



INTERNATIONAL *Bible* ASSOCIATION

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A Non-Profit Church/Missionary Organization Dedicated to Providing the Pure Word of God Unchanged to All People
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As this year, 2017, comes to a close, I ponder if things can get any worse in our nation. What is 2018 going to bring us? How much further can Americans digress from God's commandments? Turning to God's Word reveals that mankind has always departed from the pathway of truth to believing a lie and indulging in sensual sins! God's hand is not the problem BUT our deviation from Him brings out the worse in humanity's deprived nature!

*"Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: **But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.** For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness. None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity. They hatch cockatrice' eggs, and weave the spider's web: he that eateth of their eggs dieth, and that which is crushed breaketh out into a viper. Their webs shall not become garments, neither shall they cover themselves with their works: their works are works of iniquity, and the act of violence is in their hands. Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths. The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace. Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness. We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes: we stumble at noonday as in the night; we are in desolate places as dead men. We roar all like bears, and mourn sore like doves: we look for judgment, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far off from us. For our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us: for our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, we know them; In transgressing and lying against the LORD, and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood. And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. **Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey; and the LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgment. And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him. For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke.**" (Isaiah 59:1-17) Does this sound familiar in our nation today?*

The problem is not with God but the problem has always been that God cannot depend upon many humans to intercede for humanity and pay the price of bringing conviction and then

revival! How many have you watched in your lifetime that started out being used of God and then fall into the hands of their own self destruction through greed and lust?

There were two in the Garden of Eden and both (Adam & Eve) sinned (100%); there were four just outside the garden (Adam, Eve, Cain, and Abel) and three followed their own selfish lust. (75%) Only one (Abel) was righteous. (25%) 1 John 3:12 *“Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.”* Sorry but the majority is going to hell! Few there be that find it and few there be who walk the walk instead of only talking the talk! *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”* (Matthew 7:13-15)

Brothers and Sisters I desire for us all to realize that we look for a kingdom to come which is from above and not one being constructed upon this sin cursed earth. How many have forsaken the way of righteousness for an easier path blending in with the worldly crowd because righteousness is not popular! Don't give up Brothers and Sisters. Don't give in saints of God! Do not let the pressures of the ungodly trap you into forsaking a holy walk with our God. Brother Skinner is just as vulnerable as each of you. The work of God is a lonely unpopular place to live and to work. What did Isaiah declare: Isaiah 59:15 *“Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgment.”* You stand with God and you become a prey just like Jesus did! Who were His worst outspoken foes? Who cried “Crucify him!” when Pilate declared “I find not fault in him!” Please read Psalm 26 and keep yourselves within the bounds of His Holy Word!

Thank you for your support to International Bible Association and remember it goes to reaching the lost within prisons all across America, into 35,000 homes with *Miracles & Missions Digest*, and into the regions beyond in Madagascar.

As I am typing this I received news from Madagascar. International Bible Association is not building anything fancy or elaborate on this wicked earth which will be destroyed but we all sacrifice for His kingdom above while the carnal church dances to its music arousing self-gratification rather than self-sacrificing for others. *“But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.”* (Luke 6:35-36) It is not popular to walk alongside the Rejected Savior but let others indulge in carnal popularity while we endure the consequences and follow in His footsteps! There is a price to be paid to be a true Child of God!

As we look into the faces of these impoverished souls in Madagascar; how can we be selfish with what God has placed in our hands? How can we live thinking only of self and our own.

“But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.” (1 John 3:17-24)

Please look at the pictures attached and consider fasting and praying with us during December.



“And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.”
(Mark 10:13-16)



Please pray for this ministry and our responsibility to those we make contact with. Our desire is to spend our life for those in need. We already have much more than we can afford to have in this life when others have so very little. *“I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.”* (Acts 20:35)

Thank you all for caring and sharing, ***Merry Christmas!*** Brother Jack M. Skinner
A person never stands so tall as when they stoop to help a child!

“Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.”

(Matthew 22:29) Please **read** all the Scriptures listed. They are the Words of life!

“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.” (Matthew 16:24)

“And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.” (Mark 8:34)

“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.” (Luke 9:23)

In the Scriptures listed above our Lord declared that denial of self was a necessary requirement to follow in His footsteps. To follow Him in obedience to achieve the Father’s will; to put God’s commandments in front of our human nature. We must please Him rather than our flesh. Fasting and prayer is one part of following the Lord. We must deny ourselves and devote the time spent on feeding the flesh to seeking a closer relationship with our Heavenly Father. We must deny not only food but other fleshly appetites as well. Jesus devoted all to pleasing the Father and we, as His disciples, are to follow His example. *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”* (1 John 2:15-16) Self-denial is the only pathway which will lead a hungry seeker to the Father’s throne where true peace resides. (**Matthew 26:40-41**)^{Read} (**John 14:1-3**)^{Read}

