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



Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/CSMinPublishing

Join us on Facebook: facebook.com/CharlesSimpsonMinistries

YouTube: CSMPublishing



VOL. 35, NO. 1 SPRING 2022

Editorial and Publishing: Editor-in-Chief: Charles Simpson President: Stephen Simpson

Administrative / Operations: Susanne Simpson, Administrator; Victoria Grace Simpson, Betty Duke, Christina Villalobos, Abigail Brock, Creative Services: Steven Tyrrell Accounting Services: Alison Richardson

International Outreach Ministries Senior Administrator: Mike McCarty, Sr. Director of Missions Growth: Ronald Gray Administrative Assistant: Sandy Jeanson

Board of Directors Charles Simpson, Chairman Michael Coleman, Larry Grainger, Ronald Gray, Dwayne Higgason, Stephen Simpson

©2022 by Charles Simpson Ministries. All rights reserved. One-to-One® is published quarterly by Charles Simpson Ministries, 800 Hillcrest Rd, Bldg. 6 Mobile, AL 36695. Third-class postage paid at Mobile, AL, and additional mailing offices. 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.

Charles Simpson Ministries is a tax exempt 501(C)(3) organization as recognized by the Internal Revenue Service.

All scripture quotations are from the King James Version unless otherwise noted. Bible verses marked NAS: Scripture taken from the New American Standard Bible. © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1972, 1975 by The Lockman Foundation, LaHabre, California 90631. Bible verses marked NKJ: From The New King James Version. © 1979, 1980, 1982, Thomas Nelson, Inc., Publishers. Bible verses from The Message, © 1993 by Eugene H. Peterson, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO 80935. Because One-To-One® is staff-written and assigned, we cannot accept or review unsolicited manuscripts from outside authors. Please write us for permission to reprint articles.

One-To-One® Magazine is designed to bring corporate values to a personal level by encouraging every believer to extend God's Kingdom through personal relationships. Charles Simpson Ministries also includes Conquista Cristiana Spanish-language magazine, The Covenant and the Kingdom curriculum, books, Hidden Treasures. We also support International Outreach Ministries (IOM).

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



Visit

csmpublishing.org

or email us at customer.service@ csmpublishing.org.

FROM THE EDITOR

Return to Your First Love

Discovering opportunity in the midst of shaking

BY STEPHEN SIMPSON



Shaking is difficult and disorienting. But, it is also re-orienting. In shaking, we rediscover where we can stand and what our priorities are. Discipline from the Lord brings focus. We often associate discipline with punishment; certainly, there are times when judgment and adjustment come from the Lord. But His discipline is part of His discipleship, given to His children in His love, for our benefit.

Is God working to destroy His Church? No, He is disciplining, training, and equipping His Church for effective ministry in a new season. Some structures are falling. Some old wineskins are unable to contain the New Wine. Other "old wineskins" are being stretched, prepared, and renewed for fresh service.

Be assured that the Lord is not surprised by world events; He is the "relentless Redeemer" and we will yet see "great and mighty things." However, if you're expecting the move of God in 2022 to look like revivals of decades past, you may miss Him. If you're expecting the next harvest to look like previous harvests, you may miss being a part of it. I believe the coming revival will happen among the people we least expect could be part of it, in ways we can't imagine.

The coming Holy Spirit revival will not be rooted in carnality, culture wars, conspiracy theories, or politics. It will not be found in our cleverness or striving. This should not surprise us. It will be the hungry who get fed.

God is not surprised by world events. He is the relentless Redeemer.

Those looking to man-made solutions or power will get only what man can provide. Those who call on the name of the Lord...who cry out to Him, realizing that He is our only hope ... will be saved.

There is significant re-alignment happening now in many personal relationships, affiliations, and structures. Some structures may not survive, but the kingdom of God will thrive and increase. We worry sometimes about where we will land amidst the tumult, but the bigger question is, with Whom will we land? Our top priority is to seek the King and



His Kingdom; as we draw nearer to Him, He will place us with the people and purpose we need in the new season.

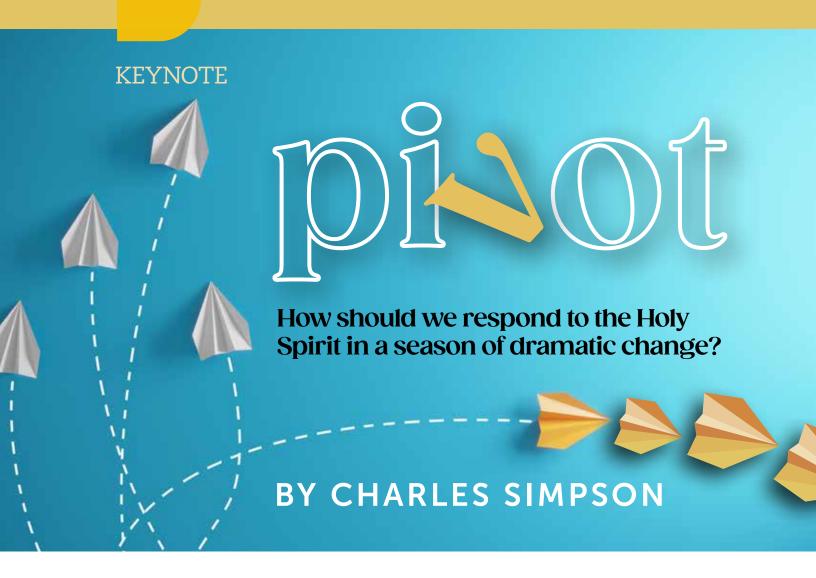
In Revelation 2, we read the words of Jesus to the Church at Ephesus. He commends them for their zeal to do His works, but rebukes them because they have departed from their love for Him. Their affections for His presence have cooled. They have lost their joy and peace. He calls them to repent and return to their first love, their highest priority.

