be afraid, we are merely at the beginnings of sorrows and the falling away, from one another in the church. But now a whole extermination of Christian communities of the nations to preach the gospel (Matthew 28). In other words, unless those days would be cut short, no flesh will survive, it is the time of Satan's wrath. But, for the believer's sake, this time will be cut short; it is the time of the great tribulation and the need to do for the King, the nations are still needing the gospel, Christ is being persecuted and is operating under great tribulation and the need for the gospel.

From A Jewish Perspective

The unambiguous answer is found in Christ's message of Easter, if you want to use that term. That is the prototype; He is the first fruit of a much bigger harvest. How can we understand this? It is even difficult to fathom in a dream it all makes sense. You can see past events in a dream and even talk to them and it makes sense to you that God, “That I shall make the sun go down at noon and make the earth go down Saturday night, raises Sunday morning, no problem, here it is.” You can see past events in a dream and even talk to them and it makes sense to you that God, “That I shall make the sun go down at noon and make the earth go down Saturday night, raises Sunday morning, no problem, here it is.”

Televangelists and The New Apostolic Reformation has been growing. Nothing can stop it. Satan sincerely wants to stop it, but it's not as immediate as some have suggested. The Catholic Church counts anybody that was baptized and/or someone that was confirmed. "Catholics" are any layperson anybody that is baptized, anyone that is confirmed. Of course, the Catholic Church tries to get into the perch of the 2 billion, 3 billion, 5 billion Christians in the world, but it's not as real as the truth. While the Catholic Church is being given credit and may say 501 million "christians," let's speak to these Hmong pastors and I ask them, "How many people are going to be arrested, taken away?" Every one of them. Every one. There is no escape, there is no escape from the truth. There is no escape for this church for another. Why can't we see this happening in Muslim countries, and there are thousands of Muslim countries in the world, and there are thousands of Muslim countries in the world, and there are thousands of Muslim countries in the world, and there are thousands of Muslim countries in the world, and there are thousands of Muslim countries in the world.

The Constant Influx of Latinos and Asians, Evangelical Christianity in the Far East, has not been as actively persecuted as in Africa, I can; in the Far East, I can; in a lot of Africa, I can. I can point that we often miss in discussing end time scenarios. I love the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Revelation 1:9 I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the suffering of Christ. The Catholic Church counts anybody that was baptized and/or someone that was confirmed. "Catholics" are any layperson anybody that is baptized, anyone that is confirmed. Of course, the Catholic Church tries to get into the perch of the 2 billion, 3 billion, 5 billion Christians in the world, but it's not as real as the truth. While the Catholic Church is being given credit and may say 501 million "christians," let’s speak to these Hmong pastors and I ask them, “How many people are going to be arrested, taken away?” Every one of them. Every one. There is no escape, there is no escape from the truth. There is no escape for this church for another. Why can’t we see this happening in Muslim countries, and there are thousands of Muslim countries in the world, and there are thousands of Muslim countries in the world, and there are thousands of Muslim countries in the world, and there are thousands of Muslim countries in the world, and there are thousands of Muslim countries in the world.

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Moriel and all of its workers would like to offer a big thank you for all of your generous gifts, offerings and tithes for these past years. These offerings do allow us to continue in the work that the Lord has called us into. We continue to expand missions and as you will see in the Quarterly. Again, we are most appreciating of what you give. On a personal note, I want to thank you as we could not do what we do without you. Please continue to pray for this ministry and for the ever-expanding work we are all called to perform.

All of the year to date tax receipts have been mailed and or emailed (if you give via PayPal) if you have not gotten yours you can contact me at the Moriel office 412-321-16154 or via email morieli david@yahoo.com

Inside this issue

Well the building in The Philippines has finished and God willing Pastor Paul hopes to increase outreach within the local community. With the extra room Moriel is looking to offer free English and reading lessons. With the ability to read, write and speak English a person is able to get a better job and live a more prosperous life. Also, our hope is to find and use Biblical material in the Philippines to help Pastor Paul. Also, we have already made contact with some teachers who might be willing to help. Jacob and I are hoping to return to the Philippines in May to meet with another organization that has accredited teachers and runs an orphanage about 20 miles from Olongapo. Our first meeting with those in charge of this work went very well and God willing we can both move forward and help each other in the work The Lord has given us. Also, on the next visit we are planning a medical mission for the kids. Lots of prayer needed for the future there in the Philippines. Some pictures are included about our Christmas visit.

Also, we are starting a new film project and the details can be found in an article authored by Jacob. Exciting things coming and we do appreciate your prayers.

Volunteers

Moriel is looking for volunteer to help with transcribing Jacob's sermons. If you have a talent for this and the time, we would love to hear from you. Please contact me at morieli david@yahoo.com

New Book No Balm In Gilead Update

Jacob is in Israel tying up loose ends on his new book, No Balm In Gilead. We are hoping he leaves Israel with a finished product. The next step would be proofreading and pagination and then publishing it. We are so close to being finished and should be here, God willing, in the late spring. Please pray we get this done. Stay tuned to the website for the announcement.

MORIEL UK UPDATE

Dear Friends...Happy New Year to you all and thank you for all your cards, letters and words of encouragement.

PRAYER

As the new year has started full steam ahead, I would appreciate your prayers for my family as we are seeking a more affordable house to live in. Currently we live in the Watford area and of course don't want to move too far but who knows where The Lord will lead us and what the future holds. Also, we are praying, as are so many others who contact me, for a sound church to attend and it would be amazing if church and accommodation would be within easy reach. This all sounds like a tall order but Nothing is impossible with The Lord as we know very well!

GOOD NEWS

Still on a personal level, My son Isaac is getting married in July to a lovely young lady called Eunice and we are all over the moon! They are both finishing their last year at University so its all so exciting and gives us a lot to be thankful for after the trials of last year, particularly.

We are aware at the same time, that we must continue to keep our Spiritual Armour firmly in place as fiery darts come when you least expect them.....

READING THE WORD

Last year also, Carol, a sister in The Lord suggested a Bible Reading Plan called Lamplight which I found on the internet and printed off and although I have tried many bible reading plans, this one was thematic and helped me cross reference other related scriptures and I completed the bible on the 5th of January! Thank you Lord for Your Word which is a Lamp to My Feet....It's been an amazing journey and I have a new favourite book: Jeremiah, a man who went through much sorrow for His standing up for truth and Oh My, how sad to watch your brethren all around you, suffer the consequences of disobedience to The Lord's Word.....I don't ever want to fall so hard that I cannot get up.

My prayer for all my brothers and sisters in The Lord as well as myself, is for the reading of God's Holy Word to be paramount in our lives... Keep sending me nudging reminders when I forget if you don't mind, it really helps me get on top of things.

A REMINDER

The March Conference is fast approaching so don't forget to get in touch with Beryl if you want to attend. Details will be under our itinerary section in this newsletter.

Stay Blessed.....Natalie @ Moriel UK

FIRST QUARTER 2020 - ISSUE 79 3
Did Christ rise on Easter? No, he did not raise from the dead on Easter. Jesus died on Passover and he rose according to the lunar calendar on Hag HaBikkurim, the Hebrew Feast of First Fruits. Who said so? Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and also Paul in 1st Corinthians 15. Jesus did not die on Good Friday and he did not rise from the dead on Easter Sunday. That came from the Quartodeciman Schism after the time of Constantine when they moved the day of the Resurrection to the first Sunday after the vernal equinox. That was a pagan holiday, or a pagan holy day, as it were, hence the Easter bunny, the colored eggs, the fertility rites and all of that other stuff. That is where it came from. It was pagan; it was not when it happened, it goes by the solar calendar. The actual death and resurrection of Jesus, according to the New Testament is based on the lunar calendar of the Hebrews. Nonetheless, while they got the day wrong, the event is right. A question I am inevitably asked at this time of year is “Where do you get the three days and three nights?” You have all heard this. “Was it a Wednesday, Thursday, it couldn’t have been a Friday, we’ve got to get the three days, and nights….” Let us get the questions out of the way first.

Turn with me to Amos, Chapter 8, Amos, HaNavi: Amos 8:9: "And it will come about in that day," declares the Lord God, "That I shall make the sun go down at noon and make the earth dark in broad daylight."

As I have explained in a couple of our teachings and in one of our books, we have two words for time in the Greek language, two different words for “time” in Greek in the New Testament. We have kairos and chronos. Kairos is linear time like a clock. Chronos is a chronology, an order of events, two different words in Greek. In eternity, like in the book of Revelation, you only have chronos, but you have no kairos. Kairos in eternity is not a clock that keeps going; it is no clock at all. The events take place out of time and on our teachings dealing with thanatology, we explain this. What happens when someone gives up the ghost? They enter eternity. Jesus said “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” What happens? You leave the realm of kairos; there is no time. That is why in the book of Revelation you see future events spoken of in the past tense, past events spoken of in the present tense, past, present and future are all the same. The “lamb was slain before the foundation of the world,” yet there is a chronology, an order. How can we understand this? It is even difficult to fathom theoretically.

How do we understand it? Well the scripture never speaks of course of the death of a believer as death. You have heard me say it is always sleep. Paul says, “Do not be overly grieved for those who sleep.” Paul tells us that. Jesus said, “Lazarus is asleep.” When he raised the little girl from the dead, “Talitha kum!” She is asleep. Unsaved people die. If you are not born again, you are going to die, real death is second death. The only way to escape the second death is the second birth. If you have not had second birth, you are going to have second death. You are going to enter eternity into eternal perdition if Jesus was telling the truth. Well, what happens? When you go to sleep you wake up again. That is the resurrection obviously but there is more to it than that. Neurophysiology tells us we all dream. When you go to sleep your consciousness enters a different realm of existence. You can see dead people alive again; when you dream and even talk to them and it makes sense to you that they are alive again. How can the dead be alive again? Well you can see things happening in a dream that would make no coherent sense, no logical sense in our waking hours, but in a dream it all makes sense. You can see past events happening again, future events happening in the present. It is no mystery when you die, you enter that realm. The scripture uses sleep to show us what happens when you give up the ghost. Now, if you are a believer, are you afraid to go to sleep? No! Well, if you are a believer do not be afraid to die. On the other hand, if you are not a believer, you’re going to need a lot of amphetamine. Drink lots of coffee!

Kairos is based on the second heaven, the movement of the planets. Actually, there is one clock, an atomic clock that calculates time by particle emissions, but it still has to be calibrated in terms of nanoseconds. You need planetary motion to have time, as we know it: kairos. Paul, in 2nd Corinthians writes of the third heaven. The Greeks had this concept, the first heaven being the atmosphere of the earth, the second heaven being outer space where the planets are, the third heaven being eternity. The second heaven makes time, so in the Book of Revelation you see the heavens, the shayamim in Hebrew, ouranous in Greek, rolled up like a scroll. Once the celestial cosmos is gone, eternity meets time and space. It all depends on the planets, be it a solar calendar or a lunar calendar. However, there are certain times is scripture where God intervenes with time. With Joshua, a day was 48 hours at one place, Gibeon. When King Hezekiah was granted an extended longevity, the sun went backwards and he was given 15 more years of life. God intervened in time.

Well, in the book of Revelation we are told in chapter 9 a day will go from 24 hours down to 16 hours. God intervenes in time. But the reason Hezekiah, a King of the Jews had his life extended by 15 years was at a time when the aver-
age life expectancy was about 50, because another King of the Jews had his life reduced by about 15 years. In Amos, the sun would go down at noon. Look with me please, very briefly, to the gospel of Saint Luke, when Jesus, Yeshua, died on the cross.

Luke 23:44-45 And it was now about the sixth hour, [being 3 o’clock in the afternoon, the sixth hour since sunrise] and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour, the sun being obscured; and the veil of the temple was torn in two.

Amos said the sun would go down at noon. This is the fourteenth of the Hebrew month Nissan, or Abib. It could not possibly be a solar eclipse, nor could it be a lunar eclipse, it could not be an eclipse. It was the wrong phase of the lunar and solar cycles. The fourteenth of Abib, it would be diametrically the wrong phase. It could not possibly have taken place as an eclipse. The prophecy of Amos was literally fulfilled. The sun went down. Jewish people to this day tabulate a day based on the creation narrative in Genesis. Sabbath is from sundown to sundown. Jews will fast on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement from sundown to sundown. A day is based on the creation, not based on 24 hours. It does not matter how many hours are in the day, once the sun goes down that’s a day.

So, Jesus goes on the cross at noon, the sun goes down, Friday, then the sun goes down. They removed his corpse from the cross, the sun is up again--two days. The sun goes down Friday night again, Saturday is a day, sun goes down Saturday night, raises Sunday morning, no problem, you’ve got your three days and three nights as a Jew counts time. Unfortunately, Hollywood took this Jew named Rabbi Yeshua bar Yosef Minzeret and gave him blond hair and blue eyes and a starring role in a Mel Gibson movie. But that is not reality. This is reality. Three days and three nights are no problem. Let’s go further. Turn with me to the Song of Solomon:

**Song of Solomon 5:1** “I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride; I have gathered my myrrh [what corpses were anointed with] along with my balsam. I have eaten my honeycomb and my honey; I have drank my wine and my milk.”

“Come into my garden, my sister, my bride,” that is what they read in the Temple, from the megillah Shir Hashirim in the day of Jesus, before the sun went down. But then the sun comes up on Yom ha’rishon of Hag Matzot and in Jesus day, as you have heard me explain, the Cohen HaGadol descended into the Kidron Valley between the Temple Mount and the Mount of Olives. If you come with us to Israel, we will take you there and show you. And he waited for the first pin of light to come up behind Har Hazeitim, the Mount of Olives, while it was still dark. When it was still dark, he brought the first fruits. He harvested the first fruits and brought them into the temple. The very hour of the very day, Paul tells us in 1st Corinthians 15:20 that Christ is the First Fruits. The very hour of that very day the high priest was bringing the first fruit into the temple, Yeshua was raising from the dead.

But then what happened that particular day not very far away? A woman went into the garden. She goes into the garden because in John 19 we read that Jesus had been anointed, in verse 39, with this mixture of myrrh and aloes. Myrrh is what corpses were anointed with. And she comes into the garden. Her name is Mary Magdalene from Galilee. Magdala, the “Village of the Tower” and she was not a very nice girl before she met Jesus but now, she was just prim and rosy and she came in looking for his corpse. There was a problem; he was not in the tomb. He talks to her and, “she thought he was the gardener.” Remember Song of Solomon? “Come on into the garden.” That is what she read in the synagogue the night before. The sun comes up and there she is in the garden. “Come on in,” the bridegroom is calling, “come on into my garden, I’ve got my myrrh, I died in your place.” It is an amazing thing, how Jewish people can have all this heritage, all this culture, God working through them for 2,000 years to set the stage for the coming of Jesus and only a small remnant were ready for it to happen. Mary Magdalene was ready, among others, but the mainstream religious establishment was not ready, and as we have pointed out many times, the mainstream religious establishment, both Jewish and Christian, so called, are not going to be ready for his second coming either, but you can be ready.

