

GJJAPA



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GOD Is Just a Prayer Away

50,000 Watt Stations Every Sunday

WLW	6:30 AM	700 Dial	Cincinnati, OH
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KXEL	10:30 PM	1540 Dial	Waterloo, IA
WRVA	7:04 AM	1140 Dial	Richmond, VA
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WIBC	7:30 AM	93.1 Dial	Indianapolis, IN
WHAS	7:30 AM	840 Dial	Louisville, KY
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WMCL	8:30 AM	1060 Dial	McLeansboro, IL
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AFRICA:

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

BEACON of HOPE N. AFRICA:

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ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR MINISTRY ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

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Issue 6

TWO COMMUNION MEDITATIONS

THE CROWN OF THORNS

The soldiers platted a crown of thorns and put it upon His head, and arrayed Him in a purple garment, and kneeled down before Him, and in mockery said, "Hail King of the Jews."

It was appropriate that they should think of the crown of thorns, because in the Garden of Eden thorns were a part of the curse. God told Adam; because thou hast done this thing, and hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and eaten of the tree whereof I commanded thee, saying, "Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistle shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat of the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it thou wast taken: for dust thou art and unto dust thou shalt return."

In Galatians four, Paul says that Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having been made a curse for us; for it is written, cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree.

Actually the multitudes offered Jesus a crown when He fed the 5,000, but He refused that crown, and now at the crucifixion, they gave Him a crown of thorns.

In the book of Revelation nineteen, John tells when Jesus will return as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, He will be wearing many crowns. In Second Samuel, David captured the city of Rabbah and took the crown of the king, and put it on his head. The crown weighed a talent. A talent weight is about 75 pounds. The king of the Ammonites did not have to have an oversized head to wear such a crown, but he did have an oversized ego.

When Jesus comes again the many crowns He will wear; whatever the combined weight of those crowns may be, will rest easy on the head of omnipotence.

Remember that one of His crowns will be the crown of King of the Church. The Church is the Kingdom of God, and we need to remember that the Church is not a democracy, it is a Theocracy, and whenever the King makes a law we have no vote on the matter. He will be wearing many crowns, but He will not be wearing the crown of thorns.

Because He willingly wore the crown of thorns, the saints will be able through His grace to wear the crown of righteousness that Paul tells about in Second Timothy 4:8: "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord shall give to me, and not only to me, but to all them that have loved His appearing." Eat the loaf and drink of the cup, and remember that Jesus wore a crown of thorns that we might wear a crown of righteousness.

Remember also that the Apostle Peter told the elders of the church, if they were faithful in the work of the eldership, when the Chief Shepherd appears they would be given a crown of Glory that would never fade away.

But it is with sober consideration that we remember the warning Jesus gave two Churches in Revelation. He told one Church, "I come quickly, hold fast that which thou hast, that no one take thy crown." And to the other He said, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life."

In Revelation four we read of four and twenty elders standing before the throne, arrayed in white garments, and wearing crowns of gold. When they worshiped the Lord they cast their crowns before the throne.

As Christians we do not need to wait until we get to heaven to cast our crowns before the throne. Eat the loaf and drink the cup, and look at the One who wore the crown of thorns, and take the crown of your life here on earth, whether it is your intellect, your money, your greatest talent, and ability, and cast it at the foot of the cross.

The gospel song says it for us: Crown Him with many crowns-The Lamb upon His throne-Hark how the heavenly anthems drown-All music, but its own. Awake my soul

and sing-Of Him who died for thee-And hail Him as thy matchless King-Through all eternity.

THE REAL DEAL

Jesus fed five thousand with five loaves and two fishes. The multitude wanted to make him king, and to escape the crowd he went up into a mountain to pray. The apostles got into the boat to return to the other side. John informs us it was now dark, and the sea was rising by reason of a great wind that blew. During the storm Jesus looked down, and saw them toiling at the rowing. He watched them row that boat against the wind for about seven or eight hours. We know this because he came to them in the fourth watch of the night. They had rowed all that time, and had only gone about three and a half miles. Then Jesus came to them at about three o'clock in the morning walking upon the sea.