In the heat of battle, in our desire to do good, in adversity, is it possible that we have lost our focus and affection for Him? Are we "busy in the kitchen with Martha" so much that we cannot sit at His feet in rest and delight in His presence? Jesus is calling to us once more, "Come away with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest" (see Mark 6:31).

Rather than allowing the present shaking to alarm or discourage us, let's take this opportunity to return to Him. In love, faith, and trust, allow Him to do whatever it is He wants to do with us, being confident that

"He Who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it" (see Philippians 1:6). 121

STEPHEN SIMPSON is the Editor of One-to-One Magazine and the President of CSM. For information on speaking availability, please call (251) 633-7900.



In longtime friend Rex Miller is a futuristst, a consultant, and an author. He has been describing the season of change we are all in as a "Pivot"—a radical, unexpected shift. Last year, our friends in the Boy with a Ball ministry network focused their conference on the subject of "Pivot." This term has become widely used to help us understand the nature of what we are facing as believers and as part of our larger society.

Our late friend and noted Bible teacher Ern Baxter used to speak about "God's suddenlies," which described God's designed, sudden shifts or actions that affected the future. "Suddenly" appears more than 80 times in the Bible. There are other words in Scripture to describe an **immediate** shift in thinking and responding.

Let's look here at the most significant pivot in history. I want us to see this pivot like the

the "V" in pivot: a sudden descent, a bottom, and then radical ascent into a new season. We could describe the Flood as a serious pivot or the Exodus or other radical changes in history (see Genesis 7 and Exodus 12). But there was one pivot that illustrates this truth more than any other: The Cross of Jesus Christ.

The Cross

To say that the Cross was a "pivot" is a huge understatement. It was an immediate historical shift in how God would deal with people, from Old Covenant to New Covenant. It was so rapid and unexpected that even Jesus' disciples were stunned; it was incomprehensible to them (see Matthew 26). To put it bluntly, their plans were destroyed in one night!

They had seen miracles, but to their natural minds, The Cross was madness. Yes, they had been warned, but even Jesus' words had not penetrated their perspective. So His arrest, trial, and Crucifixion were a total shock. So, they

have expected the Resurrection. That was a positive jolt! Just hours after the Cross, on the third day, Jesus was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. As He came to life, He folded His "night clothes" and walked out of the grave, as angels rolled away the huge stone that had sealed Him in. But the disciples were not there to see this dramatic pivot that would affect history. No, they were hiding in fear, wondering about their own future.

In the early morning of the third day, two women went to see the tomb, but were met by an angel who declared that Jesus had risen (see Matthew 28, Luke 24). They ran to tell the disciples who had to go see for themselves. But even then, Thomas did not believe it when

Most pivots are unexpected, radical, and emotionally stressful. Some people even die because they cannot cope with sudden change. The descent from faith to fear is a tragic downhill slide!

fled, except for Peter who denied even knowing Jesus and John, who walked on through that terrible ordeal with Jesus' mother. Their plans—what they told family, friends, and the investment of three-and-a-half years of life was gone in mere hours! The very promises that they had made to Jesus were broken overnight. Yes, they hit bottom hard! They had gone from mountain tops to the deepest valley. Judas, the betrayer, committed suicide.

Most pivots are unexpected, radical, and emotionally stressful. Some people even die because they cannot cope with sudden change. The descent from faith to fear is a tragic downhill slide!

Resurrection, The Upside

Despite all that Jesus told them, His disciples did not expect the Cross, so they could not

they told him, nor did the two Emmaus road disciples, even though the unrecognized Jesus Himself was explaining it to them!

When we cannot imagine the loss, we cannot not imagine the gain. Only later was the gain understood. Yesterday's thinking always blocks today's revelation of Jesus and many perish in the "wilderness of bewilderment."

The Promise

Jesus had attempted to prepare the disciples prior to His Cross. John chapters 14-16 tell us what He told them. I love those chapters. John 16:12-15 tell us that He promised that the Holy Spirit would come and guide them into all truth. After His Resurrection, He told them to go to Jerusalem and wait for the "Promise of the Father" (see Luke 24:49; Acts 1:5-8).

Before then, they hadwalked with the visible,

incarnated Jesus. Now, they would walk as led by the **invisible** Holy Spirit. Jesus would then be with them in the Holy Spirit. That was another "Pivot!" They would soon need a spiritual sensitivity that they had not had before.

They were being transferred from what they had believed would be a political kingdom into a spiritual kingdom they had not envisioned before. Jesus did not promise a plan or map, but a Guide. Their experience with the Cross and Resurrection had now shown them their need for that Guide Who would lead them into truth as they were ready to see it (see Hebrews 5:13-14). They had not been ready before, but soon they would be. So, they went to Jerusalem to wait for the next amazing pivot.

