it meant to die to my self-centered viewpoint of my work. This is important so that the life of Christ could be fully and authentically expressed through HIS perspective on what HIS ministry should look like in my life; a life laid down in submission before HIM at the foot of the cross.

At the same time, I was heavily influenced by a message my pastor



Paul Graves

was preaching on how the church was called to reform the culture in all jurisdictions such as education, arts, government, and the marketplace. Finally, I had a revelation; my job and my ministry were the same. Branding was both a prophetic and pastoral vehicle — that is, through my workplace ministry I have the opportunity to inspire organizations to discover their sense of purpose and destiny and then walk them through the process of turning the idea into reality.

Now, Paul works with DOXA Total Design Strategy. DOXA [pronounced Doh'-ah] means "a belief system or way of seeing things." The company's broad-based creative capacity and depth of design resources means it can offer its clients strategy, conceptualization, design development, and assessment services across a wide spectrum of branded touch points and marketing applications, in what Paul calls "a holistic approach of Brand Belief Blueprinting." This "Brand Belief Blueprint" process is the examination of, among other things a company's vision and mission, its non-negotiable guiding principles, and its uniqueness.

121: What is the value of brand establishment?

PG: You are buying a place in a customer's mind; you are buying loyalty and goodwill. And goodwill is no longer just regarded by financial people as a warm fuzzy sentiment, but a tangible, valid, and equitable measure on a balance sheet that provides strong brands with profits over and above expected levels and greater price/earnings ratios if no brand existed. Brands also speak to a person's identity and sense of a need to emotionally connect with something they can believe and trust. For instance, I buy a Volvo because I'm safe. But brand is not just about identity and image — it's about authentic representation and ongoing delivery of the brand's promise. For me that is where the real harvest is; walking the talk and helping companies understand the need to practice what they are preaching.

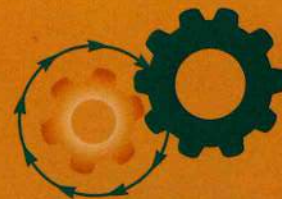
121: DOXA's client list includes numerous "Christian" organizations including NavPress,

Word, and the Injoy Group; however, you've mentioned that you get a bigger kick out of consulting with "non-Christian" organizations. Why is that?

PG: Well, let me prequalify that. We are very privileged to serve the vision of our Christian-based clients, particularly where the causes are critical in presenting a biblical worldview to our postmodern culture. My opportunity is to be a bridge to secular companies. To help them see that they are created for something bigger than they realized and to create a relationship. They think we are there to redesign their logo, but we start with a conversation about their values, helping them to authenticate who they are, what they do, where they want to go, and why it matters. Such issues aren't just to do with a company's marketing strategy; they are designed to test the validity of the business model and *raison d'être* of the whole organization. For instance, most everyone will list words like integrity when describing their values. We ask, what does that mean to your receptionist? How does that person live that value through every detail of their day-to-day work—every call taken, every complaint handled, and so on? It is critical that values are translated to every single person in the organization—otherwise there's no real brand penetration within a company, no traction, and no meaningful and lasting differentiation and transformation. This moves them from conceptualization to living and owning." It is "brand discipleship"—passing along the identity. We play a fine line expressing our faith, but not a hidden one.

121: How do you see God interfacing with your creative/design process?

PG: We live in a postmodern culture. There is a lot of thinking that, on the surface, seems close to a biblical worldview but what we end up with is deceptively diluted or inaccurate. The creative process or the primary motivation for creativity continues to be theorized about. God designed me to be creative unto His glory. Before taking an action, I ask the question, "Does this action bring glory unto His name? God designed the creative



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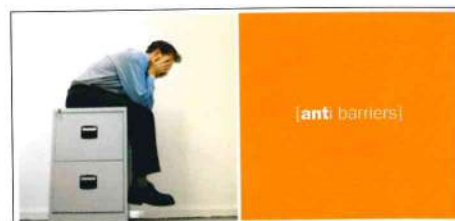
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Above are some examples of DOXA's work.

process over six days for a reason. He could have done it instantly. He set out a deliberate pattern. This pattern sees elements working together. The birth of a vision is death to self. You must lay it before God. Design is a bridge laid down, not a monument.

