

GIJAPA

God Is Just A Prayer Away
Radio Broadcast Around the World

GOD Is Just a Prayer Away

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
Saturday			
WOAI	10:30 PM	1200 Dial	San Antonio, TX

Short Wave Radio

AFRICA:

Monday 7:00 PM
(1800 UTC) 7190 kHz on Dial

BEACON of HOPE N. AFRICA:

Sunday 8:30 PM
(1930 UTC) 5850 kHz on Dial

BIBLE VOICE EUROPE:

Sunday 8:00 AM
(0700 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) 6060 on kHz Dial

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR MINISTRY ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

June 2007

Address all Mail: Ed Bousman, P.O. Box 511, Lynchburg, Ohio 45142-0511

Issue 6

I Want to be a Friend of the Bridegroom

John 3:29 He that hath the bride is the Bridegroom: but the friend of the Bridegroom, that standeth and heareth Him, rejoiceth greatly because of the Bridegroom's voice: this is my joy therefore is made full. He must increase, but I must decrease.

There are seven reasons why I want to be a friend of the Bridegroom, and the first is: I want to be a friend of the Bridegroom because the Bridegroom is the one that has the bride. Paul tells us in Ephesians 5, "Husbands love your wives even as also Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for it." After saying this he also said, "This mystery is great: but I speak of Christ and of the church." Jesus is the Bridegroom and His bride is the church. And this is why I want to be faithful to the church, because I am a friend of the Bridegroom.

The second reason I want to be a friend of the Bridegroom is because I remember the warning of the Apostle Paul in 2nd Corinthians 11:2 "For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy: for I espoused you as a pure virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve in his craftiness, your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity, and the purity that is toward Christ."

The devil uses the same temptation on the Bride of Christ as he did for Eve in the Garden of Eden. Listen to him as he says to Eve, "Yea, hath God said?" Eve, are you sure God said, you shall not eat of the tree of knowledge and evil? Eve, do you think that is a good translation? Eve, don't you think that is just your interpretation? Eve, don't you think God is too good to let you die for such a thing as eating just one bite of forbidden fruit? Eve, don't you know some of the scholars think that statement is not in the original manuscript? Eve, do you really believe God actually said, "In the day ye eat thereof ye shall surely die?" Surely your heavenly Father would not say anything like that. Not until she was stripped of the sheen of her

immortality, and found herself standing in the dark, cold, naked, ashamed, afraid, did she realize that the word of God does in fact mean exactly what it says.

The third reason, I want to be a friend of the Bridegroom is because of what Jesus said in Matthew 9. The disciples of John came to Jesus and asked Him: "Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not?" And Jesus said unto them, "Can the sons of the bridechamber mourn as long as the Bridegroom is with them? But the days will come, when the Bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast."

This saying might have sounded mysterious to them at that time, but by hindsight we can see it was a prediction of His crucifixion. Paul said, "Christ died for our sins," and Jesus said, "The Son of man is come to give His life a ransom for many." Since Jesus died on the cross for me, and since He said in John 15, "Greater love hath no man have than this that man lay down his life for his friends." Jesus counted me as His friend and laid down His life that I might not only have a better life in the world, but life after this world, life for all of eternity. So I want to be a friend of the Bridegroom because He has been such a friend to me. There is a song that says, "What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins on earth to bear."

Reason number four is I have to say that I also want to be a friend of the Bridegroom because John said, "The Bridegroom standeth, and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the Bridegroom's voice." Now we have never heard the actual voice of Jesus. I have heard people say, Jesus told me to do this or that. Jesus has not said anything to anybody since He talked to the Apostle John in the last chapter of Revelation, and the last word said to a human being since that day is the statement: "I come quickly." Jesus has not told you anything except what you read in the inspired word of God.

However there will be a time when we will all hear

His actual voice. In John 5 Jesus said: "Marvel not at this: for the hour cometh, in which all that are in the tombs shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." On that day when every human being that ever lived on this planet hears the voice of Jesus, I want to rejoice as I hear that voice. That is why I want to be a friend of the Bridegroom.

The fifth reason is because of the word of warning for many who have a mistaken notion about friendship with the Bridegroom. In Matthew 25 there is a story that Jesus told about that situation when He said that the kingdom of heaven is like unto ten virgins who went out to meet the Bridegroom, and five were wise and five foolish. At midnight the announcement was made: "Behold the Bridegroom, come ye fourth to meet him." They that were ready went in with Him to the marriage feast and the door was shut. Those that were not ready stood at the door and cried: Lord, Lord open to us. But the Bridegroom said: "Verily I say unto you, I know you not, Watch therefore for no man knoweth the day nor the hour when the Son of man cometh."

