



**GOD** Is Just a Prayer Away

**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  
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**50,000 Watt Stations Every Sunday**

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|------|----------|-----------|------------------|
| 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     |
| 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  |
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| WWVA | 9:30 PM  | 1170 Dial | Wheeling, WV     |

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

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Issue 3

## A NON-CONVERSION

*Acts 24:24-27*

In Acts 24 is the account of the preaching of the Gospel, that resulted in a non-conversion. Paul, a prisoner has been called into the presence of Governor Felix, and his wife Drusilla; who desired to hear him concerning the faith in Christ Jesus.

Felix a former slave had arisen to the rank of Governor, and was not above any manner of evil including murder. Drusilla was given in marriage to a small time king as a teenager, and Felix on a visit to the King, used a sorcerer to lure her away from him, and at this time she was living in open adultery with Felix. And this was the audience Paul a prisoner had at this time.

Now what kind of a message would Paul preach to an audience like this? It would appear to most modern day preachers that Paul made a tactical blunder in the message he preached that day, as he reasoned of righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come. As he preached, he reasoned with them. In Isaiah 1:18 the prophet said, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." If there, ever was a man, or a woman that needed to hear a message as to how to have their crimson, scarlet sins made white as snow, it was Felix and Drusilla.

### RIGHTEOUSNESS

First it was necessary in this message of Paul to Felix and Drusilla concerning the faith in Christ Jesus to reason with them about righteousness. What statement would be any better to begin than what he would say in Romans in the third chapter: "There is none righteous, no not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They have all turned aside, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no not so much as one. Their throat is an open sepulcher; With

their tongue they have used deceit; the poison of the asp is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways."

And then Paul could have mentioned what he said in Romans 6:23: "The wages of sin is death." Pay Day is coming some day. Colossians 2:12 would help him understand how he could be forgiven and given the hope of eternal life. "Having been buried with Him in baptism, wherein ye were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead through your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, you I say did He make alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses; having blotted out the bond written in ordinances which was against us: taking it out of the way nailing it to His cross."

### SELF-CONTROL

How do you talk to someone about self-control who always gave free rein to any and every temptation they ever had?

Paul might have started with Proverbs 25:18: "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like unto a city that is broken down and without walls." It appears that such a person is absolutely defenseless before any and every assault of the Devil.

Paul may have instructed Felix and Drusilla with a device he, himself used when he said in 1st Corinthians 9:27, "But I buffet my body, and bring it under subjection: lest after having preached unto others, I myself should be a castaway." Paul uses a boxing term here. He says, I am not just shadow boxing, this is a real fight, as my spirit pounds away at my flesh, and I intend to go the distance.

We are exhorted in Romans 6:12: "Let not sin reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey the lusts thereof." And then in verse 16, "Know ye not, that to whom ye present yourselves unto obedience, His servants ye are whom ye obey."

One of the greatest example of self-control is in the life

of our Lord Jesus Christ. In Matthew 27:12-14 we read: And when He was accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. Then saith Pilate unto Him, "Hearst thou not how many things they witness against thee?" And He gave him no answer, not even to one word: insomuch that the governor marveled greatly. But Jesus held his peace? I wonder how many listening at this time, can join me is saying: "I wish I had that kind of self-control."

### THE JUDGMENT

And then the third point naturally follows when Paul speaks to Felix and Drusilla concerning the Day of Judgment. He could have told them of several things Jesus said about the judgment. In Matthew 16:27: "The Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father and His angels; and then shall He render unto every man according to his deeds." Matthew 12:37: "By thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." John 12:48: "He that rejecteth Me, and receiveth not my sayings, has one that judgeth him: the word that I spake, the same shall judge him in the last day."

Felix and Drusilla were no doubt reminded of what Paul said in Acts 17:31, "God has appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all the nations in that He hath raised Him from the dead." God does not want us to forget that it is a man who will judge the world: a man who has earned the right to judge since He endured all the temptations that come to us, and was victorious.

Then no sermon on the judgment could have been complete without Paul telling what John would say later on, in his own description of the Judgment in Revelation 20, "And I saw a great throne, and Him who sat upon it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no room for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne; and books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged according to the things which are written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead that were in it; and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death, even the lake of fire. And if any was not found written in the book of life he was cast into the lake of fire." There is a warning that needs to be heeded by all that think of the Judgment Day in Amos 4:12 when the prophet says: "Prepare to meet thy God."

### CONCLUSION

As Paul finished his message, Felix trembled and answered, "Go thy way for this time; and when I have a convenient season, I will call thee again unto me." He hoped withal that money would be given him of Paul, wherefore also he sent for him the oftener, and communed with him. He was looking for a bribe from Paul that was never offered. This went on for two years, and Felix never trembled again. We read in James 2:19, "thou believest that God is one: thou doest well: for even the demons also believe, and shudder."

Someone has written these unforgettable lines.

