



**“And Jesus said, I am:
and ye shall see the
Son of man sitting
on the right hand of power,
and coming in
the clouds of heaven.”**

Mark 14:62

Fellowship - Spring 2019

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Fellowship

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn" Isaiah 60:1-3 (NIV).



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There is a Chinese proverb which says, "It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness." We all agree that there is great darkness in the world today. Among many things, a law was recently passed in New York that allows babies to be murdered right up until delivery. In Virginia, the governor, who is a medical doctor, stated "if a fully formed baby survives an abortion attempt, the baby should lay on the table until the mother or doctor decides to kill it or let it live."

It is not enough for us to simply be angry or upset by what is happening, we must "let our light shine!" We must have strategies to bring light where there is darkness and hope where there is despair. We are to speak life in the face of death. In the words of the old hymn we are to: "Rescue the perishing, care for the dying; Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save."

We are ambassadors and ministers of reconciliation. We represent the kingdom of God. It is not our light that shines, but we are to reflect the light and glory of the Lord. Abortion

is just one example of the darkness confronting the world today. We must each ask ourselves this question, "Where is the Lord calling me to shine brightly for Him?" We must remember the declaration in John 1:5, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it." (NLT)

We will continue to make it our aim to **Encourage** one another and to **Equip** ourselves and others with the tools that we need to **Engage** the world for the cause of the gospel.

On page 12 of this issue you can read a condensed version of Stan DeKoven's message given at the AGIF conference this past January. You can also listen to conference messages and reports on our website: <https://agifellowship.org/Media/AGIF-San-Diego-2019>

Finally, I am here to serve you. If you would like me to come and preach at your church or if I can be of assistance to you in any way, please let me know. You can contact me on my direct phone line 760-546-5030, email: Steve@AGIFellowship.org or by mail.

Please make sure we have your current email and mailing address on file.
Send any changes to: info@agifellowship.org



By Steve Ekeroth

Jn the 2,000 years since Christ came into our world as a baby in Bethlehem, suffered and died and then rose again on the third day, the celebration of his resurrection has been a joyous occasion for Christians. Easter Sunday morning is like a victory parade for the greatest triumph of all time. We look back at Resurrection morning as the pivotal point in time. Many follow a tradition of celebrating at sunrise, some people wear their finest clothes, a special meal awaits many and in general our spirits are lifted and our praises are louder than at other times of the year. However, that first Sunday morning was not filled with joy and celebration, there were no signs of hope or comfort. Many of those who followed Christ, and in particular His disciples, felt as though they had received the severest of blows. There was a sense of desperation and fear because the One who they followed and placed their trust in, had been put to death by the cruelest method. They did not understand because they did not remember.

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" Then they remembered his words. Luke 24:1–8 (NIV)

The disciples and those who followed Jesus were not in a celebratory mood on that Sunday morning. The women did not go to the tomb with a resurrection in mind, but instead they brought with them the spices and ointments that they had prepared for the body of

Jesus. There is nothing about their actions recorded that morning that indicate that they were expecting to find Jesus alive. Certainly, they loved Him and they hurried early in the morning to the place where He was buried, but they were not thinking clearly, as other Gospel accounts tell us, they did not know who would just roll the stone away for them.

Their dreams and hopes were dead

As far as those disciples and women were concerned, it was more than the death of a man that they loved and in whom they believed; their dreams and hopes were dead. Although they never fully understood Christ's purpose and His plan, they anticipated being part of something big, something that went beyond their wildest dreams and hopes. Don't forget that these were people under the rule of a foreign government and in their thinking, Jesus was going to lead them out of captivity and into freedom. When Jesus died, their dreams and hopes also died with Him. In no way am I attempting to judge them for their failure to have understood and believed that Christ would rise again on the third day.

The trauma and the devastation were more than they could bear. How could they understand what Jesus had said concerning the fact that He must suffer and die, but that He would rise again? It would be unfair of us to use our context 2,000 years later to be critical of them because what God did in raising Jesus from the dead was unique and had not been seen before. They had no reference for understanding, but soon their eyes would be opened and they would understand.