He is indeed risen! When he went to the cross, he did not just say, “I’m going to die in your place.” Oh, he said that, but he said something else; he said, “pick up your cross and follow me, die with me.” We have, today in California, an explosion of Twelve-Step programs. Somebody was teasing me the other day about Twelve-Step programs because they know I do not have a very high view of these things. I do know people who were destroyed alcoholics who never would have gotten saved had they not gone to Alcoholics Anonymous but then I have known those for whom Alcoholics Anonymous became their religion instead of salvation in Jesus. Twelve-Step programs always say the same thing. “Hello, my name is Fred.” “Hi Fred!” “And I am a recovering alcoholic.” “Hello, my name is Hazel.” “Hi Hazel!” “And I am a recovering compulsive gambler.” Well, my name is Jacob and I am not a recovering cocaine addict, that poor loser from New York is dead; I am a new creation in Christ. But because His death is our death, His life is our life. As the Hebrew prophet Hosea put it in Chapter 6:2: He will revive us after two days, He will raise us up on the third day that we may live before Him.

He is the first fruit. He is the first one out of the grave, but He is not the only one. It is proleptic. He is the...
prototype; He is the first fruit of a much bigger harvest. That is quite a thing.

My family is a mixture of Jew and gentile. I understand things from both perspectives. I see things the way Jews see things and I see the way gentiles see things. I am bicultural, I am even bilingual, my family sees things from both perspectives. I see the blond-haired, blue-eyed Jesus of Hollywood, but I see the Jewish rabbi and neither one does Him much justice. Let’s go further.

What else happened on that particular day, or at least the day we commemorate as being the day? Turn with me please to the Gospel of Saint John:

John 20:21-29 Jesus therefore said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." This was after He rose from the dead. [This is where we get the word apostle, from apostellō, the one who is sent.] And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. [It is at this point that the apostles were regenerate, it is at this point they were born again.] If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained." [Notice that this is not the Roman Catholic sacrament of penance, confession, that is also something of pagan origin that was adopted centuries later as a way to get money out of people.] But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, [which means twin] was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I shall see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." And after eight days [the number of the resurrection] again His disciples were inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst, and said, "Shalom aleikhem, peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand, and put it into My side; and be not unbelieving, but believing." [And a verse the Jehovah’s Witnesses don’t like] Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.

Once again, what we call a corporate solidarity, Thomas. We even have the colloquialism, a doubting Thomas. He gets the blame for doubt. But when we read the synoptics, he gets a bad rap. No, when we read the synoptics, it is quite different. Luke chapter 24: They were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. “Why are you troubled? Why doubts arise in your hearts?”

Thomas simply personifies the doubt of all the apostles, but more than that, he personifies human doubt. He says something I have heard a thousand times, witnessing, doing evangelism, sharing my faith, giving my testimony, passing out tracts, he said something that every one of us have heard from a non-believer at some point. Every saved Christian has heard this in trying to share their faith some time; most of us have heard it many times. “Seeing is believing, show me.” You can say he said, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed,” and that is true, but they are going to say “Show me, show me this crucified body that has been resurrected. Show me somebody that was dead and is alive and then I will believe you. If I don’t see, I am not going to believe.”

I was reading something on the internet called the “Rescript of Nazareth,” written by the Emperor Claudius, which bears witness to it being common knowledge in the Roman Empire, by the Roman government and even by the emperor that Christ’s corpse was not in the tomb. The Roman assumption was that his disciples must have stolen the body. The way I got saved is by trying to disprove the scriptures. When your followers say you rose from the dead, or did miracles or something like that, or walked on the water, when your followers say you did this, so what? The Mormons say that kind of thing about Joseph Smith, the Muslims say that kind of thing about Mohammed, etc., etc., so what? “They have got Joseph Smith, they’ve got Mohammed, and you’ve got Jesus, so what? “You all say stuff like that, “Show me.”

No one can doubt, however, that the two biggest enemies of the Gospel were the pagan Roman government, Imperial Rome and the Sanhedrin, the unbelieving Rabbis, the Jewish religious establishment of the day. Yet, according to Roman historians, you can read Suetonius, Tacitus, all of them, you can read the Rescript of Claudius. It was common knowledge throughout the Roman Empire that it was believed He rose from the dead. “Oh, but they stole his corpse.” Aside from the problem that those Roman soldiers who were guarding his tomb would have been executed for sleeping while on duty, there is a much bigger issue. Roman historians also admit that hundreds of these Jews were voluntarily martyred. Not all in the same place at the same time, drinking Kool-Aid in Guyana, but with some in Israel, some in Europe, some in North Africa. They were willingly martyred, and they saw their families martyred, testifying with their dying breath “We are not afraid to die because He is risen.” You are going to get hundreds of people, hundreds of Jews to die in different places, at different times, for something they knew to be a lie? That is ridiculous. That is absurd, but the Roman government admitted it. Rabbi Shaul of Tarsus, Paul, one of the rabbis who persecuted Jews who believed in Jesus, went on to write this. “I delivered unto you of first importance that which I received, that the Messiah died for our sins according to the scriptures and that he was buried. He was raised on the third day, according to the scripture, he appeared to Cephas and then to the twelve and he appeared to more than 500 brethren.” That was written by a rabbi who hated Jesus. That was written by
Evidence For the Resurrection

a rabbi who hated Jews who believed in Jesus.

On my own spiritual journey, trying to disprove the scriptures, I eventually came across something called the Avodah Zarah. Up to 25 percent of the Jews in Jerusalem believed that Jesus was the Messiah by the time of Bar Kochba's rebellion, the time between 120-132 AD, one out of four Jews in Jerusalem believed that he was the Messiah. The rabbis were getting frantic; they had to explain certain things, so they wrote the Avodah Zarah, which is a Hebrew idiom for idolatry, by the way. And in the Avodah Zarah, these rabbis said the following: That Yeshu, a derogatory acronym, short for Yeshua, but it was a derogatory acronym meaning, “may his name be blotted out.” They wrote, “He did miracles as no other rabbi. He healed the sick, he raised the dead. His disciples, his talmidim, did miracles in his name and after the Romans executed him at Pesach (Passover), he rose from the dead and ascended into heaven from the Mount of Olives. That is quite a thing for your enemies to say! If you were trying to persuade people, if you were a rabbi trying to persuade other Jews not to believe Jesus was the messiah that would not be the most clever thing to say. But they had to say it because they could not deny it. It is one thing when your followers say it, but when your enemies admit it is true?

Now later on, other rabbis, centuries later, came along and said Jesus knew Kabbala, Kabbalistic secrets, he had the tetragrammaton under his foot and all this other stuff that was hundreds of years later. At the time of the early church his enemies admitted it! The Romans knew it! The rabbis knew it! The evidence is there. Nobody denies the historicity of Caesar’s conquests, but we have 420, exactly 420 manuscript fragments of Caesar’s conquests. We have over 10,000 of the Gospels alone, over 10,000! There is nothing even remotely approaching it in terms of manuscript evidence from the ancient world. Nothing even comes close! Nobody denies Julius Caesar crossed the Rubicon. Why would you deny that Jesus rose from the dead? Yet people are still going to say “Well, that may be true but I didn’t see it, show me. Show me this one who was dead, you say he died in my place and rose to give me eternal life and he is alive? Show me.” Seeing is believing; the proof of the pudding is always, proverbially, in the eating. “Show me a crucified body that was dead and is alive and then I will believe.”

We have branches in many countries. We have branches in Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, the United States, Canada, Japan, countries in the developed world. But we have missions in Africa, Asia, Philippines, and Thailand. I see where churches are growing, where people are believing, and I see where Christianity is flat and even declining. Just look around. If it were not for the influx of Latinos and Asians, evangelical Christianity in America would be dying. Protestantism is in decline. In Europe it has already declined. Europe is post-Christian, neo-pagan. It is being Islamicized.

The Catholic Church counts anybody that was sprinkled as a baby; once a Catholic, always a Catholic, that is how they tabulate their population statistics demographically, how they arrive at the 501 million “Christians.” Let’s look at the real figures. Apart from the Latin and South American countries that don’t even practice Catholicism, they don’t tell you that the evangelical population of Brazil, the world’s largest Catholic country has gone from 96 percent to about 72 percent because of the growth of Pentecostalism, Evangelicism, etc. From the Mexican border to the tip of Patagonia you will find the same thing, millions and millions of people have left the church of Rome and become Pentecostal or some other kind of evangelical throughout Latin America. They are still being persecuted in areas of Mexico, down in the Yucatan and places like that, but then they were persecuted by the Peronistas in Argentina, persecution incited by the Opus Dei Jesuit cult. It is only in the last 30-35 years they have not been as actively persecuted, but Pope John Paul II tried to trigger a new persecution. In the 1950s, they were persecuting believers terribly in Columbia, burning churches and killing people. In the Philippines the same, yet, churches are growing.

The churches in Africa, like most of the third world, have all kinds of problems, poverty, ignorance, a lack of qualified leadership, sometimes persecution. Since the mid-1990s, three-and-a-half million black African Christians have been butchered by the Muslims in Darfur and Sudan, three-and-a-half million! One-and-a-quarter million murdered since the 1960s in northern Nigeria. But, in Sudan and in Nigeria, although they have got a lot of problems, a lot of problems, I do not make light of the problems, but evangelism is not one of them. Growth is not one of them. I was just in Vietnam recently. We have a ministry that we don’t talk about too much publicly because the Hmong people are persecuted by the Communist regime and I can’t say too much now because of the internet, but, I speak to these Hmong pastors and I ask them “How many of you were arrested and put in prison for your faith? How many of you have people in your churches that you pastor, arrested, taken away?” Every one of them. Every one.

In Indonesia, the biggest Muslim country in the world, three thousand churches were burned to the ground last year. Can you imagine a mid-week bible study under the equator in the heat of the day in Indonesia, the biggest Muslim country in the world, and there are thousands of people there, sitting on the floor? A country where every year, not thousands, hundreds of thousands of Muslims reject Mohammed and the Koran and turn to Christ, every year! You are talking about a 25% Christian population in
the biggest Muslim country in the world, I have been there, I've seen it! Of course, there is a price to pay. A price to pay in Indonesia; a price to pay in Vietnam, a price to pay in Sudan.

Then I ask Australia, why is it the only growth in Australia is Hillsong, which is not real growth, it is people leaving one church for another to see the circus. Hillsong, a mecca of sex scandal and financial corruption exposed in the national media; that is the growth. People leaving one church for another. Why can't we see this happening in Britain or other Western countries—it is transfer growth, people leaving one church for another and they imagine that to be growth. Why can't I see what is happening in Latin America, Africa, or in Asia happen in the US or Britain? At one time it did happen in America, it did happen in Britain because they can answer the question.

There is a book called “Foxes Book of Martyrs.” You have the scriptures in the English Language? It is because of those people written about in that book who paid with their lives to give us the Bible in the English language. You see, they could answer the question. In the days of William Tyndale and Ridley, Latimer, Hooper, and Cranmer, they could answer the question. “Show me, show me a crucified body dead to itself but alive in Christ, living and walking in the power of his resurrection, something fearless, something invincible. Show me the crucified body that is alive.” I asked that question in Vietnam, “Show me.” “No problem, here it is.” I asked that question in Sudan. “No problem, here it is.” I asked that question in Indonesia. “No problem, here it is.” Do you want to see a crucified body of Christ that is alive and walking in the power of the resurrection? We have got one! We do not have any money, we do not have any power, don't have any media, we have got a lot of problems and we are persecuted but we are growing. People are looking at us. They are leaving communism, they are leaving Buddhism, they are leaving Islam and they are leaving Catholicism and they are turning to Jesus Christ, why? Because they can say “Here it is.” “Do you want to see a crucified body? Here it is, no problem, we can show you that right away” and everybody knows it. I am not singing the praises of persecution, it comes from the devil, the Book of Revelation tells us. But remember, in the last days it becomes a necessary evil.

You have got crazy people in California, crazy people, mystics, total New Age mystics telling people they are practicing Christianity, like Bill Johnson, absolutely crazy! Praying to raise the dead! People teaching heresy and false doctrine like Mark Driscoll and people think that is Christianity. The idiot box, TBN, people think that is Christianity--no it is not. That is not Christianity. This is Christianity: a crucified body that has been resurrected. “Show me.” I’ve seen it; I’ve seen it more than once. I have seen it in Asia, I have seen it in Africa. I have seen it in the Far East. At one time you could have seen it in the Western world, but you cannot see it now. Religious con artists prostituting the Word of God on television, you can show them that here. An ecumenical betrayal of the true Gospel. “Oh, our differences with the Catholic Church are only peripheral.” Either you do not know the true Gospel, or you do not know anything about Catholicism. You can show them that. But a crucified body that has been resurrected? I can't show them that anymore, not now, not here. But where they see it, the churches are growing. Nothing can stop it. Satan cannot stop it and he has tried and is trying desperately. As Tertullian said, “The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.” No, I am not praying for persecution, thank God for our freedom but persecution is coming because we have abused and misused that freedom and taken it for granted.

The intellectual evidence for the resurrection is there. There is a book written by a famous rabbi, an academic called Pinchas Lapide, professor from Bar-Elan University in Israel. He said that from a Jewish perspective, the resurrection of Jesus Christ is unquestionably true. He is not a believer, but just based on the scholarly evidence, as a Jewish academic he says the resurrection of Jesus is true. This professor, Rabbi Pinchas Lapide, wrote a book. More and more rabbis are saying that. The evidence is there, it happened. We can show them the evidence that it did happen, but can we show them the evidence it is still happening? In Africa, I can. In the Far East, I can; in a lot of places I can. “Show me. Seeing is believing.” That is the message of Easter, if you want to use that term. That is the message of the Feast of First Fruits. “Show me!”

Until we can show them, the church has no place to go but down. When we can show them, we will have a place to go and that is up. I wish I could tell you “Happy Easter” and in one way I can. He is risen. He is coming again but if you don't know Him, your future is not happy, whether you're Jew or gentile. The evidence is there. Please do not walk out that door today without giving your life to the Messiah, Jesus, Yeshua. When the Romans nailed Him to that cross it was by the prophetic ordaining of God that He would pay the price for your sin and mine. When He rose from the dead it was to give us eternal life. He did it, He did it. But now He wants to show you. Chronos and kairos, the clock is ticking away. My friend, if you don't know Jesus the Messiah, I can tell you one final thing: for those who do know Him, we don't have to be afraid to go to sleep, but if you don’t know Him, you'd better be afraid to die. Don't be a fool, don't be a loser, the price is already paid, He has already made the way, that is Easter, that is the Resurrection; that is the truth! God Bless.
In a Post Judeo-Christian/ Neo-pagan developed world characterized by apathy or hostility to the Gospel and where Con Artist Money Preachers and Religious Hype Artists, and False Prophets of various description have been anointed by Satan to discredit the Church and its message, and the Judases of Ecumenism have betrayed the Way of Salvation, Evangelism has become a very difficult and complex task. Much of the developing world however is open to the Message of Jesus, though the toxic venom of most Televangelists and The New Apostolic Reformation has dripped into these Mission Fields.

