

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
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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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:

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SRI LANKA INDIA:

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BIBLE VOICE RUSSIA:

Sunday 8:00 PM
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ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR MINISTRY ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

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Issue 6

The Perfect Story

Jesus told the perfect story when he said: "Now a certain man had two sons, and the younger of the two told his father he wanted his inheritance right now, and the father gave it to him." He did not give it to him out of love, but because he had no choice. A father has a grown son, and he has made up his mind to go to the far country; what else is there to do, but let him go. Actually he was already in the far country long before his body followed.

The Heavenly Father often deals with us the same way. When we make up our minds as to what we are determined to do; that is what we want to do go ahead, the far country is not geographically far away, but spiritually far away. You can be thousands of miles away geographically, but billions of light years away spiritually. He went to a far country.

THE FAR COUNTRY

The far country is mentioned several times in scripture. One place is the day the Church began when Peter had preached the first gospel sermon regarding the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. When the believing thousands inquired what they must do Peter told them, and then said that to them was the promise and to their children and to all that were afar off.

Paul mentions those who were afar off in Ephesians 2:13 when he said that Jesus came and preached peace to them that were afar off and to them that were nigh. The Jews regarded the Gentiles as afar off. So when Peter told the Pentecostal audience that to them was the promise, and to them that were afar off, the Holy Spirit included the Gentiles that would be told later on that salvation through the Messiah was for them also.

But there is another element to the ones who were afar off. He also meant those that were afar off in time. The terms of pardon were given to those present on that day and their children, and to all those who would live years after.

The terms that Peter gave would be the same terms required for those who would live in the first century and for those who would live in the twenty first century. The far country is the place where every one lives in any generation, and in any century.

The far country is so named because any person who lives there is as far away from God as they can ever get. Actually geographically you don't have to travel very far to go to the far country. You may live under the same roof with a person who is nigh and yet be in the far country yourself. I know of children who are in the Father's house, and their parents live in the far country under the same roof. Sometimes parents are in the Father's House, and the children living under the same roof are in the far country. What then was life like in the far country?

LIFE IN THE FAR COUNTRY

Life in the far country was different for the prodigal son than at home. In the far country he wasted his inheritance and was bankrupt. Any person in the far country is wasting his life. You may be wealthy and famous, and still be a resident of the far country. Jesus said, "Except ye believe in me ye shall die in your sins." What a horrible waste of life, to live without Christ. This young man spent all, and was in want and no man gave unto him.

No man gave unto him because no man had anything to give him. What message does the atheist have for the person who has just received the news that he has terminal cancer, and has six months to live? They have nothing to give, absolutely nothing. No man gave unto him.

What message does the pornographer have for the woman with a dead baby in her lap? They have nothing to give, absolutely nothing. No man gave unto him. They have nothing to give. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. That is the best the Devil can do for those who have gone to the far country. Actually the prodigal son developed a taste for the food of the pigpen. He fain would have filled his belly with the husks the swine

did eat. Many folk today are like that prodigal son. They have a yearning to eat in the pigpen. What better way to describe, most of the slop of television sitcom fare? Most of the movies people dote on are sophisticated hog slop. So it is very convincing to the weak minded Americans when they see and hear them speak in favor of abortion, and perversion. And then one day he came to himself.

HE CAME TO HIMSELF

One day while slopping the sophisticated hogs a wonderful thing happened. He came to himself. One version says he came to his senses. He admitted that he must have been spiritually insane to leave the father's house. How about you? Many a person will say on the Judgment Day, "I must have been out of my mind to live as I lived on earth." One of these days we will all run out of time; but we will never run out of eternity

BREAD ENOUGH AND TO SPARE

Think of it there is bread enough and to spare. Jesus said, "I am the bread that came down out of Heaven. He that eats this bread shall live forever." There is always bread enough and to spare. Think of the feeding of the 5,000. There was bread enough and to spare, twelve basket full left over. What a miracle! And then think of the feeding of the 3,000. The 3,000 on the day of Pentecost, ate of the bread of life and were satisfied and there was enough left over to feed them and their children and also enough for all them that are afar off. WOW! Bread enough and to spare! The statement of Jesus about being the bread of life has overtones of the Lord's Supper. Think about it, there is bread enough and to spare. However one day the prodigal son decided to go home.

MAKE ME A HIRED SERVANT

He said, "I will arise and go to my father and will say unto him, 'I have sinned before Heaven and in thy sight. Make me as one of thy hired servants.'" But the father not only forgave him; he also gave him. God forgives, and now He gives. The father forgave his son, and then gave his son, a robe, a ring, shoes, and the fatted calf.

God says when He forgives that He will give you something. He gives you the gift of the forgiveness of sins, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. God forgives, and then God gives. That is what Peter said: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." He also said, "And ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Not only does He give you forgiveness, and the Holy Spirit, but He also gives you the hope of Heaven. God forgives and God gives.

These gifts are given when like the prodigal son we place ourselves under the authority of the Father. It was only then that he received the robe, the ring, the shoes, and the fatted calf. It was only then that they received the seal, ate the veal, and danced the reel. Doe see doe, and away we go.