Pentecost

I cannot do justice to what occurred on Pentecost as the Jews from many nations had gathered to celebrate the giving of the Law of Moses. But after days of waiting, perhaps forgiving one another, and selecting another apostle to take Judas' place, the Holy Spirit came in great power—wind and fire—and filled both the room and the disciples.

They began to boldly praise and magnify God to such an extent that a very large crowd gathered to hear what was happening in that room. As the disciples emerged, they were thought to be intoxicated! They had pivoted from fear to boldness instantly. (A pivot we all need!)

On that wonderful day, 3000 people received the Gospel, **repented**, and **believed** because of what they had seen and heard. Then they were **baptized**! What a celebration of the Cross, Resurrection and Ascension! The Guide, not their plan, had led them to a great harvest.



So, in a pivot what changes and what does not? We must sort this out as we go forward. Has our culture become so attached to what will pass away, and **is** passing away, that it has not understood what will remain even in changing times? I appreciate a little poem that I heard years ago:

"Methods are many, principles are few. Methods always change, principles never do."

Methods are **our** ways of doing things. Principles are natural and spiritual laws that do not change. So, what will change? God does not (see Hebrews 13:8). Gravity does not. Sowing and reaping do not. I advocate studying the Kingdom principles in the Sermon on the Mount (see Matthew 5-7). They will not change. I call them "Second mile principles." They go beyond the natural or "normal way" of responding. These include being merciful, being hungry for God, and loving your enemies.

Those who reject the "mind of Christ" as presented in Matthew 5-7, will eventually be swept away by the winds and tides of change as Jerusalem was, by rejecting what would not pass away and never change. So, what is changing?

- We are moving from trust in what we see with natural eyes to seeing by the Holy Spirit that which we cannot see with natural eyes.
- We are moving from labels and stereotypes to personal relationships.
- We are moving from political hope to hope in Christ.
- We are moving from future presuppositions to present sensitivity to the Holy Spirit.
- We are moving from more talk to more listening. "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

A friend of mine told me recently that God had corrected him from seeing "containers" and not content. We are being moved from seeing the obvious circumstance to seeing into the reality of things, situations, and people (see John 1:47).

Seek Him First

The changes we are experiencing are being directed by our Sovereign God. Obedience will not only please God but will **prepare** us for the unknown future ahead. I am embarrassed at the clues that I have missed, much like the disciples must have been. I am trying to recalibrate my attention **from my plans to His voice**. If we seek first His Government, everything else will be added to us in **His** time. That is what walking by faith and not by sight, is all about. Faith is in God, not an outcome or scenario.

There is certainly no way to anticipate all the changes that we will have to make in our walk with God, family, neighbors, or culture. We see business making major changes—even churches! But we do know we must be flexible and pivot, even as we stand upon the eternal principles of faith in Jesus and His Word.

I suggest that we humble ourselves before God and each other.

- That we face our failure and repent of our sins.
- That we stop presuming and assuming that we already know enough, and instead seek the Lord.
- That we be nimble and flexible as God guides us.
- That we pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit and find apostolic boldness.
- That we build strong personal relationships with others who share our journey.
- And I pray that we will reach beyond our immediate circle with love, truth, and compassion for those in need.

This is a season for faith, not fear, and believing that the Holy Spirit will guide us and glorify the name of Jesus in all the earth. (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 Ministry Itinerary

Join Pastor Charles Simpson and local leaders for insights and encouragement!



MAY 22 | DAPHNE, AL Home Group Jack Turner • (678) 222-8794

JUNE 3-5 | MT. JULIET, TN Abundant Life Church Larry Grainger • (615) 754-7035

JUNE 12 | DAPHNE, AL Home Group Jack Turner · (678) 222-8794

AUGUST 5 | CHARLESTON, SC Cathedral of Praise Mike Lewis • (843) 760-2626

SEPT. 9-11 | BANCROFT, WV Bancroft Mission Jim Legg • (304) 586-9776

OCT. 1-3 | BETTENDORF, IA River of Life Church Jim Tully · (563) 332-9154

OCT. 7-9 | LONG BRANCH, NJ Long Branch Covenant Church Tony Moss · (732) 870-2028

OCT. 14-16 | EL CAJON, CA Foothills Christian Church David Hoffman · (619) 442-7728

OCT. 28-30 | CARROLLTON, GA Home Group Jack Turner · (678) 222-8794

NOV. 11-13 | WEBSTER GROVES, MO Christ the King Church Michael Peters • (314) 395-6326

DEC. 2-4 | MISSION VIEJO, CA Saddleback Covenant Church Kevin Davenport (949) 770-0291

Please contact: Susanne Simpson at cvsshs@bellsouth.net or (251) 633-7900.



Find A Church!

