

ELIMMLIFE



2018 / ISSUE 4

£1.99 / €1.99

KING UNSHAKEABLE

DEFINED BY THE LIGHT
WORSHIP: THE TENSION TONIC
DIVERSION AHEAD?

DON'T BE SHY

HELP US GIVE VOICE TO
WHAT GOD IS DOING IN
AND THROUGH OUR
GENERATIONS TODAY

Bursting to share something but never plucked up the courage? Love to journal, write or create but never given exposure to the ramblings in the secret place?

GREAT!

You're exactly who we want to hear from.

It could be a move of God in your church or a personal encounter with Jesus. Perhaps it's a blog or poem you've read. It could even be a photo you have taken or a post you shared online. If it impacted you, it can impact others and we want to know.

 Elim Life Magazine  elimlifemag@gmail.com
 @Elim_Life  [elimlifemag](https://www.instagram.com/elimlifemag)

ELIM LIFE MAGAZINE . CONNECT . CONTRIBUTE . COMMUNICATE



CONTENTS

2018 / ISSUE 4

FEATURES

10 King Unshakeable
An article from our IS reminding us that we are part of a Kingdom that cannot be shaken.

12 Defined by the Light
Who are you? What defines you? What do you hide or expose? Read these pages to find out more.



14 Worship: The Tension Tonic
An article reminding us we need to give God what He is worthy of, not what we feel like.



18 Diversion Ahead?
Ever asked God the question why? Then this article is for you!



20 Recommended Podcasts
Turn the screen off and tune in to some Elim Life team favs.



26 The Good Shepherd
David's poetic praise to God.



28 Three New Commandments of Social Media:
Don't let social media control you!



REGULARS

05 News

21 Elim Life Mini
Unlikely Superheroes.

Blog:
24 Trust God while waiting for your promise
Abraham expected a child. God birthed a nation. Don't give up!



MISSIONS

30 Never Too Late Church Planting:
Serving Elim International Missions in Retirement.



32 Missional Journey in France
Everyone should go on mission at least once in their life.

Design & Production
Pepper Collective
028 9581 2233
hello@peppercollective.com
www.peppercollective.com

Elim Life is the magazine of The Elim Pentecostal Church in Ireland. The views expressed in articles and reports are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial board or the Elim Pentecostal Movement.

Editorial Board Sara Allen, Stephen Jones, Darren McWilliams, Laura McFarland, Hannah Arnold, Michelle Treacy.
Email: elimlifemag@gmail.com





A note from the Editor

t's summer. I hope where ever this edition finds you that you take some time to read it, and absorb the truth found in the pages within.

Our theme this edition is Unshakeable and whilst praying and prepping all the pages within I have been drawn to one of the most famous passages found in the Bible - Psalm 23. It's maybe not be w-ere your mind would go when you think of unshakeable but for me it's a foundational passage. One that no matter how many times you read it somehow it always seems new. It refreshes, it comforts, it exhorts, it challenges, it reminds us of God's goodness, mercy, grace, provision and protection and so much more!!

I have been heart broken in recent weeks reading stories on my news feeds and in the press, and talking to people who are dealing with suicide within their family unit. I've found myself questioning God for answers. What is the answer? How do I help? What can I do? Why is this happening and how can I stop it? What do I say? How do I pray? Psalm 23 reminds me that I am simply the sheep and that my Master, the Shepherd is in control - that if I let Him, He will lead and that His staff will guide and His rod protect. Not just for me, but for all of us. Evil is not something to fear.

It is time for us, the Church, to rise unshakable with the truth of these words in our hearts and souls. To bring into the light everything that is hidden, to remove the shame and to help rescue those in need. We are all simply pilgrims on a journey home. All experiencing our own levels of stress, anxiety, worry, and pain. I don't believe anyone is exempt, some just chose not to be vocal about it. But together we get to be stronger, together we get to love one another just as God loves each of us. To display and demonstrate that love to a lost and lonely world and to remind everyone we meet that there is always hope, there is always an answer and that His name is Jesus.

The truth never changes and love never fails - it is unshakable and because of that we get to be too.

Have the best summer - switch off the notifications, soak up whatever sun we get and read Psalm 23 over and over again - it will be soothing truth to your souls.

Much love,

Sara



ARMAGH INDUCTION

STEPHEN MATTHEWS

Sunday 10th June was a special day for Armagh Elim Church as we welcomed Pastor Stephen Matthews, his wife Jacqueline & children Sarah & Philip.

Stephen has served a long time with Elim Pastoring churches both in the North and South of Ireland. We look forward to his ministry and working alongside him. Having been born in Armagh he says he feels like he has come home.

The service was conducted by our Elder Mr Norman Wylie & we were blessed to have Pastor John McEvoy from the Elim Irish Leadership Team with us to bring the word of God and to pray with Stephen and Jacqueline as they were inducted.

We enjoyed a fellowship lunch in the grounds of the church in the sunshine so friends & family could mix & catch up with each other and meet Stephen and his family.

Thankyou to everyone who came, it was lovely to see. Thankyou to our church family for making the day so special for Stephen and Jacqueline.

We pray God's blessing on the days ahead as we move into a new season in Armagh. [E](#)

[E](#) GLENDA M^oMULLEN



DUNDONALD INDUCTION

MALCOLM DUNCAN

What an incredible year it has been in Dundonald Elim! God has blessed the work of this fellowship powerfully and Saturday 12th May was a very significant moment when Rev. Malcolm Duncan was inducted as Lead Pastor. It was an outstanding evening.

The church building was packed with people and the atmosphere was charged and expectant. The Dundonald Elim congregation, special guests, ministry leaders from across the UK, friends from Gold Hill Baptist and across the Elim movement gathered for this important night. Many different people took part and it was so poignant when Pastor Malcolm stood and offered his heart to love the people of Dundonald. This was the start of a great new focus for the church! There is so much anticipation as to what God is going to do.

In the service the Irish Superintendent thanked a number of people for their input and faithful service to the church during the past year and time of transition, namely, church elder Campbell Tweedie and the local leadership team, Pastor Phil Hills, Pastor Davy Hume and Pip Kerr. At the close of the service the Irish Leadership team, along with the local leadership and other ministers present laid hands on Malcolm and his wife Debbie as both Edwin Michael and John McEvoy prayed and inducted Malcolm into the church as senior leader.

Please pray for Pastor Malcolm, Debbie and their family as they settle into this new season. Also, pray that Dundonald Elim will enjoy the special time they are in, but that God would continue to build the momentum the church is experiencing and increase their excitement of what is come. [E](#)

[E](#) PIP KERR

CARRYDUFF COMMUNITY CARNIVAL



Building a Team of Champions was the vision and on Saturday 26th May 2018 the Carnival came to town as Carryduff celebrated its past, its present and its future.

