



# GOD Is Just a Prayer Away



Heard on the following 50,000 Watt Stations Every Sunday

WLW	6:30 AM	700 DIAL	CINCINNATI, OH
WLW	8:00 AM	700 DIAL	CINCINNATI, OH
WRFD	10:00 AM	880 DIAL	COLUMBUS, OH
KXEL	10:30 PM	1540 DIAL	WATERLOO, IA
WRVA	7:04 AM	1140 DIAL	RICHMOND, VA
WRVA	9:30 PM	1140 DIAL	RICHMOND, VA
WSM	7:00 AM	650 DIAL	NASHVILLE, TN
WIBC	7:30 AM	1070 DIAL	INDIANAPOLIS, IN
WHAS	7:30 AM	840 DIAL	LOUISVILLE, KY
KAAY	9:30 PM	1090 DIAL	LITTLE ROCK, AR
WMCL	8:30 AM	1060 DIAL	McLEANSBORO, IL
WOAI	10:30 PM	1200 DIAL	SAN ANTONIO, TX - SAT.

## SHORT WAVE RADIO

AFRICA:	Monday	7:00 PM	(1800 UTC)	7190 kHz on Dial
BIBLE VOICE EUROPE:	Sunday	8:00 AM	(0800 UTC)	5945 kHz on Dial
SRI LANKA INDIA:	Sunday	8:30 AM	(0800 UTC)	9770 kHz on Dial
BIBLE VOICE RUSSIA:	Sunday	8:00 PM	(1900 UTC)	6015 on kHz Dial

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**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR MINISTRY ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

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Issue 6

## Launch Out into the Deep

And it came to pass that as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, which is the Sea of Galilee. There are many seas throughout the world, but the Lord honored this sea above all others. The Sea of Galilee was the sea where the Lord walked on the water, stilled the tempest when He said, "Peace be still," and there was a great calm. It is the sea where Peter was told to go fishing and the first fish would have coin in its mouth, and the sea where on two occasions a miraculous catch of fish was taken.

This was the seaside where the multitudes pressed on Him to hear the word of God. There was no way any synagogue could hold the thousands that came to hear the teachings of Jesus. Since the people pressed upon Him, Jesus

needed a better position to speak to the people. He needed to be seen and heard to better advantage. So He entered into one of the boats that belonged to Simon Peter and asked him to put out a little from the land. From this vantage point He was seen at better advantage as He preached to the multitude.

In a similar manner there is no modern day stadium that could hold the multitudes that hear this broadcast of the gospel throughout the world. For this reason we must be careful that what you hear is the word of God. Paul tells us that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Faith does not come by hearing, and hearing everything and anything.

In this case the Lord was seen to great advantage even though it was a floating pulpit. He used many different pulpits during His life on earth. When He was crucified He used the cross pulpit to preach as He uttered His famous last sayings from the cross. He was lifted up in plain view. He could be seen to the best advantage. He would say later: "And I, if I, be lifted up, will draw all men unto Me." He used a mountain for a pulpit when He preached the Sermon on the Mount. When He gave the Great Commission it was not given from the Temple or from a Cathedral, it was from a mountaintop in Galilee.

In this case the Lord in the boat was a floating pulpit, so He sat down and preached from a seated position. Sometimes He stood to preach, and some times He sat. In this case the sitting position was the most comfortable, and besides, a boat makes a mighty shaky pulpit. Come to think of it, any pulpit is a mighty shaky place to stand.

Some preachers to keep from being tossed overboard try to preach a balanced message. One preacher said he had a problem. He had some conservative members and some members of a more liberal mind set. By preaching a balanced message he tries to please each faction and that assures him of a firm footing in his floating pulpit.

The pulpit of the Old Ship of Zion is always a shaky

### CAN YOU HELP?

*Sending of Bibles suspended as of May 15, 2006 and two short-wave broadcasts cancelled as a result of decrease in funds of over \$25,000 over the past 3 months.*

*We thank you for your gifts designated for Bibles and/or postage for shipping Bibles that totaled \$8,696.00 the past 3 months. However we have spent \$10,671.00 for Bibles and \$9,395.00 for postage to ship them. As you can see we have spent \$11,370.00 over and above what you designated for Bibles and postage.*

*Our first and foremost goal is to have money for radio time, and not have to drop any more stations. If you can help personally, your Sunday School Class, a Youth Group or your Church to keep the Bible Fund going we would appreciate it so much. Continue to pray that God will provide the funds needed for ALL of GIJAPA's programs.*

place to stand. It is good for the preacher to remember the advice of the popular song of some years ago. It said, "Sit down, sit down, sit down, sit down, sit down, you're rockin' the boat." The pulpit is indeed a shaky place to stand, and it is easy to rock the boat whether standing or sitting.