CALIFORNIA

SADDLEBACK COVENANT CHURCH

23401 Madero, Ste. A Mission Viejo, CA 92691 Kevin Davenport, Pastor Ph: (949) 770-0291 E: info@saddlebackcovenant.com saddlebackcovenant.com

FOOTHILLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

350 Cypress Ln. Ste. B El Cajon, CA 92020 Mark Hoffman & David Hoffman, Co-Pastors; Ph: (619) 442-7728 E: info@foothillschurch.org foothillschurch.org

IRANIAN CHURCH OF LOS ANGELES

20242 Ingomar Street, Winnetka, CA 91306 Rev. Dr. Patrick Safarian, Pastor Ph: (818) 882-0586 patrick.safarian@gmail.com

CONNECTICUT

ABUNDANT LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH

P.O. Box 108, 980 Main St. Willimantic, CT 06226 Ph: (860) 456-2522 E: alccwilli@hotmail.com facebook.com/alccwilli

FLORIDA

COVENANT COMMUNITY

1007 Gospel Rd. Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547 Tim Sheldon, Pastor Ph: (850) 863-1323 E: info@cccfwb.com cccfwb.com

GEORGIA

COVENANT LIFE CHURCH

1945 Lawrenceville-Suwanne Road Lawrenceville, GA 30043 Chris Hyatt, Pastor Ph:(678) 224-8911 E: info@covenant.life covenant.life

BOY WITH A BALL

P.O. Box 748 Buford, GA 30515 Ph: (404) 454-7702 Jamie Johnson info@boywithaball.com boywithaball.com

FREE POINT CHURCH

111 Walthour Rd.
Savannah, GA 31410
Ron Lanier / Elders
Ph: (912) 235-2078
E:info@freepointchurch.
community
freepointchurch.community

ILLINOIS

SPIRIT OF GOD FELLOWSHIP

16350 State St South Holland, IL 60473 Pastor Brian Kamstra Ph: (708) 331-1234 sogfchurch.com

IOWA

RIVER OF LIFE CHURCH

4855 Forest Grove Dr. P.O. Box 347 Bettendorf, IA 52722 Ph: (563) 332-9154 Jim Tully, Pastor

KENTUCKY

NEW LIFE CHURCH

3402 Goose Creek Rd. Louisville, KY, 40241 Tim Parish, Pastor Ph: (502) 426-3132 E: info@newlifechurch-lou.org newlifechurch-lou.org

WINCHESTER COVENANT CHURCH

19 Wainscott Avenue Winchester, KY 40391 Ph: (859) 771-7138 E: winchestercovenant@gmail.com winchestercovenant.org

LOUISIANA

OBERLIN COVENANT CHURCH

P.O. Drawer H Oberlin, LA 70655 William Currie, Pastor Ph: (337) 515-5802 housechurchesofLA.org

COVENANT LIFE FELLOWSHIP

350 Whispering Creek Rd. West Monroe, LA 71291 Contact: Michael Clark Ph: (318) 557-4455 acalltogreatness.com

INDIANA

OUTWARD FOCUSED

3432 Christopher Trail Jeffersonville, IN 477130 Jim Newsom, Exec. Director Ph: (502) 593-7612 E: nuke035878@att.net outwardfocused.org

MARYLAND

NEW HERITAGE COMMUNITY

9005 Chevrolet Dr., Ste. B Ellicott City, MD 21042 Randy Reinhardt & Fred Lessans, Pastors Ph: (410) 313-9660 E: contact@ newheritagecommunity.com newheritagecommunity.com

MICHIGAN

CENTRAL MICHIGAN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

3433 South Lincoln Rd. Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 Daniel Siedlecki, Pastor Ph: (989) 773-1800 E: Church@Centmichristianchurch.com gocmcc.org

NEW COVENANT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

P.O. Box 80737 Lansing, MI, 48908 Ron Burns, Pastor E: office@ncccweb.org Ph: (517) 323-8180 nccclansing.org

LIBERTY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

2215 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI, 48912 Ben Rous, Pastor Ph: (517) 485-5483 E: office@libertycc.net libertycc.net

LIVING LIGHT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

7700 W Blue Rd. Lake City, MI 49651 Gary Bigger & Andrew Whipple, Elders Ph: (231) 839-2244 E: info@livinglightchurch.com livinglightchurch.com

NEW COVENANT CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF WEBBERVILLE

6250 Herrington Rd. Webberville, MI 48892 (517) 468-3530 Jeff Williams, Pastor Ph: (517) 468-3443 E: jpmk@tds.net

AGAPE' CHRISTIAN CHURCH

609 Cherokee St. Kalamazoo, MI 49006 Dave Sykes, Pastor Ph: (269) 385-5772 agapecc.com

COVENANT FELLOWSHIP

P.O. Box 484
Williamston, MI 48895
Bill Michell, Pastor
Ph: (517) 618-6977
E: wmmichell@frontier.com

MISSISSIPPI

GRACE TEMPLE

1131 Richburg Rd. Hattiesburg, MS 39402 Ph: (601) 264-0593 Dwayne Higgason, Pastor E: infor@gracetemple.com gracetemple.com

NEW COVENANT CHURCH

200 W. Garrard Rd. Starkville, MS 39759 Bill Murphy, Pastor Ph: (662) 323-4555 E: ncc4555@gmail.com newcovchurch.net

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH MINISTRIES

PO Box 2140 McComb, MS 39649 Michael McCarty Ph: (601) 684-0558 iom-online.com

MISSOURI

CHRIST THE KING CHURCH 9018 Big Bend Blvd.