The day began over a year before with a vision of what could be. Pastor David Hamilton then worked tirelessly to talk to local community groups, businesses, churches, politicians, and schools. God opened door and after door and provided for every need every step of the way. Local schools entered a competition to design the logo for the event and there was lots of excitement as the banners and leaflets were distributed around the local community in the days and weeks prior to the big day!

It was a hot and sunny fun filled day for all the family beginning with a cavalcade carnival procession being lead from Carryduff Elim through the town to one of the focal points for the day's activities.

The parade consisted of local sporting clubs including football and GAA, various dance teams, school children and teachers from the local primary schools, and cars carrying special guests from the community including the oldest veteran from the town and the longest married couple.

An empty and derelict car park was brought to life with local emergency services including PSNI, Ambulance, Fire Service all showing the kids around their equipment. Local charities including SOS Bus and The Street Pastors helped serve the local community and shared stories with local people as everyone was entertained from the main stage by various local talent including dance groups, guitarists and soloists. At another site kids enjoyed inflatable fun activities and bounced their way through the day.



The day ended with Belfast Community Gospel Choir who revived many tired volunteers and brought smiles to lots of faces in the crowds, there were even a few dancers in the wings! A community brought together and a dead place was very much brought to life, with so many positive comments from the local people about how good it was to see some heart coming back into Carryduff and how it was lovely for everyone to have a place to gather together.



God really did show up and show off - not just on the day but in His provision and goodness in every day before the event and in the days that have since past. Every obstacle was overcome, and the financial budget taken care of, miracle after miracle and just the beginning of impacting a community and building a team of champions. **EL**

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

We are delighted to inform the Elim churches in Ireland that Pastor Edwin Michael has been elected to the National Leadership Team with 90% of the vote. Edwin joins Stuart Blount, David Campbell, Duncan Clark, Dominic De Souza, Colin Dye, Simon Foster, James Glass, Paul Hudson and Kevin Peat.

We want to wish Edwin God's richest blessing as he takes on his new role alongside that of Irish Superintendent. We would encourage you to pray for both Edwin and our General Superintendent Chris Cartwright and the whole NLT team as they lead our movement in the months and years ahead. **EL**



WE WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO PRAY FOR THE NLT TEAM AS THEY LEAD OUR MOVEMENT IN THE MONTHS AND YEARS AHEAD.



ORDINATIONS



David Kinnin



Ian Stevenson



Tony Meehan



David Allen

The Elim Ordination Service 2018 was held at Birmingham City Church with hundreds of guests attending to see 34 new Elim ministers formally accepted into the Elim ministry.

This event was a milestone in the journey of those who were ordained, having given themselves fully to the ministry and calling in their lives. The process of becoming

an ordained Elim Minister is a journey including study, 2/3 years serving in a local Elim Church as a Minister in Training, interviews from both the Irish Leadership Team, a Ministerial Selection Board and some members of the National Leadership Team.

Upon acceptance a person then ordained continues to serve within the Elim Movement. On 10th June

four men from Elim in Ireland, David Kinnin, Ian Stevenson, Tony Meehan and David Allen were officially ordained with their wives by their side.

Pray for these men and their families as they continue to serve the Kingdom of God through Elim and join them to celebrate this step in their ministry journey when we mark the occasion together at Wondrous. [E](#)

STEPHEN JONES



ONE MOVEMENT ONE MISSION

Another year and another Elim Leaders Summit... but that's not what I've come to expect. Every year is packed with great speakers, a packed programme and a few alternative extras.

Speakers this year included Glynn Harrison, Kiera Phyto, Ben Cooley, Boyd Ratnaraja, David Landrum, Dave Campbell, John Kirkby, Leon Evans and our very own General Superintendent Chris Cartwright. For those who weren't able to attend I would encourage you to check them out on the Elim Pentecostal Churches YouTube Channel.

This year's theme was One Mission, One Movement and the tone was set right from the start with a great musically creative intro which flashed up the different names of countries from all over the world representing those attending. I always enjoy joining with other leaders, but any time I have attended, the Elim leaders Summit feels



that little bit more special as we partner with Leaders from Elim across the UK, Ireland and the world. This year we were joined by 102 delegates from across the world as Elim Missionaries representing all the countries Elim currently serve in – over 60 countries – joined us. There is something special about knowing that we are part of something so much bigger than the town/city I serve in, even the country I serve in, and to know that right across the World we serve One Mission, to make Jesus known and to build His Kingdom.

I left this year's Leaders Summit enlightened by the great teaching and fellowship, encouraged by encountering God afresh and reminded that I do this as part of a big Movement and a bigger Kingdom with brothers and sisters right across the World.



Watch the talks here:

or, visit elim.org.uk and click on 'Leaders Summit'

EDWIN MICHAEL

KING

UNSHAKEABLE

Most people who were alive at the time will remember the Boxing Day disaster of 2004.

At the same time as we in the western world were enjoying the fuzzy warmth of the Christmas season with family and friends, the infamous South Asian tsunami ripped it's way along the Indian Ocean and battered the coastlines of nine nations claiming the lives of more than 250,000 people and leaving millions more, bereft and homeless.

Scientists are now informing us that not only did this event alter the landscape of Asia but it actually caused the planet to wobble on its axis. Yes you saw that correctly, 'wobble on its axis'! When I first read that I couldn't help but think of the words recorded in Haggai Ch2: 6-7 "This is what the Lord Almighty says. In a little while I will

once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come." I'm not trying to imply that the events of 2004 were some kind of literal fulfilment of Haggai Ch 2 but when the writer to the Hebrews picks up Haggai's words and this theme of shaking in Heb. Ch12 he reminds us that we ought to stand in awe of the One whose voice is so powerful it shakes the earth as it did when the law was given on Mt Sinai. He also informs us that there are temporary things which can and will be shaken and removed, even the earth and heavens, but at the same time there is a Kingdom that cannot be shaken and is destined to remain eternally.

Who would attempt to deny the shaking that is going on all around us in these days. I'm not referring primarily to the natural disasters, which do seem to appear with increasing frequency, but to the shaking of things much more a part of every day life. Wherever we look, in every area, whether it be political, economic, social, moral or religious there appears to be a whole lot of shaking going on. In our digital world, which is so interconnected, it seems that what happens on one side of the planet very quickly ripples around the globe. The result is that many people find they are looking out at a rapidly changing world which is almost unrecognisable, and find themselves asking the question, 'how did we get here?' 'and how did so much change so quickly?' Boundaries and principles which were once so clearly defined and accepted have become fluid in a world where truth has been exchanged for tolerance. If even those with decades of life experience find today's world disorientating what effect must it be having on those whose moral and spiritual faculties have not been calibrated by years of syncing with the presence and word of God? Our youth need prayer not condemnation, and

nothing short of a massive encounter with God and His Truth can reorientate their moral and spiritual lives.

