

# inspire LOUISIANA

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THE GOOD NEWS PUBLICATION OF LOUISIANA



## On our knees Lord

By J. R. Skains | skainsbousa@yahoo.com

Where else can we be but ON OUR KNEES LORD in times like these in the Baton Rouge Metro area? An old fashion Christian Hymnal reads like this: "Where can we go but to the Lord?" Another old song from the 1950's with great prophetic words comes to mind: "No matter how hard I struggle and strive, I can't get out of this life alive." We will examine later the meanings of each of these song titles plus the implications of On Our Knees Lord in this discourse but first for some statistics.

Baton Rouge has one of the highest per capital murder rate in our nation of lawlessness and violence. It is a misnomer to even use the words LAW and ORDER to describe any part of the violence that is sweeping our area. It is physically dangerous for anyone, even law enforcement people to live in the environment of violence that is so pronounced in our midst. We are only a breath away from death if we leave our houses and filled with apprehension in our locked, clogged, camered, and guarded homes.

So, where do we go from here? Pour more money into a corroded bloated bureaucracy that claims to represent the Law Enforcement and Justice Systems? Nor has the practice of funding non-profit cheesy organizations of friends of the powers-that-are shown any significant results of lowering crime. By funding every so-called "self-help-not-for-profit-group" that has wormed their way close to the throne of power, we have only increased crime by the way of "graft and greed" with many "barons of power" building their own little fiefdom of illegal

activity.

It sounds like from all evidence available that it is high time to dust-off that old Book that has been so casually referred to as the: Golden Rule Book, or Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth. Or as God's opponent's refer to it, the Book of Myths and Fables.

However, there are some who still refer correctly although in ever diminishing circles correctly as the HOLY SCRIPTURES. Let us take a look at what that grand-old book, the BIBLE has to tell us:

*"The Word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to dividing asunder the soul and the spirit, the joints and the marrow and is a critic of thoughts and intents of the heart."*

– Hebrews 4:12

*"He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully persuaded that, what God has promised, He will be able to perform."*

– Romans 4:20-21

*"If my people who are called by name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven and will forgive them of their sin and heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers made in this place."*

– 2 Chronicles Chapter 7 – Verses 14-15

See **KNEES** Page 6

## Inspire Louisiana is back

It is very interesting to report that Inspire Louisiana is back in print, publishing faith-based news and encouraging spiritually edifying articles. It is our prayer and intent that you will find printed copies of Inspire Louisiana around the Baton Rouge area as you did back in 2015. Our online publishing is in PDF format, so you can download what we post on our InspireLouisiana.com website for your reading pleasure and encouragement.

We suspect of the "Powers that Be" – local, state and national – that once they discover we are the same core group which in 2015 were evangelizing the Word of God, and promoting the Great Commandment of Christ: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength; and your neighbor as yourself;" they'll seek to put us out of business again! If that be the case, so be it; however, we believe the power of God is stronger than all that may muster against us.

Back in 2015, when we initially began publishing Inspire Louisiana, our company was a not-for-profit 501-C3 corporation. Such corporations are within the purview of the Internal Revenue Service; and in the year 2016 our "non-profit" status was revoked when it was determined that the better part of our mission was spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ and encouraging spiritual renewal.

You will recall, the devastating Flood of August 2016 was a near-death knell for the economy of South Louisiana. Rather than adopting a commercial advertising base for financially supporting the publication of InspireLouisiana, we decided not to solicit advertising from financially-strapped businesses that survived the flood.

Much has transpired since Inspire Louisiana ceased publishing in 2016, and the changes over the past six years have NOT been all good, nor fruitful, for Baton Rouge. Violent crime, and all crimes in general, has skyrocketed – particularly murder. The murder rate in the middle years of the last decade averaged sixty homicides per year. Now the Baton Rouge murder rate has topped 140 in 2021 alone – the highest in the city's history.