According to Matthew 14:16 when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost," and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spoke unto them, saying, "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid."

The word spirit in this verse means phantom, or ghost. And cried out indicates they shrieked, or screamed. They thought Jesus was a phantom, a ghost a specter, something unreal.

Now the disciples knew the boat was real, they knew the wind was real, they knew the sea was real; they knew they were in real danger of dying a real death by drowning, and they knew this was no nightmare. Every thing about this situation was real; except one thing, Jesus was a phantom, a ghost: unreal.

We wonder how many people today think Jesus is a phantom, he is unreal. Today many are living in fantasy-land. The church is a fantasy, and has no real purpose in life. The Bible is not real; it is a collection of myths, like Hans Christian Anderson's fairy tales, and even most members of the church never bother to read it. Baptism has no relevance to salvation at all: an empty form by which we join a church. The Lord's Supper is a meaningless ceremony where people eat a little piece of bread, and take a sip of grape juice, and many ignore it altogether, especially if there is something else they would rather do.

The disciples found out that Jesus was not a phantom; Jesus was for real, and the only real answer to the problem of certain destruction. Times have not changed; Christ is the answer, and the only answer, the one and only way of escape from the horrible future that looms before the human race.

Sin is for real, the Devil is for real, and Jesus is for real, the cross on which Jesus died for our sins is for real, the church Jesus established in the New Testament on the Day of Pentecost is for real. Dying is a real event for everybody, no exemptions. Hell is for real, heaven is for real, the second coming of Jesus is for real, and the Judgment Day is for real. And the Lord's Supper is a real testimony of remembrance of a real event concerning our salvation. The Lord's Supper of Jesus Christ is not only real; it is the real deal.

IKE & LEE UPDATE

Awutu Ofadaa: We are still holding our twice-a-week Bible Class (Sound Doctrine) under the tree in front of that brother's house waiting for the renovation work on the roof (especially) of the old school block that has been given us to worship in. Unfortunately for us the recent torrential rain in most part of Ghana has worsened the already bad situation of the classroom block that we will now need more funds for the repair work. Many people (including brethren in Ofadaa, Fianko and Bawjiase) have been rendered homeless due to the recent heavy down pours. We now number 39 adults here.

Fianko: this is our mega church among all the churches we have planted so far. Brother Ekow Richard is doing a tremendous job here strengthening the brethren and making the church what it should be. Lee and I were there twice in the month to visit them as a congregation and some two individuals who have broken legs and those who were biting by snakes whilst going to church. This church has been able to acquire a piece of land through a Christian brother in the church and plans are underway to construct a permanent meeting place. We are contemplating looking for a professional Preacher to lead the church very soon so that Brother Ekow will go lead another congregation to be planted soon. We thank you all for your prayers.

Other Churches: By the grace of God, all the churches planted by YOU and The Truth are doing well. The "Unexpected Church", Adawukwao and Agona Nkwanta churches are growing in numbers though they still face with brain draining, others come in to fill the vacant places. Keep praying for all these congregations and us.

Baptisms: God led us to win a total of 28 souls in different towns and villages for Him! PTL!! Among these number are 4 couples and we are very glad to have them into the Lord's church. Beloved, all these are been possible due to your prayers, Bibles, clothes and shoes you send to us.

Bibles: GIJAPA is doing all it can supplying us with Bibles but it is not in the quantities it used to be and we know this is so due to the economic crunch but we would like to say that we need more Bibles (both in English and in our local languages). Please, help us!

Used Clothing: We can't tell you how much this material is winning souls for Christ. Out of ten persons we meet, at least 7 will say thank you for the clothing for us, and or, my family. May the good Lord richly bless you for donating your clothing for someone who didn't have to have it to worship God. God bless you but keep donating for we need more used clothing for the more new converts as well as the old ones who need more.