So how are we to cope with a shaking world? Well our identity and security are meant to be rooted elsewhere, namely in the eternal kingdom we have already mentioned. This kingdom is both present now but still to come. Christians are part of something which is both, now and not yet. While we haven't as yet experienced the full reality of this kingdom it has most definitely been established and it's true citizens draw purpose, perspective, security, certainty and every other thing they require from it. The very word kingdom implies there is a King. One who rules and leads the way. He has

THE VERY WORD KINGDOM
IMPLIES THERE IS A KING.
ONE WHO RULES AND
LEADS THE WAY.

already communicated the culture, values and unstoppable nature of the kingdom through His word and by modelling them among us. As we live in constant fellowship with Him the very essence of the kingdom is constantly

downloaded to the soul by the Holy Spirit and regular upgrades are readily available simply for the asking. His kingdom is not of this world. It is in it but not of it, not subject to it and not effected by it. His kingdom is built on truth, righteousness, justice, grace, mercy and love and is unshakeable and enduring. Unlike every other created thing it will remain along with its King and citizens when everything else is no more, even time itself.

In light of this there should be a growing assurance, a deep settled peace and sense of security in the heart of every true believer. Not a false peace or security based on the absence of trouble or reliance upon the shakeable things of time. Instead an inner calm and certainty that comes from a proper kingdom perspective and whole hearted surrender to the King who always finishes His projects and whose eternal will and purposes are never ever derailed. ■



Defined by the

L
I
G
H
T

Our identity is foundational in ensuring that we don't shake in times of uncertainty. When we know whose we are and who we are then even when the world around us appears to be crumbling we can remain strong in our stance and continue to advance His kingdom calling, purposes and plans for our individual lives.

Easily said, easily typed, easily lived? Not by anyone I know. And yet the opposite is also true, yes it is easy, easy because nothing else and no one else matters like Jesus and so despite the pressure, pain or heartache we press on. Just like Paul, towards the goal and the prize of an eternity with Jesus.

Our identity is often questioned, by those we love and those we are just familiar with. Known often for what we do rather than who we are. We can easily get caught up in talking only about a person's gift or character, and then placing them on a hierarchy chart depending on our view of what is more important. But fundamentally we are all equal and on level standing with God, each one His child, each one adopted into His family. It is on that foundational truth that we should stand, firm and

unswerving in the midst of an uncertain and shaking world.

Lost, lonely, vulnerable and hurting people are searching for answers and belonging, both inside and outside the Church. People smiling externally and crumbling internally unsure of who they are or where they belong. We belong to Jesus and we belong together. The family of God is vast and expansive and when we glimpse at what is happening all over the globe we can see Jesus in all His power and splendour working to save and transform lives.

What about here? What about Ireland, north and south? What about the U.K and Europe? God is moving ... is there a Spiritual shift happening in the heavens? Is God searching out a people who will seek Him and His Kingdom first - who will be unshakable in every season?

Daniel is known for many things; A hero, a loyal man of prayer, the one who slept with the lions and survived, a visionary, a prophet - but a man who believed in a Sovereign God who would establish His kingdom on Earth. A man that didn't bow down in defeat when told not to pray, but did so from a room high where others could see his example and hear his heart as he spoke to God

publicly three times a day. A man who was counter cultural in his thinking and his doing. A man who allowed himself to be vulnerable and who's weakness' were exposed. I often wonder if Daniel praying at the window was an outward expression and invitation for all to see and hear that he led His life with utter dependence on God. That he couldn't do life alone and that despite what the rulers and authorities of the day would say he was useless without his prayer time with God so was unwilling to listen to their command.

We don't often like to admit our weaknesses preferring to cover or hide them - what if we exposed them? What if we brought everything in us out of the darkness into the light - allowing it to be filtered by the truth of God so that we could be set free, so that we could stand firm at all times. Shame tells us to hide. Lies spoken over us tell us to remain as we are. God wants to set us free. Over and over again His word speaks of love, truth, grace and mercy.

The pages of the Bible are littered with stories of Gods providence for the weak things of this world, choosing the least likely, the weak ones and making them strong. We need God, we need to accept that He is our Father and we are His children. We need to know

WHAT IF WE BROUGHT EVERYTHING IN US OUT OF THE DARKNESS INTO THE LIGHT - ALLOWING IT TO BE FILTERED BY THE TRUTH OF GOD SO THAT WE COULD BE SET FREE, SO THAT WE COULD STAND FIRM AT ALL TIMES.

that it's our weakness that He desires - in that place He gets to demonstrate His strength.

We need to KNOW the truth of His faithful, unrelenting love for us and accept it. Accept it and allow it to penetrate the deepest places of our hearts and souls so that we can be forever changed and forever remain strong in our stance and secure in our foundation that nothing can ever cause us to stumble or fall.

An unshakable stance comes from an unshakable position of a heart wide open, an abandonment of self, the removal of shame and complete surrender to do whatever and go where ever God calls and leads. Knowing that He who has begun a good work in you is faithful and just to complete it (Phil 1:6)

WORSHIP

THE TENSION TONIC

W

e live in a world full of tension. For this reason, it is very easy to feel insecure, unstable or even shaken. As people, we are constantly looking for something that will give us a sense of permanence and security; something that is not easily shaken. We can relate to the nation of Israel in many ways because they were also looking for a place of permanence; they were searching for a city that would bring them fulfilment.