Statistics indicate that upward of five percent of the population of EBR parish, and city of Baton Rouge are what the Chief of Police and other local officials have termed "bad actors" (i.e., criminal miscreants). In raw numbers that equals nearly 20,000 "bad actors" who are assumed to be armed and dangerous. For military-minded Folk, we know that 20,000 people is the size of two Divisions of soldiers. So, we have potentially two Army-size Divisions of "bad-actors" in our area to deal with.

Just considering, for a moment, the violent crime and murder rate in the area, we know there is a humongous dis-connect between what is happening on the streets and what SHOULD BE occurring based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. And it is worth noting that Baton Rouge is a city where there is an established church congregation or house of religious devotion on practically every street corner! It begs the question: Just what is being taught and preached, what role models and exemplary behavior patterns are being set forth in many of these churches?

Our core group made little to no deliberate nor concerted first effort to relaunch Inspire Louisiana. Various critical and even unexpected factors simply assembled into place and presented themselves in short order. It is as though we were suddenly offered the prime opportunity to start a Christian Faith-based publication. So we stood tall and said: "Here we are, Lord; send us to the front lines."

So by the Grace and Mercy of God, we at Inspire Louisiana stand ready to tackle and accomplish that which we are led to do by our great God: to help reclaim Baton Rouge and surrounding area from the clutches of His demonic Adversaries.

# Baton Rouge Pastor Dr. Tommy French celebrates his 92nd birthday with a rare interview

By J. R. Skains | skainsbousa@yahoo.com

Most Pastors don't fade away or retire but merely begin blessing those around them with precious memories of those who have gone on before us to Glory-land. And so it was with Brother French when he sat down with me on his 92 birthday to discuss something that he was part of about fifty years ago that is still going strong today.

Dr. French, a young energetic Texas lad who came to Baton Rouge almost by happenstance it would seem except that Brother French, although young to the Mission field he knew at that time knew that God was guiding his footsteps. Brother French and his wife Mary were attending a church service Fairfield Baptist Church in Baton Rouge while visiting his parents on the night that Pastor Fletcher Hart announced that Fairfield Baptist was going to sponsor a "Mission Church" located on Lanier Drive to be appropriately named Lanier Baptist Church.

"When Pastor Hart announced that Fairfield Baptist Church was going to sponsor a "Mission Church" on Lanier Street in North Baton Rouge, I thought to myself, now that is something exciting that I would like to do," Pastor French recalled that night some 65 years ago. "Little did I know that I would soon be selected by Pastor Palmer at First Baptist Baton Rouge to develop a church on property they owned way out in the edge of town on Jefferson Highway."

"When you have church services on Sunday and Wednesday night and do all the other things that a "Mission Pastor" does in between services, time passes so fast," Pastor French acknowledged about his beginning days at what became known as Jefferson Baptist Church. "And then, to top all that activity, I met a real Jena Giant who played such a vital role in my ministry here at Jefferson Baptist."

"T. W. Terral was from Jena, Louisiana by the way of being a pastor in Pineville. He was directed to Lanier Baptist Church by our Higher Power where he served for 28 years. Not only did Brother Terral become my "unpaid assistant" here at Jefferson Baptist but he led the charge to guarantee when Cablevision first brought cable TV to Baton Rouge, that our faith based community had a channel reserved for broadcasting our church services forever as long as the Cable Charter was in operation."

"Brother Terral was the epitome of what you would desire in a Pastor," Brother French stated. "He was faith based to the Nth degree and well versed in scripture and as tenacious as what he used to refer to as a "Piney Woods Rooter" woods hog. Every so often, the Cable Channel wanted to eliminate what they referred to as the "Religious Channel" to replace it with more fantasy from Hollywood."

"So, Brother Terral and some of us would go down and meet with the powers that were and pointed out that the Charter Cablevision first had and now Cox has to provide cable TV service to Baton Rouge,

guaranteed that the faith-based community would have at least one Religious Channel," Dr. French pointed out. "It was not easy for us to keep a channel for worship services going. It took a bulldog attitude type man like TW Terral to keep it going."