Ed's Sermon Translation Program and Bible Study Groups: We go translating Ed's sermons to hearers of the Gospel every Tuesday and Friday and it is very okay. At times, we use the GIJAPA Newsletters and now distributing Ed's sermons we are coping per permission to people. The feedback is encouraging. So far we have two more Bible study groups in two different villages for some people who asked us to plant a church for them in their villages in wait for the church to be planted for them. We go once a week to each village. As soon as we get the Awutu Ofadaa church plant-

ed, one of these groups would soon be turned into a church.
Pray for us. Ghana, W. Africa

Dear Naomi and Ed,

It was good to receive this message below from Stephen Ssali in Uganda. Stephen has received the lessons (30 lessons of Studies in the Bible) that you sent. That's great. I know that they will be a big help to him. Thanks. God bless your work today. Because of the Lord, Barry Kermeen, KY. Barry, I apologize for having not communicate in time, I have been not in the country for almost a month. I have just received the lessons. Thank you very much and also send my thanks to Brother Ed Bousman. I am doing good this side and let me hope that you are okay.

Stay blessed. Stephen Ssali from Uganda, E. Africa

Dear Sir,

My name is Peter, I am glad to mail you and I greet you in name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am doing great in Barcelona, Spain. It's therefore my hope and prayer that all is well by God grace.

I am up coming Christian and I would like to know God's will. Please I want one of your Holy Bibles and the 30 lesson which you offered at the end of your shortwave broadcast. I will be grateful if you send to me. Thank you Hope to hear from you.

Your son in Christ, Peter

Dear Ed & Naomi,

Just a few lines to let you know the latest things are just about the same here. I hope you are both well. I listen to your program every Sunday over Bible Voice Europe. There are several evangelists who broadcast on your wavelength. We are the local Church of England worshippers and have a very good choir. We take the holy sacraments every Sunday. Please find enclosed some cash to help your ministry. Everything costs money and this donation will go towards that.

Yours very sincerely Iam from Merton Park, England

Madame Naomi,

Thank you so much for all the three (3) latest CPs for boxes you are sending in the mail for us. Just got last Friday a box of used clothing you have sent earlier. This stuff is big helps for us for the people around us to see Christ in our lives & teachings as they reflected our love to their souls in showing our cares to their basics. May God bless GIJAPA & her donors & supporters for this thought you put forth in us in preaching the Gospel. By the way, I am not able to precede my schedules this Sunday morning. I requested a brother to do the work for me for a time. I have fever & colds due to change of weather. Hot during the day & cold in the morning. Folks here, especially children, have this sort of illness & it looks like normal considering our El Niño pneumonia, a hot whether coupled with the scanty of rain. Hope that our Ed Bousman would continue to be healed. We have been feeling so bad for his physical pain & struggle. We love him so much & pray the Grace of God is sufficient for us all as in the time of Paul when he has torn in the flesh.

Please be assured we have been mindful & prayerful to

him & to you all often.

Ed Domingo, Evangelist Sunset Beach Church of Christ, Philippines

Letters from prisoners in Arkansas

Ed Bousman,

I would like to thank you for the Bible. I know it was all God that put it on your heart to send it to me. I thank God for choosing a person like you to help people like me. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you are doing.

God bless, Radford

My name is Daniel I would like to be enrolled in your bible studies. Thank you.

Brother Bousman, I would first like to say thank you and I truly appreciate you for the bible and the bible study lessons you sent to me. I really needed them. My name is Brian and I am on my way to the prison in Arkansas for four years. I would like to ask you to pray for me and my wife. I made some bad decisions and I just want to put them behind me and continue my walking with Jesus trying to be the man he intended me to be. May God bless you and your family.

Mr. Ed, my name is Leo and on behalf of myself and Mr. Brian whom are both inmates at the Pike County Jail here in Murfreesboro, Arkansas headed to prison we would like to say thank you. And may god bless you and your family and your Church for blessing us both with the Bibles that you sent to us. They are greatly appreciated and will be read and used daily. We would also like to thank you for the Bible Study lesson as well.