Low expectations

When Jesus called His disciples, He did not assemble a team of those that the world considered the best and the brightest, to the contrary He went to country villages and selected those that other teachers or rabbis had rejected. Jesus himself was subject to ridicule and suspicion because many assumed that He was from Galilee. According to conventional wisdom, important people did not come from Galilee.

Those in the crowd who heard these words were saying, "This has to be the Prophet." Others said, "He is the Messiah!" But others were saying, "The Messiah doesn't come from Galilee, does he?" John 7:40-41 (The Message)

After a stinging disappointment it is quite conceivable that the thought entered the disciples' minds that it all

had been too good to be true. It is possible that they were giving in to the idea that nothing really special ever came out of Galilee or Nazareth. There is a rationalization that takes place to cover up the hurt and disappointment of not seeing things turn out the way you wanted. Some of those disciples and followers of Jesus had been hearing for years that they were worthless and would never amount to anything.

Looking in the wrong place

"Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive?" Luke 24:5b (NLT)

The women were looking in the wrong place because they were not expecting to find Jesus alive. There are two problems: they had forgotten the words of Jesus as well as the prophetic words in Scripture. Even though Jesus had told them ahead of time that He would rise and they had seen Lazarus raised from the dead, there was something that prevented them from understanding that all of these things had to occur in order for prophecy to be fulfilled. If you do not know what you are looking for, how can you possibly be expected to look in the right place?

Many people today see within themselves a deep need for fulfillment, but if they don't know what it is they are looking for because no one has told them about Jesus, can they really be faulted for looking in the wrong place? Like the angels on that day, we can serve as guides to those who are looking for something to fill the emptiness in their lives but do not know where to look.

The most important thing

For the Christian, everything hinges on the resurrection of Christ from the dead. If Christ did not rise from the dead, then we are wasting our time and our lives. From this standpoint the resurrection of Christ from the dead is the most important thing.

If Christ hasn't been raised, then our preaching is useless and your faith is useless. 1 Corinthians 15:14 (CEB)

The entire foundation of our faith is the resurrection of the dead. If it is not true, it is a fraud and we are wasting our time. But we can have confidence in the resurrection because He was seen by all the apostles and 500 additional witnesses.

continued on next page

Many of these people suffered harsh treatment because of their proclamation of the resurrection of Christ. And many suffered violent death because of their steadfast belief that Jesus Christ did rise from the dead.

Remember His Words

Astonishingly, there have always been some who would prefer to not believe in the resurrection. They believe that the here and now is all that they have and they want to live their lives according to their own rules and conditions. But if the resurrection is true, is there any reason to doubt that everything else in the word of God says is true? Like the disciples before us, we need to remember His words. The benefits of resurrection life are not only for when we die, but its impact begins the moment we believe.

For us He is the resurrection right here and now. I want to help you remember His words. Doesn't it make sense, that if the resurrection is true, that there is nothing that is too difficult for God? Remember that we said that not only did Christ die on the cross, for several days the hopes and dreams of those who followed Him died as well.

For the disciples and those who followed Jesus when He was here on earth, it wasn't until they remembered His words that they began to understand the power and reality of the resurrection. We do not judge them, even though at first, they failed to remember His words and had lost hope and faith. Because even though we have had 2,000 years and the testimony of those who saw Him after the resurrection, we often fail to live in the reality of resurrection life. We look at our failures, our sorrows and our hurts and sometimes wonder if there is an answer for us. But the resurrection is true, if the opponents of Jesus could have produced His body, most assuredly they would have done so. If they had produced a corpse then everything that we believe in would be false. But Christ is raised, and all power in heaven and on earth is given to Him! He is alive forevermore!

Are your hopes and dreams alive or have they died? Have you struggled under the burden of low expectations, which either from others or yourself? Have you been looking for the answers to life in all the wrong places? Do you understand that if the resurrection of Christ from the dead is a reality, that there is nothing that is too difficult for God? Remember His words!