These are inescapable issues Moriel and certain others have attempted to address for years.

What is the way forward? How did Jesus tell us to carry out the Great Commission in the Last Days of False Teachers and Deception that He warned would come paving the way for the Anti-Christ and False Prophet prior to His Return?

The unambiguous answer is found in Christ's predictive instruction in The Olivet Discourse, to preach “The Gospel of The Kingdom”, that is to use End Time Prophecy of His Return and the events preceding it as an evangelistic platform to engage the unsaved who turn to demonic nonsense such as horoscopes, clairvoyance, and the occult to know the future when the true knowledge of the future is found in The Word of God. Even non-believers often know something is happening that is historically unique in the way the world is evolving and the pace at which it is happening. It is true believers in Jesus who understand.

Several years ago, I narrated a film project that attempted to achieve these goals. The content, much of it filmed in Israel, was effective. The film served its purpose and it achieved, in a limited way, what I wanted to communicate at the time. However, we are now closer to the Lord's return, as such, we are seeing more and more prophesy coming to pass. We are excited to see how Jesus is fulfilling His word.

For this reason, we have since undertaken a new evangelistic project of our own under the direction of a gifted Christian film maker. The propriety of this will remain in the hands of The Body of Christ, and will not be sold to Hollywood or to Christian persecuting Communist China. We plan, Lord willing to make it available cheaply on DVD, thumb drives, MP4 electronic download and ultimately for free on-line video as well as, God willing, translated into various languages such as Spanish, Manda-
prayers got louder the wind got stronger, so much so that God pushed the fire back.

These prayer warriors did not care how loud their prayers got or who heard them. They were praying ‘In Jesus’ name for all to be rescued and God answered their prayers. The east wind pushed the fires back for five minutes which broke the fire front enough to stop it from getting to the wharf. What an amazing witness they were to the unsaved who were listening to their prayers. They all witnessed a miracle!

If you would like to read the entire article if this man’s prayer to safety:  https://www.eternitynews.com.au/australia/prayer-saved-thousands-in-mallacoota-claims-atheist/

Deut 10:21 He is your praise and He is your God, who has done these great and awesome things for you which your eyes have seen.

Australians also saw another great win when Israel Folau fought for religious freedom and took on Rugby Australia who fired him over a bible message he posted on social media which was deemed to be discriminatory. Mr Folau and Rugby Australia reached a settlement which saw a great win for religious freedom.

When Mr. Folau posted his message, the country went into meltdown with the bias media screaming discrimination, as they always do, and Rugby Australia caving in to the public screams by sacking Israel Folau which led to one of the most publicised cases for religious freedom in our country.

What followed was Christians getting together and praying for Israel and also for their own freedom. The fight was on for all those who have lost their jobs due to their beliefs and Mr. Folau was the one standing up for all of them. We saw a prayer circle on national TV which was beautiful to watch. All the glory went to God as this win set a precedent for every person in a position of power that they cannot destroy someone’s career because they don’t like what they believe.

Praise God for this win and as we get into a New Year, may we too be prayer warriors like these brave men who were not ashamed of their faith in Christ and showed it publicly.

1 Thess 5:16-18 Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

Did you know the ‘You Version Bible’ app recorded the most engaged verses for 2019 was Philippians 4:6 - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

This should be our New Year’s resolution that we actually stick to. Prayer should be a daily focus in the life of a Christian because a prayerless soul is a Christless soul. Pray that this year you may have closer communion with Christ and that you be an example and a blessing unto others. The motto for this year must be ‘Continue in prayer.’

God bless.

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**Scribe's Corner**

**Marco Quintana Update**

**The End Is Not Yet**

I often get emails and phone calls from believers who are troubled regarding situations around the world. It seemed like the U.S. was about to enter into an all-out war with Iran and drag the nations of the world into WW3. Believers were shaken by the fact that these events, they believe, are signaling the immediate end of the age and the return of Jesus. Now, while I believe there are signs that indicate the soon return of our Lord, the Scriptures are very clear, that we are not to be afraid, as well as to continue the work of ministry, maintain soberness and exercise great discernment in these last days. Yet, there seems to be a growing anxiety and trouble among believers (which should not be), who are jumping to conclusions unnecessarily at every event that happens in geo-politics, natural disasters or news from Israel or the Middle East. I don’t want to confuse anyone, as these things do point to the reality of His return, but it’s not as immediate as some have suggested.

Jesus teaches this very clearly in the Olivet Discourse.

Matthew 24:5-8: For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will mislead many. You will be hearing of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes, But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs. The synoptic accounts of the Olivet discourse are found in Luke 21 and Mark 13 yet the focus of this article will be on Matthew 24-25.

But first, let’s take note of Matthew 23:37 there Jesus laments over Jerusalem after His triumphal entry, prophesying that the Jews will return to Israel, and see Him again when they say “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord”. Only after talking about the Jews calling on His name does Jesus begin to speak of His return. Meaning, the return of Jesus coming for the church is inextricably linked to the Jews returning to Jerusalem and their salvation. In Matthew 24, Jesus gave us four locations where the signs of His return will occur: they will be in the world, in the church, in Jerusalem and in the skies. All these locations will feature events that will point to the reality of His coming. He further instructs for our encouragement there will be signs in the world as will see deception, wars and rumours of wars, nation turning against nation, as well as natural disasters (many in the world see these signs but without understanding, believing this is climate change). Yet He reminds us
The inner workings of China's economy have always been complex and unique. When you come together, everyone has..."

I want to pause for a moment and refocus us in a survey of the landscape of history and current events. We can see these signs already at work! The world and the church are full of deception; perpetrated in His name. Those with eyes to see, see more false saviours have arisen in the world, as well as false prophets and false teachers promoting some sort of heresy within the body of Christ, combined with an increase in wars, increased tension among people groups and natural disasters. Yet the Lord instructs us not to be afraid, we are merely at the beginnings of sorrows and the end is not yet. Because of false teaching within the church, many of us have seen many friends, co-workers fall away, even people that were close to us, who co-laboured with us in our fellowships. The falling away, from one another in the body of Christ is evident due to a coldness in the love once exhibited by saved Christians. It goes without saying, the increasing persecution of believers in the world, not just in places where they have always existed, like China, and Africa. And now a whole extermination of Christian communities in the Middle East, South America and increased pressure in India is happening. In the Western world, the legislative persecution has started in the United States, U.K., Canada and Australia, which will end in further persecution in many forms never experienced before.

Yet, the Lord reminded us, that end will come when the church gets back to fulfilling the great commission by going to the nations (Matt. 24:13-14). Last year’s conference at Community Church of Devore we were taught this same message by Jacob Prasch, Lynn and Sarah Leslie, that the end is not yet, and to be alert! For encouragement in greater detail please visit our Youtube channel Devore Truth found at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MumJjWJEGIw

As we look back to Matthew 24:15 mentions two key locations that will help us understand these last days; remember Jesus as at this point not discussed His return. So, in verse 15, Jesus mentions an event, the abomination of desolation, which will take place in Jerusalem, again preceding His return. It is not the purpose of this article to describe the “abomination of desolation” and its implication. However, it is fair to mention that this event marks the middle point of the 70th week of Daniel. This event, which was described in the book of Daniel was a prophesy that happened during the intertestamental period. During the time of the Maccabees and the overthrow of the Seleucid empire along with Antiochus Epiphanes, is when the prophesied “abomination of desolation” took place. Jesus knowing the true history of this event celebrated Hanukah (John 10) the feast of dedications. But Jesus stated this event will be recapitulated, but the next time He connected this to His coming. Again, this one will be the ultimate one, a final eschaton. In fact, this event is described by Paul in 2nd Thessalonians 2, where the man of sin, The Antichrist, will commit the abomination of desolation, the ultimate blasphemy, as a man, personally indwelled by Satan and will demand worship in the place where only Christ is worshiped. Jesus taught this will be the start of the great tribulation (Matthew 24:21) of which, there will never be a period of time or judgement as bad as this or ever will be. In fact, He further taught that unless those days would be cut short, no flesh will survive, it is the time of Satan’s wrath. But, for the believer’s sake, this time will be cut short; cut short by the rapture (our gathering together to Him in the air) and resurrection of the dead in Christ. Jesus now begins to teach of the final sign, the one in the heavens, the disruption of the sun and moon, and the sign of the Son of Man coming. Just like in the book of Joel and repeated in Revelation, the sign of the day of the Lord or the wrath of the Lamb, is preceded by the disruption of the sun and the moon. What follows is the gathering of God’s people at the rapture and resurrection. For the remainder of Matthew 24 and all of 25 Jesus explains His return and the need for holiness, as well as readiness from His people in the form of several parables. We can safely say these two events, in these two locations, have not happened yet. Again, the ultimate and final “abomination of desolation” hasn’t taken place and the sign of the Son of Man coming in the clouds has not happened. We are still waiting for the culmination of the end of the age. Which means there is still time and should give us comfort in order that we do not have to be anxious about these current days.

The main point of this article is not to discuss theological schools of thoughts, but to bring up an important point that we often miss in discussing end time scenarios. That there is a need for: courage, soberness, discernment, patience, perseverance, preparation and endurance from God’s people. We can understand these instructions by reading the text in context of the Olivet Discourse as well the synoptic accounts. Jesus was clear that He didn’t want us to be rambunctious nor afraid. But He wanted us to have a sober look at the world and the church around us, not retreating nor being discouraged because He wasn’t back yet. He wonderfully gave us markers to show us these things must take place but the end is not yet. He wants us to understand “things” and He helps us to understand by using the example of birth pangs and birth. Any mother can explain that it is a very painful process, that it may take time,
yet it has a glorious end. Jesus mentioned tribulation and the need for endurance while recommissioning us to go into all the nations to preach the gospel (Matthew 28). In other words, stay occupied, in the tasks Jesus has given us. Jesus went further mentioning the great tribulation and the need to trust His Word above what others will be saying concerning His return before the day of the Lord. There is still work to do for the King, the nations are still needing the gospel, the church needs encouragement to persevere. Many believers have been caught off guard, thinking the time of Jesus return was going to happen immediately at the beginning of these many signs. They have lived in fear and anxiety, at every single event. They waste time because they stopped serving the Lord, thinking what’s the point Jesus is coming now, or worse yet they stopped believing completely, because it didn’t happen right there and then. Paul described the above happening in 2nd Thessalonians, so let us not make the mistakes the Thessalonians made, let us work while we still have light and the time.

My encouragement brothers and sisters, is to listen to the words of comfort our Lord and His apostles left for us. Jesus did teach the church will get back to doing His last commandment to go into all the nations and make disciples (Matt. 24:14). This gives me great hope because I have seen this happening in different parts of the world. The body of Christ is being persecuted and is operating under great tribulation yet are bringing Muslims to Christ, Catholics to Christ, Hindus to Christ. It is happening now! We can and must be a part of this plan of God. Jesus said, “work while you have the light, night is coming when no man can work”. As long as we have the light we can work in God’s field. There are fields to be plowed and work to be done. We have loved ones who have gone astray. Sheep have been scattered and fences overturned, people are being deceived. People are at a loss, because with all that is going on in the world, they don’t see a way out. But we know the way out! The book of Revelation has been so maligned and mis-taught in some churches and ignored in other churches. This book, this Word of God, has become a field of controversy and many are arm wrestling to see who has the best theological perspective and when someone believes slightly different, they are discarded completely. So, let us continue on, preserving, holding fast to Him and His Word. Remember one of the things we cannot argue with in the book of Revelation is the fact it was written to encourage believers. To put steel in those for what they were going to endure. I love the fact that right at the beginning of the book, John invites us as a brother to join with him in his perseverance and suffering.

Revelation 1:9 I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

My brothers and sisters, don’t grow weary, troubled, or paralyzed by what you see on the news. Jesus is coming soon, but He encouraged us to work in His field and we will know the signs of His return. Like Albert E. Brunley who wrote the following words and worked in the cotton fields of Arkansas, dreaming of the day when his labors in the field would be done and so we can encourage each other by reminding ourselves that:

Just a few more weary days and then,
I'll fly away;
To a land where joy shall never end,
I'll fly away (I'll fly away)

God bless
Marco Quintana
MorielMarco@gmail.com

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Before the end of last year we brought some children to other churches to participate on singing praises for the Lord. We want the beginners to train their confidence and experience themselves singing at other churches.

We, "Thank you very much Uncle Jacob and Bro. David for all the blessings" (the voice of the children). You really brought happiness again. We appreciate so much your presence to give a Thanksgiving party at Jollibee (truly the children enjoyed much). Thank you for personally giving the Moriel gifts—new clothes to the children to have them to wear on their school Christmas party. Thank you so much to Dr. Mike for the dental kits packs for the children’s oral hygiene.

We praise and thank the Lord for Bro. Jacob and Bro. David who lead the prayers over for the children, for us, and for the new building and new car and dedicated it for the Lord for it might be useful for God’s glory. We are now in the process of looking on good Pest control and Fumigation services who will render regularly.

Regarding the materials needed for the schooling of the children we have already the quotation for two computers, three in one printer, and surveillance CCTV.

Request prayer for Medical Mission this year in upcoming June. Thank you very much to all of you Moriel family, May God continue to bless each and every one and the Ministry.

Happy New Year to all of you.

Sincerely, in Christ, Ptr. Paul
Dear Moriel friends,

Again I want to thank you for your continued prayers on my behalf. I have been on a fairly consistent road to recovery with the exception of a couple of weeks where I came down with an annoying version of the flu that was obviously not covered by the annual flu shot. I am almost better as of this writing and will be able to continue my cardiac rehab. I am also back teaching Sunday school, running sound and overheads at our church, and will be starting up my Friday night Bible study again soon. I have also been contacted by Blair Waugh and Marco Quintana and asked if I would agree to be a speaker at some conferences they are organizing. Please pray that if the Lord wants that to happen that it will.

The following article on “Synergy” I split into two parts as it was too long for one issue. Part 2 will be published in the Quarterly Moriel Newsletter, second quarter addition, Lord willing. I also have a DVD on this article on my ACT TV YouTube channel.

In His hands,
Sandy Simpson, ACT

What Does The Bible Teach About “Synergy”? Part 1 by Sandy Simpson

Synergy

Synergy is defined by Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary, © 1996, 1998 MICRA, Inc. this way: n: the working together of two things (muscles or drugs for example) to produce an effect greater than the sum of their individual effects [syn: synergism]

Synergy is also a concept being adapted and taught today as a major tenet of the Third Wave, New Apostolic Reformation (NAR) movement. Dutch Sheets was one of the first to introduce this concept to that movement back in the National School of the Prophets - Mobilizing The Prophetic Office Conference at Ted Haggard's New Life Church in Colorado Springs, CO on May 12, 2002. Sheets began his message by saying this:

I do not want to sound sensationalistic when I say this, but I am going to title it the way that I am because it is a phrase that God gave me very clearly just a week or so ago and I have been meditating on this phrase ever since in this particular form it is the first time I have ever ministered this word I, I believe it's a fresh word from the Lord for us and the phrase that he gave me was the synergy of the ages. ... This is the revelation God has been bringing to me, it is a synergistic joining century defined as the combined action of 2 or more which have a greater total effect than some of their individual efforts.