Webster Groves, MO 63119 Dr. Michael Peters, Pastor Ph: (314) 395-6326 E: info@ctkcommunity.com ctkcommunity.com

NEW JERSEY

LONG BRANCH COVENANT CHURCH

355 Joline Ave. Long Branch, NJ 07740 Tony Moss, Pastor Ph: (732) 870-2028 E: info@lbcovenant.org lbcovenant.org

NEW YORK

FARMINGDALE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

117 Main St.
Farmingdale, NY, 11735
Frank Howell and John Landi,
Pastors
Ph: (516) 293-1838
E: fccelders@aol.com
farmingdalechristianchurch.org

SOUTHSIDE ALLIANCE CHURCH

530 Pennsylvania Ave. Elmira, NY 14904 Tre Reaume, Pastor Ph: (607) 732-6580 E: southsidealliance530@gmail.com southsidealliance.org

NORTH CAROLINA

COVENANT FELLOWSHIP

6062 Petra Mill Rd. Granite Falls, NC 28630 Randy Bowlin, Pastor Ph: (828) 396-7690 E: cfs@conninc.com

NEWPATH CHURCH

7100 Hilburn Dr. Raleigh, NC 27613 E: info@newpathchurch.com Jim Sink, Pastor Ph: (919) 307-7803 E: info@newpathchurch.com newpathchurch.com Would you like your ministry listed here? Call us at 251.633.7900 or visit csmpublishing.org for more information.

OHIO

NEW WINE COVENANT CHURCH 1491 Polaris Pkwy Ste 214 Columbus, OH 43240-2037 Ph: (614) 563-1741 Mark Puttick, Pastor E: markputtick@yahoo.com sowershome.com

THE WELL COVENANT CHURCH 2545 Cincinatti-Zanesville Rd. SW Lancaster, OH, 43130 Dennis Coll, Pastor Ph: (740) 689-9815

OKLAHOMA

ABUNDANT LIFE TABERNACLE P.O. Box 2661 Ada, OK 74820 Ph: (580) 332-0325

thewellcovenantchurch.com

COVENANT LIFE CHURCH 6736 NW 39th Expwy. Bethany, OK 73008 Dwight Cunkle, Pastor Ph: (405) 943-5939 E: covenantlifeokc@gmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH 110 Hays Rd. Upper St. Clair PA 15241 Rick Wiater, Pastor Ph: (412) 523-2964 E: rweph210@gmail.com goodshepherdchurchofsouthhills.org

TENNESSEE

ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH 1000 Woodridge Place Mt. Juliet, TN 37122 Larry Grainger, Pastor Ph: (615) 754-7035 alcmtjuliet.com

TEXAS

CHRIST COVENANT CHURCH 17000 Longenbaugh Dr. Houston, TX 77095 Ryan Weems, Sr. Pastor Ph: (281) 463-6600 E: ccc@christcov.net christcov.net

VIDA COVENANT CHURCH 6635 Queenston Blvd,

Houston,TX 77084
Manuel Montez, Pastor
Ph: (281) 513-2841
E: info@vidacc.com

FAITH ALIVE CHURCH
1311 Industrial Drive, Ste. A & B
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Gerard Montenegro, Pastor
Ph. (830) 312-7709
E: info@facnb.org
facnb.org

VIRGINIA

OAKBROOK CHURCH 1700 Reston Pkwy. Reston, VA, 20194 Scott Johnson, Pastor Ph: (703) 437-4900 E: scott@oakbrookchurch.org oakbrookchurch.org

GROVE CHRISTIAN OUTREACH 8800 Pocahontas Trail Willamsburg, VA 23185-3142 Thomas McCormick, Pastor Ph: (757) 887-1100 E: pat@groveoutreach.com groveoutreach.com

WASHINGTON

YADA

c/o Bradley Stuart 4103 W Peninsula Drive, Moses Lake, WA 98837 Ph: (509) 989-4900 E: yadaoffice@gmail.com yadainternational.com

WISCONSIN

EVERROAD MINISTRIES Po Box 8, Spooner, Wi 54801 Terry Everroad Ph: (715) 416-0889 terry@everroad.com