Tomorrow he promised his conscience, Tomorrow I'll mean to believe. Tomorrow, I'll think as I ought to think, Tomorrow, my Savior receive. Tomorrow, tomorrow, tomorrow, thus day after day it went on. Tomorrow, tomorrow, tomorrow, till youth like a vision was gone. Till age and his passions had written, this message of fate on his brow; And forth from the shadows came death, with the pitiable syllable Now.

## Ike & Lee's Update

Soul Winning: We began our souls winning this year with a strategy to look again around us, in the vicinity where we live and the nearby towns and villages. So now we go preaching the Gospel in the nearby villages once again after evangelizing these villages and the neighborhood some 10 or so years ago and the result we are getting is very encouraging. We now go on Tuesdays and return the next day. This works for us because Tuesdays and Fridays are market days in our area and so all the villages folks travel to our town (Bawjiase) to sell their farm produce so there wouldn't be, many or any one in the villages from the morning till the evening. In the evening all the village folks will assembled to watch a Gospel Film Show and to listen to the word of God. A strategy we have adopted to attract more people to listen to us. This strategy helped us start the year with a total of 8 souls baptizing through our ministry in January 2009. All these new converts will be worshiping with us at Park Side Church of Christ (PSCC)

Church Planting: We are also working on to start the congregation at Agona Nkwanta this year. The only problem is still how to support the one to lead that congregation when it is started. As of last December 2008, the Fianko Church of Christ is self-supporting after only 2 years. There is also the "unexpected church" which we have told you about that needs help in leadership, a place to meet, and Bibles in our Local languages for most of our converts in these villages can't read the English Bible.

Our visit to the "unexpected church" was successful with 36 people in attendance, it was Saturday so that was no a problem. However, the actual members in attendance were 21. Church attendance at Park Side Church of Christ was the lowest ever recorded in our 6 years 7 months old in existence. We were 41 adults of which only 35 were members. There were over 8 funerals in town and that caused the low attendance. The economic situation too is a factor but yes or no, we are on.

We truly have a long way to go if we are to achieve our dream of planting Churches of Christ in every village and town in GHANA.

Bible Lessons: We are still enrolling and mailing lessons (Studies in the Bible) out to students. Just this morning before leaving home to mail this report we received a box full of 100 copies of completed lessons 1-5 Studies in the Bible from a Pastor from his church members from a village that are ready to send to GIJAPA for grading.

Thank You: We would like to say a big thank to all of

you out there who have been supporting the programs of GIJAPA, you are indirectly winning souls, when you give clothes to the needy and give hope to the poor. Never cease praying for US and GIJAPA Radio Broadcast. God bless you all.

## LETTERS

Welcome all of you!

I am glad to write you for the first time, from the Island of Malta (Island of Melita in Acts 28 where Paul was shipwrecked) in the centre of the Mediterranean. Recently I began to listen to your programme is being transmitted on short-wave every Sunday at 1930-2000 UTC in English language. I very much appreciate all preparations and your dedication to produce your programme. I would like to inform you most radio reception is not of good quality like yours it is instability as well as is full of interference. Please could I have a schedule of all your programmes in different languages? I am interested in knowing about your activity. Is it possible to have a free copy of the gospel book of lessons (Studies in the Bible) which you are offering in the end of the programme above mentioned? Thank you that you have heard me. Kindly excuse me for any inconvenience I might have caused you. I enclose here with two post cards of Malta. Thanking you in anticipation for your kind co-operation. Finally I would like to personally wish you all and your families as well as all listeners good health and many years of fruitful life.

*Yours Sincerely Karmelo*

Dear Bro. Ed & Naomi Bousman,

I want to thank you for the 2 boxes of used clothing and shoes you sent to my ministry in Liberia. I received them last week. I distributed them to one of our many congregations near Monrovia. The recipients were very happy for the gifts and they prayed for your Ministry.

*In Christ. Mike Foday from Monrovia, Liberia*

Dear Brethren,

Grace and peace to you through our Lord Jesus Christ. We hope and trust that this report finds you well and prospering in all that our Lord plans for you. This report is about the progress towards the Lord's church. Messenger Church of Christ; Solwezi, Zambia, Africa. Just a reminder that I am married with 6 children. I am not employed in any secular work; studied theology at Manzini Bible School now African Christian College in Swaziland. I have Active members 60. In January 2009, we baptized 5. We need more Bible and materials because we intend to start a street ministry as materials are available. To think of you sending us all these wonderful gifts, my family and I continue to thank you. The hymn that we sang yesterday Sunday night with my family moved me very deeply. This song also triggered great emotion within my soul. Please join our song: "Face to face with Christ my Savior, Face to face how will it be, Face to face, in all His glory, I shall see Him by and by." Our pain is that you are very far from us, but one day we shall see each other face to face. I don't know how it will be when Jesus Christ will tell us that Brother Ed and Sister Naomi Bousman are in that room. We do, however

send you our love, our heart, and pray that one day we shall see you face to face. This day I shall say thank Brother Ed, for all you did for us with my mouth not by mail. Send us your family picture and when is your birthday? Thank you very much from both of us.

*John Maseka, (Evangelist)*

Dear Ed Bousman,

I am in prison in Newport, Arkansas-McPherson Unit and I seen your Bible Studies through a friend in here and I would like to know if you have a large print Bible you could send to me and can I enroll in your Bible studies too?