When the cry is heard; "Behold the Bridegroom come ye forth to meet Him," I want to be ready to enter in. When the saints go marching in, when the saints go marching in. Lord I want to be in that number when the saints go marching in. Evidently some are as friendly with the Bridegroom as they thought.

Then again the sixth reason for being a friend of the Bridegroom is determined by acceptance of His invitation to the marriage feast. In Matthew 22 Jesus tells us about it. A certain King made a marriage feast for His son and sent our servants to bid them that were bidden to the marriage feast and they would not come. They could have come, they just would not come. It was a defiant answer. I won't do it.

Others in that story made light of it and went their way. They said there is not anything the Lord wants us to do that is worth having. Making light of spiritual things is one of the devil's best weapons. That attitude makes a lot of church members refrain from looking overly religious. Don't let somebody laugh you out of salvation.

When the king came in to see the guests a certain man came not having a wedding garment. He tried to crash the party without proper attire and was cast out. Paul tells us how we can be properly attired when he said in Galatians 3, "As many of us as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ." Have you accepted the invitation? I accepted that invitation many years ago because I wanted to be a friend of the Bridegroom.

The seventh and last reason I want to be a friend of the Bridegroom is when I think upon the great celebration at the final wedding supper with the great Bridegroom. Listen to these words from Revelation 19. And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunders, saying, "Hallelujah: for the Lord our God the almighty reigneth, Let us rejoice and be exceeding glad, and let us give glory unto Him for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His

wife hath made herself ready. And it was given unto her to array herself in fine linen, bright and pure: for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints." And he saith unto me, "Write, Blessed are they who are bidden to the marriage supper of the Lamb."

He that hath the bride is the Bridegroom: but the friend of the Bridegroom, that standeth and heareth Him, rejoiceth greatly because of the Bridegrooms voice: this is my joy therefore is made full. He must increase, but I must decrease.

When the Bridegroom cometh, will your robes be white? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb? Will your soul be ready for the mansions bright? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

* * *

LETTERS

Dear Brother Bousman:

My apology for the delay of this letter. Thanks so much again for the religious materials you have sent in the mail. I am using now your Old and New Testament Sermons for our Bible studies and sermons. I am delivering them alternately, using their outlines of thought to communicate God's truth with my brethren and folks; while I am being benefited much to inculcate in my memory the events on each of the chapters of the Bible. I concur with your approach, a "preachingtary" sort. I have been wishing I could have much time to do that myself on the entire Bible. Please continue to send to me your twice a month CD sermons. As for the correspondence lessons I will submit to you in each mail with four answer sheets. Regards to all the brethren who are working with your hands to preach the Gospel, reaching the whole world. Please keep coming your monthly newsletter also. I am being so encouraged with what is being done to other sides of the globe in connection with your ministry.

Brother Ed from Philippines

Dear Ed Bousman,

How are you? I am sure you are fine because of Christ. I would like to thank my God for he gives me opportunity and information to know you and make relationship with you. When I heard your cassette of the preaching about Belhazzar the King, salvation and some nations they do wrong like America. As you know I am living in small nation in Eritrea that found in the Horn of Africa, before fifteen years became independent from Ethiopia, but our government is communist so that all his actions against God that's why all Churches of Christ are closed until now. But we have great hope from God, so I need a Bible and correspondence course.

Jeshua from Eritrea, E. Africa

Dear Brother,

Peace from God be unto you through Christ Jesus our Lord, Amen. The work here is progressing--very slowly to the glory of God. What I please need from you is complete

Bibles for my new converts. Here in Gambia is consisting of about 90% Muslims and to buy a Bible is not easy. I have only New Testament and I need more complete Bible. Please help me.

Alexander from Gambia, W. Africa

Mr. Bousman,

A while back I met an inmate with a large print Bible and inquired as to where he got it. He lived in the cell next door to me and I'd seen his Bible through the window of his cell door the day I moved into this cellblock. He let me know he'd gotten it from you and gave me your address. Please send me a large print Bible and the correspondence Bible study course too. May God bless you for the good work you're doing.

Sincerely,

Donald from Prison in Arkansas

Dear Evangelist Bousman

Christian greetings from Nigeria. This is to express my sincere thanks to God and to you for your powerful message over Radio Africa broadcast. Your messages filled my heart with joy and happiness. I prayed that God will help you to continue this program. My heart's desire is that God will keep and preserve you blameless 'til he calls you home. I will be very grateful if I can receive the Christian literature, Bible study and Bible you offered at the conclusion of your program.

Yours in Christ E.S. from Nigeria, W. Africa

Hi Everybody!