"Our Christian faith is being tested like at no other time in my lifetime. There are so many distractions to keep people from not only attending church services but serving in the Churches which is so very important in building a church and maintaining a church. To compete for the time of our younger generations is the key to the future of our churches as we know them today. It seems that the only time most people want to acknowledge God is when a death occurs to someone close to them and so often it is even then only a fleeting focus of the spiritual aspects of life."

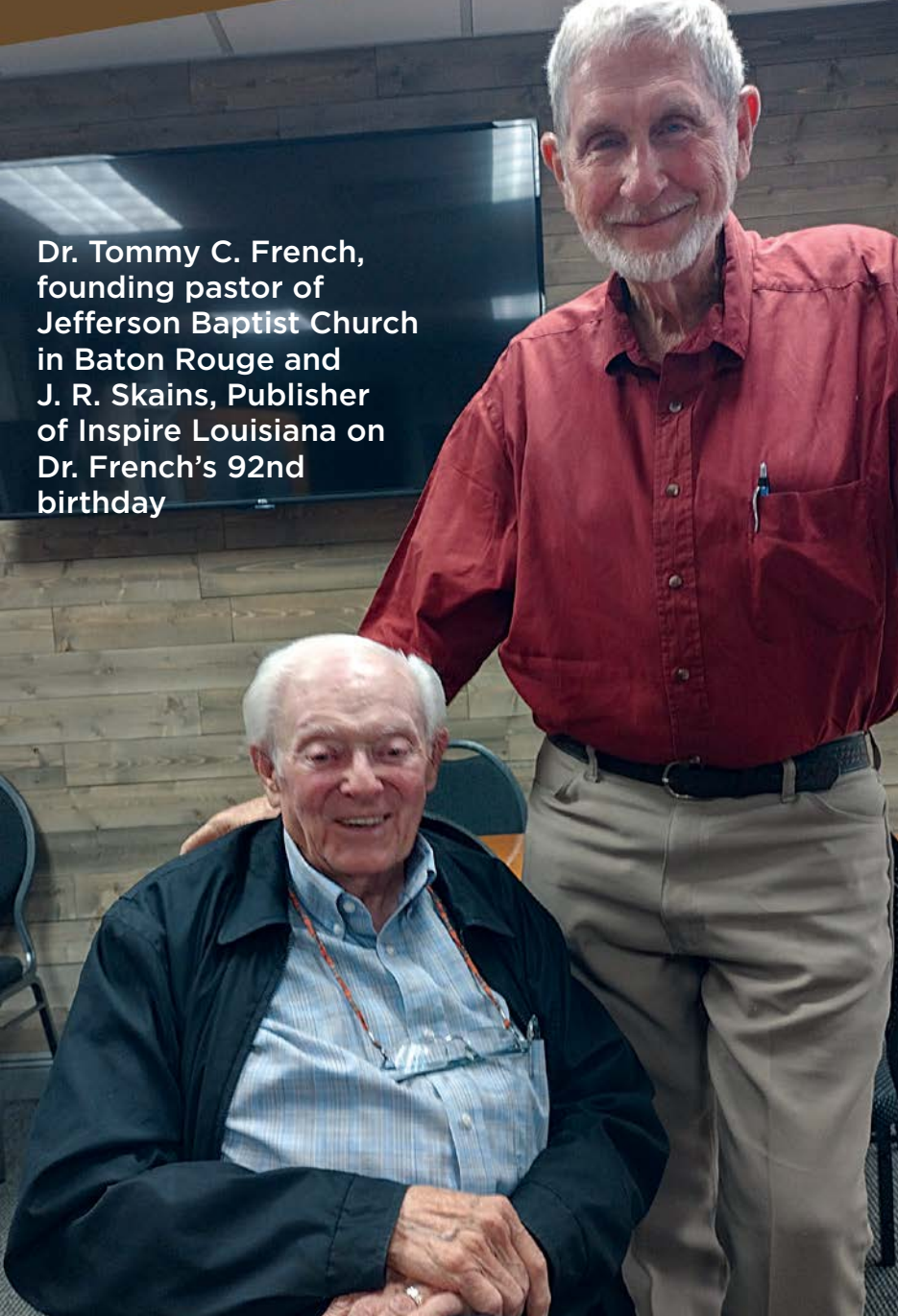
"Could we now in today's society and culture go out to the edge of Baton Rouge or any other city and start a church from scratch like we did here at Jefferson Baptist 64 years ago?" Dr. French questioned. "That is a very good question and the answer would be that it would be next to humanly impossible except all things are possible with our mighty God."