GET THE MESSAGES FROM GATLINBURG22



FEATURING

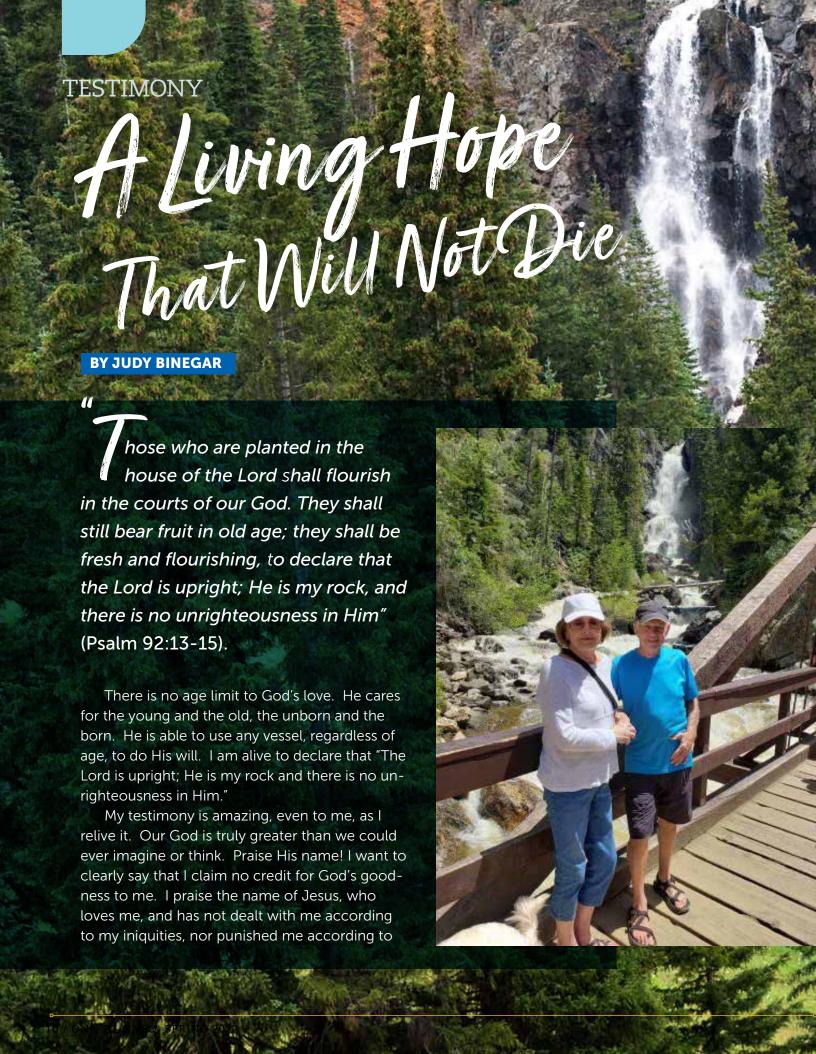
Bishop Joseph Garlington Charles Simpson Stephen Simpson



OR FREE DOWNLOAD!

Plus \$8 shipping and handling. Orders will ship 3-4 weeks. Messages may be presented in their raw unedited format or may edited for length or content.

csmpublishing.org or 251.633.7900



A Vacation Crisis

Colorado is a favorite place for my family to vacation. We enjoy everything about Colorado, especially the cool temperatures. Our hometown, Mobile, Alabama, is not the coolest place to be in the Summer! The heat and the humidity together are a force to be reckoned with.

August 2016 seemed no different. Beautiful days, bike riding, hiking, lots of food and laughter. Our daughter, Susan, and her family, and our son, Edward, and his family, were with us. My husband, Guy, and I have always treasured the times that we have been able to spend with our children and grandchildren. Our last week together passed way too quickly. Our family went home, and a couple who were longtime friends of ours joined us for another week in Keystone. The good times continued.

During the second week, I began to feel sick. By late afternoon, I had to go to bed with a headache and an upset stomach. As the night passed, I stopped responding and became unconscious. Guy called for help and an ambulance arrived to take me to the St. Anthony Summit Medical Center in Frisco, Colorado.

The doctors did a CT scan and said I was having a stoke. They sent me by ambulance to Littleton Adventist Hospital in Denver. Guy followed the ambulance in our truck.

calling out to God for help and interceding for me all the way. He called friends and prayer warriors and they joined him in praying for me.

When we arrived at the hospital in Littleton, the doctors confirmed that I was a having a stroke. They asked Guy if he wanted me resuscitated. If I should live, he would need a place to put me for care. They also said that plans should be made to medevac me home to Alabama. Our children had flown to Denver to be with us at the hospital. Edward was such a comfort to his Dad, and Susan never left my side. She recorded, on her phone, some of the events that happened over the next days.

She said that I prayed for family and friends, calling many by name. I prayed for my children, grandchildren, greatgrandchildren, siblings, nieces, and nephews. I have some memories of this—but not many. I was grateful that the Scripture came to my mind because it comforted me. I prayed the 23rd Psalm and the Lord's Prayer continuously.

I remember thinking that I was dying. I was a little bit surprised, although I knew some day that would come. I thought about my age; I was 76 years old. I had lived a long time and I was ready to be with God. It was as though eternity was spread out before me and I was a little bit apprehensive. I knew Jesus was in the room with me, although I could not see Him.

His presence was close. I asked Him if He would be with me like He had promised. Quickly and powerfully, this scripture came to me:

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know." (John 14:1-4).

Sweet peace and comfort filled my heart.

Life or Death

Many thoughts came to me. I knew I was talking to God and He was talking to me. The Holy Spirit said, "You have one time for prayer. That is while you are on earth. In Heaven, you will not need to intercede. You will praise and worship, but intercessory prayer is for now. I said, "Lord, teach me to pray."

I do not know why God places such importance on prayer. He is all-knowing and all-powerful. He repeatedly tells us prayer is valuable to Him, in both Old and New Testaments. It is a privilege to know Him and to commune with Him.

Guy leaned over my bed and whispered "Do you want to

live or die?" I was tired and really wanted him to leave me alone so that I could sleep. He persisted, "Do you want to live or die?" I finally answered him, "I don't know if I want to live or die." He said, "Will you think about it and let me know?"

My left arm and my left leg were twisted in a strange way and I could not move them. I asked God what I should do about it. and the thought clearly came to me, "Do what you have been taught to do: Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." I spoke out loud calmly, with very little emotion, "Satan, I command you to leave my arm and leg in the name of Jesus. I resist you and your works." Immediately, I fell asleep. When I woke up, the left side of my body had relaxed and I could move my arm and leg. Guy asked me again, "Do you want to live or die?" This time I said, "I want to live."