The concept of synergy in the context Dutch Sheets places it, claiming he got this idea directly from the Lord, is that if we work and pray together in unity as Christians, what we declare with our mouths will take place by virtue of the strength of numbers. This includes national and international prayer efforts as organized by the NAR, and any other of hundreds of programs they are trying to sell to the Christian public at this time. One biblical reality that flies in the face of this "new" concept of synergy, as being sold to the churches by the NAR and its organizations like the National Prayer Committee, is that the Bible says that the prayer of one righteous man is effective.

James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

This isn't to say Christians should not be getting together to pray as they did in the first-century church. It is to say that force of numbers means nothing to the Lord. What He looks for is faithfulness and righteousness. We may ask, seek and knock (Matt. 7:7) but we must do so according to His will (1 John 5:14) and His Word (John 15:7), which we are not to go beyond (1 Cor. 4:6). Synergistic prayer is simply not a biblical concept.

The idea of Sheet's synergy is that, if we just all hang together with the NAR and its apostolic leadership, we will accomplish more than any other generation has ever accomplished "for the Lord".

In Matthew 13:39,40-49, Hebrews 9:26, Matthew 24:28 & 40 all of those places in the New American Standard translates some words that I am going to get to in a moment. The consummation of the ages, the joining, the marriage, the coming together of the ages which produces a synergistic multiplicated effect in the kingdom of God. I am already starting to get sort of excited. It is a century of the ages which is and will get to this verse momentarily. It is a summing up of all things in Christ. It is a bringing to its fullness the Christ anointing in the church which is having an exponential effect. It is happening synergistically exponentially. We don't just add we are just going and it is a snowball effect in the body of Christ that is bringing this fullness of Christ into play and I do believe if we can get this if we can understand it. It is going to answer some of the questions about generational curses, generational blessings, generational anointing's, identifiable generational repentance, etc.

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Sandy Simpson Update

Sheets is basically saying that we are to see the greatest, most powerful Christian revival the earth has ever seen because we are the product of a synergistic effect God put into motion from the beginning of the world. But remember that God put the kibosh on the very first synergistic union of the human race long ago at Babel because they were not in line with His express commands. Where is this plan then that God put into effect? There is none. Another problem with this idea is that the Bible says there will be a great apostasy at the end of the age, so it teaches just the opposite of what Dutch is claiming will happen.

2 Thes. 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; (KJV)

The end times church of Laodicia is a church that is lukewarm and thinks it is rich in wealth, both materially and spiritually.

Rev. 3:15-17 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: (KJV)

The church at the end of the ages is not a church that is synergistically more powerful than ever, but one that is almost useless and will be spit out of the Lord's mouth without repentance.

Notice that Dutch Sheets also starts his message with a long list, continued throughout his talk, of all kinds of "anointings" like this "generational anointings" when the Bible says there is only one Anointing of the Anointed One, Jesus Christ.

1 John 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

Note that John says "the anointing" not "an anointing" or many anointings. There are many gifts, but only one Anointing in which all those who are born again in Christ share.

Eph. 1:12-14 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

He also begins to lay the premise that the NAR teaches that people can identify generational sins of the past and repent for them, thereby bringing salvation to people who would not have been able to be saved before. This is what the Reconciliation Walks done by YWAM and other NAR groups have been all about. But the Bible is clear that men must repent for their own sins.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Notice that "everyone" must repent on his own. We know even from the Old Testament that the father cannot repent for the sins of the son.

Deuteronomy 24:16 The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin.

We can already see that Sheets teaching error is 180 degrees out of phase with biblical truth.

Acts chapter 3:19-21. I am going to do these very quickly as soon as I get there I will start reading. Acts 3:19 repent and return that your sins may be wiped away in order that times (kairos) of refreshing (anapausis) the blowing of the wind or the breath again is really the word a fresh release of breath or wind a strategic time of the blowing of the wind may come from the presence of the Lord in that he may (apostello) Jesus the Christ appointed for you whom heaven must receive until the (chronos) here is the other word the first one is Kairos this is the Chronos period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from ancient times. He says here we are on a path. We go from a blowing of the wind to a blowing of the wind we go from an awakening to an awakening a restoration to a restoration revival
to revival glory to glory if you please faith to faith strength to strength. We are on a journey in the church. He is moving us toward what he says here the restoration of all things, great big, great work, but important work. Really it means restoring something to its proper constitution, a reconstitution if you please. So he says we are on a journey, that which be decreed would happen. We are on a journey now with that unfolding where that which he spoke forth when he created the ions and set them in place. We are on a journey now that where all that has been messed up through the fall all that has happened to try to get things off its path it is on an assured definitely assured path of restoration till we get back to the right constitution of this the way that we were made and intended to be from the start so we are in a process of all things being restored reconstituted to his stated declared order and purpose.

Sheets reads the passage, gets the Greek words correct, and then totally misses the point. The only "restitutions" addressed by the passage are (1) the remission of sins available through Jesus Christ alone after His death and resurrection where He establishes His Kingdom in the hearts of men through the Holy Spirit and finally (2) the final restitution of all things in the millennial Kingdom that Christ Himself will establish when He returns bodily to earth to rule and judge. This is not talking about some kind of super church establishing itself and taking over the nations of the earth as well as the heavenly realms. This is not talking about the restoration of apostles and prophets, which was what Dutch referred to often at the conference. It is not talking about end-time revivals breaking out all over the world.

We as a church are moving toward the fulness of Christ 1 believe Ephesians 4 is literal before the coming of the Lord Jesus we will fully express him in the earth all things will be summed up in him they will come back into order the earth the fulness of the earth.

But Sheets does not mention the criteria for the Church to move into the fulness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

The biblical criteria for believers and the Church as a whole to move into maturity in Christ is to come to unity of the Faith. That means unity in biblical core doctrinal beliefs. There is no way anyone can come to fullness in Christ following false teachers and false prophets. In fact doctrine is put down in favour of experience by this entire movement. But if your doctrine is not correct, your experience will surely not be correct. What you believe is the most important thing. What we all believe as Christians will depend on whether or not we grow to maturity, remain babies, or are still born.

The idea that the Church will "fully express" Christ in the earth is a Manifest Sons of God doctrine. This is the same thing Earl Paulk, Benny Hinn and many other false Third Wave teachers have been teaching for decades.

"You represent all that God is and all that God has...Jesus was the visible expression of God. Jesus was the Son of the Living God. Now, who are you? Sons of God everyone say it. What is working inside of us is the manifestation. When you look at me, you are looking at Jesus. To see Jesus was to see God. To see me is to see Jesus. Jesus knew who He was. Don't you think it is about time we know who we are?" (Cited in "Joel's Army," Jewel van der Merwe, Discernment Ministries)

"Jesus Christ, as the first fruit of the Kingdom, began the work of conquering death on an individual basis, but we, as His church will be the ones to complete the task. Jesus said (Matthew 28:18), 'All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth,' and the church today has that same power. Death will not be conquered by Jesus returning to the earth. It will be conquered when the church stands up boldly and says, 'We have dominion over the earth!' How else will God be able to show Satan a people for whom death holds no fear, over whom death no longer has any power? When God can do that, Satan's hold on us will be broken forever!" (Earl Paulk, "The Proper Function of the Church" (Atlanta: K Dimension Publishers, undated), p.13.)

"Don't tell me you have Jesus. You ARE everything He was, and everything He is and shall be." (Benny Hinn, TBN)

Even recognised cults like Christian Science teach the same concept.

All men are spiritually evolving until . . . each will fully express his divinity . . . (Ernest Holmes What Religious Science Teaches p.21)

It is not an accident that what Sheets is teaching the churches is New Age in origin. That is because synergy has been a New Age concept for as long as the occult has been around, all the way back to the Tower of Babel, which we will deal with
in a moment. On a New Age site called "The Synergy Dolphin Experience" by Daniel McCulloch, the concept of synergy is defined.

"The ancient Greeks were quite aware of the law of Synergy, the law of increased energy through partnership. They observed the Life Force responds to what they call Agape, brotherly sisterly love. The Greek word Synergas means working together. Buckminster Fuller defines Synergy as Synthesis plus Energy. According to Webster Synergism is and ancient theological doctrine holding that in generation there is cooperation of Divine Grace and Human activity. ... When we choose to align with each other with a pure intention for good, whether in meditation or simple in natural love, or whether we a partner or group, there is tremendous Synergy that flows and radiates from within and showers from without, where Synchronicity abounds, energizing us into an optimum state of joy through the spectrum of our Physical, Emotional, Mental and Spiritual being, bring us into a unified field not only amongst ourselves but with all of Life, Radiant Love and Pure Bliss."

This sounds exactly like what Sheets was teaching alleged Christians. This is where Sheets got these ideas, not from God.

There is a synergistic joining of cities I don't pretend to understand this but I know that I know ... there is an anointing that comes in that city to do something and then God will begin to say and this city is connected to this city over here and God is going to connect this one and that one and this one and that one until there is a synergistic anointing being released from the land coming here here, here, here and it is a marriage taking place in the spirit ...

Where does he find evidence this is the way the Lord has ever worked in history in the Bible? There is no evidence. Here we see another anointing, and this one is released "from the land". If this isn't pantheism, I don't know anything about world religions. But when you look at how the Holy Spirit is treated today in NAR churches you can see that He is no longer treated as the third person of the Godhead, but as a force that can be waved into yourself, can be manipulated, can be forced into people's foreheads, can be concentrated and used to wipe out demonic strongholds, etc. This is pantheism not Christianity.

There is a joining and a marrying of judgment and mercy grace and truth. He is synergistically joining the government of heaven to the government of earth. I will tell ya God is going to move in politics you are going to see kings and leaders I am tell you right now you are going to see them bow the knee you are going to see them prostrate themselves before almighty God you are going to see them lead their nations righteously you are going to see nations come to God in a day you are going to see Holiness and a move of the spirit of God restored to the government of this land I decree it I believe... it is so.

Here we have on display another major false practice of the NAR which is to declare things into the heavenlies assuming God will run like a butler to answer your summons. But all you have to do is look at the political scene today to see that leaders are not leading their nations righteously and politics are as dirty as ever. This is wishful thinking. Only Jesus Christ will restore peace and sound leadership to the earth when He returns bodily. Until then there will be wars, rumors of wars, pestilence, strife, bloodshed, the most awful acts of sinful men ever seen in the history of the world, and then to cap it off, this wishful thinking world church "woman" will ride the beast right into the coming to power of the antichrist. This is why the churches need to get as far away from this movement as possible, because it truly is the woman who rides the beast.

Lord we pray that we leave here with a new understanding of whom you are and what you are all about tear down every wall every barrier Lord... bring the synergy of revelation bring a synergy of boldness and humility bring a synergy of church life and evangelism bring a synergy of the order of the apostle and the consuming fire ... and decreeing of authority and order of. From the prophets would you marry the restorative moves of the past the miracles the evangelism and would you bring it into alignment with the apostolic move of the day and would you cause a synergy to take place in the body of Christ where we see a new level this is not about any of us it is all about you it is the summing up of all things that you prophesied... you decreed the completion and the setting in place of the ages and we say Amen to that end we will decree it we believe it it is all coming together in you...in Jesus name...

So I guess if Dutch Sheets and those at his conference decree all these things they will be made so. Do you believe it? Do you want it? Do you want the "order of the apostle" to become the rule of the Church, just as it is today in the Catholic religion? Do you want Nicolaitan "heavy shepherd" rulers in the churches? Do you want the consuming fire anointing? Do you know that consuming fire is a judgment from God? Do you want to be brought into "alignment" with the apostolic move of the day? These are issues every Christian must decide and soon, or they will be swept up in this humanistic pantheistic synergistic tide whether they like it or not.
Following the initial round of Israeli national elections last April, the decisive factor causing irreconcilable divisions that ended up scuttling coalition formation talks was the proposed Haredi Military Draft Law. Netanyahu’s major coalition partner Avigdor Lieberman was a leading promoter of this legislation and was unwilling to fold on his demand for the government to endorse it. Predictably this was unpalatable for the religious coalition partners and so a showdown ensued, occasioning no consensus for forming a ruling majority. So almost a year on, after yet another attempt to break the deadlock we’re back to square one with fresh elections called for March.

Failing to resolve this ongoing sticking issue has further emboldened the Haredim in their draft dodging agenda. They have demonstrated their ability to bring down Netanyahu’s coalition and therefore may have even more sway over him this time around.

Having an unprecedented series of three elections back to back is also a threat to democracy from the vantage point that they are only supposed to occur once every four years, not whenever a crisis surfaces in political negotiations. Public loss of confidence in the system has the risk of increasing voter apathy. This in turn could detract votes from the larger parties and increase the proportional share of smaller parties which then might lead to continuing fragile coalition governments.

Events have marched forward over the summer and fall. Polls indicate Netanyahu has lost ground since the second vote. This is probably largely attributable to populace fatigue from having him in office so long. But there are additional contributing factors. Trump’s much awaited Middle East Peace Plans’ first phase has failed to show dividends. The Bahrain economic investment conference elicited little enthusiasm from the Arab world. If regarded as an accurate harbinger of prospects this doesn’t play well for Netanyahu who has endorsed Trump’s lead. He also continues to be haunted by the ghost of bribery and dishonesty indictments that were approved by the Attorney General. He has gone at lengths to portray these damning allegations as a witch hunt. But that damage limitation strategy will only wash amongst his most stellar supporters. In the recent Likud primaries for leadership selection these charges were emphasized even by opponents on the right. His resulting nomination margin to lead the party into the next election wasn’t exactly impressive. One gets the distinct impression that this is a man treading water not only for political survival but also for his very freedom from precarious incarceration. An outcome that is entirely possible given that Israel has had no hesitation to cage both an acting President and former Prime Minister for criminal conduct in our time. Such is Netanyahu’s desperation to avert personal calamity in kind, that he is pushing for parliamentary immunity from prosecution – which itself is highly controversial as it undermines the integrity of the rule of law and independence of the judicial process.

Another thorn in Netanyahu’s side is the re-appearance of his old rival Ehud Barak on the scene. This is only made slighter by the stink of scandal surrounding Barak also, due to his association with the late public enemy number one –Jeffrey Epstein. Barak is seeking to form a coalition with Labor rebels and Meretz comprising a ‘Democratic Union’. Towards these ends it would have helped their efforts had Kahol Lavan not harvested so much of its support from these parties. On the right, united Torah Judaism (who would inevitably be brought in to form a government by Likud) have been soliciting the support of overtly racist Jewish nationalist party ‘Kahanists’, which doesn’t bode well for Israel’s image abroad.