"My commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ actually started in 1948 when I heard a sermon on the radio delivered by Billy Graham on the steps of our national Capitol in Washington, D.C.," Dr. French recalled with clarity. "I told my wife, Mary, we're going to quit our jobs and enroll at Baylor University in Waco, Texas and then go to Seminary which we did at Southwest Theological Seminary in Fort Worth."

"I worked almost full-time at a trucking company in Waco while we were going to Baylor," Dr. French related. "I also worked in the Trucking Industry while I was attending Southwest Seminary which served me well because when I first came to Baton Rouge to visit my Mom and Dad, I found a job with a local trucking company because of my years of experience in moving freight while attending school."

"When I was selected to become the Mission Minister for the too-be Jefferson Baptist, I was still working full time for the trucking company here in Baton Rouge," Dr. French recalled those exciting days back in the 1950's. "That was what made it such a difficult decision to turn down the Greenwell Springs Baptist pastor's position because it paid a good salary and I would have been able to quit my trucking company job and focused entirely on Ministry."

"But it all turned out well because I could feel



Dr. Tommy C. French, founding pastor of Jefferson Baptist Church in Baton Rouge and J. R. Skains, Publisher of Inspire Louisiana on Dr. French's 92nd birthday

the hand of the Lord leading me to do the Mission Church work," Dr. French explained. "It seemed that each time we needed something or somebody to fill a slot in the Mission Church work, someone would always turn up to fill that need."

"It was in November of 1963 that Brother TW Terral was brought into my life," Dr. French recalled. "What a difference that Man of God made in my life and in the faith community of Baton Rouge. His contributions were and are still immeasurable to Kingdom work here in Baton Rouge."

"In November of 2008, I had the revelation that it was time for me to consider finding a replacement, so I told the Church leaders here at Jefferson and they formed a search committee for a new pastor," Dr. French explained. "That is how we find Dr. Goza, another Texas boy. Its hard to believe now that its been fourteen years ago that we made the change."

"My wife, Mary, passed away and after a considerable time, I remarried to a very Godly woman, Sue, who had been attending church here at Jefferson Baptist for 45 years," Dr. French said in elaborating on his post-retirement life. "I still teach my Sunday school classes which I've been doing for 64 years. I stay very busy for a guy who is celebrating his 92nd birthday today on August 10."

"Sadly to say, but within the last few years, I preached the Celebration of Life Service for both TW and his wife here at Jefferson. It seems that TW and I are still attached because his son-in-law, Dr. Jeffery Burnam is my doctor and has helped me through some heart issues."

"But above all else, I have been highly blessed and favored since I decided to follow Jesus and submit my life to the Gospel and Kingdom work," Dr. French said in conclusion.

## Book Review

# Intimacy And Marriage: How To Engage Your Wife's (Even Strong) Emotions

by Walter Hackney

By J. R. Skains | skainsbousa@yahoo.com

Rarely does a book challenge the prevailing paradigm and succeed. In much the same vein as the child who said out loud that the emperor has no clothes or that Galileo (and others) did not believe that the earth was the center of the universe, Hackney objects to the practices that most men and women use to have a successful marital relationship (as well as presenting a viable alternative)!