When we look back to their experience, we see God brought them to this mountain. It was no ordinary mountain; this was to be no

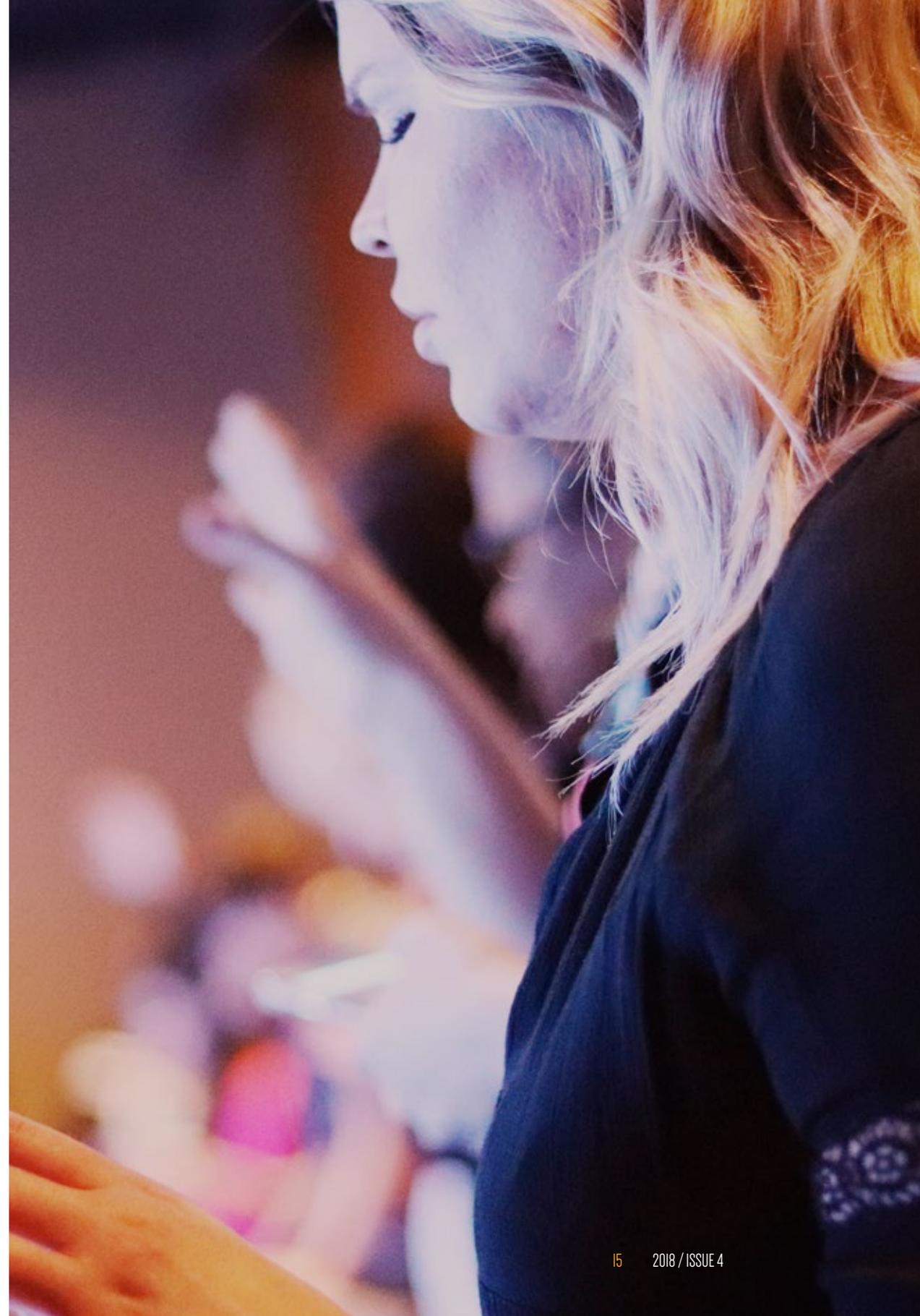
ordinary experience because what they would see would fill them with awe and fear. God issued a command for them not to come near or touch the mountain or there would be severe consequences. So this perimeter was setup so that no one, not even animals, could touch the mountain. The message was clear: that which is unholy cannot touch that which is holy.

This is what makes the Gospel message so powerful. We who were once unholy can be made holy “through Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.” (Hebrews 12:24) For this reason we have now come to “Mount Zion and to the city of the living God” and our response can only

be one of overflowing praise, worship and thanksgiving.

Here is what the Hebrew writer says in Hebrews 12:28: “Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.”

It all starts with gratefulness. The word for gratefulness here carries with it the idea of expression. We express our thanks to God. Psalm 100:4 says, “Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name.” I love how the Message paraphrases this verse: “Enter with the password: ‘Thank you!’”



We have this unshakeable kingdom and that should inspire a response of praise and thankfulness. It is an attitude of the heart; it helps position us in a place where we are able to come closer to God and hear Him.

What we offer to God should be 'acceptable worship'. In Genesis, Cain offered to God worship based on his works and it was unacceptable. The nation of Israel turned to idol worship at the foot of Sinai and it was unacceptable.

Worship is all about God; it is for Him. William Cowper penned the words in his hymn 'O. for a closer walk with God.'

The dearest idol I have known,
Whate'er that idol be;
Help me to tear it from Thy throne,
And worship only Thee.

Eddie L. Hyatt has said, "When we pray, we are preoccupied with our needs. When we praise and give thanks, we are preoccupied with our blessings. But when we worship, we are preoccupied only with God."

This kind of worship produces 'reverence and awe'. There is a great need for us, in private and corporate worship, that should lead us to this place of reverence and awe. God has made it that we experience this intimacy with Him in worship. The greater our intimacy with

God then the more passionate our worship of Him will be. He is longing for us to worship Him in spirit and truth.

This is in a book called Hebrews, so let us look at the Hebrew word for worship. It simply means 'to bow' (shachah). If we were to rewind the clock and go back to take a look at one of their worship services we would see people bowing down before God. This was not only a physical thing; it was also something they did with their hearts. They bowed down before God in awe and reverence. When we bow in worship we are acknowledging who God really is; we are submitting ourselves to Him with our body, mind and soul.

“
WHEN WE BOW IN WORSHIP WE ARE ACKNOWLEDGING WHO GOD REALLY IS; WE ARE SUBMITTING OURSELVES TO HIM WITH OUR BODY, MIND AND SOUL.

You were created exactly for this purpose. The Hebrew writer calls it 'acceptable worship' here, a phrase that has been used elsewhere, as in Roman 12:1 which reads, "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

This verse is shedding light on worship in the Old Testament; the idea being that you would bring your sacrifice, your animal, and you would lay it on the altar as a means of covering or atoning for your sin. That would be your approach to worship. That was your starting point, your 'in' into worship.

Paul is saying here that we no longer put animals on the altar but we lay ourselves on it. Our whole being, our whole life, is one of worship. We give God what He's worthy of; we don't offer what we feel like. Our worship is a sacrifice of praise in response to His worthiness.

We live in tension. We live in this world which is so easily shaken yet on the other hand we have received and live in an unshakeable city. In fact, there is more to come; there is coming a day when we will enter into that City of God. An old hymn phrased it like this ...

We're marching to Zion,
beautiful, beautiful Zion;
We're marching upward to Zion;
the beautiful city of God.