With all this said, even if its three times lucky and Israel’s fickle politics does manage to temporarily patch things up this time round and return a ruling majority, the system is endemically weakened and compromised. Too long have simmering issues been swept under the carpet. It’s like the foolish man who enthusiastically keeps on getting married despite never addressed personality flaws, which condemn each subsequent relationship from the get go. As depressing as this may sound, the following potential scenarios could quite plausibly grow out of that mine, and therefore are likely to forecast how affairs unfold in the coming months and years ahead:

1) The Knesset will become increasingly reliant upon the Supreme Court to address matters of controversy that were traditionally provided for by statutory instrument.
2) Heightened voter apathy and demands to change the electoral system to first past the post, in the hopes that this will lessen the choke hold of smaller parties on governments and overall return a more decisive majority mandate.
3) Re-evaluating the notion of Israel having an uncodified constitution, merely consisting of its Declaration of Independence and some ‘Basic Laws’ guaranteeing certain freedoms. Calls to replace this with a written comprehensive constitution which will clearly delineate the separation of government and Rabbinate.
4) Momentum to finalize Israel’s status and no longer live in limbo concerning what it practically means to be a Jewish state.
5) Which may lead to a general reconsideration of the role of religion in society, beginning with the organs of state: education and the judicial system (with emphasis on Rabbinical involvement in family law and personal status). But it will then go on to broader sociological issues as diverse as burial.
6) Popular support for constitutionally defined executive term limits.
7) A fresh economic policy making shape, with traditional parties imploding (like Labor has already) resulting in a new reality – distinctly different from the left-right divide.
8) A push for the powers of the Knesset Ombudsman to be strengthened in order to robustly tackle corruption among members of the Knesset.

Overall, we can surmise by observing that the current crisis needn’t spell further doom on the horizon. Rather, Israel’s current political impasse can be interpreted optimistically as a critical constitutional moment, and as such, an opportunity to address outstanding chinks in its armor that date back to its founding. Many factors are at play. But if even one of those scenarios outlined above manifests, it will act as a catalyst to effectuate a toppling of the former status quo that is evidently no longer fit for purpose (indeed, if it ever was).
Greetings from Israel and our best wishes for the new year which we have embarked upon.

We have been enjoying some unusually heavy rainstorms, the heaviest we have seen in all our time here and they have caused some problems.

Because of the long hot, often completely cloudless, dry summers here, rain is considered a blessing. Indeed it’s a welcome relief to see a cloud again; it’s like seeing old friends whom you haven’t met for a long time, and we are glad to observe the Galilee filling nicely in a good rainy season. We always expect heavy rain at this time of year; but usually there are dry days in between, but this year we’ve had too much of a good thing in too short a space of time. The last weeks have seen persistent torrential rain over many days, far, far more than usual, which has brought disruption and sadly tragedy as well; a young couple in Tel Aviv actually drowned in an elevator on a subterranean level of a building.

Nahariya is so named because of the Ga’aton River, (nabar is Heb. for river) that runs through its centre in a canal down the middle of the main Ga’aton Boulevard. On account of previous flooding, some years ago the canal was widened and its outflow basin at the seashore improved. However even those improvements have not been enough to prevent the river from bursting its banks and shattering the retaining walls of the canal. Streets were cordoned off, the schools closed, and the mayor requested people to stay at home as the centre of town flooded repeatedly, at times up to waist level or more with fast moving water in low-lying parts of town -waters that could easily sweep a child, or even an adult off their feet. Stranded schoolkids and people caught in the centre of town had to be collected by an army lorry and taken home. At one point before the flood waters reached their peak (and before I understood how bad the situation was actually becoming), I salied forth to collect a friend’s children at night from the other end of town in the torrential rain. It’s a truly disturbing experience driving in very poor visibility for an extended distance with waters so high they are washing over the windscreen as you move and hoping that water does not get into the engine and stall the car. I am sure there will be many insurance claims for damaged or even ruined cars caught in the flood waters. After the waters had abated I walked into town, being careful not to slip or sink in the very deep sludge; they were pumping out underground car-parks that had been filled completely up to their ceilings.

Intrater is on the right with the kippa, Mizrahi is wearing the tallit. Intrater’s vision is described as the “restoration” of Israel and the Church. Notwithstanding the un biblical nature of this concept of “restoring the Church”, mastermind Asher’s version includes the idea of full and complete ecumenical and visible unity of Christendom. So no surprises then about these other participants:
And the highlight of the conference: the Mass!

I think you get the picture (pun intended) as to what kind of conference this was.

Consequently, because of the nature of those behind this initiative and God-TV’s programming content, we should be deeply concerned about this distorted misrepresentation of biblical faith that will be injected into Israeli households and what impression this will leave with the general Israeli public.

The apostle Peter explicitly warned about this kind of thing:

“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.” (2Pet. 2:1-2)

“God-less TV”, as it is referred to by many, will begin pumping its content into Israeli homes sometime later this year. It will be broadcasting original Hebrew NAR content produced here or English content subtitled in Hebrew and Arabic. But there’s more, oh yes.

**IRIS Global Opens Israel Branch**

You might be aware if you follow the NARWatch Israel blog (narwatchisrael.info), which I also contribute to, that Heidi Baker’s IRIS Global has opened a branch here (https://www.irisglobal.org/locations/israel) with an IRIS-affiliated supernatural training school. Run by a couple called Sri and Or who present their vision as follows:

“God has given them downloads and strategies for helping Israel and Jewish people. He showed them in a dream that Jewish people seek signs and wonders. Ever since, they’ve wanted to start programs that are focused on deeper intimacy with the Lord, teaching students how to walk in signs and wonders and Holy Spirit fire! They strongly believe that God will soften the hearts of Israelis to see their eternal purpose through supernatural encounters!”

**MORIEL ISRAEL UPDATE**

Unfortunately, if the signs and wonders are of the Heidi Baker variety, we know that they will have the opposite effect. Satan has always used false teachers, and con-merchants to subvert and discredit the true Gospel. This was exactly the problem that Paul was confronting in Thyatira:

“And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.”

Satan is the master of half-truths just as much as he is the father of lies. He is the master of the small-print, the escape and exception clauses, redefinition and subtractions and additions. This is why Roman Catholicism, which though it affirms the Nicene Creed, is a heretical and blasphemous cult. It affirms salvation is by grace through faith, but it redefines grace and also insists that faith alone is not sufficient. It also adds many other things not specified in Scripture and, amongst other things, sets up Mary as co-Redeemer with Jesus. When demons appear to affirm something true there is always an agenda; there will be a twist somewhere; if the Holy Spirit’s ministry is to glorify Jesus and reveal the truth about Him to us, then demonic spirits have the opposite effect. They will in some way deny or distort the biblical picture of Jesus and obscure the biblical truths about Him, with the objective of ultimately introducing another Jesus, another gospel and another spirit.

Incidentally, Heidi Baker has a long standing connection with Israel. In 2014 she was ministering at Kehilat HaCarmel. On the video of this same meeting, David Davis endorsing her ministry states that he and Karen had known Roland and Heidi Baker since at least the late 80’s (incidentally this acceptance of ministries like the Bakers explains a lot about the doctrinal condition and direction of Kehilat HaCarmel over the years). Heidi Baker has also been repeatedly involved with the ELAV conferences of Rick Ridings of Sukkat Hallel and “impacted” to Israeli youth there on numerous occasions going back over a decade.

But there’s still more. Oh yes.

**Empowered 21’s Jerusalem 2020 Event**

“Experience the next Pentecost in the Land of Pentecost at Jerusalem 2020!” so reads the promotional material for Empowered 21’s next Jerusalem Pentecost event.

The idea of another 2nd Pentecost that would eclipse the first coming of the Spirit upon the Church is a major component of Latter Rain teaching and Empowered 21 is a global council of high-level NAR and Charismatic leaders committed to just that goal; a global congress that includes a number of those recognised as the most prominent false teachers, pseudo-prophets and false apostles in the NAR movement.

An Israeli contingent will also be present at the Jerusalem 2020 event. Below are some photos from the promotional literature. I am sure you will recognise Wayne Hillsden former senior pastor of King of Kings Community Jerusalem and now head of Fellowship of Israel Related Ministries. Sadly, this is not
Unfortunately, Wayne is part of the global leadership cabinet of Empowered 21 and has been involved from its inception. If you access the early 2012 version of Empowered’s leadership page, you will see Hilsden alongside Marilyn Hickey, Kenneth Copeland, Cindy Jacobs, Myles Monroe and Brian Houston, to name a few. Birds of a feather flock together, don’t they? - and Empowered 21 is not Wayne’s only connection with NAR-figures and organizations that’s for sure.

Sadly there is a certain faction over here who would dearly love to see an “outpouring” of the Bethel Redding variety with all its horrible phenomena occur wholesale in Israeli congregations. One of the things that has held the “out there” stuff back somewhat is the innate conservatism in many congregations here. Many, who may even be doctrinally sympathetic to Bethel have been uncomfortable with extreme Toronto/Heidi Baker style manifestations; but this is changing. The NAR have been working tirelessly to introduce the youth in particular to this false anointing and induct them into the IHOP/Bethel “presence-centred” paradigm and alternative gospel and are using music/worship conferences and training camps to teach young people how to invoke and bring the “presence” through worship. The next generation will be far more accepting of the worst kind of false teachings and extreme manifestations than the current one, because they will have been programmed to accept them as normative working of the Holy Spirit. But wait, there’s more.

A Deluge of False Converts

One of the terrifying but inevitable consequences of proclaiming an unbiblical gospel, in the power of another spirit and an unspiritual depiction of Christ, will be a proliferation of false converts. The biblical Gospel is the power of God unto salvation; in Col. 1:5 it is called “the word of truth, the Gospel”; the words truth and gospel are used synonymously. We should be clear on the matter, that a “gospel” which is not the truth will also lack the power of God to save, and no other spirit than the Spirit of God can bring new life to a dead human heart. Indeed, many of those involved in these hypercharismanic and NAR churches are definitely having spiritual experiences, maybe even of a kind that would be described as miracles, but this is not a condition that is required to be saved.

For, though all things shall pass away, HIS WORD SHALL STAND FOREVER!

Paul tells us that we are set apart by the Spirit for salvation when we believe the truth, which is the salvation call of the Gospel (2 Thess. 2:13-14). Without the true Gospel there can be no genuine faith and hence no consequent work of the Spirit setting apart unto salvation. This is a most pitiable condition to find oneself in, but I fear it is the exact situation many young people are in over here if they have made a profession of faith based on this presence-centred, truth-eviscerated gospel which only calls them to “encounter God and feel his love”, leaving them ignorant of their true terrifyingly-lost condition, unconvicted of sin, unrepentant and with no saving knowledge of Christ’s atoning work.

A great concern is that the hypercharismanic NAR-religion is creating an army of what are in effect “nominal” believers within the messianic movement here in Israel. This was not previously a problem, as because of Israeli anti-believer sentiments, only someone with a strong conviction would want to be associated with believers in Jesus and would need a strong biblically-grounded faith to stand. The times they are a changing though, and being messianic is now more socially acceptable and Israelis are generally more open to hearing about Christ; but it also means they are more open to hearing about a false christ as well; particularly a feel-good Jesus that washes over them with sensations of love, performs signs, wonders and healings and does not speak of hard biblical truths about sin, judgement and righteousness and the narrow way to eternal life. When we couple this with the adoption of the ecumenical Bethel-style paradigm, in which even a pretence to doctrinal orthodoxy flies out the window as long as the “presence” shows up and does its stuff, and where we accept the idolatries of Rome and blasphemies of Rome as acceptable Christian practices, then what we have is a new-agey mystical faith indistinct in essence from any other species of idolatry, which dovetails exactly with a false christ that appeals to sinful human flesh.

However that is not all, for if we remove the biblical boundaries that distinguish between who is within the faith and who is definitely not; then we cannot even offer assistance to those struggling with matters of assurance either. In fact from some of the ex-IHOPper testimonies we have read, many of them struggle with this very issue and keep seeking for experience after experience in the “prayer room” in pursuit of a feeling of acceptance from God; and because the biblical lines between what a genuine faith is, and what it is not, have been erased, it also becomes impossible to examine oneself to see if we are in the faith or not. Even someone with a genuine powerful conversion experience can suffer doubts at times. Sometimes the LORD hides His face to help us grow in our trust; sometimes our own sin opens the door for the Accuser of the Brethren to stomp all over us. The only solution for these times is raw, naked trust in the promises of God, where we hurl away all other things and clinging tight on to His Word with all that we have. The mystical Bethelite who needs to be topped up regularly with a fresh dose of the anointing or to feel the “presence”, and who has no assurance other than these things will not be able to stand in that evil day when the fiery darts of the evil one are flying think and fast and the whole armour of God is required to resist him firm in our faith. Such a person will not be able to say: Feelings come and feelings go, And feelings are deceiving; My warrant is the Word of God--Naught else is worth believing. Though all my heart should feel condemned for want of some sweet token, There is One greater than my heart whose Word cannot be broken.

I'll trust in God's unchanging Word till soul and body sever, For, though all things shall pass away, HIS WORD SHALL STAND FOREVER!!

Blessings to you all, Elon and Hadas
Nahariya Israel
China -- General Situation

The inner workings of China’s economy have always been opaque to the outside world, but it does seem that there are great upheavals ahead. Xi Jinping's policies towards the largest national companies have been to take them back into effective state control (with the usual considerable loss of efficiency), and towards small companies to make life difficult for them with increasing bureaucracy. Towards overseas companies there has been a demand for transparency (VPNs not allowed) with a simultaneous increase in bureaucratic controls, so not a few of the largest manufacturers have quit China in search of more conducive conditions elsewhere in SE Asia. Despite a period of apparent clampdown on corruption, it seems still rampant in many places. These factors added to social unrest among peasant farmers and ill-paid factory workers, in addition to Mr. Trump's tariff restrictions, would point to a looming crisis.

As has been well publicised Mr. Xi has declared his intention to bring all the “faith communities” of China into line with full submission to himself and the communist party. In a bold anticipation of this development a number of those leading larger “house churches” issued the following courageous statement in 2018:


This was a wise as well as a bold thing to do. These men knew that they would be the first targets of the new policies, as their congregations were so large as to be no longer “under the radar”. So in anticipation of all kinds of fabricated accusations they have put their declaration of faith and moral convictions out into the public sphere in advance.

Not surprisingly a number of these courageous men are now in custody, including Wang Yi of the Early Rain Covenant Church in Chongqing, sentenced to 9 years. Leaders of smaller groups generally whose meetings are less conspicuous have by contrast “kept their head down” -- this is also acting with wisdom. Their priority has been to keep the opportunities they have open as long as possible.