Many people seem to fall in love and then often later fall out of love. Almost everyone has either personally experienced a divorce or had a friend or family member go through the tragedy of a divorce (this could also include a couple who live together, have at least one child, and then part ways). This book centers on one skill (and a host of supporting skills) as key in not only avoiding a divorce but being a foundation for a long and mutually satisfying relationship between a man and a woman.

The author makes several assumptions:

- The great majority of men are clueless about how most women are in high pain as well as how to appropriately connect with a woman and her, especially painful, emotions.
- Most women are willing to settle, at least initially, for a man who does not connect with them deeply (like Charlotte Lucas in *Pride and Prejudice*).
- Males are often the cause of a woman's pain, and therefore a man should be involved in the process of easing or even taking away that pain.
- Men can best learn marital skills by practicing them in the midst of an safe intentional men's group and then transferring them in their marriage.
- Women can be in same gender groups and work on skills, such as clearly communicating with a man about how they would like to be treated.
- The great majority of marriages can be resurrected.

Buying and reading this book can be more effective (and much less costly!) than a divorce or years of marital counseling.

The target audience for *Intimacy and Marriage* certainly includes men and women who are in a troubled or distressed marriage; this book may be used as a last resort before divorce. However, this book could be useful to those individuals who are single, between relationships, in premarital counseling, presently in an amicable marriage, about to experience an empty nest, or are already divorced.

While many Christian and Jewish readers will be fairly familiar with many of the Bible stories, most will have their interest piqued at the particular lens that Hackney uses. Some of the real heroes of the faith, for example Abraham, Jacob, and David, fall short of the mark of engaging their wives' strong emotions. (Pastors could this material for a sermon – or even a series – and Sunday school classes or other small groups could study these stories one by one.) Even those outside those religious traditions may ponder deeply some of these lesser known or odd stories such as Huldah and Tamar. I would not be surprised if female readers cry, laugh, or get angry as they read this book or if male readers will be initially confused and have to read certain sections more than once. Almost all will come away with a different take on the Bible and relations between the sexes.

The contents of I&M include:

1. The cost of a divorce
2. Biblical stories of women in pain in relation with at least one clueless male
3. The reality of the pain women experience
4. The author's failures, especially early in his marriage
5. A "typical" marriage
6. A definition of intimacy
7. Same-gender small group safety
8. Harmful relational habits men can avoid
9. Strategies women can use to get well
10. How a man can receive his wife's emotions
11. How a man can enter his wife's emotions
12. How a man can engage his wife's emotions
13. Biblical stories of men who were able to receive, enter, and even engage a woman's emotions
14. The author's gaining of skills in regards to engaging a woman's strong emotions
15. An atypical (much better!) marriage



(The book does not have to be read from front to back. The reader is free to read first any parts of the book that are intriguing. Later, one may be interested in reading the other sections that fill in the gaps.)

In addition, two appendices include more Bible stories of women in pain as well as an overview of George MacDonald's *The Marquis' Secret* (where the main character Malcolm does an excellent job in engaging the strong emotions of many different women, including piquing the interest of the woman he eventually marries).

The husband who invests the time and energy to appropriately engage his wife's emotions will be tempted to stay in his marriage, as opposed to finding a new woman, losing all of his investment, and starting all over again. Similarly, the wife who has a husband who engages her emotions is not going to be as tempted to look elsewhere, when she is already treated well.

Hackney builds on the tradition of marriage experts like Gary Smalley, John Trent, Willard Harley, and Susan Johnson as well as family systems practitioners like Peter Steinke. He adds his own experience of walking alongside men in troubled marriages to construct a model for relational health. This mixture produces a compelling vision for a long-term, intimate relationship between a man and a woman. He also shares insights and stories from over thirty years of pastoral experience and men's ministry leadership.

