



**2020 Theme**

**“Redeemed, Gifted and Purposeful”  
1 Corinthians 1:7**

Volume 12, Issue 2  
May 17, 2020

## THE VOICE FROM THE VILLAGE “There’s Opportunity In This Crisis”

Dr. Eric H. Jones, Jr., Founder / Senior Pastor



The concept of crisis in Chinese is represented by two words, "danger" and "opportunity." When we manage the crisis of our lives following the example of Jesus Christ, we will be able to turn the dangers and disasters of life into opportunities to fulfill the will of God. The world is in a crisis. As believers we must remember these three words that Jesus said, **“Don't be afraid.”** Stand on your faith. Remember in whom you trust, and know that **the righteous has never been forsaken.** As we face the crisis today, our minds

and hearts that use to be preoccupied with things like some sporting event or some entertainment has now shifted and we have prioritized more important things. With family and friends kept at a distance we realize how important intimate relationships are. The abnormal has become normal and the normal has become abnormal. God is speaking and our faith is being tested. As Christians a new appreciation for the importance of clergy and ministry has emerged. This pandemic goes beyond the materialistic things like washing your hands and wearing masks but it reaches into the very essence of life and how precious it is. Faced with the opportunity that this crisis presents we should quietly, Prayerfully and thoughtfully reflect on these four things:

1. I am here by God’s appointment; in that fact I will rest.
2. He will keep me here in His love and give me grace to behave as His child.
3. He will teach me the lessons He intends for me to learn.
4. In His time, as He has done before, **this too will past.**

**God bless you and don’t allow fear to rob you of your faith.**



**Koinonia Celebrating  
BLACK HISTORY  
365 days a year**



**Inside this Issue**

TESTify	2
Catbird Seat	3
Perspective	4
Healthy Is As Healthy Does	5
A Snapshot of God	6
On the Trail - Why 2020 Election is Important	7
Truism	8

**Special Points of Interest:**

- Why 2020 Election is Important
- Bleeding Love
- Spiritual Health during COVID-19
- The Blessing

# T.E.S.T.I.F.Y

By Gisla Bush



**THE TEST:** Do you focus on the authority that God has given man and, in turn, forget to put your faith in Him who is in control of man? A few months ago, my son submitted the last of his required paperwork for fall admission into college. One of the necessary documents was to complete a medical questionnaire which included a request for a copy of the student's immunization records. Since my son had not been immunized before, I provided my religious exemption waiver which I obtained from Florida's health department some years earlier when my daughters needed it for college. He submitted the waiver and it was rejected on the basis that the Florida exemption could not be transferred or used in Maryland. Alternatively, he would need to provide a detailed written statement supporting his religious conviction. Furthermore, a committee would review his case and determine whether they felt that the conviction was genuine or not. That requirement was subjective, appalling, and ridiculous in my opinion.

How could this secular board or anyone assess whether my belief or my son's belief in God and His principles are real to me or him? Only God knows that, right? As ridiculous as it sounded, this was, in reality, a very serious issue because this would determine if my son would be able to go to school and forfeit his scholarship or not.

I am not one to "push the envelope", but I began to allow my emotions to take over. The scripture admonishes us to let the Lord fight our battle. 2 Chronicles 20:17, Deuteronomy 3:22. But here my son was weeks away from the start of his freshman year of college and anxiety, doubt, and fear began to weigh heavily upon me because we had not heard back from the university. Finally, we receive an email from student health indicating that they were in receipt of the written waiver and wanted to do an interview with my son regarding his statement. My son immediately called their office as instructed in the email several times but could only leave a message. Eventually, word came that the interviewer would be out the office for two weeks which meant that, upon her return, we would only have a few days left until the deadline. Unbeknownst to me, my son had taken the initiative to call the school in an attempt to help push things forward. When I discovered this, I instructed him to leave matters alone because we had done our due diligence and maybe God was allowing the delay.