In Matthew it is stated: *“Then said Jesus unto his **disciples**, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself.”* In Mark He included the people: *“And when he had called **the people** unto him **with his disciples** also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself.”* And in Luke the Bible becomes more explicated towards the individual: *“And he said to **them all**, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself.”* God is seeking individuals to follow Him, obey Him, and deny self. I cannot deny your desires for you. You cannot deny my desires for me. We “must” deny our own human tendencies on our own. Only I can crucify my flesh to please my Father. I must enter into my own closet, shut my door and create a personal relationship with my Father. We need to hang a sign on the door: “Do not disturb, I am in church!” *“But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.”* (Matthew 6:6) God desires and seeks to personally have a meeting with His children alone in private. He is waiting for His own to find that place which is away from worldly influences and social distractions! (**Mark 4:34**)^{Read} (**Job 7:17-18**)^{Read} (**Exodus 33:17-23**)^{Read}

Jesus, in these Scriptures, not only instructed His disciples, the people, and all individuals to deny themselves but added that there was a cross to bear daily. Not a wooden cross as He bore but bearing the weight of a crucified life. It was not easy for Jesus to bear His cross. I assure you my friend that if you deny yourself you will feel the load of a crucified life bearing upon you. You must follow Him down that forsaken holiness pathway of life. (**Matthew 7:13-27**)^{Read}

These days which we have set aside to fast and pray are just to encourage us to develop a life of secret devotion with our Father. Fellowship with other humans may be enjoyable but fellowship with the Father alone surpasses any association one could ever experience with other humans.

“Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.” (Matthew 6:16-18) Do not disturb, I am in church! Do not run to the crowds to pray but seek a solitude place, waiting for Him to come! (**Matthew 6:33-34**)^{Read} (**Luke 24:1-5**)^{Read}

I encourage you Brothers and Sisters, kneel in secret prayer, seeking Him no matter what the cost until He arrives. When He is come you will never regret the price paid.

The blind preacher, W. W. Walford, penned the words of that great song which is sung so frequently but seldom WE practice: “Sweet Hour of Prayer” (Matthew 21:13)^{Read} (Luke 21:33-36)^{Read}

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father’s throne
Make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief
And oft escaped the tempter’s snare
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
The joys I feel, the bliss I share,
Of those whose anxious spirits burn
With strong desires for thy return!
With such I hasten to the place
Where God my Savior shows His face,
And gladly take my station there,
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him whose truth and faithfulness
Engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since He bids me seek His face,
Believe His Word and trust His grace,
I’ll cast on Him my every care,
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
May I thy consolation share,
Till, from Mount Pisgah’s lofty height,
I view my home and take my flight:
This robe of flesh I’ll drop and rise
To seize the everlasting prize;
And shout, while passing through the air,
“Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer!”

It is not just in the praying but also in the tarrying as well; tarrying for that Sweet Hour of Prayer! Waiting for Him to arrive; waiting by denying self, by practicing the presence of God. You will never reach the height of His presence until He joins you personally on life’s lonely pathway. (Luke 24:13-32)^{Read} (Luke 11:1-4)^{Read} Lord, help us to wait and teach me to PRAY!

*“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and **take up his cross daily, and follow me.** For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?”* (Luke 9:23-25) (Matthew 22:1-14)^{Read}

*“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you:** depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”* (Matthew 7:21-23) Jesus declared: “You were in my house but I was not welcome at yours!” (Luke 19:1-7)^{Read} (Romans 8:1-18)^{Read}

Please read **Philippians 3:7-21** and pray for one another as we shut our closet door and declare to those around us: “Please do not disturb, I am in church, alone with my Father!” (John 4:19-26)^{Read} (Mark 14:37-38)^{Read} (Jeremiah 29:13)^{Read}

“Let us Pray!”

Jack M. Skinner

“Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For every man shall bear his own burden. Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” (Galatians 6:2-8)

PRAYER AND FASTING

A message by Pastor Joro from Madagascar for all of us during our time of prayer and fasting, December 2017. They are joining us in seeking our God!



Joel 1:14 *“Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD,”*

Prayer and fasting was used in ancient times by people of God when they wanted to really seek the face of the Lord. Prayer and fasting was first and foremost a means to return to the Lord with all our hearts. **Joel 2:12-13** *“Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.”*

It is a time of self-examination and genuine repentance. In the time of Samuel, the prophet, people served Baal and Ashtaroth and other gods. They forgot the Lord even though it was He who redeemed them and gave them peace. The sons of the priest became sons of Belial. They were so violent and took the offerings by force. Hence people hated bringing offerings to the Lord. Those sons of Eli laid with the women that served before the Tabernacle. When war broke between the Philistines and Israel, this later was defeated and many men perished (about 30 000). The Ark of God was taken by the enemies and there was crying all over the land. Samuel perceived that the reason of this defeat was that the people had gotten far from God. They had to really repent and turn unto the Lord.

1Samuel 7:3-6 *“And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines. Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the LORD only. And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the LORD. And they gathered together to Mizpeh, and drew water, and poured it out before the LORD, and fasted on that day, and said there, We have sinned against the LORD. And Samuel judged the children of Israel in Mizpeh.”*

When the Philistines saw that, they decided to fight Israel for the second time. The Princes of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard it, they were afraid. So they cried unto the Lord. Samuel made an offering and prayed. God harkened unto him and confused the enemies by thundering a great thunder. This time, Israel could pursue and utterly defeated the Philistines, their enemies.