Oh Lord You're Beautiful

by Keith Green

Oh Lord, you're beautiful,
Your face is all I see,
For when your eyes are on this child,
Your grace abounds to me
Oh Lord, you're beautiful,
Your face is all I see,
For when your eyes are on this child
Your grace abounds to me
I want to take your word
and shine it all around
But first help me to just, live it Lord
And when I'm doing well,
help me to never seek a crown
For my reward is giving glory to you
Oh Lord, please light the fire
That once burned bright and clean
Replace the lamp of my first love
That burns with holy fear
I want to take your word
and shine it all around
But first help me to just, live it Lord
And when I'm doing well,
help me to never seek a crown
For my reward is giving glory to you
Oh Lord, you're beautiful
Your face is all I see
For when your eyes are on this child
Your grace abounds to me
Oh Lord, you're beautiful
Your face is all I see
For when your eyes are on this child,
Your grace abounds to me

Songwriter: Keith Gordon Green

Oh Lord You're Beautiful lyrics

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Gospel

A Warning Against a Watered-Down Gospel

The one great concern of our heavenly Father is that no “other gospel” will take us away from the cross of Jesus Christ. Many Christians have had their faith shipwrecked because they were given a flattering word years ago, perhaps something like this: “You’re going to have a great ministry and win thousands of souls to the Lord,” and not one word of it came to pass. Now those sheep are totally discouraged, their faith on the ash heap.

If you are going to receive a word from the Lord, let it be from Scripture. Better yet, let it be from your precious time spent in the prayer closet with Jesus. Let your closest godly friends test that word with you to confirm it; otherwise, if you allow anything to get in the way of the true gospel, you will end up in despair.

Paul was concerned about a dangerous invasion against Christ’s church when he told the Ephesians: *“Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves”* (Acts 20:30). The Greek word for “perverse” here means obstinate persistence in promoting an error.

Paul was warning, *“Some of you in authority will rise up and bring in a distorted gospel, introducing a corruption of the pure gospel.”* How could this possibly happen among the leaders of this church? Notice, Paul was not referring to wolves or robbers of widows. No, he was referring to ministers who cower and shrink back from preaching the whole counsel of God — those who present a watered-down gospel, a half-gospel, only a part of God’s Word.

It is the responsibility of every believer to be sure you are sitting under the teaching of a good shepherd, one who preaches the whole, uncompromised Word of God. Jesus says, *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep”* (John 10:11). This means that the minister of God will lay down all his pride and fear of man to feed his flock God’s pure Word. Be certain you settle for nothing less.

by David Wilkerson (1931-2011)
<https://worldchallenge.org/devotions?page=12>

“The best news of the Christian gospel is that the supremely glorious Creator of the universe has acted in Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection to remove every obstacle between us and Himself so that we may find everlasting joy in seeing and savoring His infinite beauty.”
John Piper

“Outside of the cross of Jesus Christ, there is no hope in this world. That cross and resurrection at the core of the Gospel is the only hope for humanity.”
Ravi Zacharias

If you believe what you like in the gospels, and reject what you don’t like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself.
Saint Augustine



Ministry News & Updates

CHINA'S CHURCHES

James Moffett

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

You may have heard about the difficulties of doing ministry in the churches in Mainland China... and you have heard correctly.

Many churches have been closed and those still open have been forbidden from having any foreigners as speakers.

One Chinese official within the past few days has stated that the goal is to completely Sinicize the Chinese Christian Church. His meaning was to totally free it from western influence.

He even went so far as to say that for every new Christian in China there is one less Chinese.

Now I know that there are many in the western Christian community that might think this to be a good thing. I have had some brothers and sisters here in the US who have told me that the Chinese can take care of themselves and they don't need anyone else.

Nothing can be further from the truth. Alienation from any branch of the Church will ultimately lead to error

and false doctrine that could destroy many in the faith.

Yet, the restrictions of man do not hinder the will of God.

I was privileged to go to China again from November to December of 2018 and had been told before I went that I would only be able to speak in some very small home cell groups.

I knew the Lord was leading me, so I told my Chinese friends it didn't matter, that I would do whatever the Lord might lead.