**THE TESTIMONY:** The interviewer finally returned and contacted my son to let him know that she wanted to interview him preferably that morning and that he should give her his available times. Since I was not home at the time, it would have to be in the latter part of the day. This would give me ample time to return home to have a discussion with him. Because the committee held the power to accept or deny the waiver, tinges of fear crept in as we talked and waited for the call. The Word of God in John 16:33 warns us that we will have trouble but to take courage because He has overcome the world. I pondered on whether or not my son would be successful in the interview while yet reminding myself and encouraging him that God is in control, and that He is our very present help in the time of trouble. Psalm 46:10. We waited and waited but no one called. Eventually, my son searched through his email to retrieve the telephone number to call the interviewer only to discover that the waiver had been granted. I was overwhelmed with joy and my son was relieved. God had come through for the "millionth" time! It had just been hours before that my son was required to do the interview. What changed? That question may forever go unanswered, but what I do know is that God is **FAITHFUL**, and I had no reason to fear my child's future college career or fear my family's religious rights being stripped from us.

**FOOD FOR FAITH:** God provides a ram in the bush. Trust Him to the end. If Abraham did it, so can we. If God supplied Abraham with a way out, He will supply us with one also. But we must choose to trust God like Abraham and move forward despite what we see. The Hebrew writer adds, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" Hebrews 13:6 No matter what we are faced with, be it persecution, disease, economic uncertainty, unemployment, or death, do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you. Deuteronomy 31:6.



## Views From the Catbird Seat

Join Alvin C. Romer for commentary about life and faith in the African-American Diaspora.

### The Blessing: Breaking Nets, A Sinking Boat, and A Fish Tale

By Deacon Alvin C. Romer



This is a message of hope, a story about a life changing fishing lesson from a carpenter to a fisherman. God truly wants to bless His people...but there's a point to His Providence. The purpose of this essay is for me to explain why God wants to bless you.

Why do you think God wants to bless you? And no, this is not a trick question... simply because not everyone understands the essence of being blessed, and not being in position to receive blessings, real or imagined. Popular culture cliches, or sayings in today's world encounter people on any given day when you ask them, "How are you doing?" More often they will respond, "I'm blessed" or, "I'm blessed with no stress." They throw around the blessed word frivolously with no inkling of how blessings work. To be honest, I've responded like this myself. It's the 'in' thing to say, "I'm looking for my blessing." It could mean a multitude of things in their way of looking at what blessings mean to them. Everybody wants to be blessed, and there's nothing wrong with that. The Bible talks about the blessings that God gives. But what we often don't hear is God's side of the blessing. We know our side. The word 'BLESS' means to dispense favor or goodness. So to be blessed is to receive from God - His favor and good things at His hand...that's what we want, we want the favor of God and we want good things coming our way from the hand of God. That's our side, because that's what we want.

Now, when I starting writing this piece I had to come up with an angle that would best illustrate how and why God would want to bless us, whom He would favor, and what criteria would be used in giving blessings. Often we take for granted that no matter what, God got our backs; or, all it takes when you sin is to drop to your knees when compelled to do so. But I want to look at this situation in a different light...I want to try answering the question why God would want to do it. Why would He want to rain down on us blessings when He knows what we do, why we're doing it, and to what extent that would cause circumstance to get us in more trouble? Now we know why we want it... makes life more enjoyable, it gives us a good sense of being. That's the human benefit of being blessed. But there are significant analogies that paint relevant pictures with plenty of color. To wit:

I'm going to shift to the well-known story of **Simon Peter** and his companions, James, John, and Zebedee. One day on a fishing trip, there were men plying their trade. It was a long night, the guys were tired and there just wasn't any fish to be caught...they were saddened, disillusioned, and defeated. They, of course, expected to have a better haul. Yes, it had been one of those nights of futility and fruitlessness. All night long and no fish? Had there been many others days like this? No way! It is now morning, they saw the crest of the sun rising to start another day. As they sat upon shore washing their nets in despair hoping for a new lease on life, they looked up and see a man approaching followed by a large amount of people. Little did they know that they were about to get a Word, a Bible study if you will, from the greatest preacher, the greatest teacher that has ever existed, Jesus Christ the son of the Living God. He gets into their boat and commanded them to shove it off a little back into the lake. He sits there and begins addressing the crowd about God and how He desires

them to live. The people listen eagerly and they find themselves mesmerized by what is being given to them...so does Simon Peter. Having finished the lesson making his point, he immediately turns to Simon and says, "Simon, cast our nets back into the lake and let your nets linger a bit longer than you're accustomed to." As human nature would have it, Simon not knowing how he was being blessed responded in paraphrase, if not politely in a smug way, "Look Lord, you are a good teacher, you tell the people fascinating things about God, but I'm a fisherman, I know fish, I know their habits, I even know this lake... so because we didn't catch any fish, it is not the time of day or night to fish, I get this!"