My room became busy with teams of doctors and technicians, testing me for any sign of a stoke, fungus, meningitis, and a list of other things. The neurologist was incredulous, after an MRI, and told my family that she could find no evidence of a stroke! I continued to improve over the next two days. On Monday, September 5, 2016, six days after the "stroke" began, I was released from the hospital. Instead of being medevacked, we left Denver in our red truck, with our adult children in the back seat. We drove home with great joy, praising God!

The hospital sent my medical

records to my doctor in Mobile. She also believed that something very unusual had happened. I was 76 years old at the time. I have been a believer in Jesus Christ since I was 12 years old. I will be forever grateful to the people through the years who taught me the importance of memorizing and the loving the "written word." Praise God, I had no lingering physical side-effects from this medical event.

Covid

Fast forward to December of 2020. Everyone was afraid of the COVID Virus. I was not. I tried to cooperate with wearing a mask and with hand sanitation. I found it hard to keep six feet between myself and those I love. God gave me a deep love for people, and quarantine does not fit in with my need for fellowship. I tried to be as prudent as possible, but was shocked when I was diagnosed with COVID-19 on December 21, 2020. My daughter, Susan, and her family were with us and we were preparing for Christmas. My health grew steadily worse. Christmas came and went with everyone in the house becoming sick.

I was finally admitted to the hospital on Monday, December 28, with COVID double pneumonia. I did not realize how sick I was. I remember asking for my husband and family. I finally realized that I could not have visitors. The doctor started me on a very strong IV and began a full load of

medicine and vitamins. I was given every treatment possible. The doctors fought hard to keep me off of a ventilator because older patients don't come off of these with great success. I learned later they did not expect me to live. After all, I was now 80 years old and had underlying health conditions.

I was in a very "dark" place. I was filled with sickness and despair. No family was allowed to visit and even medical staff visits were minimal. I was deathly ill and all alone most of the time. I had my cellphone so I could receive calls from my family and I could call them. However, I was convinced in my mind that they were tired of taking care of me and had put me in the hospital to get rid of me. Of course, my thoughts were from the enemy, but at that time they seemed real to me.

I had forgotten that everyone at home had the virus also. I would call and they were always patient and loving to me. They tried to convince me that I would recover. They prayed for me over and over.

Finally, my daughter said to me (a little bit sternly), "Mom you are a strong woman of God. You know how to seek Him when you need Him. You can do this." I was surprised. I had always encouraged her to be strong and to trust God—now she was encouraging me! By faith alone, I said aloud to Jesus, "You said that you will never leave me or forsake me." Slowly, the darkness began to lift, and I was able to think about

Jesus and His powerful Word.

I called two of my prayer warrior friends. I needed warfare partners who would help me fight, and indeed they did! This was the beginning of a spiritual breakthrough. I was ministered to by the Holy Spirit. I was able to worship and praise God. I began to give thanks in such a powerful and wonderful way.

During this time, two doctors came into my room. My phone was lying on my bed and the beautiful song "Hallelujah" was playing. I began to sing and worship. One of the doctors raised her hands and began to worship with me. The other doctor watched, in silence, as we praised the name of Jesus. The Lord's presence filled us and the room.

By then, I was talking to everyone who came into my room about Jesus. Some felt sorry for me—others understood that the Lord was at work. I insisted that I was ready to go home to be with my family. They were just as insistent that I could not leave the hospital with the oxygen I was using because it was too strong for home use.

The head of the respiratory department was related to a member of my extended family. Out of courtesy to them, and because he is a compassionate man, he visited me regularly. I told him over and over that I needed to be home with my family so they could care for me. He would kindly remind me that my oxygen requirements could not be met at home. I am convinced that God moved in his heart, and

he decided to try a new type of oxygen that I could use at home. After all, I wasn't getting any better and I needed my family. He, along with a crew of others, replaced the high-flow oxygen with a type of oxygen I could use at home. When I continued to breathe without additional effort, he clapped his hands and so did I!

At this time, I had been in the hospital for ten days. I was still considered critically ill, but the doctors began to think maybe I would be better off at home if the new oxygen continued to work. Four days later, the hospital dismissed me, and I came home exactly two weeks after I had been admitted. My recovery was slow,

and I was on oxygen until the end of May 2021.

I will never take breathing for granted again.

A Message

I have a message for Christians who are growing older. In God's plan, He wants to use us for His glory until He takes us home. We

are all unique in His sight. Even though life is coming nearer to an end on this earth, a new beginning is close. Every minute He gives us to live in this human body can be used to show a dark world that we have a *hope* that will not die. God will fulfill His Word. Our lives and faith should speak to those who are coming after us, so that they might be saved by the sacrifice and blood

of Jesus Christ

"Now also when I am old and gray headed, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come" (Psalm 71:18).

There is no age limit to God's love. He visits the young and the old. He will use anyone who is a willing vessel, regardless of age. As my life on the earth comes to an end, the message I share is very clear: "The only way to God is through His Son, Jesus Christ. All who call on Him will be saved."



STAFF UPDATE

Meet the CSM Publishing Team!