When I arrived, I attended a meeting in a very large church. Over the years I have been privileged to speak in this church many times. In fact, I began working with this church when there were about 50 people. As the years went by, by the grace of God, I personally baptized over 2500 people in this church. The church became so big, it was forced to join the legal "Three-Self Patriotic Church of China"

On this particular day, the overseer of all the three-self churches in the area was speaking. When he finished, the local pastor of that church grabbed my hand and pulled me up on the platform, insisting that I speak for a few minutes. This, then, brought about a meeting

between me and the overseer.

Because of that meeting I was asked to speak in 4 Three-Self churches in the following weeks. Instead of speaking only to small home groups, I ended up preaching to thousands and saw many souls come into the kingdom.

Other westerners in the area said they had been blocked from speaking for nearly 2 years and were extremely surprised that I had been allowed to do so.

I was not surprised... God always accomplishes His will.

Please continue to pray for the Chinese church... the home churches and government churches, that they may flourish despite the restrictions the government is trying to inflict on them.

And pray for me that I may continue to have a small part in the ministry there.

Bless you all,
James Moffett

CENTURION'S CHAPLAIN

Chaplain Jim Russell

More police officers are dying by suicide in this country than in the line of duty. Law Enforcement officers are the ones who see the most traumatic of events every day, put up the yellow tape and protect us. But while they are protecting us, who is protecting them?

In 2018, 148 officers died of Line of Duty Deaths and 159 died by suicide across the country. However, it is estimated that some 300 officers "eat their gun," or use some other means, to end their own lives each year. The figure is one that should get people's attention, but for the most part it hasn't. Police executives and instructors dedicated to officer survival issues need to address this issue as critical to an officer's survival. Spiritual Warfare is happening all around us.

What is the answer to this crisis of people to find lasting hope? Jesus Christ. Yet, today many ministers and pastors are puzzled on how they and their congregations can bring this hope to their communities and Emergency services that protect them each day.

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Saint John in Exile

This is a one man play about the life of the Apostle John while in exile on the Island of Patmos. In this play John recounts his life with Jesus, the crucifixion, the resurrection, the establishment of the church and the life and martyrdom of many of the disciples. The play was written by playwright Don Berringer and originally performed by Dean Jones. James Moffett has performed Saint John in Exile in English from California to Massachusetts. He has also performed this in the Mandarin Chinese language in 5 provinces in Mainland China. Many souls have come to the Lord because of this performance and the hearts of many Christians have been revived with a new fervor to serve the Lord and win the lost at any cost. James has some openings on his 2019 calendar and would like to bless your church with this performance. If you would like to find out more please contact: james@theworldforchrist.net





At Centurion's Chaplain, our mission is to "build caring relationships with the hope of gaining permission to share the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ in a non-threatening manner."

As our culture increases to rebel against authority, one need remains the same – the need and the THE NEED IS GREAT. We teach and facilitate Churches to interact with the 1st Responders in their community that they may save some!

Law Enforcement officers spend more time at work than anywhere else. But just because they go home doesn't mean they've left their work behind. Traffic stops, domestic calls and other traumas, including death, devastate families and burden First Responders with skyrocketing health care costs.

Officers aren't the only ones who suffer during crisis. Time after time, officers and family members complain of inadequate support programs and feelings of helplessness.

BRINGING MEANING and HOPE

Because of our boots-on-the-ground approach to ministry, Centurion's Chaplain can teach and instruct churches to care for those who need a trusted listening ear, an objective friend and confidant, and those who can't bear their burdens alone anymore. Centurion's Chaplain brings care and compassion to the Law Enforcement and 1st responder agencies, where it is needed most, and where we can make a meaningful difference for the Kingdom of God.

TRUSTED CHAPLAIN

28 years of Military service and 6 years of Law Enforcement chaplaincy and Chaplain to the US Secret Service gives us an understanding of the life of the First Responder, military member and veteran. Chaplain Russell maintains his chaplaincy endorsement with Chaplaincy Full Gospel Churches (CFGC), credentials with International Conference of Police Chaplains (ICPC) as Senior Police Chaplain and Instructor. He holds degrees in Ministry (M-Div.), Board Certified Chaplain, Traumatologist, and subject matter expert in Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS) and Moral Injury. Chaplain Russell gives assistance and guidance in resolving personal, social, or emotional behavioral problems and difficulties, especially effecting Law Enforcement officers, Fire Fighter Para Medical, Dispatchers and their families.