THEY BEGAN TO BE MERRY

And now let the party begin. Let us eat, and be merry for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found. And they began to be merry. That means they had a celebration. Making merry is the story of the life of the

Christian. Many years ago I confessed that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God and was immersed for the remission of sins and I have been making merry and celebrating ever since. Ladies and Gentlemen, I have lived. I have been whooping it up all my life! Yahoo! Perhaps some might wonder, haven't there been any rough times in the Lord's service? Well yes, Paul said in Romans 5:3-6, "We have peace with God, and not only so, we rejoice also in our tribulations, for tribulations works steadfastness, and steadfastness, approvedness, and approvedness hope, for hope putteth not to shame; because the love of God hath been shed abroad in our hearts through the Holy Spirit which was given to us. For while we were weak in the flesh, in due season Christ died for the ungodly." And so what ever comes up I feel like that piano player who was criticized as not being a very good musician, but who said he laughed all the way to the bank. Well I have been merry, and although there may have been some tribulations on the pathway of life, through it all, I have been laughing all the way to Heaven. And they began to be merry; everybody that is, except the elder brother.

HE WAS ANGRY AND WOULD NOT GO IN

But the elder brother was in the field, and when he came to the house he heard music and dancing. He listened carefully and said, "Sounds like they are singing, *Just As I Am Without One Plea*, and then it sounded like they sang what sounded like *Amazing Grace How Sweet The Sound That Saved A Wretch Like me*." I don't think when he heard the music that they were bellowing out the ballads of Beelzebub. When he heard of the arrival of his younger brother he was angry and would not go in.

The elder brother lost no sleep over the lost condition of his brother. Many a member leaves the Father's House today and his departure is never noticed. Many a person has told me that after missing a few Sunday services the elders or the preacher never inquire as to where they have gone. Most folk could leave most of our Churches and their departure would not be noticed. No body cares. Does it ever bother you to look around and note the absence of any of the other members? Did it ever occur that they might have gone to the far country?

The elder brother is like many also in that he was miserable in his service. He was in the field working like he was supposed to do. He never did anything consistent with the life style of the father. He was unhappy. He found no fulfillment in his relationship with the father. Some today find the Christian life a drudge. The story of the prodigal son is the story of two sons who went to a far country. One left home, and went to a far country, and the other stayed home, and went to the far country.

Sometimes for the hymn of decision the gospel song is used: "I've wandered far away from God now I'm coming home." Actually it might be a good song to sing for the members of the Church. Many an elder brother needs to come home too. Many an elder brother needs to say, "I will arise and go to my Father, and will say unto Him I have sinned against Heaven and in thy sight." Remember, the Lord will forgive, and the Lord will give.

I've wandered far away from God. Now I'm coming home.

The paths of sin too long I've trod, Lord, I'm coming home. My soul is sick; my heart is sore, Now, I'm coming home.

My strength re-new, my hope restore, Lord, I'm coming home.

L E T T E R S

Dear Sir,

I am listening to your programme, God Is Just A Prayer Away, on Sunday over Sir Lanka Broadcasting Corp in Sri Lanka. I wish to receive your book on gospel Bible lessons and wish to enroll as a learner of your Bible lessons.

Thanks, W. Wilson P. from Sri Lanka.

Welcome once again,

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for a wonderful copy of the Holy Bible, I have greatly appreciated it that I received together with 10 Bible lesson among others that you returned graded - heartfelt thanks. I enjoyed reading and fill them with great interest, because they are very interesting. Please could I have a copy of the lyrics of the signature tune which opens and closes your programme that is being transmitted on short-wave every Sunday between 1930 and 2000 UTC (Bible Voice Russia)? I am pleased to send you a set of 10 post cards of the old city of Malta, called Medina which is pronounced IM-DI-NA, and a post card is related to a photo copy of a sermon called "Shake Off The Devil" from Acts chapter 28 a sermon of the week that you sent me, with reference to the shipwreck of Paul on the beach on the Island of Melita. Finally I congratulate you on the marvelous work you are doing, thanks once again.

Yours sincerely, Karmelo M. from Malta

Dear Brother Bousman,

Grace be unto you and peace from our heavenly Father and his beloved Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I am writing to thank you so very much for the blessing your Bible Studies have done for me. I am much more knowledgeable about the word of God and my mission is to share my blessing and spread the good news. I really appreciate you, Brother Bousman. May the Lord continue to bless you and your ministry.

Antonio from Federal Correctional Institution in Glenville, WV

Brother Ed Bousman,

I want to thank you for being an obedient, wise servant of the Lord. The works you are doing in Africa, India and every place else God directs you is without reason God sent. My prayers are constant to God that He continues to watch over you and the saints. Each month that I get my magazine, "God is Just A Prayer Away" and read it, I get goose bumps. Every time I read about how mighty that God is working through you and your ministry thru His word. It at times too brings tears of joy to my eyes. Even though I've been labeled a hardened criminal, the love of God still dwells within me. Bro. Ed, thank you with all the love of God that He has allowed to be in this mortal body.