When we think of what we have received here and what lies ahead, surely our response has to be: "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created." (Revelation 4:11). ■



RELENTLESS FOR IRELAND RELENTLESS FOR IRELAND RELENTLESS FOR ÉIRE

RELENTLESS YOUTH CAMP

RELENTLESS YOUTH CAMP

RELENTLESS YOUTH CAMP
RELENTLESS FOR IRELAND

28 JUL - 4 AUG / 28 JUL - 4 AUG

28 JUL - 4 AUG / 28 JUL - 4 AUG

GANAWAY ACTIVITY CENTRE

GANAWAY ACTIVITY CENTRE

LIMITLESS TEAM ++ GUESTS

LIMITLESS TEAM ++ GUESTS

relentless



I'm sure we have all faced circumstances in the past that come with mixed emotions. Life throws things our way, and at times that leaves us understanding the saying 'It was bitter sweet'. Many a moment can come that is filled with heartache or grief, confusion or uncertainty, but also joy and happiness, excitement or thrill. However, we can find ourselves standing at the Cross asking God Why? Trying to make sense of what has come or what is to come in the future.

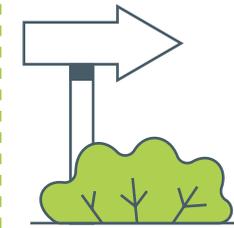
I have been there. If I were truly honest, I am there. Recently we had a pretty big life change. It left me standing in the 'bitter sweet' of life. It left me wondering what God was up to and desiring Him to reveal to me a plan or a path for me to walk on. I have told my husband a few times that I will battle with God because I am sure that if I do He will reveal the truth of Himself to me, as He did for Jacob when they wrestled in Genesis. I would rather come away with a limp knowing more of God, than walk away and never find the truth.

I have been reading and writing on Esther for a long time now, I have read this book inside and out, commentary after commentary. At times in the past year I have understood what it was to be Esther. Wondering where God is, and disliking my circumstances. Trapped in a harem, unable to escape, so to speak. Within our life change, I found myself asking my husband some hard questions, wanting life to go back to the way it was and then God reminded me of Esther 9. I read my bible and jogged my memory of the verses within it, sure I was wrong about its content and rather confused as to why this would pop up in my life. 'It's an obscure piece of scripture' I would tell my husband, but the confusion took over and I had to know the answer.

Are you like me? Do you have to know? It is probably my biggest strength, but in God it can be my biggest weakness. My desire to know can leave me putting faith to the side to see before I can trust. There is a reason why Paul reminds us to walk by faith and not by sight. I went on a hunt through Esther, when I remembered the Jews had been in exile for a long time, 70 years of a long time! 7 days in exile would have seemed like a long enough time to me! But they went into Exile with specific requests from God found in Jeremiah 29.

During this exile they would have rubbed shoulders with the Persians. The Jews will have made friends, attended weddings, traded in the marketplace together. Their kids will have played in the streets with the Persian Kids. There will have been mixed marriages. All until the one day when Haman tricked the king into decreeing the Jews had to die. In a blink of an eye, in the seal of a scroll everything changed. The death penalty was set. As we fast forward just a few chapters to Esther 8; we find Esther pleading with the King, and asking the hard questions.

Esther had fasted and had prayed as we read in earlier chapters; she had interceded on behalf

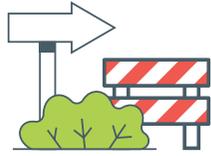


IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR UNKNOWN THEY STEPPED UP AND DECLARED HIS GOODNESS, HIS GRACIOUSNESS, HIS LOVE, HIS MERCY, HIS FAITHFULNESS.

of her fellow Jews. Yet the horrendous job of defending themselves from the Persian rule wouldn't be removed from the plan. The Jews had to go through this part of the journey, they had to face the pain, and in the end more than 8000 Persian people died as a result over two days.

Can you imagine? 8000 Persians are dead; this is what I would call the 'bitter sweet'. The Jews were sentenced to death, and now they are free from all of the weight hanging over their head. The King now stands in favour of the Jews.

But some of their friends, some of their neighbours are now dead. The grief, the pain, the heartache, but the freedom, and life that was mixed in will have been hard to process and bear. The confusion that would have riddled their provinces would be unbearable. Yet in verse 20 of Esther 9 we see Mordecai writing letters to the Jews reminding them that they will be celebrating Purim to remember God's goodness, and faithfulness, so that they don't forget.



What I see here is that despite the mixed emotions, the confusion and uncertainty, they decreed, they decided to celebrate Gods goodness. They chose to remember His blessings. In the middle of their unknown they stepped up and declared His goodness, His graciousness, His love, His mercy, His faithfulness. Instead of asking why, they simply declared what they knew to be true. God remembered them, even in a far off land.

What about you? Are you living in the Harem fasting and praying for what is ahead, calling forth a prayer chain of our day to intercede on your behalf?

Are you in the Queen's chambers begging the King to stop the inevitable?

Are you stuck in a circumstance you wish you were not in? Are your emotions mixed and confused?

Then stand at the cross and declare what you know. I cannot tell you the answer will change. I cannot tell you the circumstances will change either. But I can tell you that you will change. Your answers may be far off. You may be standing in exile, but God sees you. He sees your Esther 9.

What I can tell you, through a faith declaration, is that someday you will stand in Esther 10, being honoured for your faithfulness in the chapters preceding. 

PODCASTS

HAVE SOME DOWN TIME OR TRAVEL TIME AHEAD THIS SUMMER? TURN THE SCREEN OFF AND TUNE IN TO SOME OF THESE PODCASTS BELOW ... JUST A FEW FAVOURITES FROM THE ELIM LIFE TEAM.



ARC LAUNCHING, CONNECTING, EQUIPPING THE LOCAL CHURCH

A podcast that covers variety of topics from a variety of churches.



HILLSONG CREATIVE

A podcast specifically talking about and to those who are involved or interested in creative teams and roles.



CRAIG GROESCHEL LEADERSHIP PODCAST

A podcast specifically for leaders with insight and wisdom on problem solving and making the most of your leadership potential.



CONVERSATIONS WITH JOHN & LISA

A podcast which tackles varying subjects and gives a biblical perspective from a husband and wife.

UNLIKELY SUPERHEROES



THE MIDWIVES IN EXODUS 1

God's people had got in a real mess ... they had become oppressed in a land where they had been treated well and were now under the authority and rule of a king who treated them harshly.

This King who was called Pharaoh was scared that a group of people could overthrow his rule and reign and made the decision to kill all the newborn baby boys to try to prevent it.



They wanted to stand up and help the babies knowing that the babies couldn't help themselves - so they did. Even though they knew if they got caught they could be killed for disobeying the king.