Much training was needed to prepare the Apostles for future service and this story provides one of the incidents as to how the Lord taught them. Not only them, but also us. This story is their training ground, or perhaps in this case their training water. In this event He teaches them and us several things about following Him. The first thing He taught them and us is to completely rely and trust in Him.

### **TRUST IN HIM**

Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, "Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught." They had fished all night and had taken nothing. Peter was a fisherman, and he knew best how to fish, and when to fish, and he knew this was not a good idea. He said, "Master we have toiled all the night, and taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the nets." In the gospel according to Luke, this statement is the first thing that Peter had to say, "At thy word, I will do it." It doesn't make sense, but he did it any way as an act of obedience. Peter would never give any better advice than that. At Thy word I will do it.

At Thy word is a great word. In Luke 1:57, no word of God shall be void of power. Some things the Lord may ask us to do may not make sense, but if it is His word, believe it, and do it. What great power in that word; they enclosed a great multitude of fishes so that the nets were beginning to break. At Thy word; Jesus also said in Mark 13:31, "Heaven and earth shall pass away but, My word shall never pass away." So what ever He says do it. Then again consider, Jesus also said in John 12:48, "He that rejecteth Me, and receiveth not My sayings hath one that judgeth him. The word that I spake, the same shall judge him at the last day." So what choice do you have? Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it. Think too of the statement of Paul in Ephesians 6:17, "Take up the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." The word of God is your greatest defense against the devil, so whatsoever He saith unto you do it.

Perhaps the most impressive thing about the word of God is the picture that is shown in Revelation 19:13. John had described Jesus on a white horse arrayed in a garment sprinkled in blood and His name is called the word of God. Add all this to the fact that John stated at the beginning of his record of the Lord's ministry: "In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God, the same was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him and without Him was not anything made that hath been made. The word became flesh and dwelt among us." Whatsoever He saith unto you do it.

At thy word is a great word. Think of it. All Peter did was lend a boat to Jesus and he received in return a boat full of fish. That was a mighty big return for a borrowed boat. A net full of fish, and later on called to be an Apostle, then the key note speaker on the day of Pentecost, author of at least

two New Testament books, and the great honor of dying on a cross, probably upside down. He received all these honors in exchange for a borrowed boat. The return for our service to the Lord cannot be calculated. Whatsoever He saith unto you do it.

And then when Peter saw it he fell down at Jesus knees saying, "Depart from me for I am a sinful man O Lord." A man is never taller than when He is on his knees before God. A person, who feels he is not worthy to be close to the Lord, is closer to the Lord at that time than he was before.

Now Jesus told Peter fear not, from henceforth thou shalt catch men. The fear nots of Jesus are comforting. The greatest fear not is recorded on the Isle of Patmos. John saw a vision of the glorified Christ and he fell at His feet as one that was dead. Jesus laid His right hand on him and said, "Fear not, I AM the living One, and I was dead, and now I AM alive forever more, and I have the keys of death and of Hades." Jesus has two keys. One key is the key of death. He is able to unlock every grave, every casket, every tomb, every crypt. He also has the key to the spirit world. He can unlock every grave and unite it with every departed spirit both saint and sinner at the resurrection. What a comfort it was to John as a Christian and to us to hear Jesus say, "FEAR NOT."

In this case Jesus said, "Fear not from henceforth thou shalt catch men," for Peter was amazed at the catch of fish and Jesus was saying, "Peter, do you think this is something?" You haven't seen anything yet. Just wait till the first Pentecost after the resurrection. I will make you a fisher of men." Peter must have thought about this event on that day when the gospel was preached for the first time and the Church was born.

This miraculous catch of fish was a type of what happened on the first Pentecost after the resurrection. On that day the big fisherman used the only bait that can be used to catch men and that was the story of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. He told them they had crucified the Lord and they were convicted of their sin and asked what they must do? He told them to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For to you is the promise and to your children and to all that are afar off even as many as the Lord our God shall call unto Him. They then that gladly received his word were baptized and there were added unto them in that day about 3,000 souls and they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and the prayers.