## WADE EVANS MAYOR THE CHANGE WE NEED

On November 8, you have a clear choice to change direction in Central. I have previously discussed my plans as how I will change directions for the City; but I want to share with you who I am. I was born in Central and have spent most of my life in Central. I grew up on Joor Rd. near Core Lane and love the rural feel of the area. I am a trained HVAC technician but have spent most of my working life as a self-employed business owner. For almost 20 years, my landscaping business provided for me and my family; however, the flood of 2016 caused me to change direction in my career. I became a distributor of cabinets and have become a custom cabinet builder.

My wife, whom I have been lucky enough to call my partner, has been by side for 30 years. We have three children that spent many years in the Catholic school system. Our son will graduate St. Michael high this year with honors. One daughter is a freshman at Central Private and our caboose is a sixth grader in a home school program. I am a member of St. Alphonsus church and enjoy fellowship and prayer with anyone who makes eye contact with me. My experiences as a husband, father, and business owner gives me the practical knowledge for problem solving and patience. I am not afraid to confront the issues and I will work with anyone to pull the rope across the line.

Please give me your vote on election day and let me be "THE CHANGE WE NEED," and VOTE Wade Evans for MAYOR of CENTRAL. As always, my number is phone # is 225.413.6473.

– Thank you,  
Wade Evans



# We Are In The Midst Of Horrifying Spiritual

## Warfare Battle

### Says Pastor

### Daryl Purpera

Pastor Daryl Purpera of the FBCC teaching a Bible Study on Spiritual Warfare at Me'Pa's Diner in Central



By J. R. Skains | skainsbousa@yahoo.com

**W**e are in the midst of a horrifying Spiritual Warfare battle and Satan is winning," Pastor Daryl Purpera, pastor of First Baptist Church Central told Inspire Louisiana recently. "People are dying everyday and according to their obituaries, everyone is going to heaven. But I'm here to tell you as a preacher for our most high God, everybody doesn't go to heaven when they die."

"The most difficult task that any pastor faces is not preaching a sermon in the pulpit but officiating at a funeral where you don't know if the deceased ever had a personal relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ," Pastor Purpera explained. "If the deceased has never exhibited any attributes of Jesus Christ in their lives, then you can't preach about them going to heaven. All you can do is to tell the congregation about the wonderful life that awaits them when they make Jesus Christ the focus in their life."

"If anyone wants to know what a God-less society looks like, all you have to do is look around you," Pastor Purpera, who started his Christian pastoral journey nearly thirty years ago as an assistant-Youth Pastor noted. "Our society is now influenced from top to bottom by Satanic forces. The forces of evil no longer try to hide their intentions; everything is in plain sight and its a terrible sight."

Daryl Purpera first became interested in youth ministry in the late 1990's. "It seemed that the Youth Groups were always short of adults to help so I volunteered as a Counselor at a Summer Youth Camp. I enjoyed my experience especially seeing the beauty in kids finding out about the joy and happiness available to them in the Christian way of life."

"I noticed that the more I worked in Youth Ministry, the happier I became," Pastor Purpera stated. "I finally decided that I could be more effective in Youth Ministry if I obtained some formal training in the Ministry so I enrolled long-distance at Trinity Bible College in Andersonville, Georgia."

"I was at Greenwell Springs Baptist Church as Assistant Youth Pastor for a number of years, then became Youth Minister there before coming over to First Baptist Church Central as Youth Pastor, then getting promoted to lead pastor," Pastor Purpera said in recalling his journey. "It was while I was an Assistant

Youth Minister that I did my first funeral. That was an amazing experience."

"The Youth Minister at the time, knew the deceased but for some reason he had to go out of town the day of the funeral, so he left it in my hands. He did prep me for what was to come. Apparently, both sides of the family hated each other so there was going to be a 10 o'clock service for one side of the family and another at 11 o'clock for the other side of the family."

"I get to the funeral home about 9:15 am hoping to pick up a little information about the deceased whom I had never seen or heard of before," Pastor Purpera recalled. "About 9:30, both sides of the family came into the funeral home. And you can probably guess what happened; they began to fight. I looked at the Funeral Director who told me: 'We'll just let them fight as long as they don't break anything.'"