After their fasting and praying before God, forsaking their sins and the strange gods, the Lord's heart turned back to his people. **“When you come back to Me, I'll come back to you”** is a timeless truth and God's covenant He always fulfilleth with His people.

When you feel you have problems, sorrowed by difficulties, examine your life whether you have stepped a bit far from God or you have walked after the flesh, or else you no longer follow the narrow path. Fast and pray. Forsake your sins and shortcomings. Come back to God again. God will have mercy and will give you victory.

Prayer and fasting was also a sure means to get God's clear guidance. In the time of Ezra, by the Lord's grace, His people could return to the land of Israel from Babylon. Ezra gathered the Children of Israel together at the river that ran to Ahava. There they abode in tents for 3 days. They were many people that had brought bullocks, rams, lambs, and silver and golden vessels with offerings, vessels to be remitted to the House of God. **Ezra 8:21-23** *"Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance; For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him. So we fasted and besought our God for this: and he was intreated of us."*

Ezra 8:31-32 *"Then we departed from the river of Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month, to go unto Jerusalem: and the hand of our God was upon us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy, and of such as lay in wait by the way. And we came to Jerusalem, and abode there three days."*

Brothers and Sisters, the will of God for us and our cherished aim is to arrive safely in Heaven. But in this our way to Heaven, we need God's sure and unerring guidance. To have this, we have got to fast and pray for ourselves and our loved ones. Certainly, there are enemies that lay in wait for our lives, the devil and his cohorts. But God is there to guide us. God is still on His Throne in Heaven and in full control of our lives.

Prayer and fasting in the third place is a means to get the Lord to enter the scene and to obtain complete victory. In 2 Chronicles 20, in the time of Jehoshaphat, there came a report that the children of Moab, the children of Ammon, and a great multitude from beyond the sea came to fight against Judah. These Nations were already gathered in Hazezon-Tamar in Engedi. Jehoshaphat feared. When there was a great menace, being a man, he was affrighted. But being a man of God, he set himself to seek the Lord and proclaimed a National fast throughout all Judah. There was no consulting of what and how to fight against the enemies. There was no gathering of weapons. There was neither thought to flee away. He surely knew what to do. They had God. He only proclaimed a fast. He called all people: fathers, mothers, old, youth, and children. They all came to God's House. They began to fast and pray.

Notice how the King himself was praying in verse 6:

- He exalted the Name of the Lord
- He listed God's wonderful Works in the past
- He reminded God of His faithful promises
- He expounded to God his present situation
- He humbled himself before God and confessed he was weak

Verse 13 stated they were all before the Lord. Because they all fasted and prayed before the Lord in order to come back to Him, to ask His guidance and to claim His intervention, God sent His Spirit to give His instructions: **2 Chronicles 20:15-17** *"And he said, Harken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's. Tomorrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel. Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you."*

This was God Himself speaking. Notice the repetition of the words: be not afraid nor dismayed, fear not, nor be dismayed. Praised be the Name of the Lord!

Oh my friends, God exists, He is alive, God is the owner of my life and yours. This Lord will be with you if you seek for Him with all your heart. We see here that those people worshipped God. Levites began to sing praises with a loud voice. Then Jehoshaphat stood up and said: **“Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper.”**

Moreover, after he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the Lord that should praise the beauty of holiness. The enemies fought one against another and destroyed themselves. When Judah came to them, lo, these were all but dead bodies fallen to the earth. The end of God’s enemies is death, complete destruction. The children of Israel were taking spoils during 3 whole days. They thanked the Lord and the fear of the Lord came to all surrounding kingdoms. Hallelujah! Whosoever touched God’s people was touching God’s apple of His eye. **Zechariah 2:8** *“For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.”*

After that, God’s people had wonderful peace. God put those stories and those principles in the Bible so that we may know and we humbly and simply obey. Enemies may surround you. But utter and complete victory comes only from God. When God Himself enters the scene, He doesn’t need any help from anyone. Only fast and pray, forsake all sins. Come back to the Lord. Put your life into the Lord’s hands and He will surely deliver you.

Dear Readers, allow me to kindly remind you that there won’t be any of God’s guidance nor any complete victory unless we really repent and genuinely turn back to the Lord.

By the time of prophet Isaiah, people fasted before the Lord, yet it was said that in the day of their fast, they found pleasure. They fasted for strife and debate. They smote with the fist of wickedness. Then listen to what God plainly declares in **Isaiah 58:6-11** *“Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy rereward. Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity; And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday: And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.”*

So, during our prayer and fasting, we should take time to search our hearts. Our repentance should be deep. We ask The Holy Spirit to help us break our fallow ground. Can you tell the Lord that Brother such or Sister such should do this, but not me!

Dear Friends, I urge you; repent and weep this side of eternity and you’ll reap joy indescribable in eternal life. But if you are indifferent while here on earth, you’ll reap weeping and gnashing of teeth that side of eternity. When people confess their sins, regret and forsake their past failures and weaknesses, God will have mercy. God is gracious. He has much grace to help you to come back to Him. He said in **2 Chronicles 7:14** *“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”* Amen and Amen!