At last Peter knew what it was like to be a fisher of men like the Lord told him when He said, "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men." In fishing for fish you draw a live fish from the water to die. In fishing for men you draw a man who has died to sin from the waters of baptism to live in a newness of life. There is a gospel chorus that tells it like it is: I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN, FISHERS OF MEN, FISHERS OF MEN. I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN IF YOU FOLLOW ME.

Ladies and gentlemen, I urge you to learn the lesson Peter learned that day by the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Nevertheless at Thy word I'll do it. Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a draught. (Excerpted from Sermon Launch Out Into The Deep).

# Update from Ike & Lee Outreach in Ghana

Greetings to every one of you in the Name of our Lord Jesus -- Praise His Name! This month, we have some excerpts from letters, phone calls and verbal information from our students, receivers of our tracts, books, 'T' Shirts, Bibles and Bible courses for you and for the glorification of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though many, just some few would be published:

*"I am writing to thank you so much for the Bible you sent to me upon my request for it. This Bible is so good for me that I no longer strain my eyes to read, thank you very much Ike and Lee and THE TRUTH." Mr. Clark, Accra-Ghana*

*"The Bible study course is very educative. I have learnt so many times I did not know before that today, I am asking so many questions from my Preacher but no favorable answers are giving to me. I am teaching what I learnt from the course to others. Please, help me fully understand my questions below." S.T., Accra-Ghana*

(His major problem was with Baptism by immersion but we located him and studied the Bible with him and have now understood that he has to have baptism by immersion)

*"GOD IS JUST A PRAYER AWAY", Wao! What a relief and an encouraging phrase? Thank you so much for the 'T' Shirt, Ike and Lee. The inscription of the 'T' shirt is my medicine, my inspirer, my problem solver, my counsellor and food and water. Thank you for such a soul-winning tool; I am now closer to my God in prayer than before. God bless you!!" Sister Esi, Bawjiase-Ghana*

*"But for your Bible Study course, I wouldn't have read the Bible. After the course, I have loved to read my Bible 3 times everyday. I thank you so much for changing my life. I will continue with the other courses when I complete this. God bless you." B.Arkoh, Bawjiase-Ghana*

*"My wife and I are writing to thank you for the tracts you sent to us along side the Bibles in our local languages. In fact, we are now equipped with what we want for the work we are doing here for the Lord. I am requesting for a lesson for my boy who is in Senior Secondary School. Thank you for the bulk tracts on the New Testament Church. People like it so much. Send some more next time. Mr. & Mrs. Osei Brimpong, Kumasi-Ghana*

*"Hi! Ike and Lee, My 15 year old truant girl is now at home busy with her books. Enquiring what she was doing and if that isn't a camouflage, She told me she wants to become an Evangelist, Ike, I gazed into the heavens and laughed; an Evangelist; you a truant? Surprisingly, I checked on what she was busily studying and it was a Bible Correspondence course. I was surprise because,*

*this girl could leave home for days without knowing her where about that she has pulled out of school, her father has disown her and I am always crying. So if she is at home because of your course then God is wonderful! She has asked me to re-enroll her back to school, which I have and she is a changed girl. She is always praying and will ask me to join her in prayer. I thank so much for the wonderful job you people are doing. A friend suggested that we send her to stay with you but I do not know how possible that could be? Thanks very much and continue to write to encourage her for me. I will write again." Mrs. Sarah Oduro, Kumasi-Ghana*

(We sent her a Bible, tracts and a book on How to become a Christian and a letter to the Father pleading with him to accept back his daughter. We are yet to hear from them.)