"I was fortunate to be raised in a family with a Believing daddy and mother," Pastor Purpera pointed out. "My dad, who is still going strong in his mid-eighties is one of the most faithful believers that I know. He has been a very good influence in my life."

"In his younger days my dad did a lot of mission work including making trips to Nepal and the Himalayan Mountains. He was always looking for someone to tell them about his Jesus including during the many years he worked in the plants in Baton Rouge area."

Pastor Daryl Purpera has made it a priority in his ministry at First Baptist Church Central to do as much outreach as possible in the community. FBCC holds a Monday morning Bible Study at the Claiborne Retirement Center in the Shoe Creek development on Sullivan. FBCC also has an Honor Program designed to honor local Law Enforcement Officers. In addition, FBCC provides "snack foods" to the local law enforcement officers on a weekly basis.

"We are very active during Easter Week with a drive thru display telling the final days of Jesus' life, and His appointment with the cross," the Pastor of FBCC explained. "We also host a luncheon open to the public during Easter Week."

In a recent outreach Bible Study at MePa's Restaurant in Central on a Tuesday evening, Pastor Purpera was presenting a study on Spiritual Warfare. The particular aspect of Spiritual Warfare under

discussion was Angels when Pastor Purpera asked the class: "Has anyone seen an Angel?" No one in the assembled group acknowledged of having actually seen an angel. So, Pastor Purpera related this story.

"I've never seen an angel either but my Mother did. My Mother was extremely sick with Ovarian Cancer and was in a hospital in Natchez at the time. The doctors told us, the family, that they had done all they could and there was no more treatment available and her time was short. We wanted to pray with my Mother but she was very distraught with the news from the doctors, and didn't want us to pray with and for her, so most of us left including my Dad."

"About halfway home, my Dad said: 'Turn around, we're going back. The Spirit is telling me to go back and pray,' Pastor Purpera recalled the events of that day. "This time we won't ask her permission but will just go in her room and pray as the spirit leads us. So that was what we did with my Dad leading the pray."

"The family went into the room, surrounded her bed, held hands and my Dad said a very fervent touching prayer. When he finished praying, my mother said in a loud forceful voice; "Wow!!"

"Our family then decided to take her home under hospice care to die or so we thought," Pastor Purpera explained. "She lived another ten years. About a year after the prayer in the hospital with my mother, I was talking with my sister about that day and told her that I was still puzzled as to why my mother, in such poor condition roused up and said, 'Wow' in such a forceful voice."

"I guess she never told you but she saw an Angel standing at the foot of the bed. That was why she said such a loud, 'Wow!," Pastor Purpera's sister revealed.

Daryl Purpera was bi-vocational during most of his career in the Ministry as his day job was with the Louisiana Legislative Auditors Office. For more than a dozen years, Purpera was the elected State Legislative Auditor.

"The biggest problem with that job was that no-body that got elected really wanted good government. Newly elected legislators would arrive in Baton Rouge all full of vim and vigor for good government but by their third legislative sessions they were mostly concerned about staying in office. I was glad when I got up enough courage with the good Lord's help to quit."

## DEVOTIONAL

### Proverbs 13:12

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

Our society often uses the scales of political correctness to weigh the value of a person. Can we rely on their fairness, balance, and accuracy?

Political correctness is marked by words like "sensitivity" and "tolerance," but when we place questions such as "Who am I?" and "Does my life have value?" on the scales, balance is impossible to achieve.

In spite of the fact that God created man and woman and declared them to be "very good," political correctness refuses to identify or define gender.

The politically-correct term is "pro-choice," but it equates to millions of babies annihilated each year in the name of a woman's prerogative. Their blood is on the hands of those that abort the innocent.