This is one of the peoples that appreciate your service of the gospel. I REALLY LOVE THE WAY OF "GOD IS JUST A PRAYER AWAY" MINISTRY. I personally didn't know about you until my friend showed me the Bible study courses. I love it because I am very eager to find out the best I can about God from the Bible as well as my Christian friends. As a result I was always asking my friend to show me his latest Bible study sent by you. I now understand that I can get your help free if I beg you to send to me. I wish that if you could really enroll me as one of your active Bible students. Please send to address below.

Tesfalem from Eritrea, E. Africa

Dear Brother Thomas,

I am pleased to report to you about another body of Christ that was founded just this Sunday, May 13th 2007 in a small village called JUNCTION TOWN about 30 miles from Monrovia.

Brother James Sackie of Bahr Town Church of Christ invited me to this village to preach Jesus to them, This I did together with my wife and daughter last Sunday. John 14:6 was my text and my theme was "Jesus will make the difference!" 4 souls from that village and its surrounding villages surrendered to the Lordship of Christ Jesus and were all baptized same day. I distributed few Bibles and used clothing from bro. Ed Bousman of GIJAPA to the converts and their children as love gifts from the brothers and sisters in the United States. I also gave the Lessons on "Studies

from The Bible," from Ed, to the preacher that was assigned there to study. Please you may view the below photos attached showing activities of the day.

PRAYER REQUEST.

1. The preacher needs our prayers and support.
2. We need to hastily erect a temporal stick structure with tarpoline roof to host the young congregation. Thank you brother Reggie.

Mike Foday, Evangelist of Triumph Church of Christ Monrovia, Liberia



Convert from Junction Church being baptized by Mike Foday 5/13/07

* * *

Casey Jo Letter from Dad High School Graduation

Dear Casey,

We have been given the task of recording a "statement of blessing" for your high school graduation. But how do we sum up 18 years of teaching and training into a one to two minute statement? I guess we begin by saying that we believe you have all the tools necessary to be successful in whatever endeavors that you face in your future. At an early age, you gave yourself to Christ and you have always done your best to grow in His grace. We as your parents are exceedingly proud of the young woman that you have become. You have been freely given our love and support, but you have earned our respect and trust.

As you enter into this next major stage in your life, we offer you this blueprint for living. Paraphrased from 1 Corinthians 13: When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of being able to share God's Word. The one who shares God's Word speaks to mankind, providing edification, exhortation and comfort.

May this be your blueprint for life:

FAITH - The Biblical definition is the assurance of things hoped for and conviction of things not seen. It is our prayer that you will always use your faith by continuing to place your trust in Jesus and know that if ever a door closes two or three others always open. And that as you journey through life, you will know He is always there beside you.

HOPE - Most people understand "hope" as "wishful thinking." "I hope something will happen." This is not what the Bible means by the word "hope." The Biblical definition of "hope" is "confident expectation." Hope is a firm assurance regarding things that are unclear and unknown. Without hope, life loses its meaning. It is our prayer that your hope in the return of Christ will remain the basis for your lifestyle. And that this hope produces joy and peace through the power of the Spirit.

LOVE - The Bible has a lot to say in defining love, but John 15:13 says it best: Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. In other words, love is willing to sacrifice all. Paul's letter to the Corinthians says that of Faith, Hope and Love - Love is the greatest. That is because when you come to the end of your life, there is no longer a need for Faith or Hope. In the end, the love that you give to others throughout your life and the love that you receive is all that you really take with you. It is our prayer that you will always abundantly give and receive this love.

Love springs from hope, hope springs from faith. All are enduring virtues of the Christian life. May you always carry these tools as you make your way in this life. We love you.

*Faith
Hope
Love*

SPECIAL THANKS

To the **Opal Burton Family** for designating "God Is Just a Prayer Away" radio broadcast for gifts given in memory of Opal in lieu of flowers. We received over \$2000.

To **Ruth & Lee Ashbaugh** from Junction City, OH for the van load of clothes and 5 cases of new Bibles and several boxes of used Bibles for GIJAPA.

To the **Marshall Church of Christ, Hillsboro, OH** and the **Church of Christ at Grissom, Peru, IN** for their on continued giving of clothes and shoes for Africa. And **Pam Davidson** from the Allensburg Church of Christ, Lynchburg, OH for her continued contributions of used clothes and shoes for GIJAPA.

To the **20 individuals and 4 Churches** that have contributed to the Bible fund this year so far. As of May first (when this went to printers) we have received \$8,000. We have spent \$14,000 just for Bibles not the postage to send them. As you can see, **WE NEED BIBLE MONEY** as well as more good used clothes and shoes especially children's shoes! **THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.**



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