



# 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	93.1 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
WWVA	9:30 PM	1170 Dial	Wheeling, WV

## Saturday

WOAI	10:30 PM	1200 Dial	San Antonio, TX
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## 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) 6020 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  
(2000 UTC) 6010 on kHz Dial

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR MINISTRY ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

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Issue 3

## *She Supposed Him To Be The Gardener*

### Communion Meditation

In the gospel according to John chapter twenty, Mary was standing without at the tomb weeping. She saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head, and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. And they say unto her, "Woman, why weepeth thou?" She saith unto them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him." When she had thus said, she turned herself back, and beholdeth Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus saith unto her, "Woman, why weepeth thou? Whom seekest thou?" She, supposing Him to be the gardener, saith unto Him, "Sir, if thou hast borne Him hence, tell me where thou hast laid Him, and I will take Him away." When Mary out of the corner of her eye, and through the mist of her tears, supposed Him to be the gardener, she was not too far mistaken, because when Joseph and Nicodemus buried Jesus, John says, "Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden." So it was a natural supposition, when out of the corner of her eye, and through the mist of her tears she supposed Him to be the gardener.

But from our vantage point today with the completed copy of the New Testament, we can see that it was a natural mistake because Paul tells us in 1st Corinthians 15:45, "The first Adam became a living soul, and the last Adam a life-giving spirit." Since the first Adam was placed in a garden, and the last Adam buried in a garden, it was a natural assumption, when out of the corner of her eye, and through the mist of her tears she supposed Him to be a gardener.

Another reason it was a natural mistake for Mary, was because in the first garden there was a tree called the tree of life. She could have eaten of that tree and lived forever. In the garden where He was crucified there was a tree of life. Peter tells us about that tree in 1st Peter 2:24, "Who his own self bear our sins in His body on the tree, that we having died unto sins, might live unto righteousness by whose

stripes we are healed." So it was not too big a mistake when out of the corner of her eye, and through the mist of her tears, she supposed Him to be the gardener.

But then with another look we notice there was also another tree in the Garden of Eden called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And the Lord said, "In the day ye eat of that tree you shall surely die." But concerning the eating of the tree in the garden where He was crucified; after the celebration of the last Passover Feast, Jesus then observed the first Lord's Supper, and took bread and broke it, and said, "This is my body which is broken for you, this do in remembrance of me." Then when He took the cup He said, "This is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many unto remission of sins."

At this time the apostles must have remembered a year before this at the time of another Passover, Jesus had said to them, "Except ye eat the flesh of the son of man, and drink His blood ye have no life in yourselves." So it was not such a big mistake after all when Mary out of the corner of her eye and through the mist of her tears supposed Him to be the gardener.

And so today on this the Lord's Day, as we eat of the bread, and drink of the cup, and unlike Mary, we do not suppose Him to be anything else, but the virgin born, crucified, buried, risen, Son of God who died for our sins that we might have eternal life. So it is written, so let it be done.

## THE GREAT COMMISSION

The Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ as found in Matthew, Mark, and Luke reads as follows, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

And He said unto them, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” And He said unto them, “Thus it is written and thus it behooved the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day; and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”

This is the Great Commission of Christ, the marching orders of the Church as found in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. There are at least twelve important items in the Great Commission. This utterance of Jesus is the most important declaration ever uttered on planet earth. I will mention them with very little comment.

1. It was given by the only person who ever lived on planet earth who had all authority over all things in heaven and on earth. In the great prayer of Jesus for the unity of His followers He said; “Thou hast given Him authority over all flesh.”

2. Because the Great Commission was given 2,000 years ago some might think the statute of limitations has run out and it is no longer in force. Jesus said it was good even unto the end of the world.

3. It is to be preached to all the world, if that seems too mind-boggling, remember it also says all nations, if that seems out-of-reach it also says to every creature. The Great Commission applies to every human being of every century of every race regardless of whatever position in life.

4. The rejection or acceptance of the Great Commission results in the damnation or salvation of every person who hears it.

5. Faith is required. The Great Commission cannot be figured out by science, the world through its wisdom knew not God. All the scientists on the face of the earth could never figure out the combination on the locks of the pearly gates.

6. Repentance is required. One of the favorite devices of the Devil is to fill up the church with people who never repented and thereby dilute the witness of the church. The line of demarcation between the world and the church is so blurred that you can't tell the difference between saint and sinner.

7. Baptism is required.

8. Remission of sins is the result of acceptance of obedience to the terms of the Great Commission.

9. The gospel is the message that must be preached; namely the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

10. The baptism is to be administered in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Baptism is the only thing we have ever been told to do in His name of all three members of the Godhead. Sometimes preachers perform marriage ceremonies in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. I saw on the television news a quarterback throw a pass and as the ball went through the air the announcer said, “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit—TOUCHDOWN.” You can hug your spouse in the name of the Father, Son and the

Holy Spirit. You can do a lot of things in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, but there is only one thing we have been told to do in all three members of the Godhead and that is baptism.

11. Teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you. Nothing is to be left out and nothing is to be added in.

12. The whole process must begin at Jerusalem and not someplace else. One preacher wrote a very fine letter commending this ministry and then said however, that he followed the traditions of Rome, Geneva and Scotland. I wrote back and tactfully mentioned that while he followed the traditions of Rome, Geneva, and Scotland, I preferred to follow the traditions of the Apostles of Jesus Christ at Jerusalem. No preacher of the gospel has a right to demand obedience to any command or ordinance that was not started by the Apostles at Jerusalem. And now considering these aspects of the Great Commission the big question is, What does the Great Commission mean to you?

## IKE & LEE UPDATE

We are all doing very well by the grace of God and are seriously working for the Lord, preaching and teaching from house-to-house, village-to-village, in churches, public places, in the street and in offices. Please, remember our troubled Moslem-Converted Sister Cynthia Mohammed, as she is not of herself and planning to flee from Ghana for another country. We are confused and still praying. She needs to either go back into the Moslem religion or be accepted back by her husband and family or stick to Christianity to still suffer or have peace of mind.

THE TRUTH is a Tract, Bibles and Tapes Distribution and Door-Knocking Evangelism Ministry winning souls for Christ in the very remote areas of Ghana since 1998. Our operations have mainly been done through personal evangelism in villages, towns and from house to house, and also by mailing and distributing tracts and Bibles. With our background in Marketing and Sales, we preach the Gospel as if we were sales men and women selling physical products. We talk to people in the street, engage in public mass evangelism; unless we did not see you in the public toilet or catch up with you on public transport, we will sell you our products—THE GOSPEL. This ministry has come so far with integrity that we fear not to boldly say that hundreds of people have received Christ, changed their lifestyle from bad to good, shaped their broken marriages and been baptized into the Lord's Church, and almost every week, the Lord adds to his family with souls.

Though humanitarian activities were not part of the goal and vision of ‘The Truth,’ Lee and I couldn't close our eyes and ears over the needs and cry of these people, and the very appalling and abject poverty situation in which these poorest people (we preach the Gospel to) live. Today ‘The Truth’ has been forced to assist these poorest people in diverse means in order to win and maintain them in the Church of Christ for Christ. These we do through the following ministries coated by Lee and me to successfully administer our soul winning BIBLE STUDY LESSONS. We also run Correspondence Bible Lessons to various parts

of Africa, a program that has been a very successful soul-winning tool. We have over 2000 graduates since we began this program in September 2005, and through this program, numerous people have been baptized into the church.

We thank Ed and Naomi for the love and compassion they have for the Word of God and the souls out there who are to learn the word of God. They have been supplying us with all the needed materials including Bibles for the work and we thank them so much. There are still more lessons coming to be mailed for grading though many students are slow with their lessons. We still have over 400 lessons to be returned by students and I know they will return them. We are also doing all we can to get the lessons from our collection points, and to mail them back to the USA for grading, without a vehicle this is cumbersome.

## ED'S SERMON TRANSLATION

This program is yielding good results and exposing many to real truth of the Gospel. Souls are being won unto Christ and we are making more impact on people's lives. Our records show that we baptized 43 people (worshipping in various congregations now) and have 28 non-yet baptized members through this program 2007. We thank God for this wisdom and the zeal to do this twice a week after close or our personal businesses.

## L E T T E R S

Grace and peace be with you.

Dearest Brother Ed and Sister Naomi Bousman,

I hope all is well with you. This is Natalino from Eritrea. I am sorry I did not inform you that I have received the Bible you sent to Eritrea in spite of the great censorship at the post office by the mighty surveillance of God. This time I need your help regarding clothing. I know you collect and distribute clothes to the needy African believers. Well, we need your help too. Me and my two Christian friends who are of age 21, 20 and 18 male have problem on clothing. So I hope you may be able to get us some clothes. It is possible that we can receive it through post office. We don't mind for used clothes and shoes as well.

*Natalino from Eritrea, E Africa.*

Dear Ed Bousman,

My name is Louie I'm writing you from prison. First I want to thank you and everyone involved in sending me my Bible and Bible Studies. I first got locked up at Newport Grimes Unit in Arkansas, and a friend told me about the Bible and when you all sent it I was told about the study course. I just sent in the last 5 studies of the first 30 lessons and would like to continue. Since I started going to Church and reading the Bible and doing my Bible studies my life has taken a change. Thanks to you I've made a change for the better. I've gotten other inmates to study with me; there are at least 30-40 other inmates in my cell block with Bibles from you. Thanks to you and Jesus now I know where I'm going. Please keep up the good work for

the Lord and God bless. Louie from Pine Bluff, Arkansas. First of all God bless all of the people of the world and you GIJAPA producers. I am a student and follower of Christ from Eritrea in the city of Asmara and I now would like a free Bible if u don't have trouble sending me one.

*Henok, ASMARA, ERITREA, E Africa.*

Dear Ed and Naomi,

I am pleased to inform you that the box of used clothing and the two boxes of Bibles have been received. We appreciate your concern for us and the work here. Nice Family, I pray that the Good Lord increase your years for us in Jesus name, Amen. Please, this year the government is taxing all such items posted through the post Office except addressed directly to the Church.