Again in anticipation of the new policies very many house church congregations across China have already divided themselves into small cell groups with even as few as 6-7 in each. This avoids the risk from informers who in some cities gain a $300 reward for successful information leading to prosecution for “illegal meetings”.

In the hand of God these pressures may well be the means of a new strengthening and growth. Once again young believers have to take up some responsibility to seek God for His word in their small groups, rather than “sitting back” in a large meeting. Without doubt there has been a trend in recent years to many more “facing-the-front” kinds of churches rather than the “When you come together, everyone has.....” 1Co.14:26 kind of meetings where there is an expectation of all participating. So these things (we trust) in the end will turn out “to the furtherance of the gospel”. But our brothers and sisters need wisdom, strength and courage in the face of much intimidation. Undoubtedly young believers in the professions may end up losing their jobs when forced to make declarations of loyalty (happening in the West too in a different way?).

NW China

As most will know the last 3 years have seen perhaps up to 2 million people from the ethnic Uygur group (men and women, 17-65, in the NW province of Xinjiang) confined to “re-education camps” where they are subjected to the attempt (by all means including torture) to brainwash them out of their Islam and culture. Undoubtedly the results are that many come out broken people, terrorised so as not to return to their former Islamic observances. But equally certain is that some will emerge as future terrorists all the more determined on revenge on the hated “Chinese enemy”.

The background of this repression (despite what Western media generally portray) was a full-on jihadist movement involving every level of Uygur society, beginning about 6-7 years ago. This movement was considerably influenced by Al-Qaeda and ISIS teaching. Now Beijing is ‘answering terror with terror’. The construction of these camps and their maintenance has been at considerable economic cost to the NW as a whole, and it seems now the policy is for release into working in factories or state farms under observation, still under considerable control and very low salary.

Those shut up in the camps of course include not just Muslim Uyghurs, Kazakhs and Kirghiz, but our brethren from those ethnic groups who have received the gospel over the last 20 years. I am happy to say current reports from our Chinese (Han) brethren in the NW say that almost all our brothers are now back in their homes. The one notable exception is Alimjan Yimit who is now in the 13th year of his 15 year confinement. Our Chinese brothers have been able to get practical aid to many of these Uygur families. We have the means to forward further help.

One thing that one would hope strikes the Uygur people as a whole is how hardly a single Muslim nation anywhere in the world has lifted a voice on their behalf; those who have raised the issue of their rights are substantially the ‘Christian’ West. Generally where criticism of China is concerned “business is business” and money rules all.

There are three translations of the scriptures in Uygur language available; though the authorities block the Internet as much as they can we may still pray that His word will reach these broken people at this time. There is some evidence that this is happening.

HK

The political situation in Hong Kong has been well reported internationally and not much need to say more about it. The pursuit of democracy by the younger section of society is a futile one unless there is a substantial shift in the Beijing rule.

Many churches in Hong Kong are praying fervently for peace and tranquility; but little do they realise that the enemy of souls has long since entered their door in their abandonment of...
seeking to live “by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God”. Either charismatic chaos or complacent tradition generally rules the day. We however do pray for peace, particularly that the freedom remains to preach Christ openly.

It is an encouragement that some faithful souls have begun an outreach to Muslims across Hong Kong, near some of the major mosques on a Saturday or on a Sunday to the 200,000 or so Indonesian (Muslim) live-in “domestic helpers” who work here.

GUANGZHOU

A very remarkable and little-known opportunity exists in the city of Guangzhou, just two hours north of Hong Kong, the main trading and commercial centre of China, a city of 20 million. Every year half a million visitors come to Guangzhou, mostly for short business trips. Many of these are from “closed nations”, especially Muslim lands where it is impossible to preach Christ openly; but on the streets and markets of Guangzhou they are far from the gaze of their neighbours and many very open to receive gospel materials and to talk. In a single day it is possible to meet more than 80 nationalities and ethnic groups. Most have at least enough English or French for simple conversation.

If anyone should wish to take advantage of this “open door” and willing to come to Guangzhou for a short stay, say one or two weeks, we will do our best to support with a supply gospels in Arabic, Farsi, Somali, Urdu and Bengali and a “reach-all” QR code card. Please contact us via Moriel website if interested.

Moriel New Zealand Update

Kiwi Fruit
1st Quarter 2020

After a hectic few months we ended 2019 with a long overdue family trip back to South Africa. We used the opportunity to meet up with Mike Benade who heads up Moriel SA and it was interesting to hear of the challenges they’re faced with in South Africa at the moment. It seems they have very similar problems that we face in New Zealand which is a severe lack of discernment and notably a lack of good churches. It was really good to meet Mike and spend a bit of time with him.

We were also able to stop in at Mount of Olives Mission and visit with Dave, Lyn and the family. Dave gave us a tour of the farm and showed us how they had built the place from scratch.

Blessings in Jesus,
Pierre & Marguerite
Dear friends and family
Greetings in Jesus.

Your prayers are very much appreciated for my son Aaron and his family. Thank you.
I’d like to start by saying a great thank you to you all for your prayers over the months and years on my health. We have recently found out that I have only one working kidney and now that remaining kidney is working at 21% and declining.

The Dr. said that there won’t be any improvement now from it so be prepared for dialysis. So on Thursday (9.1.2020) I was given many options and paths to take concerning treatment. The first being just a normal kidney transplant from a donor. The second is a dual transplant which is pancreas and a kidney. This will temporarily cure my type 1 diabetes and give my new kidney a fighting chance with stable blood sugars from it.

So as you can see this is life changing circumstances and needs a lot of prayer and guidance on what to do with my life and the future of my family.

So key things to pray for are:
1. Peace - no matter what the circumstance is, we have peace from the Lord.
3. For our two wonderful children - that this doesn’t affect them.
4. That I settle well to any treatment given.

My goal is that through any time or trial in life God is glorified.

God bless
Aaron and Erin

Let me begin by thanking you for your love and support in 2019. It has helped us continue with the mission despite the challenges we have faced on many fronts and continue to face this year 2020.

First of all personal health issues stemming from diabetes affecting the eyes plus hospitalization due to Retinopathy. I also have a cataract waiting removal but due to my inability to drive long distances, making the appointments has been difficult so I am long overdue. This affects my sight tremendously and therefore reading is an issue. For our cottage I have had to get a power bank, basically a lithium battery with power outlets. It was a lively gift from our parents and we thank them very much.

Secondly this has been a challenging year financially. Our monthly contributions have seen a major decrease, donations have been sporadic and so we thank God for the fact we grow a good proportion of our own food.

Thirdly our sister in Christ Marg Godwin went to be with the Lord. This was a terrible blow personally to many of us as we lost a true friend and supporter. Marg was encouragement personified. She was always there for us, even when Polly passed away it was her and Moriel Australia who helped with funeral costs. We look forward to seeing Marg again in Christ but till then there is a huge hole in our lives.

Fourth, South Africa is going through huge challenges. We are in a drought, politically the country is unstable and there are energy shortages. On top of this the attacks on the farming community have continued and this means additional worries with security. Please pray that God will protect the farmers and bring healing to those already affected. So far we have peace here locally but we take nothing for granted. We’re in the Lord’s hands.

In the midst of the water crisis and to preserve the little that’s left in the dam we are selling and culling most of the pigs. This will help with food plus leave more water for the cattle. It’s drought season and we need to keep the cows hydrated so they can feed. The grazing is shocking and everything is shrivelled. This means that to keep the cattle healthy we are having to purchase pellets and these are at a premium price.

This past year the children have been busy trying to find work off farm however it’s a difficult economy and openings for our special needs guys are few and far between. In regards to HIV all are doing extremely well and compliant with their medication, this has meant good CD4 counts and low viral loads.

Our needs are few, the most important is people. As stated in our earlier mails we need to be heading back to the UK for health reasons after 20 years service on the mission field.

For those thinking about service we have a 43 acre farm with cattle and equipment. A farm house with out buildings and site 8 km from town. Opportunities for ministry and development are many for the right people who are younger, healthier and with skills in evangelism and open to self sustainable living. We are off grid producing our own power, water and a chunk of our food.

If this describes you then get in touch with us.
Again many thanks, please consider helping practically.
Our payfast link can help you do this easily.
We wish you and your loved ones a very blessed new year and guidance and courage for 2020.

In Jesus
Dave and Lyn

An Exposition of the Epistle of Jude Part Three

Jude’s blessing

We are now going to explore the next triple heading from Jude’s opening introduction. Before we continue let us look at Jude verses 1-2.

“Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ: Mercy unto you and peace and love be multiplied.”

“May mercy and peace and love be multiplied to you” is a lovely introduction. In fact what we have here is a blessing pronounced by Jude upon his readers. There are several Greek words in scripture translated blessing: euiloge�; — yoo-log-eh’-o; from a compound of (2095) (eu+) and (3056) (lo>gov); to speak well of, i.e. (religiously) to bless (thank or invoke a benediction upon, prosper): — bless, praise.
Blessings are very important biblically. They are something to be sought after. Blessings were given from father to son.

Genesis 27:30 “And it came to pass, as soon as Isaac had made an end of blessing Jacob, and Jacob was yet scarce gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting.

From rulers to their people.

Deuteronomy 33:1 “And this is the blessing wherewith Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death”.

More importantly from God to mankind.

“For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves today to the LORD, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day.”

It was custom to have a blessing pronounced at the beginning of a letter. Just for a moment compare this practice with the modern style of letter writing. How often is it you or I begin a letter by blessing the one you are writing to? If you’re like me it’s often left to the very end, if at all.

But here Jude, as do many New Testament writers, begins by blessing God’s people with everything worth having as a child of God and with great abundance. Jude’s desire is that God’s people experience the fullness of life that can only be found in Yeshua. And as God’s people should we not have a similar desire for the brethren?

Let’s think about this for a moment. What would happen if you or I departed from our usual grumpy ‘hello’ on a Sunday morning at church and when we meet pronounce a blessing upon the sullen individual before you? We could say, “Hi, may the Lord bless you with mercy, peace and love in great abundance”. Maybe we would get a funny look BUT think of the implications to our relationships! How could this affect our Koinonia? Personally I think that it would do wonders for any community of believers who have the confidence and courage in Yeshua to do such a thing.

And what a blessing Jude gives his readers in this triple form. It’s a very rare blessing indeed and so let us investigate it together because I believe that this blessing has great significance for the believer today.

Jude’s first blessing is ‘Elesos’. Strong has this to say: eлейs, — el’-eh-os; of uncertain affinity; compassion (human or divine, especially active): — (+ tender) mercy.

The Hebrew equivalent would be ‘Chesed’, to have mercy, give pity, show kindness. But Elesos in its New Testament use according to Zodhiates is to be seen in the light of ‘Charis’ or God’s free undeserved grace. Charis is often linked to salvation and the forgiveness of sins as extended to humanity in its guilt. Elesos is extended to those who are under Charis for the alleviation of those under the consequences of sin.

For example, if I drink once again of the proverbial daily bottle of Jack Daniels, get saved and stop drinking, I am under Charis. God has saved me and I have kicked the habit and now I don’t abuse my body any more. Even though I am saved by grace through faith. Even though I have stopped the abuse, the consequences may be chronic liver failure.

If then God chose to have mercy on me and deliver me from liver failure, I would then be under Eleos, God’s mercy. But why is mercy included in this blessing? We get a clue by reading the following verses:

1 Timothy 1:2 “Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.”
2 Timothy 1:2 “To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.”
2 John :3 “Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.”

Including Jude, these four verses are the only blessings in scripture that include the word Eleos. There has to be a reason for this. If you look at the historical backgrounds to 1&2 Timothy and John’s epistles you will find that, like Jude’s circumstance, the church at this time was being attacked by false teachers and gnostics. As the Apostle John would say, “For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist”. 2 John:7

This is also why this letter is relevant to this day and age. What I believe Jude was saying, as was Paul and John, “May the Lord have mercy (Eleos) on you as these people live and move within your congregations” — it was as serious as that.

I would like to add this, may God have mercy on this expression church in our day and age as unbiblical teaching is preached from our pulpits and broadcast upon the airwaves and written in the columns of so many books calling themselves ‘Christian’ in content and yet lacking true biblical orthodoxy.

The threat to the church in Jude’s day was real even with the apostles still around. How much more then do we need to receive the blessing of God’s mercy in our day and age when there are so few with the courage and conviction to take up the sword? God’s mercy has real implications for the individual. Not one of us who are called as believers are called because we deserve it or are entitled to it. Many of us, including this writer, are in Christ because He has shown us mercy. We deserved to die as a consequence of our sin but God through Jesus saved us and mercy from the Father was displayed through Christ’s death on our behalf.

Secondly, Jude’s blessing continues with the word Peace, ‘Eirene’ ejrн>h, — i-ray-nay; probably from a primary verb ejrн (to join); peace (literal or figurative); by implication prosperity: The Hebrew word Shalom is almost equivalent and naturally follows mercy because we know that when we have God’s mercy we receive God’s peace.

Eirene is an absence of real strife, not conflict, but strife in the areas that really matter in life. For example, if you have no assurance of your eternal destiny you will experience real strife and anxiety especially during serious illness. We know the questions people ask at these times and they reflect an inner strife and conflict.

“What’s going to happen to me when I die?”

“I’m ill, when I die will I snuff out of existence like a
candle or is there a real heaven, a real hell?"

So for mankind the first object of peace has to be peace with God and peace with God can only be obtained through the Prince of Peace, Yeshua.

Our Messiah said in John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be fearful."

The fact is, you can be in the midst of a storm and suffer all kinds of anxieties and yet still experience the peace of God. Men may mock you, family may reject you, people may take you to court, but the object of real strife has been defeated and you can still experience Shalom.

And yet, why is it that I still sense real strife and unease in the life of great portions of the church today? The reason I believe is that the church has taken its eyes off the Prince of Peace and has focused on a different gospel that is not the good news at all.

Even today I hear Christians say, "What happens when I die?" "What about heaven and hell?" "Is there a purgatory?"

And why does this happen? It's because the church has amongst its brethren, people who have "crept in unnoticed among us".

So the body of Christ listens to the liberal theologians and the annihilationists rather than come to an understanding of what the word of God actually says. It's because we have undisciplined minds which rake in the garbage shown on TV with its religious programs that have become a platform for the occult and many other forms of lunacy that permeate the Church of God today.

It is because we have stopped looking to the Prince of Peace and what He has to say through His living word that we often find ourselves in a mixed up mess.

Do you have peace today? Do you know your destination if you die right now? If you don't then let me introduce you to Yeshua, the Prince of Peace who can give you the peace that the world cannot give.

Jude's third Blessing is Agape. The sacrificial love of God that is a choice of the will and not just an emotion.

aiga>ph, — ag-ah'-pay; from (25) (agapa=w); love, i.e. affection or benevolence; specially (plural) a love-feast: — (feast of) charity ([-ably]), dear, love.

When we experience the mercy of God in its unmerited fashion, when we receive the peace of God that is beyond understanding, it is then we can really know, understand and overflow with the Love of God. No one who has received God's mercy and appreciates it for what it really is can be unloving.