*"I am writing this letter to show my appreciation towards the Bible, books (Ed's 3 sermon books sent upon completion of 30 lessons) and the fantastic Certificate you sent to me. Our Assistant District Manager took one of the books. He said it was very, very nice. Due to this he will let his children take the course. I am assuring you that I won't joke with the books and the Bibles. Please, send the lessons to the children of the ADM. I end here with my sincere greetings to you all. I hope to hear from you soon." Francis Abu (APO), Ghana Post, Agona Swedru-Ghana*

*"Dear Ike and Lee, I am thanking you for the tapes (Bob & Martha Feathers sends 4 audio tapes of Family Camp sermons upon completion of 30 lessons) you sent to my friend after his studies with you. I told him those who promise many things after taking a Bible Study course don't normally supply them--they only entice you to study the Bible--that is all. But today I am using the Bibles, Books, and the Certificate you sent to him. You have proven me wrong--you are very honest; you have delivered all the items you promised to give us when we complete the course. I will put them to good use and share my new faith with others. God bless you all and GIJAPA whom you said sends you all the materials." Please enroll me now." Francis Agbeko, Tema-Ghana*

We would like to close this with the above for now, more will come later. But we cannot close this without saying thank you Ed and Naomi for the Bibles and all the other materials. Many people have Bibles today through THE TRUTH-GIJAPA soul winning collaboration, and we feel so glad to see several people (young and old) with Bibles from our ministries. Once again, we thank you all the good people out there who are making it possible for GIJAPA to place Bibles, Bible Study Courses, books, tapes, and tracts in the hands of people. There are still many, many people out there who want Bibles so please, continue to support GIJAPA to be able to spread the Gospel. THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO WIN SOULS--SHALOM TO EVERY ONE OF YOU OUT THERE!

Ike and Lee Pertey



# Letters

Dear Brother Bousman,

Greetings! Yes Aaron Wishnant is one of my many preachers. In fact he is my assistant who takes charge when I am out on my routine visits to the churches.

So far I have received only a box of 24 "King James Bibles (not large prints)" with Bible lessons and tracts. I signed for it at the post office on April 24th 2006. I was told at the post office to keep checking for the other 3 boxes sent. The moment I received them I will have you informed. I have given 13 of the lessons including 13 bibles out to some elders and preachers of some of our churches in Monrovia to start with. I hope to reach the other preachers with these lessons the moment I meet them. Yes I have checked your website and have even printed out 2 of your Sunday sermons for my use. I do appreciate you for this. You have been a great help to the ministry here. May our LORD JESUS CHRIST continue to bless and strengthen you as you labor in this vineyard-AMEN.

In Christ, Mike Foday, Triumph Church of Christ  
in Monrovia, Liberia, W. Africa

Dear Mr. Bousman,

I'm writing to you to thank you for getting on the Internet and getting Mr. Gilliland to come in here and mentor me here at North Central Correctional Institution. It really is a blessing to me. I used to be at Lima Correctional Institutional and would listen to you on WLW, but being here at Marion, Ohio I cannot get WLW in on my radio. Too much metal is my guess. Mr. Gilliland sent me your newsletter "God Is Just A Prayer Away." I would like to continue receiving this newsletter if at all possible. You may know my son-in-law, Terry from Ft. Wayne, IN? He has talked about you and all you do with the Lord. I'm due to see the parole board next March 2007. Please be in prayer about this.

Blessings and prayers Roger

Dear Brother Ed Bousman,

Greetings in the most blessed name of Jesus Christ! I am writing on behalf of a fellow inmate who is also a countryman because although being a Muslim has expressed deep interest in Christianity. I have given him some literature, but I think he needs an expert to encourage him more and also to own his own Bible. Please I would be grateful if you could write to him to tell him more about Christianity and send Him a Bible. Thank you for the assistance. God bless you.

Yours in Christ, Ohenese from Kanter Men's Prison,  
Cairo, Egypt, who has completed all 30 lessons of  
**STUDIES IN THE BIBLE**

Dear Brother Ed,

It has been our pleasure to be taught by your ministry over the past 3 years. We are deeply grateful to get such blessing as family for a long time. All of my family have been taking much of the studies, my mother and father and my elder brother. We also received the three New Testament sermon books and the Old Testament as well. That's a great job you did that has to be honored. May the Lord richly bless you as you walk the walk of TRUTH. Dear Brother, due to some current obstacles we can't continue our lessons for the next unlimited time until everything settles all right. We will let you know when we should resume it. Please continue to send us the GIJAPA newsletter it is a tool for our strength and growth. May the Lord bless you.

Yours in Christ from Eritrea, E. Africa

Dear Ed,

Thank you very much for my Bible. I'm enjoying reading God's word and the Bible lessons are great. Please keep them coming. Thank you again and may God bless you.

Allen a prisoner from Tucker, ARIZONA

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