*Thank you Sandra*

My name is Jeffrey and I'm currently incarcerated at Washington County detention Center in Fayetteville, Arkansas. I'm going to be going to prison sometime soon and I would really like a Bible sent to me to take on my journey.

*Thank you and God bless*

Dear Br. Bousman,

I've heard about your Bible studies and would gladly like to be a part of the lessons. Would gladly appreciate the large printed Bible. Thank you for all you're given time and concerns in regards to the prison system.

*With highest respect. Aaron from Wrightsville, Arkansas*

Dear Ed & Naomi

Just a few lines to let you know that I am reading the NIV Bible on a regular basis that you sent to me. It is so clear and concise which makes it a pleasure to read. I hope you both had a good Christmas. I still listen to your Sunday broadcast here, Ed over Bible Voice Europe. I am glad to know that you have loyal benefactors for unlike other radio programs you do not rely on advertising to fund your transmission. My church is only a few minutes walk from my house and I just recently have had the honor of reading the lesson again. It is a great privilege to speak God's word to the parishioners. God bless you both as you continue to transmit God's word over the air-waves.

*Ian from Merton Park, England*

Dear Ed & Naomi Bousman,

Wish you a very Happy New Year. May God give you both and your team good health and may you save many more souls. Thank you very much for sending my Studies In The Bible certificate. I was thrilled to get it along with the study material of the book of Acts and some literature. Thank you for promptly sending me all this. Please pray for me that I may work for the Lord.

*Yours in Christ Ruby from Bhilai, India*

Dear Ed & Naomi

Grace and peace of the Lord be with you always and forever more. First of all I would like to say Christian greeting to you in the precious and mighty name of Jesus Christ our Lord almighty. Thank you very much for sending me the lovely red Bible and lessons I so much needed. Thank you for your wonderful work by spreading the gospel world wide. God will continue to multiply unto you

and your ministry. I am writing you this letter to response to your sent gift I was so happy now. I have used the Bible for teaching people about the acts of Jesus but with secret because as we know Eritrean Government has ordered the closure of all Christian Churches that are not Orthodox Roman and Catholic. Please help me again by sending shoes and clothes for my brother's small child. I am 26 years old my shoe size is 41. Thank you so much! God bless your work richly!

*From your brother Kiros, Eritrean postal service  
Eritrea, E. Africa*

Dear Beloved Ed Bousman,

Calvary Greetings! This is to let you know that these names are students from Government College; they would love to study the Bible with you. I have told them about your studies in the Bible. Therefore I am sending these names to you for Bibles and your Studies in the Bible lessons. Here are the 10 names.

*Martin from Word of God Ministries Nigeria, W. Africa*

Dear Mr. Bousman,

My name is Jeff D.; I've been doing your studies for probably over a year. First thank you sir for the opportunity to be a part of a truly great study of the word of God, you and your volunteers are truly responsible for me reaching a very close relationship with God through the mighty Jesus Christ. I just finished my 6th study. Mr. Bousman, I'm writing and praying that I might get a chain reference Bible new or used. Or maybe information as how I could get one. Thank you, Sir for the love you have already showed. Your brother in Christ in prison at Briceys, Arkansas. (If anyone has a used Chain Reference Bible you would like to donate to Jeff, I'll see that he gets it.)

Beloved Brother Bousman,

Thanks be to God we have taken delivery of a box of used shoes and clothing each and I have received the two cases of Bibles you sent to us and we are so grateful for your great assistance towards us. We thank you so much

for your concern. I salute Sister Naomi and all. Please keep on praying for us on this hard soil. This year we have started on a good note and I believe more souls would be won more than that of last year. To God alone be the Glory through His Son Jesus Christ, Amen. Please keep on praying for us.

*Alexander Ofori, a servant of The Most High God,  
London Corner Church of Christ in The Gambia, W. Africa*

## BREAKING THE ICE

*From GIJAPA Newsletter March 1979*

Once during my ministry we have had to break the ice to baptize a person. This seems on the face of it a chilling experience and I would not argue the point. Some seem to think that since the Lord has told us to baptize and to be baptized that no dire side effects will take place. The Lord will see to it that we do not get sick. However, a miracle is not needed in such cases to keep the person being baptized from getting sick.

Water freezes at 32 degrees, so no matter how cold it is the water can't get any colder than that. The people who suffer from the cold are the people who may stand on the bank in zero weather. If it is zero as far as the air is concerned, then the people watching are 32 degrees colder than the person in the water. No special miracle is needed to keep the watchers from getting sick, so we would suppose that none would be needed for the person in the water. But whether you get sick or not, is not the point. The Lord has commanded it and so it must be done. However most people today don't have to worry. The building is usually warmed to about 72 degrees and the water is heated, so that it is just right. No one has to get the least bit chilled. We do it right. One time I started to go into the baptistry to baptize and had to back out for awhile. The water was hot, almost hot enough to scald. But we managed to get the job done. After all, hell will be a lot hotter. E.B.



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