Centurion's Chaplain Provides: Classes on Self Care, Soul Repair, Suicide Intervention, Battle mind for the streets, Family/Marital Seminars, and Faith-based counseling. At Centurion's Chaplain, we believe that Jesus Christ is the answer to our greatest need. While we respect the faith boundaries of officers and supportive staff and adhere to the standards and expectations for a permission-based, secular ministry, when directly asked about our theological underpinnings, we are trained to respond from a Biblical Christian world view.

If you would like to contact us to assist you and partner to find ways that you and your congregation can go and fulfill the Great Commission to the world you can

contact us at www.centurionschaplain.org; email Chaplain Russell at chaplainjim@centurionschaplain.org or call us @ 254-404-5858/5859

SEARCH THE WORD MINISTRIES

John Humphrey



2018 was a year of stabilizing the ministry with putting a log of programs and ideas together. 2019 is shaping up to be the year of launching them. We are reaching out to all 38 state prisons in Wisconsin with information about our correspondence Bible School for the inmates. Our goal is to have an information packet to each and every chaplain this month. At this time we are in the largest prison in the state at Stanley, WI which has over 1,200 inmates. This is group of men and women who are living in search of a new way of life and we are praying that we may be able to guide many of them to the Word of God, which will in turn guide them the rest of their lives. I would like to ask you to please pray for us as we move ahead with reaching out to the many prisoners in the state. This is the main group we are trying to reach this year with the Gospel, to bring the Light of the Gospel to the dark world that they are living in.

We offer our Bible Correspondence School to anyone interested in learning the Word of God in a deeper sense. This program is available to everyone and on a free-will offering basis. I would like to encourage you to prayerfully consider enrolling in this program.

We are looking forward to reaching more and more people in 2019 – those in prisons, both physical and spiritual ones. To do so, we need your help with your prayers and giving. May God richly bless you and your family.

Email: searchthewordministries@gmail.com
Phone: 715-693-2896

In Loving Memory of Pastor Don Grosvenor



Pastor Don Grosvenor, 84, passed away peacefully in his home on Friday, March 15, 2019 in Phoenix, Arizona. Don was an evangelist, founder of Phoenix Christian Assembly which he pastored for 59 years, missionary, gospel music promoter, as well as a local television host and radio personality. He served on the AGIF Board of Elders from 2006 until 2016.

He attended Central Bible College, Springfield, Missouri and Belin Memorial University, Chillicothe, Missouri and also had two honorary doctrinal degrees conferred upon him as well. He is survived by his wife Gerri of 62 years, three children Steve, Daniel, Rebecca, seven grandchildren Randy, Jonathan, Joel, David, Matthew, Mitchell, Mariah, and one great grandson Andrew. Preceded in death by son David, sister Melba rose, and parents John and Genevieve.

Services were held Saturday March 23 at Phoenix Christian Assembly (2030 N 36th St, Phoenix, AZ) the family requests that in lieu of flowers donations can be made to Phoenix Christian Assembly foreign Mission Fund or Summer Camp Fund.

It's All About the King & His Kingdom

Some Musings from The Word
[Sermon from 2019 AGIF San Diego Conference]

Dr. Stan DeKoven

Life in the kingdom

I was meditating on the scripture from Romans below, and thinking about the writer, Paul the apostle. Paul was likely in Corinth when he penned this letter, designed to address issues in the church in Rome (especially regarding the Judaizers) and to lay a foundation of understanding to help them in their journey. I can only assume that Paul the great apostle, as he wrote this letter, continuously envisioned his great King Jesus and His ever-expanding Kingdom...knowing that nothing could ultimately interfere with its fulfillment.

From the beginning of the New Testament era until the present, the message we are to preach is that the Kingdom of God is here, because the King has come, and we are invited to participate as a kingdom of priests (in worship and service) in seeing his Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. The fact is, John the Baptist declared it, Jesus preached it, as did Peter and Paul. We see and enter the Kingdom at our new birth. Further, we often move into our kingdom destiny through suffering. We pray His Kingdom come, as it is always advancing, with words and power.