As our discussion continued about the creative process, Paul shared with me that he is learning to see God in interruptions. Whereas before, an interruption may have appeared to be a mere distraction, Paul now often takes time to explore a direction that God may be leading him into, rather than automatically continuing with the task at hand. Paul cited an instance when he had a divine appointment with a fellow passenger on a plane during what he originally thought would be a working flight.

In the latter part of our time together, Paul and I discussed several areas outside of his work with DOXA where he is involved in marketplace ministry. Paul described a three-fold, cross-generational ministry that is part of Christ Church Kirkland where he attends in the Seattle area. For the school age, Christ Church offers training by an elder, which presents an introduction to the concept of marketplace ministry and mission, providing an overview of what a workplace sphere of influence might look like.

College-aged young adults can participate in

Z-Team (Zerubbabel—an influential marketplace leader and governor), which focuses on mentoring and discipleship training. For those in the work force, indeed the congregation at large, there is "Work In Progress," which is "a vehicle that ignites people toward a fuller understanding and application of their faith in the sphere of work."

Members recognize that each individual is still being formed and processed by God. They meet monthly to challenge and encourage one another and "mirror each others' transformation." Each one shares the following challenges: "What did I give? What did I receive? And how did I go away changed?" Paul pointed to examples out of this group where people had experienced real change spanning from the very spiritual to the intensely practical—such as increased levels of work-focused relationships that ultimately resulted in lives won for Christ in the marketplace setting, to promotions at work because of skills one member taught another, and young people learning tips as they prepared for a job interview.

121: What else is happening through "Work in Progress"?

PG: These people, and the testimonies they bring back, are what lights me up. It's seeing people take all the incredible teaching we have received, applying it, seeing change and fruit in their lives, as well as in the lives

of others that they work with—all with the primary intent of being conformed to Christ's image, and seeing God's glory and His Kingdom demonstrated more authentically in and through people's workplace ministries. Oswald Chambers said, "It's in the process that He gets the glory."

It is because of the "buy in" from the church members and leadership that these ministries are producing tangible results. The challenge with much of today's marketplace ministry is that it is divorced from the local church. The challenge with going off and doing your own thing is that the church is God's chosen delivery method.

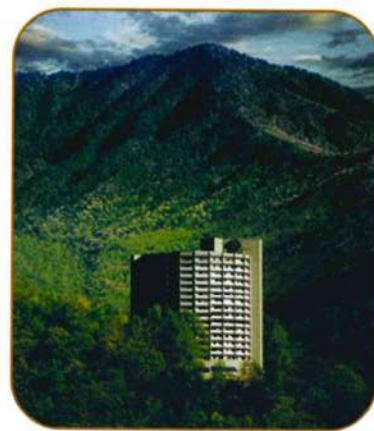
To that end, Paul recently was asked to join the board of Kiros in Seattle, which has representation from approximately 30 churches in the area, and emphasizes the intersection of faith with work. Paul's list of past accomplishments are too numerous to mention here, but as my time with him in New Orleans ended, and I dusted the powdered sugar off of my coffee-stained notes, I knew there would be much more to come from this anointed marketplace minister. **121**



Jonathan Simpson is the Director of Development for CSM.

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What is happening in the world?

A brief look at some of the cutting edge, out of the box, global activity of the Most High God—Lord of Heaven and Earth By Gary Henley

SPIRITUALLY, SOME OF THE MOST AMAZING EVENTS IN HISTORY ARE HAPPENING today! God is working global miracles to fulfill His promise that, at the end of the age, there will be worshipping representatives from every ethnic group in the world standing around the throne glorifying the Father and Son (see Revelation 7:9-10).

He made the same promise to Abraham 4000 years ago, and God will not be proven wrong (see Genesis 12:2-3; Numbers 23:19). Most Christians, even most missionaries, would never have expected God to act in such creative ways to keep His Word. Here are a few current examples....

BACK TO JERUSALEM

When the communists overran China in the late 1940s, many feared that the Chinese Church, the work of two-hundred years of missionary effort, would all but disappear. However, most of the church movement went underground, and became known as the “house-church” movement.