The midwives were just ordinary people like you and me. The midwives knew that God would want to save the babies so they did. They feared God more than man - meaning they knew it was better to obey God and trust Him that do follow the rules of a wicked and cruel king.

The hero's of this story were the midwives, the people who stood by the women and helped them bring their little boys into the world. Even though Pharaoh had ordered the babies to be killed these midwives wanted to save them.



God is a loving God who wants everyone to have the best life, and He will use the most unlikely heroes to help others in need.

**WHO IS YOUR HERO?
HOW HAVE THEY HELPED YOU WHEN YOU HAVE BEEN IN NEED?
WHO CAN YOU BE A HERO FOR?**



ESTHER
 GIDEON
 DAVID
 ABRAHAM
 MOSES
 NOAH
 STEPHEN
 DANIEL
 RAHAB
 JOSEPH
 SAMSON
 JOB
 NEHEMIAH

HIDDEN HERO'S WORD SEARCH

X P D C H G Y N N P B C R P L
 P X S P T W E X D D X A E J D
 N C K D K H V Y I J L S H S P
 A E O O E M A H A R B A T A Z
 F Y H M T V X P Z Q B D S V R
 P K I P B S C J E B A M E J B
 Y A K J E F Z B V V V T C W S
 H L G U O T T X I I M G U Q X
 A F S Q W S S D U U S E S O M
 O I I B G N E B I M D K A Y O
 N I X O O M O P Q F H Y M R C
 V W N E X J Q X H B N K S G M
 W L D U C U D A N I E L O X H
 G I Q Q D Q X U C W J I N H E
 G V X T L H C V M V U Z M I S



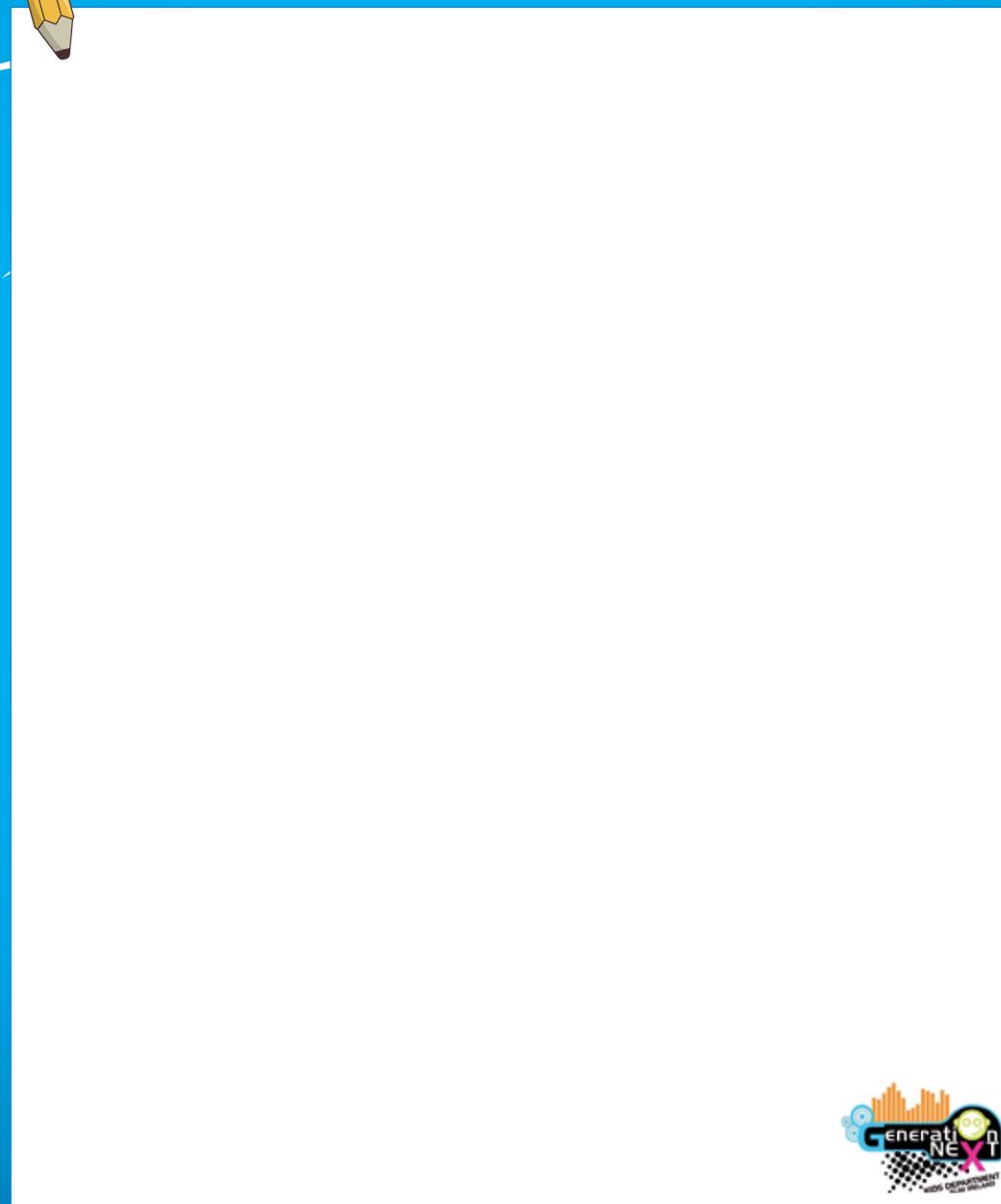
HEROES

ASSEMBLE

@WONDROUS18 HQ



DRAW YOUR OWN HERO ON THIS PAGE AND BRING IT TO GENERATION NEXT KIDS THIS WEEK AT WONDROUS!



WONDROUS THEME SONG: Super Wonderful God

Get listening
 and be ready to
 join in at Wondrous
 this year



LOL CORNER



What is Spider-Man's
 favourite month?
Web-ruary!



Where do most
 superheroes live?
Cape Town.



TRUST GOD WHILE WAITING FOR YOUR PROMISE

JEN BAKER

NEVER GIVE UP ON THE DREAMS GOD HAS PLACED IN YOUR HEART



As a six-year-old child, I was asked what I wanted to be when I grew up. With an audacious boldness deeply out of character, I declared, "I want to change the world!" A more timid child you could not have found, but God had placed a seed of promise in my little heart: I was born for a purpose, and that purpose involved preaching to nations.

Every one of us carries

promises God has placed in our hearts from before we were born (Jeremiah 1:5; Ephesians 2:10; Psalm 139), which he desires to bring about throughout our lives. Simultaneously, we have an enemy working to ensure that those promises die before they ever see the light of day. It happened at Jesus' birth and happens to every believer seeking to birth the promises of God.