Thus, my premise in this article is simple: The Kingdom of God is what matters most, and the manifestation of the Kingdom of God is to be seen on earth, as the church preaches and proclaims the Good News that the King has come and He shall (present and future) reign forever.

Paul Teaches on Priorities

I was raised in a wonderful community church, but one with a very narrow view of the Kingdom. The

Kingdom had been postponed until the millennial reign at Christ' return. Further, they believed that they were the only doctrinally pure church on the planet! Being right about everything is a difficult burden to bare. Anyway, much of the teaching of the church was once saved—never sure...with constant concern that one might sin just before dying and would lose their salvation. In fact, in their sincerity, their desire was to see all of us live a holy life, but most of the holiness was external, behavioral, and impossible to obtain...I know, I tried and failed miserably. My church was very concerned about living right, which meant don't smoke or chew or go with girls who do! In some ways the church in Rome was struggling with these important issues, law versus grace, freedom versus correct behavior, and one of the many reasons that Paul wrote his missive to that dynamic but religiously confused Church.

In Romans 14:1-17 we read: *"As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.*

One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived

again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

Let me briefly summarize Paul's admonition (of course, from my personal perspective:

We all judge—or evaluate people and things. This is to be truly human. However, we must not judge with a hypocritical judgment, but we must love people, even in their differences, and know people by their fruit. It is true that we have been called to freedom or liberty, and there is a lot of room for differences in the Kingdom of God. If God wanted everyone to look alike, he would have designed us that way. Thank God for the variety. At the same time, though we are free, and by Paul's view more mature, we are never to be a stumbling block to a brothers' or sisters' walk in Christ, as this would be the opposite of living in love. What scripture does not forbid is permissible., but we should never allow our liberty or maturity to cause others to stumble in their faith...though we acknowledge the offended as the weaker brother or sister. Remember, and our focus in ministry, is The Kingdom, or God's rule over everything everywhere, with a manifestation of the following primary characteristics:

Righteousness

By definition, righteousness is moral right relating, and speaks of our relationships in general...with God,

ourselves, our neighbors and even our enemies. When we are born again, our spirit is made alive, we are a New Creation...but our mind needs to be renewed, our bodies ultimately transformed. This is a process, but it begins with our salvation. God has imparted to us righteousness, provided through our redemption (Eph 1:7); reckoned by faith (Gen 15:6, etc.); it must be received (Ja. 1:12), as we are rescued (2 Pe. 2:9) and wrapped in righteousness (Is. 61:10), which has been restored to us, as to Job (Job 33:26). This is to be experienced at the new birth, and to continue, for without Righteousness, there is no...

Peace

Peace is that sense of tranquility...the "ahhhhh" in the storm, I am at rest. We know that Jesus is our peace, and we cannot have peace without righteousness. Peace is provided because of our pardon (Isa. 55:7) and has been granted to us through Christ, which provides our position (Eph. 2:6) in Christ, seated in the heavenlies. Peace is ours to possess (Obadiah 17, Col 1:20) and is most profoundly experienced in his presence (Ps. 23)

And, where there is peace, in his presence, we find the fullness of...

