



Pastor's Reflections- On Mission in India



Pastor Ed and the Williams family now back from their mission in India. Remember Debi in your prayers also – that God would heal her in a miraculous way.

Article- The State of Discipleship in the 21st Century - Part 2 - *Absolutes Lost*

God is *absolute Truth, absolute Love, absolute Mercy – He IS Absolute!*

Friedrich Nietzsche and his atheistic philosophy have negatively impacted cultures worldwide. While many were responsible for stoking the flames of postmodernism, one could assert that Nietzsche poured on the gasoline. Colson and Vaughn tell of Nietzsche's parable of the madman seeking God in the marketplace screaming "I seek God! I seek God!" Heckled by the marketplace crowd, he glowered at them crying "We have killed him [God] – you and I. . . . how have we done this? How could we swallow up the sea? . . . What will we do as the earth is set loose from its sun?"¹

Colson goes on to explain that "Nietzsche's point was not that God does not exist, but that God has become irrelevant. . . . God is dead not because He does not exist, but because we live, play, procreate, govern, and die as if He doesn't."² Modernity took its last gasp as the tsunami of postmodernism and deconstructionism sucked it down, capsizing the church along with the culture.

The culture, believers, and thus the Church alike are now firmly mired in the age of postmodernism and deconstructionism. A fairly long word "'deconstructionism'; chiefly it is 'a form of interpreting a text.'"³ Thus the meaning of words are no longer absolute, but become relative. That is to say, the word spoken by a person is not the dictionary meaning of the word.

I believe we are in the last days; very likely near the end. When one looks at the spectrum of spiritual warfare arrayed against the Church today it becomes clear that Christ's Church must immediately return to its biblical mandate to "make disciples" as modeled in Scripture. It is time to band together as brothers and sisters in Christ and recapture the spirit and truth of bona fide worship by recapturing the "awe and fear of God. The genuine Christian needs to stop merely paying lip service to spiritual development and begin to take their discipleship seriously.

George Barna, in a survey of Church leaders, said only 1 percent of "today's churches are doing very well at discipling new and young believers." A sizable majority – six in 10 – feels that churches are discipling "not too well." *Donald Edwards*

Bible- *Now large crowds were going along with Him, and He turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple (Matthew 14:25-26; NASB).*

¹ Charles Colson, Ellen Santilli Vaughn, *Kingdoms in Conflict* (co-published by William Morrow and Zondervan Publishing House, 1987), 181.

² Ibid.

³ Geisler, *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics*, adapted, ¹⁹².

Missions- On Mission Narrative-Middle East

Joseph and Salome have lived in a Central Asian country for the past 21 yrs. They have three boys, Josiah (21), Andrew (19) and Caleb (16) who have grown up overseas. Josiah and Andrew are in the states in college. Caleb is still at home with his parents and is a Junior at an international school. Pray for Caleb's salvation; he hasn't fully committed himself to the Lord yet.

Salome volunteers as a substitute teacher at her son's international school. She's also involved in a Henna ministry. Henna is a natural dye made from henna leaves that stains the skin temporarily; a beautiful art form. They use it as a means to engage people with the gospel. The Henna Ministry team has created some unique designs that symbolize stories from the Bible such as Creation-to-Christ, the Prodigal Son, the Woman with the Issue of Blood and others. One person administers the henna; another tells the Bible story and engages the ladies with the Bible story and the gospel.

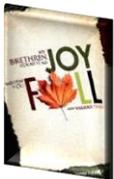
Joseph is quite busy with theological education through a legal association here. He gives Master's courses to local believers in an MDiv program. He also gives seminars in local churches on Church History 2, Knowing God, and Controversial Theology Questions. It takes a lot of time to prepare these courses both in English, then put it into the local language and have it culturally appropriate.

He translates it himself or gets it translated and then checks to be sure the translations are accurate. The time spent is worth it as some students are current or future leaders or lay leaders of local churches. He loves engaging with the students and seeing them learn and grow in the faith.

Please pray for strength, insight, wisdom and guidance for Joseph as he prepares these topics throughout this school year and for the students to learn, grow and be challenged in their understanding and faith, to come to a deeper love for the Lord and His Word and then be able to study and teach accurately, leading and forming healthy churches that will thrive and flourish for the glory of God.

Bible Studies-

Both the Men's and Women's studies will be on James' Epistle. Coming to Jesus is not an insurance policy, assurance of wealth, or free ride to heaven. Salvation means **now life gets real**. James designed his letter to exhort, encourage, challenge, convict, to rebuke and revive. He defines practical holiness to drive believers toward the goal of a faith that works.



Women's 6-week study on the book of James begins Mon. Oct. 3rd at 6pm & Weds. at 4pm. James is a book too often ignored. In this inductive study you will learn to stay focused on Christ regardless of life's winds, trials, and detours. We *are* justified by faith and grace, but need to follow hard after God's plan.



First Friday Men's Breakfast resumes Fri. Nov. 4th at 8am using O.S. Hawkins study *Getting Down to Brass Tacks*. It is a 13-part study on the book of James dealing with faithfulness to God in times of trial and living our lives as a witness regardless of the sufferings of life. It will be taught by Pastor Ed.

Member's Prayer Requests

1. Debi Pruitt-peace & quick healing
2. Pat Taylor