I'm sure you, like me, have had days when everything seemed to go wrong...you suspect that the law of averages were off, and perhaps the fish just didn't want to be caught...yes, it was one of those days that was fruitless and nothing was right. When things are not to your liking, you undoubtedly think to yourself, why did I get out of bed this morning. Do I really want to engage myself in the doldrums of discord with no blessings? That's the type of night Simon Peter had, and now this Teacher who has probably never tossed out a net in His life is telling him how to fish.

The moral compass of this story has a lot to do with obedience and humility— Simon Peter's willingness to be taught. His obedience was in blind faith in that it was against everything that he knew. I'm sure he looked upon the command from the Teacher as a foolish command, yet he complied. Let me say that blind faith is something you do automatically without compromising thought. You do it naturally. Back to the issue at hand. After putting his nets back in the water, Simon Peter

*Continued on page 4*

### *The Blessing: Breaking Nets, A Sinking Boat, and A Fish Tale - continued from page 3*

called for his friends who were still on shore to come out to the boat after the nets were seeming with fish! Their attempts to handle such a plethora of fish, way too much to lift single-handedly was nothing more than a miracle. They had never caught so many fish... and because of the weight they began to sink!

It was at this point that Simon Peter realized the meaning of this miracle. You should know that blessings are given by way of the Lord's direct manner of accomplished value. What I mean by that is, blessings are given to us all...and I would admonish that He gives them perhaps when it's not warranted, but He wants to see how faithful you are. The talk that Jesus gave in that setting was generic but it was directed primarily to one person in particular —Simon Peter. Have you ever listened to a sermon that was intended for the masses, but had YOUR name on it? In the recognition of who Jesus was, came the recognition of what He was through one man's realization. Simon Peter got the message. This is always true...you never truly see yourself until you see yourself in the light of Jesus, and who He really is. As soon as Peter acknowledged his shortcomings, the Lord was able to cleanse and call him to a higher vocation than just catching fish. Peter looked at Jesus and said, "I have sinned, my Lord". And Jesus answered, "Don't be afraid, from now on you are going to catch men." What is the lesson that this Biblical reference teaches you? In my opinion, and based on what Simon Peter encountered, using our own skill and knowledge of thinking we are good at what we do, we are prone to be a failure at times, we may become complacent and all of a sudden the passion is not there anymore, we get full of ourselves...but what a vast difference it is when the Lord feels that you need to be blessed from a different train of thought!

God wants to bless you, and all of us because we're all in the same boat looking for a ray of hope that will brighten our days, we need illuminating light to keep us out of darkness...yes, we need blessings for Grace to validate us being warranted to receive, it even though we don't deserve it. But it's God's discretion. A lot of you may feel that you're just existing instead of living, the good news of the Gospel is Jesus came to give you life, that is, the experience of God's reality operating within you...that is what the Bible calls eternal life. So He gives you Heaven as a location but eternal life as an experience, and He gives it for FREE! That is what Grace is about it's a gift — you can't earn it, you can't buy it; you can't be religious enough to get it, but you truly can receive it. And so God offers the opportunity for you right now to receive the forgiveness of sin and the free gift of eternal life which will set in motion a whole lifelong experience of growing in the knowledge of God. You are the perfect candidate for salvation. Self-revelation by talking to God on a personal note is a forerunner to blessings. He blesses you so that you can be a blessing as you follow Him. It's all about prayer, perseverance, and purpose.

So let's get this thing started now...by you going to the Lord Jesus and saying to him —"I believe you died on the cross in my place for my sins, I now accept you as my personal Savior. Come into my life, I receive you and want to live a life ordained by You. I receive the gift of eternal life that you promised to give me if I came to you for it. I thank you for your Salvation. In Jesus' name. AMEN!