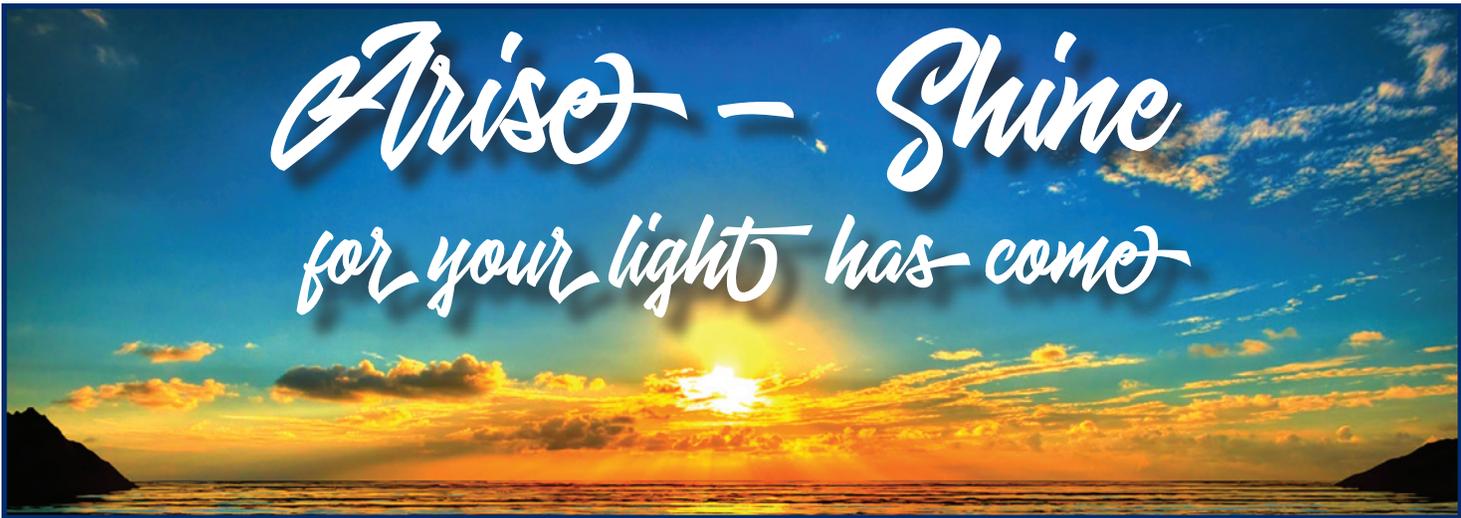
Joy

Joy is divine delight. Jesus is joy fulfilled (Heb 12, 1 John). We have joy due to Christ's justification for us. Joy means no judgment (Rom. 8:1). It is our strength for our journey (Isa. 54:17, 3 John 2). And all of these benefits are provided to us in the Holy Spirit.

Our Response

In the Kingdom of God, as a kingdom of priests, we are to be focused on things that really matter. Ultimately, that is to see our great King, Jesus, lifted up, and honored everywhere. This begins with our own righteousness, peace and joy, leading to the nations submitting to His righteousness (becoming a holy nation), so they can experience the peace and joy of the Lord. Thus, the Great Commission (Matt. 28) motivated by the Great Commandment (Matt. 22:37-40) is what we are to be about—for the glory of God.





The theme of the 2019 AGIF conference which was held in San Diego, January 22-24 was "Arise, shine, for your light has come..." The Scripture taken from Isaiah 60 is a call to action for God's people in face of the darkness that covers the earth. The reason for our boldness and encouragement is that "our light has come." We recall the words from John's gospel, "the light has shined in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it." Our featured guest speaker for the conference was Dr. David Shibley of Global Advance, a ministry that equips leaders to fulfill the Great Commission. Dr. Shibley preached on "Defeating Discouragement" and "Why We Go." The conference heard from missionaries, pastors and teachers and we were blessed with the music of Miss Lillie Knauls.





The 2019 recipient of the AGIF Founders Award is someone who spends countless hours behind-the-scenes, organizing and encouraging others with joy and enthusiasm because he is serving Jesus. Joe Willis began his career in banking and in the 1970's he became involved with Christian radio, eventually as a general manager and owner. This was his passion. Joe was a charter member of the Southwest National Religious Broadcasters and an active board member for 25 years, as well as serving a term as president.

Joe Willis is a great ambassador for AGIF. Several times a year he calls the office, requesting us to send more magazines. He keeps spreading the word about this fellowship to many people. He has sponsored many members and in 2016 he organized and promoted the AGIF conference in Dallas.

Joe and his wife Irene have been married for 61 years. They have two daughters, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Their daughter Carol and her husband came from Texas to see Joe receive this honor.

Joe Willis has a Barnabas spirit and has always been willing to come alongside and be a ministry helper. He is an innovator and he possesses a quiet, gentle spirit. He is a worthy recipient of the 2019 AGIF Founders Award!



An International Fellowship of
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