In Luke chapter seven, Jesus demonstrates this to the Pharisees as He sat for a meal with them. Verse 36 onwards says:

And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he entered into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat. 37 And behold, a woman who was in the city, a sinner; and when she knew that he was sitting at meat in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster cruse of ointment, 38 and standing behind at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. 39 Now when the Pharisee that had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have perceived who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him, that she is a sinner. 40 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Teacher, say on. 41 A certain leper had two debtors: the one owed five hundred shillings, and the other fifty. 42 When they had not wherewith to pay, he forgave them both. Which of them therefore will love him most? 43 Simon answered and said, He, I suppose, to whom he forgave the most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged. 44 And turning to the woman, he said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thy house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath wetted my feet with her tears, and wiped them with her hair. 45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but she, since the time I came in, hath not ceased to kiss my feet. 46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but she hath anointed my feet with ointment. 47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. 48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven. 49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that even forgiveth sins? 50 And he said unto the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

Romans 3:23 says "for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God".

In other words, whether it's one penny or a billion dollars, our sin has to be paid for to satisfy the justice of God. When I consider my debt as you may be considering your debt right now, how can we choose not to love our neighbor?

God's love is a love of choice. In today's world it's a hard concept to understand because we are often ruled by our emotions.

We fall out of love so easily: "You let me down yesterday so I don't love you any more". "You looked at me in a funny way the other evening, you mustn't love me anymore". "You never paid me any attention last night, I don't love you any more".

The trouble with the love that we experience is that it is often centered on the 'I' and the 'Me'. But what love does God show? It is displayed by the scars that, as blow by blow was showed down upon Him, nails were driven through flesh and sinew. He carried on loving us and said "Father forgive them for they know not what they do" (Luke 22:34).

This love can be shown though God's grace by our choices. Despite how we feel, despite the rejection, despite the hurt and the pain, do not give in to sin but choose to love. This does not mean you will want to get all mushy and sentimental about that person. What it does mean is that through Yeshua's love, your hurt and the roots of bitterness will not have a hold upon you.

We have observed how Jude blessed his readers with three words: mercy, peace and love. What he said was that they might be multiplied and blessed with an unlimited abundance. This can be for you today through Yeshua, an abundance of mercy, peace and love.

Maybe you don't believe you deserve His mercy. Well mercy would not be mercy if it were deserved. Through Him it's by pure grace. Accept it, cherish it, let His blessings set you free.
Visit From Khae’s Dad

Khae’s Dad came to visit us for about a week and a half. In that time he read four Christian books, including one by Charles Spurgeon and Hudson Taylor’s biography, one on the End Times, and one on Evangelism—all in Thai. He has really put his full trust in Jesus, but still struggles to take a stand for the Lord at home. We tried to encourage him again to go to church at home even if his wife burns his clothes or persecutes him. When we took him to the bus station to go back home, the boys recited Proverbs chapter 3:3-8 and I also shared a gospel message and we handed out tracts.

Good news concerning Khae’s Dad after he returned home— he went to church several times this month near their house in Suphanburi. Khae’s Mom doesn’t know he went to church these times though. He slipped out when friends came to talk with her. Still it is a brave move on his part. Please pray for him to continue going to church even if Mom finds out.

Jacob and David’s Visit

Jacob and David came to visit us and both shared good messages at our church. Jacob shared on the importance of Israel for Christians (the same countries that were important in Bible times and still center stage; Jesus tells us the truth about the past, present, and future—as opposed to the Buddha or Confucious or Mohammad; and time is running out for the Gentiles as God turns his attention back to Israel), and David on how to witness to Mormons (when people are not ready for Jesus, then give them Moses first; if people are depending on their own good works then show them from their own book that the standard is perfection and ask questions—how are you doing with this standard of perfection? And pray for people who are blinded by false teachings). We’ve gotten good feedback on these messages from various people.

Dad and Mom’s Visit

My parents came to visit us for most of December. We had a good time. They played Legos and games with the boys, visited some friends here, and saw a few tourist attractions such as a tea plantation, a hot spring, and a waterfall. They also came for the boys’ Christmas program at their school.

The boys’ school is not a Christian school, but we got permission and then invited our pastors to come share a Christmas message there for the whole school. I also shared a Christmas message in the classroom of the group that I teach each week.

Twice my parents came into the prison with us for a free massage from my former students. I think I need to work on pronouns for the new students. The first time they came in my Mom’s masseuse said “I have chilly,” but intending it to be a question—i.e. “are you chilly (cold)”? The second time a different masseuse standing behind my Dad, told him, “please put your hand on my shoulder.” After much effort trying to reach back to her shoulder, she then placed his hand on his own shoulder!

Women’s Prison

At the Christian Meeting at the Women’s Prison I taught on the Luke 17 this month. There are many topics in that chapter, including the return of our Lord. I spent some time encouraging and challenging them from Luke 17:33:

“Whoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.”

For some of them with life sentences it seems like they’ve already “lost” their life. But, if they truly dedicate that life to God it will be a fruitful life, ending in joy in heaven. Compared to someone outside of prison who has everything they want, but no fruit for God, ending in hell, these prisoners’ lives are ones that are blessed. Even in prison though a choice needs to be made not to live for one’s self, but to serve God and share the gospel with others.

We now have a new group of about 30 students for our English Massage class. In addition to massage vocabulary I’ve been teaching them a Buddy Davis song, which they like—“The 7 C’s of History.” And, last week at Christmas time I shared the gospel with them and handed out gospels of John in Thai for any who wanted to read about the life of Jesus. Most of these students are from a Buddhist background so this is really a great opportunity to share the message of life with those who are living as “strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world” (Ephesians 2:12).

Children’s Ministry

Please pray for John, Daniel, Andrew, Moses and David. These are the children who come most regularly to church and the Saturday activities. When my parents were here they encouraged David, the oldest among them, to continue with the Lord faithfully. Also, three new children have started coming who live close by. Jallay met this family and invited them. Today is a school holiday and one of the boys has come over to play with Isaiah and Micah.

Christmas Program at Church

Last Sunday our pastor had an evangelistic Christmas message at church with a special dinner. We brought a truck full of unbelievers to hear the message. May God continue to work in their hearts.

Jallay and Family

Jallay brought 13 Burmese unbelievers to a Burmese church for Christmas, which is south of town. It’s very far from where we live though, and Jallay would like to start a Burmese church closer to where we live, and also closer to where there are several factories which have Burmese and Shan workers. Also, Jallay’s wife is about 5 months pregnant. They don’t know if they will have a boy or a girl yet.

Da in Mae Ai

Da in Mae Ai is still sharing the gospel faithfully in her Lahu community through Saturday and Sunday classes. Many children and adults attend these classes.
Thank you for your support and for praying. Here are a few pictures. We wish you all a happy New Year!

1 Corinthians 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”

Peace in Christ, Scott, Khae, Micahbereliah, and Isaiah.

After much searching we've finally found a good place to rent for the Burmese/Shan church. Jallay has named it Asian Mission Fellowship (AMF). There were a few other good places to rent, but they were noisy from the road noise. After the 3rd or 4th day of looking for a place, and after praying, we finally found one that's quiet-- a good distance from the road, but still in a good location. And, it also has an outdoor area for children to play.

Along the main road there are at least 20 factories with many Burmese and Shan workers. The first service is scheduled for February 2nd. Jallay's asked me to give the opening message. Myanmar has more Christians than Thailand, but it's still a small percentage, and mostly among the hill tribes, not the ethnically Burmese people.

The first contact that Jallay made was with a group of about 50 ethnically Burmese Buddhists. The focus of this church is mostly evangelistic, but we welcome Christians, too of course.

Please pray for an awakening among the Burmese and Shan workers to come out of pagan darkness and to look to Jesus to be saved.

Thankful for Jesus' triumph over sin and death, Scott.
“Made in China”: The History of Buddhism in the Middle Kingdom (Part VI)
By Scott Murray Noble (micahbberkiah@gmail.com)

Ancient Walls

The Great Wall of China (which contrary to popular myth is not visible from outer space) was built to keep people out. Nowadays it has the opposite effect—attracting tourists to China to come see this Great Wall. Communist China raised up “walls” to keep Christian missionaries out. This also had an opposite effect—underground churches flourished and native missionaries sprung up. Another religion foreign to China, rushing into the spiritual vacuum created by Communism, was Buddhism— which has also experienced a surge in popularity.

Modern Walls and China’s Outward Show of Tolerance

Many of the world’s tallest statues (most of which are Buddhist) are in China—including the world’s tallest at 128 meters tall (of Vairocana Buddha). As huge as these are to us, they are only like specks of dust in God’s sight.

The people of Israel were impressed with the magnificent man-made temple (like those impressed with man-made idols), but Jesus pointed them to Himself instead (Matthew 12:6)—by His outward appearance a mere man, but His body was actually the temple, in which God Himself came to live among men. When people came to meet Jesus they came to the real temple and were praying, because they were speaking with God. Man places importance on outward appearances such as idols and temple buildings. But, God forbids idolatry and sees past the outward appearances to the hearts of people.

Communist China is competing for the hearts of people, too, and even regulates the choices that can be made with their “Great” Internet Firewall, which censors, monitors, and destroys censorship evading software. Professor Kim Wu of Columbia Law School has said, “The Great Firewall of China is built with American bricks” (Navarro, 130). American companies like Cisco, Skype, Microsoft, and Google have taken the lead in providing China with the tools for making this Great Firewall of China.

The Last Empress of China: Ci Xi (AD 1835-1908)

Before Communism invaded the land, the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) came to an end possibly with the help of the 13th Dalai Lama. Like Empress Wu Zhao (AD 625-705), Dowager Empress Ci Xi, began her life at court as a concubine. In Ci Xi’s case that began at age sixteen, in 1851; in Wu Zhao’s case that was at age thirteen. Also like Wu Zhao, Ci Xi laid claim to being a member of the Buddhist pantheon. Wu Zhao had claimed to be the Maitreya Buddha. Ci Xi on the other hand claimed to be the bodhisattva (savior) Guanyin (Avalokitesvara, ironically the same one that the Dalai Lama claims to be).

“Officially, Ci Xi supported Confucianism, but privately, like many members of the Manchu [Qing] dynasty (1644-1911) before her, she felt herselh attracted to the Lamaist [Tibetan] doctrine. She was well-versed in the canonical writings, wrote Buddhist mystery plays herself, and had these performed by her eunuchs. Her apartments were filled with numerous Buddha statues and she was a passionate collector of old Lamaist temple flags. Her favorite sculpture was a jade statue of Guanyin given to her by a great lama. She saw herself as the earthly manifestation of this goddess and sometimes dressed in her robes.” (Trimondi)

German authors Victor and Victoria Trimondi in their book “The Shadow of the Dalai Lama,” have exposed many dark corners in the Dalai Lama’s life and history. They have taken pen names to protect themselves from possible repercussions. The Trimondis have written about the mysterious circumstances surrounding Ci Xi’s death shortly after the visit of the thirteenth Dalai Lama:

“It should be obvious that the sudden deaths of the Emperor and his adoptive mother immediately following one another gave rise to wild rumors and that all manner of speculations about the role and presence of the Dalai Lama were in circulation [the Dalai Lama came to visit at the end of October 1908 and Ci Xi was dead by mid-November 1908]. Naturally, the suspicion that the “god-king” from Tibet had acted magically to get his cosmic rival out of the way was rife among the courtiers, well aware of tantric ideas and practices. On the basis of the still to be described voodoo practices which have been cultivated in the Potala for centuries, such a suspicion is also definitely not to be excluded, but rather is probable. At any rate, as Avalokiteshvara the Hierarch likewise represents the death god Yama. Even the current, Fourteenth Dalai Lama sees — as we shall show — with pride a causal connection between a tantric ritual he conducted in 1976 and the death of Mao Zedong. Even if one does not believe in the efficacy of such magical actions, one must concede an amazing synchronicity in these cases.” (Trimondi)

Ci Xi died in 1908, but she had already chosen a two-year old prince to sit on the dragon throne in her place. In 1911 however revolutionaries removed the Manchus from power, thus ending the Qing [Manchu] dynasty.

Pure Land Popularity

“Of the four million or so lay devotees of Buddhism in China during the 1930’s, it is estimated that sixty to seventy per cent considered themselves to be followers of the Pure Land School” (Ch’en, 460). Pure Land Buddhism is a form of Buddhism which recites the name of Amitabha Buddha (A-mi-tō’; Amida) devotionally. The Amitabha Buddha is an invention of text writers who were not interested in real history. The Panchen Lama claims to be an emanation of Amitabha Buddha as well. While this Buddha is hugely popular in China, Tibet, and Japan, it is just an invented legend. The same can be said of Avalokitesvara (Kannon; Kuan-yin); which the Dalai Lama (and Empress Ci Xi claimed) claims to embody.

Struggle for Power and a Soul Redeemed

In the years that followed the break-up of the Qing dynasty, a struggle ensued with many competing groups vying for power. Writing from a mid-twentieth century perspective Gordon Kerr summarizes: “China had been at war with itself for almost half a century, engaged in a titanic struggle that, after the First and Second World Wars, was the third biggest conflict in history” (136).

Lit-Sen Chang, who played a supporting role in the attempt to create the Republic of China (anti-communist) finally realized that politics can only go so far—and that after that the problems in the human heart must be dealt with. However, his goal was...
to revive Asian religions and destroy Christianity: “I was intoxicat- ed with Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism as were many other Chinese scholars, and became the founding President of Kiang Nan University. The Yung De-sheng family donated five thousand acres of land, beside the most beautiful lake Tai Hu. This was to be the center of a resurgence movement of Asian religions and destroy Christianity. I was forty-five years old” (290). After a providential trip to Java and meeting Christians there, he became a Christian instead and then a defender and promoter of the Christian faith.

After Lit-Sen Chang’s 180 degree turn, here are some excerpts of his on the topic of Buddhism: “Regarding the birth, childhood, and youth of Buddha, the accounts are so full of discrepancies and enormous exaggerations that none of them can be safely regarded as historical…. Not until the first century A.D had the religion of Buddhism reached as far eastward as China…. [the Buddha]'s law has no lawyer…. according to his doctrine of the ten fetters, the desire to live on earth and the desire to live in heaven are considered to be sins…. The results of following Buddhism to its logical conclusion would be unrestrained atheism, moral nihilism, and tragic pessimism. Chaos and darkness would be the consequences…. Their supreme aim is for deliverance from suffering, not for holiness and righteousness…. They even teach, ‘Let no man love anything’….Thus, for one’s own happiness, one should not love others. This is sheer selfishness…. While Jesus Christ promises eternal life, Buddha holds forth, as the sumnum bonum, eternal extinction of individual conscious life…. Then, this is the way of destruction, not of salvation…. We are told that a saved Buddhist is a man who not only ceases to hate, but also ceases to love; not only ceases to desire evil, but also ceases to desire good…. The secret to salvation is the detachment from all things…. Buddhist eschatology is nothing more than speculation or vain deceit because there is no historical fact or sign to prove it. But Christianity is historical reality” (123-137).