Throughout the years I have seen many people experience this cycle – belief, hope, lost hope, disbelieve – finally digging a grave, burying their promise in the cemetery of disillusionment.

I have also faced my own deep disappointments, which left me questioning how I could reconcile a good God with a broken heart. One thing I have learned: I can trust God's will,

even when I don't understand God's ways. For God will work all things together for good if we place our disappointment within his loving nature and powerful Word.

God's Nature is Love

We see that Abraham believed the love of God when he believed the promise of God because real love does not lie. Therefore, what God said is what God would do.

In the dark season, when the passing of time took impossible to another level, Abraham had to trust that love. God cannot choose our thoughts for us. Choosing to trust his love even when we don't understand his ways develops our faith muscles and allows us to believe his promises when facing broken dreams, loss, disappointment or despair.

I battled debilitating insecurity all my growing years – I was terrified to be seen. But as a 14-year-old I would stand in my bedroom, holding my hairbrush, 'preaching' to thousands of people. This was impossible not only because I lacked the confidence, but I wasn't even yet a Christian!

I love God's sense of humour! Only he would take a non-Christian girl who was paralytically shy and plant within her heart a seed to preach his truth to multitudes. God's love eventually won me over and set me free.

Placing our impossibility in the embrace of his love frees us to worship him, and frees him to work a miracle.n.

God's Word

Through the years of waiting – and wondering – at the ways of God, I have learned that God's promises carry power to

sustain them from inception to legacy. There were numerous times I wanted to give up, let go and stop hoping. Whether it was stubbornness or the Holy Spirit (probably both) something would not let me stop believing that childhood declaration.

Just as God cannot choose our thoughts, he cannot choose our words. Recently, when I faced an enormous, immovable mountain, I made a decision to let the Word of God have final authority in my life, without question.

I declared I would not doubt or deviate from what I saw in Scripture, regardless of my circumstances (which were dire). Once I determined to stop voicing doubt and start declaring the truth, the mountain began to shift and doors began to open. Nothing has looked the same since that day.

Believe the Promise

The enemy cannot stand against God's nature and God's Word – when we put our faith there, it is game over. You may have been waiting years for your promise to be revealed; trust God in the waiting. I believe your promise will be far more than you could imagine. Remember Abraham? He expected a child; God birthed a kingdom. ■

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

DAVID'S POETIC PRAISE TO GOD

The Lord is my best friend and my shepherd.
I always have more than enough.

He offers a resting place for me in His luxurious love.
His tracks take me to an oasis of peace, the quiet brook of bliss.

That's where He restores and revives my life.
He opens before me pathways to God's pleasure
and leads me along in His footsteps of righteousness
so that I can bring honor to His name.

Lord, even when your path takes me through
the valley of deepest darkness,
fear will never conquer me, for you already have!
You remain close to me and lead me through it all the way.
Your authority is my strength and my peace.
The comfort of your love takes away my fear.
I'll never be lonely, for you are near.

You become my delicious feast
even when my enemies dare to fight.
You anoint me with the fragrance of your Holy Spirit;
You give me all I can drink of you until my heart overflows.

So why would I fear the future?
For your goodness and love pursue me all the days of my life.
Then afterward, when my life is through,
I'll return to your glorious presence to be forever with you!

Psalm 23 -
The Passion Translation



WHERE IN THE WORLD?

WHERE IN THE WORLD
CAN YOU TAKE ELIM
LIFE THIS SUMMER
SEASON?

AS YOU TRAVEL MAKE
SURE YOU TAKE YOUR
FAV MAGAZINE WITH
YOU ON THE JOURNEY.
SNAP A PIC AND POST
IT ON ANY OF OUR
SOCIAL MEDIA SITES
WITH THE HASHTAG
#WHEREINTHEWORLD



You could be at some of our local beauty spots, or at the best beach in Barbados or maybe involved with camps in USA - wherever you go take us with you & share news of all that God is doing in our little corner of the world with those you meet.

Keep your eyes on social media for more information on **prizes giveaways** for the best photos.

@ElimLifeMag
@Elim_Life
@ElimLifeMag





Social media has unlocked a whole new world of instant, real-time interaction and information. At it's best and used well, social media is a wonderful thing. But there is a dark side....?

When British Youth for Christ recently asked 1000 young people to describe the main negative influence on their lives, social media came in on top, with 67% saying it had a more negative impact on them than anything - or anyone - else. But why? What is it about social media that can make this great tool so destructive?

Comparison
If our social media feeds were to be believed, life looks like a glorious procession of ups, wins, strengths, joys, good days and successes. It appears as though everyone is better looking than us, more fashionable than us, more successful than us and more popular than us. But

they're not - it's just that we're comparing our blooper reel to everyone else's highlight reel!

Always On
The other issue is created by the fact that we're always switched on and plugged in. Silence, solitude, reflection and peace are a thing of the past, as we have developed

the habit of automatically reaching for our phones and checking our social channels whenever a moment of downtime presents itself.

Worse still, we often keep our phones switched on and next to our beds at night. When that notification goes off it wakes us, meaning that we rarely enjoy a full, deep, restorative sleep. As a result, we're tired, stressed, less able to process our emotions and way more prone to developing mental health issues. In fact, this continual disruption of sleep is such a massive deal that it can actually hamper brain development in our teen years.

So what's the answer? Should we delete all of our social media apps and become technology free? I don't think so. As I said up front, social media can be a wonderful thing when we use it right. So instead of asking you to become a hermit, I've developed three 'New Commandments' to help you be in control of your social media without it controlling you....

THREE NEW COMMANDMENTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA

- 1 SOCIAL MEDIA CURFEW**
First up, I want to suggest a self-imposed social media curfew every night. Sounds crazy, right? But nobody ever made a difference by being like everyone else! A social media cut-off every night will allow you to take a break from the pressures of inaccurate comparison and be content with who you are. It will also give you time away from the blue light that emanates from your phone screen tricking your brain into thinking it's daytime, enabling you to get better sleep. So go on, try it. Give yourself a cut off every night after which you will not check your channels or use your phone at all. It will be really hard at first, but you'll be glad you did in the end.
- 2 SOCIAL MEDIA SABBATH**
If you thought that was crazy, try this: A whole 24-hour period without using social media every week! The principal of the sabbath has been practised by God's people for thousands of years, and I believe this same principle can be applied to the modern phenomenon of social media. This extended period of rest from the constant noise and ceaseless digital connection of social media will create an opportunity for you to be totally present to yourself, your thoughts, to others and to God. As I write, I'm about to finish my first full year of practising a social media sabbath, and I can tell you I am so glad I did! I have found it's helped me to mentally rest in a deeper and fuller way. It is a life-giving practice that I would encourage every reader to go for!