*Alexander from London Corner Church Of Christ,  
The Gambia. West Africa.*

How can I start a correspondence Bible study course with you? RUBY HATTISGARGH, INDIAASIA (Ruby was sent a Bible along with the first 5 lessons of STUDIES IN THE BIBLE. She contacted us through email from our web site.)

Brother Ed & Naomi,

Nancy and I were on our way to Myrtle Beach back in 1970s and somewhere on the road that night we turned our radio on to a GIJAPA broadcast. That was the first time we had ever heard the name "Ed Bousman." Nancy and I have enjoyed your messages and your books and your monthly newsletters you send to us are so good for us. It is a comfort to know that God has a man (and woman) who will stand in the hedge and fill in the gap without fearing the looks on the faces. I am glad that God has seen fit to use people to spread the word, even though the years of time may cause us to slow just a little. I began preaching June 10, 1974 and have enjoyed every minute that God has used me. In January 2006 I had to come aside and rest awhile. My memory has faded and it was so embarrassing to have to stand in the pulpit and read my sermons. I am thankful that God has given you that special strength and that good mind to keep on keeping on with such a great ministry. May you have many souls for your labors in the future. Without my Nancy to support me I could never have stayed in the ministry. I know that when your Naomi cheers you on, you can take on the world.

*Brother in Christ, Jay from Winchester, KY*

Dear Brethren

Greetings in the name of the almighty God. I hope this letter finds you in the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am a pastor in the AFM Church aged 28. This year I am celebrating one year in ministry. I was introduced to your by Mr. Abel. I write this letter requesting to be enrolled in your Bible study materials such as STUDIES IN THE BIBLE. If you consider my request, my ministry will benefit much from your ministry.

*Yours in Christ, Casper from Chegutu, Zimbabwe.*

Dear Ed Bousman,

My heart rejoice in the Lord Jesus Christ to write to you. Your program, GOD IS JUST A PRAYER AWAY is

a blessing for me from Radio Africa. I have been increased in knowledge of the word of God. I have no Bible; kindly send me a Bible along with the Bible Study course you offer on your radio program. I pray that God shall give you the strength and power to continue teaching us through the radio.

*Yours in Christ John from Nigeria, W Africa*

## THE CARPENTER

The first event in the sixth chapter of Mark regards the second rejection of Jesus at His hometown of Nazareth. That is the place where they sneeringly called Him the Carpenter. This could not be that one born in Nazareth could be God's only begotten Son!

They said with some contempt, "Is not this the carpenter, the Son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters with us?" And they were offended in Him. Actually they were right when they called Him the Carpenter. Just look at His carpentry.

For one thing He made a yoke that must have a patent on it. At least no one had ever been able to duplicate it. He said, "Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me and ye shall find rest unto your souls for My yoke is easy and My burden is light." His burden was light not for the body but for the soul. They were right. Jesus was a Carpenter.

And then how about that plough that He made. No tractor has ever been able to equal the ploughed fields of humanity like that plough. It was that plough that Jesus referred to when He said, "No man having put his hand to the plough and looking back is fit for the Kingdom of heaven." They were right, Jesus was a Carpenter.

Then there was that marvelous Temple the Carpenter of Nazareth built. When they asked Him, "What sign showest Thou unto us, seeing Thou doest these things?" Jesus gave them a sign. He told them, "Destroy this temple and I will build it again in three days." They said, "Forty and six years was this temple in building and will Thou

raise it up in three days?" But He spake of the Temple of His body. By His resurrection from the dead the Carpenter of Nazareth would build a casket that could not hold the dead. All the dead shall hear His voice and shall come forth some to the resurrection of life and some to the resurrection of judgment. They were right, Jesus was a Carpenter.

How about that time when He said, "Upon this rock I will build My Church and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." The Carpenter of Nazareth built the greatest house this world will ever know; He built the Church of Christ. Peter called it a spiritual house. He began construction the day of Pentecost when the gospel of the death, burial and resurrection was proclaimed. When the assembly heard the good news they asked Peter and the Apostles what they must do? For some strange reason Peter did not tell them to bow their heads and pray something like this: "Lord Jesus I am sorry for my sins, forgive me and come into my heart." He actually told them to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Check that out in your Bible and see if that is correct. The Lord must have liked what Peter said because He added to the church day by day those that were being saved. The people of Nazareth were right, Jesus was a Carpenter.

Then too, when you enter into an assembly of Christians even unto this day you may marvel at the beautiful Table that He built, hand crafted by nail scarred hands. Paul calls it the Lord's Table. Luke refers to the traitor whose hand was with Him on the Table. They were right, Jesus was a Carpenter.

Then again think of what He told the Apostles just before He died on the cross. He told them, "Let not your hearts be troubled, ye 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." I don't have to sing, "Just Give Me A Cabin In The Corner of Glory Land," when the Carpenter is building me a "Mansion Over The Hilltop." Those critics at Nazareth were right. Jesus was and still is the Carpenter. E. B.



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