Susanne Simpson Administrator

Since 1988, Susanne has served CSM in a variety

of capacities including production management, customer service, bookkeeping, and administration. After receiving her degree in Fashion Merchandising in 1984, she worked with department stores and major designers before joining the CSM Staff. She serves as Administrator for CSM as well as Personal Administrator to Charles Simpson. She has also served in ministry to women, youth, children, young married couples, and mercy ministries outreach. She currently owns her own business online showcasing home décor. Susanne is the wife of Stephen Simpson and mother of Victoria Grace Simpson.



Christina Villalobos Customer Service

Christina has been part of the CSM team since

2002. After moving to Alabama from California, she studied Computer Science and Art in college, and worked in restaurants, call centers, daycare centers, and department stores. She has more than 30 years of customer service and project management experience. Christina served Covenant Church of Mobile in youth ministry from 1998-2021 and continues in ministry to women, singles, and small group Bible studies. She is currently writing a Bible study on the Beatitudes with her small group.



Steven Tyrrell Creative Services

Steven is a an experienced Graphic

Designer. Previously, he worked with Integrity Media for many years. He has handled artwork, photography, design, and printing coordination for CSM since 2000. He also serves other companies with design, strategic branding, storytelling and video production. Steven also encourages and serves families with special needs and resides in Peachtree City, GA.



Victoria Grace Simpson Social Media

Grace received her Bachelor of Science

degree in International Studies in 2012 and her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology in 2017, both from Spring Hill College. She studied and worked in Bologna, Italy through the Spring Hill Italy Center, and earned her Cambridge University ESL certificate in Verona, Italy. Grace worked with the Child Advocacy Center in Mobile and served the Hidden Treasures Costa Rica Children's Home in 2015.



Abigail Brock Audio/Visual

In 2020, Abigail graduated with a

Bachelor of Science degree in Production Technology from the University of Mobile. She has worked as a freelance camera operator and video editor for Chick-Fil-A NEXT, Custom Media Solutions, Dorset Productions Unlimited, and Alabama School of the Arts (ASOTA). Abigail began working for CSM in January 2021. She also shoots wedding photography and videography, and is planning her wedding in October to Andrew Hii, who is a Business Accounting major at the University of South Alabama.



Billy and Betty Duke CSM Ambassadors

Billy and Betty Duke are loved by the CSM Family

worldwide. Both have officially retired but remain active in service to God and are exceptionally valuable members of our team as intercessors, supporters, and encouragers. After many years working bi-vocationally in ministry and in the marketplace, Billy stepped into full-time pastoral ministry in 1977 with Covenant Church of Mobile, where he continues to serve. Betty worked for Johnson Chevrolet and Quality Printing before starting with CSM in 1995, serving as Secretary to Stephen Simpson and as CSM Gatlinburg Conference Coordinator. Billy and Betty have two children: Randall (now home with the Lord) and Rebecca Hinson (married to Buddy Hinson, three children (Chris, now home with the Lord), and one arandchild).

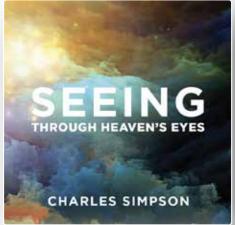


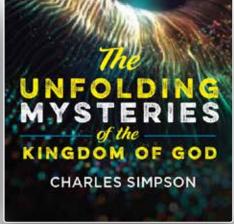
Alison Richardson, Accounting Services

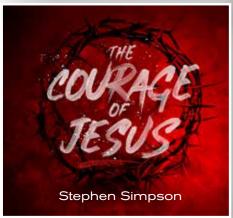
Alison serves many clients as an accounting

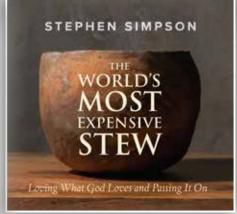
professional and built a successful private practice in Mobile, AL. She worked at Integrity Media for many years and was in senior leadership. Alison is a beloved wife, mother, and friend, and has four adult children. She is active in her church and teaches Sunday School. Alison shared her testimony at the CSM Gatlinburg Conference in 2018 about God's grace, peace, and healing after being severely burned in an accident in 2017. [121]

Free Downloads at csmpublishing.org









SEEING THROUGH HEAVEN'S EYES

Charles Simpson

Charles shares how we must gain spiritual eyes to see what God is doing and respond accordingly to His purpose. As the world's "vision" is darkened, our task is to bring the light of heaven in all we do. (CD206)

THE COURAGE OF JESUS

Stephen Simpson

What are you facing right now? Jesus ran with courage and steadfastness, through suffering and opposition. He knows the outcome of your race before you took the first step. A message to help you find His joy on the journey. (SS026)

THE UNFOLDING MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Charles Simpson

On life's journey, we need more than a plan; we need a Guide. Charles shows you how to see more than what is visible or obvious and into what is real and true. God gives revelation for our transformation. (CD207)

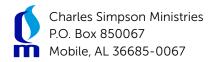
THE WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE STEW

Stephen Simpson

Stephen shares the story of Jacob and Esau—who tragically traded an eternal blessing for temporary comfort. What is our inheritance and how can we pass it on? How can we learn to love what God loves? (SS025)



All CDs (singles) \$5 for plus \$3.50 shipping and handling. Or get the message as a free download online! Visit csmpublishing.org to order or download.



Return Services Requested