- 3 THINK BEFORE YOU POST**
We've all had that experience of firing something up online in the heat of the moment that in the cold light of day we lived to regret! Misguided tweets and thoughtless snaps regularly lead to hurt, embarrassment and damaged relationships. That's why I'm encouraging you to take a moment to consider the following four questions before posting... Am I seeking affirmation? Am I boasting? Is it kind? Do I want this on the internet forever?

Social Media, it's a wonderful thing... if we use it right. So apply these three new commandments to your digital world and you won't go far wrong. Happy posting! 📱

NEVER TOO LATE

SERVING ELIM INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS IN RETIREMENT

Back in October 1969 Mrs Bobbie Tinnion (Marcus) was commissioned to work as a missionary in Central Africa and today Bobbie continues to be actively involved in the work of Elim International Missions. Bobbie and her late husband David served God together in Elim UK churches and with Elim International Missions served in many countries of the world. Bobbie was invited to speak in the Philippines (Living Epistle Church) in January 2018.

One subject she was requested to address:



BEING EFFECTIVE IN YOUR TWILIGHT YEARS

What is twilight? Twilight is the time just before night when the daylight has almost gone but when it is not completely dark. Some people would say that the twilight of a particular period of time is the final stages of it, when the most important events have already happened. What are the twilight years? The Cambridge English Dictionary definition is: the last years of someone's life. Dr Michael Wardlow, Chief Commissioner, NI Equality Commission, recently quoted: 'Age is never a measure of ability or commitment. Age is only an indicator of longevity. A measure of how long you have been living here on earth! It should never be used as a barometer of efficiency, or a predictor of potential contribution to society.'

How can I be effective as I grow older? I believe exactly the same way as I did as a teenager, or in any other decade of my life. My effectiveness; your effectiveness does not depend on age or physical ability. We are body, soul and spirit and it is the anointing of the Spirit of God that enables us to be effective regardless of our age. God doesn't push us aside as we get older. He still takes and picks up the weak vessel so that people will say, 'that if God can do this with that person; just as they are, then God must be bigger than we think'. When God comes in He invades our weaknesses with His strength, power and authority. THAT IS TRUE. But the amazing thing is that God still takes up our weakness because He says 'that this glory is in pots of clay'.

So that when people look at the miracle, people will say that, 'she was so weak; she was so frail and it is THAT which brings glory to God. God believes in you and me. He believes in our weakness, frailty and weariness. The Bible is so amazing! Take for example the crossing of the

Red Sea as recorded in Exodus ch 14. 'and they walked through the night on the path of the sea....' Two and a half million people; children, grandmas, great grandmas; Miriam was in her twilight years! The next morning when they got to the other shore, Miriam gets up and takes her timbrel and she calls; 'come on girls, get your timbrels'. And the Scriptures say they were singing the Song of Moses that says 'Our God is glorious; He works wonders; He performs miracles; the horse and the rider.....into the sea'. God with one breath makes the enemy to fall like a stone to the bottom of the sea.

Miriam is playing on her tambourine; singing and dancing in her twilight years; and all the young girls do it with her because the life and impartation of the anointing has had an impact on an old lady. Yes in her so called twilight years she was being effective. That is the impact of the anointing. Whatever they say about our bodies; the white hair; the flabby fat! It doesn't matter at all because there within us there is an anointing waiting to be released for this moment that can only REJUVENATE, REFRESH, RESTORE, REVIVE AND RELEASE the anointing on others.

This is God's legacy for us at this moment of time. Some people would say that the twilight of a particular period of time is the final stages of it, when the most important events have already happened. Don't believe it! With the anointing amazing things can happen up until the time God calls us home. So is there a place for retirees to serve with Elim International Missions? YES! During the past 12 months Bobbie has had the joy of serving God in Hong Kong, Philippines and Cote D'Ivoire. 'Be on guard against retired believers who have no dream of making their lives count for the glory of Christ'. (source unknown). **EL**

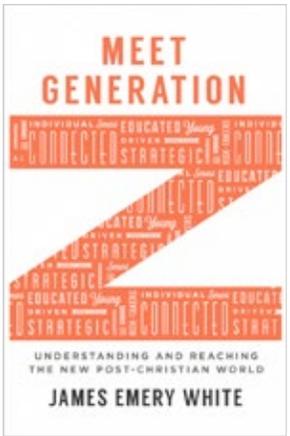


SHE WAS SO WEAK; SHE WAS SO FRAIL AND **IT IS THAT WHICH BRINGS GLORY TO GOD. GOD BELIEVES IN YOU AND ME. HE BELIEVES IN OUR WEAKNESS, FRAILTY AND WEARINESS.**



MEET GENERATION Z

by James Emery White

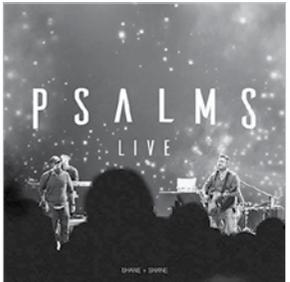


Move over Boomers, Xers, and Millennials; there's a new generation--making up more than 25 percent of the US population--on the scene that represents a seismic cultural shift. Born approximately between 1993 and 2012, Generation Z is poised to challenge every church to rethink its role in light of a rapidly changing culture.

From the award-winning author of *The Rise of the Nones* comes this enlightening introduction to the youngest generation. James Emery White explains who this generation is, how it came to be, and the impact it is likely to have on the nation and the faith. Then he reintroduces us to the ancient countercultural model of the early church, arguing that this is the model Christian leaders must adopt and adapt if we are to reach members of Generation Z with the gospel. He helps us rethink our old evangelistic and apologetic methods, cultivate a culture of invitation, and communicate with this connected generation right where they are. **E**

PSALMS LIVE

by Shane and Shane



This album is amazing!! Steeped in scripture, this album allows me to learn scripture in a new way, not only by the word but through song. One of my favorite cuts on the new record is Psalm 46 .

*"Though the oceans roar
You are the Lord of all
The one who calms the wind and waves
And makes my heart be still
Though the earth gives way
The mountains move
Into the sea, the nations rage
I know my God is in control"*

These Psalms are packed with gospel rich truth and a deep well of gospel centric theology. A great listen when you need reminded who our God is. **E**

E MARIA GILPIN



WONDROUS
2019

21-26 JULY

ULSTER UNIVERSITY SPORTS CENTRE, JORDANSTOWN



[Redacted text block]

PSALM 23



BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE

September 2018
Content submission
by 10th August

November 2018
Content submission
by 30th September