## PERSPECTIVE

### Numbers 11 Amplified Bible (AMP) The People Complain

11 Now the people became like those who complain *and* whine about their hardships, and the LORD heard it; and when the LORD heard it, His anger was kindled, and the fire of the LORD burned among them and devoured those in the outlying parts of the camp. <sup>2</sup>So the people cried out to Moses, and when Moses prayed to the LORD, the fire died out. <sup>3</sup>He named that place Taberah (the place of burning), because the fire of the LORD burned among them.

*Perspective-*  
brought to you by Deacon Craig Smith



## HEALTHY IS AS HEALTHY DOES

*Health Tips and Advice by Sara M. Snell*

### How to Improve Your Spiritual Health

During this COVID-19 pandemic, we are taught what to do and what not to do. Improving our spiritual health is just as or even more important. The Kentucky University wellness staff stated that generally, people like to live life with meaning and purpose. When those goals are met, it puts harmony in one's life, and in the lives of others they surround themselves with.

Spiritual wellness involves ones' values, beliefs and purpose. It will help you to discover things about yourself that will lead you closer to God, which will in turn help you to achieve a fulfilled life.

Managing your time with daily task can sometimes be difficult. It is very important to devote time to connecting to God. Studying God's Word and believing what it says and praying without ceasing will improve your spiritual health.

Remember through all of this - follow the CDC guidelines but remember follow God's guidelines to improve your spiritual health. Stay safe. Be patient. God is the Great Physician. The Daily Word offered that, "Waiting is sustained effort to stay focused on God through prayer and faith." Watch your spiritual health improve.

**GOD IS IN CONTROL. TRUST HIM. Proverbs 3:5-6.**



## BLEEDING LOVE

Poem written by Craig Smith  
Adapted from the song "Bleeding Love"  
Artist: Leona Lewis

They said he wasn't of God, and  
he ate with wrong kinds  
Didn't believe in his gifts, always  
had to have signs  
Plotted day and night, resolved to  
catch him in lies  
Put him through their tests, they  
couldn't see through blind eyes  
But something happened to be me the first time I met you  
My heart changed instantly, had finally found someone  
true  
Had everyone looking round, thinking I've gone crazy

But I don't care what they say  
I'm in love with you  
They tried to pull me away, but they don't know the truth  
My spirit's longing for the day that I'm with you  
They cut him open and he



Keep bleeding, keep, keep bleeding love  
He keep bleeding, he keep, keep bleeding love  
Keep bleeding, keep, keep bleeding love

Is it lawful to heal, on the Sabbath they asked  
Pilate wouldn't release and gave Barabbas a pass  
Trying not to hear, the people cheers is so loud  
Falsely accused of a crime, spit on and mocked by the  
crowd

Bruised and beaten, they put on him a crown of thorns  
Rejected by his own, you could almost see their horns  
Took up his cross, they nailed him to a tree  
Through it all he could only see you and me.

But I don't care what they say  
I'm in love with you  
They tried to pull me away, but they don't know the truth  
My spirit's longing for the day that I'm with you  
They cut him open and he

Keep bleeding, keep, keep bleeding love  
He keep bleeding, he keep, keep bleeding love  
Keep bleeding, keep, keep bleeding love.

## A Snapshot of God: How Faith is the Formula for Restoration - Part 1

### Psalm 126:4-6

**By Alvin C. Romer**

In the past (as I am now), I'm amazed at how marvelous the Lord is. We often comment on how good God is, where there always are confirmations beyond measure. His Grace is evident to anyone willing to look beyond surfaces and go deeper for reassurances. I called them 'Snapshots of God' — those instances where He gives us examples of who He is under various situations, and solutions to issues that plague us on a daily basis. Today I'm going to give yet, another of those illustrations that may have more bearing on where you are now, and moving forward in new perspectives. There's no denying the long journey you've traveled is reverent to your state of being.