Today, the Bible has replaced Communist Chairman Mao Tse Tung’s “Little Red Book” as the most desired and popular book in China. Most estimates indicate that there are more than 100 million believers in China today—as many or more true, committed followers of Jesus Christ than in all the Western nations together! The strengths of the Chinese underground church are their amazing triumph over persecution, and their determination to continue to evangelize no matter the cost. The weakness is that many of these Christians still do not have Bibles or access to sound doctrinal teaching. Our partner mission, Ross Paterson and Chinese Church Support Ministries, has placed hundreds of thousands of books and Bibles in the “house churches” and continues to do so.

However, there is more to the story of the Chinese church than its amazing growth. A movement has now begun among the “house

churches” called the “Back to Jerusalem” movement. The concept behind this movement is that the Gospel went out of Jerusalem primarily to the West, and now it has come from the West to China. Hundreds of thousands of Chinese Christians now believe it to be their responsibility to take the Gospel in an ongoing Westerly direction “back to Jerusalem.” That is expected to take them down the historical “silk roads” through India, Pakistan, and the many other “stan” nations, through Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Jordan to the Middle East and the Jews in Israel.

The Chinese are pledging 100,000 missionaries who have been “persecution-tested” and they are beginning to prepare some of them in the languages and cultures through which they will pass. No one knows if this will all come to pass, but if it does, it could be the greatest move toward fulfilling the Great Commission thus far!

TOUCHING THE UNTOUCHABLES

INDIA is the scene of another unexpected and revolutionary move of God to reach the unreachable among the Hindu Dalit caste of the “untouchables.” Approximately 300 million Dalits are considered to be the *lowest of the low* in India, and have been locked into that strata by the Hindu religion for thousands of years. The Dalits do all the dirty work in India, picking up dead animals, cleaning toilets with their bare hands, and every other task no other Indian will do. If you are born an “untouchable” there is no way out but to die and hope to be reincarnated in another form or caste.



Within the last decade, a social movement started to protest the discrimination against the “untouchables.” Dalits began asking, “What has Hinduism ever done for us? Maybe we should begin looking at other religions.” A major conference of Dalits was held in March 2001, in which Dalits were presented with religious alternatives. Though strongly resisted by the government and most other Indians, as many as three million Dalits have become believers, and the trend is increasing. Following is a report sent to me from a very credible leader of one of the largest evangelical missions in India:

“From my point of view the movement among the Dalits is the biggest movement in Church history, with a whole group of people numbering up to 300 million who want out of the Hindu system. Their goal is to move into a community where God loves them. So far they can see that it’s only the Christian God who cares for them. I would say that by now a minimum of two million are in the Kingdom. So much is going on, that in places where there are no churches to point these dear people to, we have had to start our own denomination. In that last year and half we have seen over 830 churches come into being. A few weeks ago I met a brother who attended a meeting of about 10,000 people all coming together to have ‘an Audience with the King’ as they call it where they want to meet Christ the Living God.”

NEW PEOPLE GROUPS

UNREACHED PEOPLES began to be recognized as a critical mission goal at the Lausanne Conference in 1974. Unreached people groups are defined as “ethnolinguistic groups within which there is no indigenous church movement with sufficient strength to multiply.” At that time, it

was estimated there were approximately 14,000 such groups virtually untouched by the Gospel. God ignited the hearts of mission leaders all over the world to make this a major thrust. Today, only a small fraction of those groups remain unreached. To think this has been largely accomplished within three decades makes us realize the fulfillment of the Great Commission is more viable than ever.

AND THERE IS MORE: When you add to these movements the unprecedented explosion of evangelism in the Southern Hemisphere churches (as I reported in the last issue of **One-to-One**), you realize we may be living in some of the most dynamic days of the history of God’s activity in the earth. The growth in the number of Evangelicals among the Latin American, Asian, and African churches is unprecedented. Africa had 10 million Christians in 1900; today there are 360 million—more than the entire population of the USA. Today, more than two-thirds of the Evangelicals in the world live outside the USA and Europe. By 2050, there are expected to be three billion Christians in the world, and only one in every five will be an “anglo white” person.

Rejoice Christians! We may be living in the day Habakkuk predicted when he said, ***“Look at the nations and watch—and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.... For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea”*** (Habakkuk 1:5; 2:14).

121



Gary Henley, the Director of International Outreach Ministries, travels widely encouraging missionaries around the globe.

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