Dear Brother Ed and Sister Naomi,

To my precious friends, the Lord's faithful servants; Dear Ed and Naomi: Our faith sustains us in whatever circumstances we find ourselves. I am so grateful for people like you who are fulfilling the Great commission! Even now Brother Ed, having experienced such dreadful health challenges, I know he still puts the Lord first. Please, Lord, do continue to bless your faithful servants Ed and Naomi! Thank you for having them choose to serve you. Please protect them and give them strength!

Amen I love you both Winnie from Huntington, WV

*Thanks!!
Harlan Church of Christ*

Thanks to the Harlan Church of Christ, Harlan, Indiana for providing GIJAPA with thousands of these tracts that we send with every Bible that we ship out plus we send hundreds at a time to our Churches through out the world for them to use as a tool to reach the lost. This was written by the father of the evangelist of the Harlan Church, David Atchley. If you desire any of these for your congregation, contact us here at GIJAPA and we'll be glad to supply you with them. (see page 4)

WHAT SAVES A MAN?

FAITH saves - Luke 7:9, 18:42, Romans 3:28; Ephesians 2:8; Hebrews 10:38, 11:6
BELIEVING saves - Mark 16:16; Luke 8:12; Acts 13:39, 16:31; Romans 10:9
CHRIST'S NAME saves - Acts 4:12
HOPE saves - Romans 8:24; Titus 3:7
THE GOSPEL saves - I Corinthians 15:1-2; Romans 1:16
GRACE saves - Acts 15:11; Romans 3:24; Ephesians 2:5; II Timothy 1:9
LOVE OF THE TRUTH saves - II Thessalonians 2:18
MERCY saves - Titus 3:5
GOD saves - II Timothy 1:8, 9
CALLING ON THE LORD saves - Acts 2:21, 22:16; Romans 10:13
RECONCILIATION saves - Romans 5:10
CHRIST saves - Matthew 18:11; Luke 19:10; John 10:9; I Timothy 1:15
PREACHING saves - I Corinthians 1:18, 21
BLOOD saves - Acts 20:28; Romans 5-9; Hebrews 9:22; I John 1:7; Revelation 5:9
BAPTISM (immersion) saves - Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:4; I Peter 3:21
ENDURING saves - Matthew 10:22, 24:13; Mark 13:13
OBEDIENCE saves - Acts 5:29, 32; Acts 6-7; Romans 6:17; Hebrews 5:9
CHRIST'S DEATH saves - Romans 5:10, 6:3, 5; Colossians 1:22
WORKS save - I Corinthians 15:58; Philippians 2:12; I Timothy 6:18; Titus 3:14; James 3:13, 2: 17-20

REPENTANCE saves - Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38, 3:19, 17:30; II Corinthians 7:10
ENGRAFTED WORD saves - James 1:21
CONFESSION saves - Matthew 10:32, 33; Romans 10:10
DOCTRINE saves - Romans 6:17; I Timothy 4:16
CHRIST'S LIFE saves - Romans 5:10
FEAR saves - Jude 1:23
SELF-INVOLVEMENT saves - Luke 9:24; Acts 2:40; I Timothy 4:16

Friend, have you seriously considered this question?

This must be the most important matter in heaven because God has included at least twenty-six different things in His word that all go to save us. In this way He shows His interest in our souls. Not even one of these things mentioned can be ignored if we do what God has asked us to do in order to obey His will.

Man is not born in sin but becomes a sinner **Romans 3:23** by transgressing or disobeying the commands of God **I John 3:4**. God has revealed in the Bible just what His will for man is but He has given him the freedom to choose for himself whether he wants to do it or not.

He may remain in sin and be separated from God or he may choose to obey God and be saved from all past sins for eternity.

Undoubtedly the question, "what saves a man?" has troubled mankind for centuries. The book of Acts in the Bible shows this to

be true. It also shows what God's answer is to this all-important question. In chapter two of the Acts of the apostles we have the history recorded of the beginning of the church of Christ. On the day of Pentecost, a special feast day of the Jews, a multitude of Jews had come together in Jerusalem to worship God according to the Old Testament. While they were gathered there, the apostle Peter preached the first complete gospel message about the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.



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