Although I am in prison in Indiana, I am free as I have never known freedom. I hope to see you in the church in heaven, when our Father smiles upon us. I'll be one of the many with tears of joy flowing down my cheeks!

By His grace, Harley M. New Castle Correctional Facility, Indiana

Dear Mr. Bousman,

Greetings in Jesus name. I hope you are well. Many thanks for the audio cassettes which arrived here safely. They are a great blessing. I would be grateful of you could please keep me on your mailing list for these cassettes. In the meantime, I pray that God will continue to bless your good work, and I pray that more souls will be saved for the Lord.

In Christ Christopher L. from England

Dear Brother Bousman,

Thanks so much, we are in the dry season here and this is the time we do much work. We are always happy for your great assistance to us here. I have just received another case of Bibles from you, thanks so much, brother. I am happy you've sent some used clothing again; I will check that up at the post and write to you upon receiving them Sir. The Church here keeps on growing and we shall need extra Lord's Super Trays, at least if even we get one for the meantime. Apart from the Gambia here, I am also usually called upon to assist in nearby countries. A congregation we planted in the Cassamance region of Senegal has asked me to also find them with one Lord's supper Tray and some Bibles. They are also growing fast these days. In case you could please be of assistance in this area also we shall be glad. This area is Muslim dominated and to get things pertaining to Christianity is not easy at all. Thanks be to God for your assistance to us here on this hard soil. Your Bibles are helping us so much in this land, plus the used clothing and shoes. Please do not worry so much Sir, in case the means of getting the communion trays may be difficult. My wife is saluting Sister Naomi and the entire family. Thanks so much, nice family.

Alexander Ofori, a servant of the Most High God from The Gambia in Africa

PTL! We got this church planted at Adawukwao last Sunday of April and 4 people from the town became members. That is a good news for us and we were glad of the enthusiasm of these four pioneers and founding members of the Adawukwao Church of Christ. Seven members from Parkside Church of Christ our home Church went with us with 2 children. We are so happy these four brethren asked us to immediately begin evening Bible class for them so come Thursday and every Thursday, we shall be there to hold Bible class, which we hope will bring in more souls. Parkside Church of Christ, where we worship now was started with 5 adults and 5 children but today in less than 6 years old and, we are over 200 in membership. We very much believe that by 6 months, we shall be over 50.

Our only problem here is that, though we have a place to worship temporally, we need to work on the building, the roof, the floor, and the structure is wooden instead of

cement block. But the work on the building is much important for us because it is very bad and when it rains, the wind can blow into the room and the leakages too are very bad. We thank you so much for your support and prayer for this project to be so successful. We shall keep updating you and the next church to be planted either at Danso or Ofakor. Though the work at Adawukwao is taking most of our attention, we are still working on Ed's sermon translation program and last Tuesday, we went and it was very ok with a soul baptized same day because we were close to a stream at where we had the program. The woman and her two little daughters were at church with us last Wednesday. The GIJAPA newsletter is still our tool and are still trying to see what happens. We thank you so much. I was at the village alone yesterday to thank all those who attended the people's assembly and also those we contacted but were unable to attend to remind them that we are coming back next Sunday so they should try to attend to worship with us. We had to attend a child-naming ceremony, which we were the officiators and then to a sister's wedding which I was the officiator as well. just after the wedding I had to travel to Adawukwao, the village where we are planting the new church to see the gong gong sounder to sound the gong gong to remind the people that we shall be there the following day for worship. I had to also go round again to talk to some few people we talked to the previous Sunday to see how they feel about our coming. From there I had to join Lee back home to where I left her for church committee meeting at 5 pm and was there till 8:30 pm for our general church prayer meeting that comes on every Saturday. We have very well trained brothers to teach Bible lessons. We still need some more Bibles in our local languages. May God bless you and greet everybody for us.

Ike & Lee from Ghana, W. Africa

Dear Brother Ed Bousman,

We send you greetings from all the members of Messenger Church of Christ in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and trust that you are well and that God is blessing

your ministry. The Church greatly appreciate your continued support and prayers for our ministry and the health and well being of all our members. Besides celebrating our first year as a church, we observed an astonishing level of youths and adults in the church and the community suffer from visual impairment and blindness due to uncorrected reflective errors. This happened when I gave some glasses to the brethren who attended the service. The effect of reflective errors is so great here in Zambia. To our youths, they cripple educational progressive and in adults, they increase occupational hazards while decreasing economic productivity. The potential demand for spectacles here in our country is enormous. One can often see the effect of reflectors errors in our church by most people failing to read their Bibles. I have received more requests for glasses from Saturday till today. At the end of the service, all the members, children and those invited joined together to sing the hymn in our local language: Heavenly Father, we praise your name.

Thank you, God bless. John Maseka (Evangelist - Messenger Church of Christ, Zambia, Africa)

Bro. Ed and Sister Naomi,

Greetings, and thank you for the box of tracts, "What Saves A Man" received today. About the CDs and tapes, lately I have not received any and am wondering if these are going missing on route. I thought I should let you know.

Aubrey R. from UK



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