70 Years of Communism

October 2019 marked the 70 year anniversary of communist control of China. Mao Zedong, the first chairman of communist China wrote, “A revolution is an insurrection, an act of violence by which one class overthrows another” (Kerr, 136).

That’s something that Americans should keep in mind, as the upcoming presidential election has put on offer two candidates so far who are openly socialist (socialism is a stepping stone to fully entrenched communism). “…Mao had said in 1948 that he envisaged 50 million would have to be destroyed to make the reform happen” (Kerr, 137).

From 1958 to 1962 Mao instituted “The Great Leap Forward,” in which production and modernization was to be escalated. That program resulted in the death of tens of millions. “It has been reported that while people were dying of hunger, there were 22 million tons of grain being held in public granaries. Mao refused to open the doors, claiming that the peasants were hiding grain. Furthermore, he was using grain to pay back some of China’s 1.973 billion yen debt to the USSR… between 20 and 40 million people died of starvation” (Kerr, 141). After that, the Cultural Revolution, also initiated by Mao, claimed another one to two million lives. A turning point came in 1978, two years after Mao Zedong’s death, when Deng Xiaoping worked towards “reform and opening-up.” “Trying to bridge the divide pre- and post- 1978, between Maoist radical ideology and the embracing of Chinese style capitalism afterwards, has taken immense thought and ingenuity” (Brown, 29-30)

In 2018 Chinese President Xi Jinping legislated new laws which severely restrict religious groups in China. These are now being implemented, including prison sentences for those not complying: “The new rules also say ‘religious organizations must spread the principles and policies of the Chinese Communist Party,’ as well as requiring ‘religious personnel and religious citizens to support the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, supporting the socialist system, adhering to and following the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics.’ Despite the crackdown, experts estimate by 2030 that the Christian population, at 100 million -- compared to 90 million members of CCP -- is set to grow to 250 million” (https://fxn.ws/2ZXrH4hH).

Communism’s Modern-Day Puppet: President Xi Jinping

Xi Jinping became president of modern China in 2013. His task has been to continue bolstering the economic growth of the nation while maintaining loyalty to Marxist principles. One factor in this economic growth is the rapid movement towards cities. “Up to as recently as the 1990s, more than 80 percent of the population lived in the countryside…. In the years since 1978, China has probably built more cities more quickly than any other country that has ever existed. More than 260 cities have populations of over a million…. By the end of 2030, perhaps long before, 70 per cent of China’s people will live in cities. The social and political ramifications of this are immense” (Brown, 160-161). Kerry Brown’s conclusion concerning general secretary and president Xi Jinping is this: “The truly powerful as history proves time and time again, locate their power far away from themselves. And for Xi Jinping that is in the ideals, beliefs and passions of the world’s final Communist party, holding a monopoly of power over a colossal country” (231).

It is ironic that in modern times China is becoming more and more open to capitalistic ventures (to keep the GDP soaring), but at the same time it has become more restrictive towards religions or any possible voice of dissent, because this kind of freedom of thought is something that could undermine the very foundations of the Communist Party. “Under Xi Jinping, the government has tightened its control over Internet discussions, announcing in mid 2013 that anyone who posted defamatory comments viewed by 5,000 other users or reposted more than 500 times could be jailed for up to three years” (Tse, 160). “Xi’s administration has also clamped down on all sources of dissent, including paying much closer attention to many NGOs, especially those pushing for legal reforms” (Tse, 167). “As Xi’s program makes clear, the Communist Party will retain its role as the leading force running China. Whatever the degree of economic liberalization, it will not surrender its ultimate control over the country’s macroeconomic levers” (Tse, 223). As was seen in the previous section, the Communist Party’s abduction of the 11th Panchen Lama shows their fear of any religious group which has the potential to create unrest.

Communist Double-Talk

In spite of taking over the country of Tibet and persecuting the Tibetan Buddhists, the Chinese Communists didn’t want to look bad in the eyes of their other Buddhist neighbors such as Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar (Burma), and Vietnam—perhaps wanting to win them over to the communist
way, or at least wanting to have political power or economic advantages in relationship to these countries. “One of the most powerful weapons used by the Chinese Buddhist Association to gain the goodwill of the Buddhist countries is a tooth of the Buddha, which the Communists claim was unearthed in China. This tooth was loaned to the Burmese government for display in Rangoon in 1955, and in 1961 it was exhibited in Ceylon [Sri Lanka].… The display of the tooth in Ceylon also counteracted some of the unfavorable criticism aroused by the Communist invasion of Tibet” (Ch’en, 468). For those wanting the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, they may have been disappointed to only get the whole tooth “of the Buddha,” found in China of all places.

Persecution of Mongolian Buddhism

In Mongolia, Tibetan Buddhism was still practiced. Jamtsarano’s, Buddhist renewal movement, “…failed to convince the new communist-led government of the People’s Republic of Mongolia, however, and, in 1937, following the precedent set by Joseph Stalin’s repression of the Russian Orthodox Church, Buddhism was banned. The Mongolian government executed thousands of lamas, burned monasteries to the ground, and destroyed religious books and images. Beginning with the collapse in 1991 of the Soviet Union, to which the People’s Republic of Mongolia was tied as an unofficial satellite, Buddhism began to resurface in both Outer Mongolia and in Russian Buriatia…. By contrast, in Inner Mongolia, an autonomous region of the People’s Republic of China, Buddhism has been submitted to the same Chinese state control as exists in Tibet.” (Berger, 564-565).

Lack of Moral Footing in Marxism

“The ethical basis of the [Communist] Party, because of its proclivity for violence right up to recent years, is problematic…. Marxism, in the end did not gift any system, whether in the former USSR or anywhere else, with a particularly coherent body of ethical thinking” (Brown, 42). The Party is more focused on good financial reports with GDP growth. A country’s laws reflect what it deems to be moral or immoral. “…The legal system under Mao was a bad fiction, with courts largely run as arms of the Party, their judges former military officers and their justice summary and brutal. In 1979, a concerted effort was made to build up a set of laws…. Since then, China has been on a legal roller coaster, passing hundreds of laws” (Brown, 167). “China was once accused of executing thousands each year, but the country’s figures have fallen dramatically. Even so, in 2013 it was still executing more people than the rest of the world combined” (Brown, 170).

This lack of moral footing in Marxism is also shared by Buddhism. The conclusions which Buddhist ethics reach are not always so innocent. For an interesting example of some unethical things espoused by Tibetan Buddhism, here are eight poignant questions to the Dalai Lama: www.trimondi.de/EN/debu03.html

Tibetan and Zen Amorality

Any system which disregards God, must ultimately rest its morality on human opinion alone. This is the predicament of Buddhism. Many teachers may espouse lofty and humanitarian ideals, but these are only opinions with no authority to back them up. Other teachers, because of this lack of authority don’t bother to emphasize morality, at least not an absolute one: “Although he stressed the necessity of the formalities of Zen practice, [Shunryu] Suzuki-roshi declined to establish an ethical code for his students, on the rationale that ethics were relative to culture. Such a code, he said, would have to be developed gradually over time through trial and error…his general ethical relativism had an obvious appeal to the generation that had pushed through the revolution in American sexual mores.” (Robinson and Johnson, 304)

Just as this teacher of Zen Buddhism (Zen originated in China under the name Ch’An) did, a Tibetan Buddhist teacher also downplayed the importance of morality:

“Trungpa viewed ethical norms as part of the ‘bureaucracy of the ego’ that meditation was intended to overthrow….Trungpa’s writings…were quite popular, and his frank rejection of ethical norms notorious.” (Robinson and Johnson, 304–5)

In both of the above cases, the results were predictable: “Suzuki-roshi died in 1971, and Chogyam Trungpa in 1987. Both had appointed American Dharma heirs shortly after their deaths; both of their heirs quickly became involved in sex scandals and were eventually removed from their appointed organizations. Soon similar scandals in other Zen, Son, and Tibetan centers, involving Asian as well as American teachers, brought home that these were not isolated instances but part of a general pattern…” (Robinson and Johnson, 306)

Chinese Political Amorality Around the World

“…everyone from China’s business leaders right up to its president and premier openly boasts to dictators and rogue states alike that China will never condition its oil and other natural resource deals on any moral principle or human rights issues that challenge the sovereignty of its trading partners. China’s President Hu Jintao has succinctly summarized China’s amoral doctrine: ‘Just business, no political conditions’ (Navarro, 47).

China’s power in the UN to veto has resulted in untold human suffering. China has used this power to veto to stop sanctions on countries killing and persecuting its citizens. China has done this because it wants oil or other resources from those countries and thus protects them even if they are terrorists or are committing genocide or have deplorable human rights situations. China has given its protection to Sudan, Burma (Myanmar), Iran, and Angola in the midst of screams of injustice. Peter Navarro puts it this way, “One common reprehensible thread in this whole sordid story is China’s crass commercial use of its U.N. veto to quite literally trade blood and bakes for oil” (57).

“…China now has a significant presence in all 54 African nations” (Navarro, 65). China has often built roads, ports and other helpful infrastructure in nations building partnerships with China. But, this has perhaps sarcastically, but also accurately been called “extraction infrastructure.” “Its [China’s] strategic goal was nothing less than gaining full economic control of the metals, minerals, raw materials, and agricultural riches of a continent that is as wealthy in these resources as it is lacking in political and social structures to defend itself from the imperialistic Chinese assault” (Navarro, 65). In its quest to keep its economy surging forward, “China’s amoral foreign policies are helping to prop up dictators and rogue regimes around the world” (Navarro, 70).

Gordon Kerr writes, “…bear in mind the prescient words of Napoleon Bonaparte: ‘Let China sleep, for when she awakes, she will shake the world’” (13). It looks like it’s too late for that.

Links to Iran and Russia

China gets oil from Iran and is thus somewhat of an ally to Iran. Writing in 2008, Navarro said, “…the danger of China
coming to the defense of Iran will clearly grow as China's military continues its modernization and buildup and as China's thirst for oil grows” (158). Historically, as discussed in the previously, Persia (Iran) may also have had early influence on (Chinese) Mahayana Buddhism.

“Economically, China has become one of Russia’s most important energy consumers. Militarily, Russia has become one of China’s most important suppliers of sophisticated technologies and weaponry. Strategically, Russia and China now regularly conduct joint military operations” (Navarro, 159).

Religious Dissidents

In 1999, Falun Gong (which is a mixture of Chinese Buddhism, Taoism, and Hindu Yoga) peacefully challenged the authority of the state. As a result, “Tens of thousand of Falun Gong practitioners were put into prisons, reeducation through labor (RTL) camps, or psychiatric hospitals. In addition employers were ordered to fire any Falun Gong who refused to renounce his or her beliefs, and school were used to indoctrinate children against the Falun Gong movement” (Navarro, 141). Falun Gong had about 70 million followers in 1999, which is when about 10,000 of their members staged their protest. That kind of dissent scared the communist government too much to just ignore this movement.

China’s Future in Prophecy

That brings us up to the present in China’s history with Buddhism. What does China’s future hold? Is China named in any biblical prophecies? Some would suggest China is in Isaiah 49:12 under the name Sinim (a name possibly derived from the first unified dynasty of China—the Qin) or in Revelation 16:12 as part of the “kings of the east.” This may be. Certainly China has significant links to both Russia and Iran. Because of its connection with several Turkic people in its history, perhaps China will even play a role in the Ezekiel 38 and 39 prophecies.

Throughout its history China has been influenced and moldy by various Turkic rulers. The Northern Wei dynasty (386-534) was ruled by the Toba Turks. Of the founders of the famous Tang dynasty, Jonathan Clements writes, “...the imperial family had a lot of Turkish blood in it—with Taizong himself having a Tartar grandmother and Empress Wendi having connections to Central Asia…” (27). There were, and are, a variety of Turkic groups. Some of them were at war with China at various times along its borders and other Turkic groups mixed in among the Han Chinese and even ruled from the “dragon throne.” The Jin dynasty (1115-1234) was ruled by the Turkic Jurchen people who also conquered and ruled the Northern Song dynasty from 1127 until 1234.

A large percentage of the Mongolian armies were Turkic. The Mongols ruled China for almost 100 years (The Yuan dynasty from 1271-1368). The Qing dynasty (1644-1911) was ruled by the Manchurians who descended from the Turkic Jurchen people. Even today the Manchus and the Uyghurs, both descending from Turkic groups, make up 1.5% of the Chinese population. This is not counting what percent the Han Chinese themselves have Turkic blood, because of the hundreds of years of rule by Turkic groups.

Moreover, the country of Turkey was not even inhabited by Turks until the 11th century AD! The Turks originated in western Mongolia, became soldiers for the Mongolian dynasties, and some later became Muslims—both nomadic and city dwelling. Akhilesh Pillalamarri has this to say about how the Turks migrated to the country now known as Turkey: “…Asia Minor–modern Turkey—was formerly inhabited by a variety of non-Turkic peoples…. Hittites, Phrygians, and Luwians…. In 1037, the Seljuk Empire, a Turkic state, was founded northeast of Iran in Central Asia and quickly overran much of Persia, Iraq, and the Levant…. It should be noted that the Turks were a minority, ruling a Persian, Arab, and Kurdish majority [by 1081 the area that is modern-day Turkey was taken over from the previous Byzantine rulers—it would be another 200 years or so before the Ottoman Empire would begin]... The Turkification of Asia Minor is evident in the fact that genetically, the majority of today’s Turks are most closely related to Greeks and Armenians rather than Central Asian Turkic peoples…. some 9 to 15 percent of the Turkic genetic mixture derives from Central Asia” (https://thediplomat.com/ 2016/06/the-epic-story-of-how-the-turks-migrated-from-central-asia-to-turkey/)

To summarize, Turkey is not very Turkish, but China has had a long history with the Turks and Turkic rulers, going back to the 4th century at least. Could they be one of the nations referred to in the Ezekiel 38 and 39 prophecies or at least play a supporting role?

Conclusion

In modern China any form of intellectual dissent is now forbidden. The Bamboo Curtain is now being fortified. China is no longer a “paper dragon.” In 2018 China banned the sale of online Bibles, and the Communist Party is planning to make its own “politically correct” translation of the Bible. Buddhism as a religion offers no more than its atheistic counterpart, Communism. Communism has created a religious vacuum in China, which leaves the human heart searching. Buddhism tries to fill the void, but throughout China’s history Buddhism has been tried and found wanting. Christianity is now prospering in China, but is under severe limits and persecution.

This is God’s Word for China: “Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else” (Isaiah 45:22).

Aspects of Tibetan Buddhism have already been covered in looking at the Chinese history of Buddhism, but because of its popularity and relationship to China, one more summary look is warranted.

(Stay tuned for part VII in this series on Chinese Buddhism)

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