Let me call your attention to **Jairus**, an official of a local synagogue in Galilee, who petitioned to Jesus to heal his 12-year old daughter. This story is deep in how the vestiges of faith are incorporated in restorative value. Part of it has emphasis on the woman who touched Jesus' garment, but Jairus arrived early knowing that Jesus was scheduled to deliver a sermon on the Sea of Galilee, threw himself down at His feet and begged Him to heal his dying daughter. He said, "My little girl is very sick...please come and lay hands on her, so that she will get well and live." This certain woman who had the audacity to just touch him was on a mission...and I'm not sure whether her goal was to see if He was who they say He was, but she may have thought to herself, "If I can just touch his robe maybe I will be healed." So she touched him! Jesus turned without losing a step, and said, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace!" Now let me stop here a moment. I need to expound on this point. Being who He was, especially traveling with as many people following Him, it was virtually impossible to get close to Jesus, but this woman fought her way desperately through the crowd in order to touch him. As soon as she did, she was instantly healed. Let me ask you this: How many of you would truly like to 'touch Jesus'...I mean if you had your way, would you believe in your heart that touching Him in any capacity would be the miracle that would transform any train of thought you may have to rise above mediocrity to a magnificent state? My point here hinges on the fact that many people are vaguely familiar with Jesus, but nothing in their lives are changed or bettered by an acquaintance that would be par for a course that has more to do with having faith than without it. It is only faith that releases God's healing power. That woman did what many of us should be doing in reaching out to Him— by touching Him! You never know what a touch of spirituality would do for you if you look beyond your hurts, afflictions - to let go, and let God!

Now back to our friend Jairus. It's no coincidence, nor was it something that we at times do when people who don't believe in God, or those that will not serve Him find themselves in trouble; and who is the first person they petition, or the first name that comes out of their mouths? "Oh Jesus...Lord please help me." Know that there's always a rhyme and reason for what the Lord does, He makes no mistakes, and has purpose to illuminate providence. Jairus was a Pharisee, a man of prominence, a man of the ruling consulate, the Sanhedrin. He didn't believe that Jesus was the Son, nor did he believe Him to be the Savior. But here he was groveling at Jesus' feet looking for a miracle! I'm sure in my opinion, that whenever there was an opportunity, Jesus made reference to who His Father was. This one incident with the woman happened as Jesus made the decision to travel to Jairus' house. Jairus's crisis I would imagine made him saddened and confused, if not afraid where hope was nowhere in sight. Do you feel as such seasoned as you are, perhaps in the process of being saved trying to cope with adversity that can identify you with this situation? Just as Jesus spoke to Jairus, He has words similar for you. He told Jairus, "*Don't be afraid. Just have faith.*" With those words I will tell you that in Jesus, there are both hope and promise. Stop worrying about things you cannot control...place your trust in He who sustains you. The next time you feel hopeless with your ailments, and feel a bit apprehensive and fearful, look at your issues from Jesus' point of view — have faith! It is said that a messenger arrived with the news that Jairus' daughter had died, and was told that Jesus probably couldn't do anything about it. Guess what He told the messenger? "*Be not afraid, only believe!*" (This is found in **Mark 5:36**)

[Look forward to Part 2 in the next newsletter...](#)

## On The Trail: Why 2020 is the most important election in our lifetime

This year's election is the most important in our lifetime. It is a tired cliché, one parroted by presidents and politicians every two years in hopes of driving their voters to the polls.

The presidential contest alone will represent perhaps the starkest choice between two competing visions for the nation's future since the elections of 1860 that set the Union on course for a civil war.

President Trump has governed in his first term as a fierce culture warrior, intent on reshaping American government and refocusing its foreign policy in an unprecedented manner.

The Democratic Party will nominate the most liberal candidate ever to carry the party's mantle; as former Vice President Joe Biden has staked out a position to the left of former President Barack Obama and the 2016 nominee, Hillary Clinton.

The president who takes the oath of office next year will almost certainly have the opportunity to reshape the face of the U.S. Supreme Court.

By the time he is sworn in, four justices — Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito — will be north of 70 years old. Ginsburg and Breyer are already in their 80s. Thomas, Ginsburg and Breyer have each served on the court for more than a quarter century, making them, respectively, the 19th, 25th and 28th-longest serving justices in American history.

Raising the stakes even more, 2020 marks a once-in-a-generation confluence of a presidential election cycle in which control of the decennial redistricting process is also on the line.

The results of the decennial redistricting and reapportionment process have historically shaped the makeup of both state legislatures and the U.S. House.

Every election matters, whether Americans are voting in a new president or a new school board member.

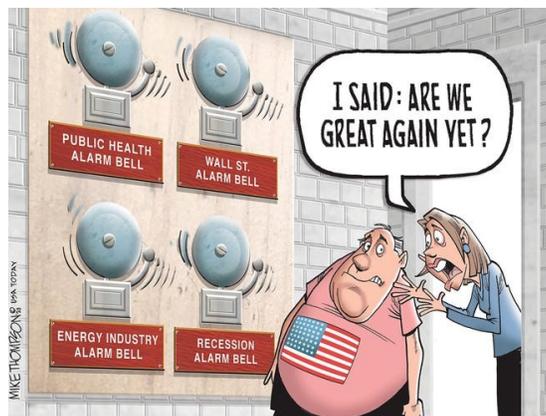
But the confluence of critical races up this year and the massive power to reshape the nation's direction that the winners will have makes what sounds like a throw-away line in a speech the absolute truth: This year's elections are, indeed, the most consequential in our lifetimes, and probably in more than a century.

*Derived From: On the Trail reported column by Reid Wilson, primarily focused on the 2020 elections.*

**YOU CAN EITHER  
VOTE BY VOTING OR  
VOTE BY NOT VOTING.  
IF YOU DON'T VOTE,  
SOMEONE ELSE'S  
VOTE COUNTS MORE.  
IT'S MATH.**



Occupy Posters www.posters.tumblr.com



Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting.



Franklin D. Roosevelt  
32nd U.S. President  
(1882-1945)

QuoteHD.com



**THE LIGHT NEWSLETTER  
KOINONIA WORSHIP CENTER & VILLAGE**

4900 W. Hallandale Beach Blvd.  
Pembroke Park, FL 33023  
Phone: 954-964-2901  
Fax: 954-964-4401  
E-mail: The-Light-Koinonia@googlegroups.com  
Visit us at: www.kwcf.org

*Our objective is to provide and distribute quality news and reports on timely issues that relate to spiritual matters pertaining to Koinonia's people and the surrounding community at-large.*

**Pastor Willie Johnson**  
Associate Pastor / Editorial Advisor

**Nicole Minnis**  
Director / Editor

**Deacon Craig Smith**  
Assistant Editor

**Deacon Alvin C. Romer**  
Copy Editor / Journalist

**Sara Snell**  
Journalist

**Gisla Bush**  
Journalist

**Bobby Bush**  
Journalist

**Fannie Sims**  
Journalist

**Pastor Wesley Smith**  
Article Contributor

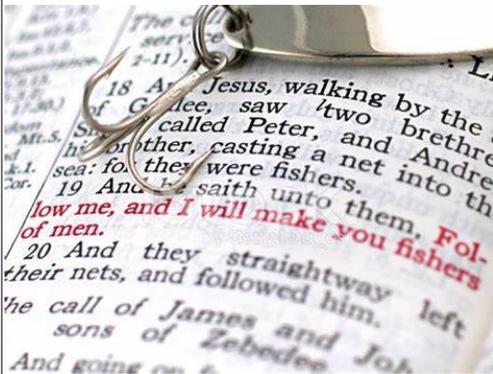
**Dr. Eric H. Jones, Jr.**  
Founder / Senior Pastor

**Pastor James Walden**  
Assistant Pastor

**GET YOUR LAUGH ON**  
COMEDY by Deacon Craig Smith



**Fishers of Men**



A young boy arrived to Sunday school class late. His teacher knew that the boy was usually very prompt and asked him if anything was wrong.

The boy replied no, that he was going to go fishing, but his dad told him that he needed to go to church instead. The teacher was very impressed and asked the boy if his father had explained why it was more important for him to go to church rather than to go fishing.

To which the boy replied, "Yes he did. My dad said that he didn't have enough bait for the both of us."



Truism - an undoubted or self-evident truth

**"WE ARE CALLED TO LOVE PEOPLE, EVEN  
WHEN THEY DO UNLOVABLE THINGS."**

**~ PASTOR ERIC H. JONES, JR.**