Political correctness has tipped the scales precariously out of balance. The effort to create order for every cause has resulted in chaos. Under the guise of equality, everything is unequal. In search of tolerance, Truth has been ousted and will not be recognized. Though it promises inclusion, those who refuse to conform to its agenda are slandered and vilified.

The scales of political correctness are not fair or faultless enough to measure the value of a human life. They rob us of our highest potential and bankrupt our future. This way that seems right to a man will surely lead to death.

### Today's Blessing:

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you and give you His peace. May you stand with conviction in your heart to speak the Truth of God with holy boldness to this generation!

### Today's Bible Reading:

#### Old Testament

Jeremiah 6:15-8:7

#### New Testament

Colossians 2:8-23

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalms 78:1-25

Proverbs 24:26

- JH Ministries



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*But if you turn aside and forsake my statues and my commandments that I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will destroy your land."*

– 2 Chronicles Chapter 7 – Verse 19

*"Oh give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for His steadfast love endures forever. Let those who fear the Lord say, "His steadfast love endures forever.*

– Psalm 118 Verses 1 & 4

*"Taking Jesus at His Word"*

– John 4 Verses 48 – 50

Verse 48: *So Jesus said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe."*

Verse 49: *The official said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies."*

Verse 50: *Jesus said to him, "Go, your son will live."*

The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way. (and his son lived and it was determined that at the time Jesus spoke those words of joy to the boy's father that the son began a miraculous recovery.)

Let us turn our attention back to the first phrase mentioned above, where should we be but On Our Knees Lord? Where else should we be but on our knees before the Lord at this point in time? Have we not tried everything else that human power, prestige, and money can buy and it has proven futile year after year? The first hymn mentioned above is much like the first question; "Where Can We Go But To The Lord;" We sure can't go to the local government as they are fresh-out of any feasible ideas that tax money can provide. What about the State and Federales?

Well, the "state" which is made up of mostly elected "bureaucrats" who seem incapable for the most part of thinking "outside the box" their box hasn't provided any signs of relief from soaring crime rates. And going to the Federales to fix the local lawlessness problem is like the "pot asking the kettle" for instructions of how to boil water.

And the last song mentioned above, "No Matter How Much I Struggle and Strive, I Can't Get Out of This World Alive;" pretty much answers its own question. It begs the question of a "Higher Power." If it was humanly possible, I'm sure that somewhere along the line of the many brilliant people who have populated this globe called earth throughout human history, one or more persons would have figured out how to get out of this world alive and have at least a patent pending on the design. Right? Of Course!

So, why not employ a "Super-Natural Power" as described in the Holy Scriptures? No other book, written document or fable explains how the "Super-Natural Power" works better than the "Holy Scriptures." It's so simple: Believe, Receive and Ask in faith and it shall be granted. The Holy Scriptures as quoted early in this article are very clear of the action required:

*"If my people who are called by name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven and will forgive them of their sin and heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers made in this place."*

– 2 Chronicles 7:14

What is so difficult about trying something that is written in Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic, English and at least another two hundred languages? I don't see instructions in this verse at all difficult to understand. Well, let me qualify that a smidgen; some people may have a problem with that "humble-pie" phrase of this verse. But the reward would be great for just obedience sake. To achieve what this verse instructs might be challenging but take a look at the following plan of action:

#### A. FOOD GIFT-BOXES

An acknowledgment and appreciative salute to our uniformed Law Enforcement personnel and first Respondents with an on-going expression of "thanks" by providing Law Enforcement personal in the BR Metro Area with food gift-boxes consisting of pre-packaged processed deli-food and baked goods and some specially prepared foods by Church and Ministry groups. This Plan of Action (POA) could include weekly or bi-weekly "special" on-site cooking events featuring such items as Jambalaya, Pastalaya, Gumbos, and burgers and dogs. Currently, one Church group in the Central Area supplies the local Law Enforcement (CPD and EBR SO) with "snack-sacks" on a weekly basis.

#### B. WEEKLY BIBLE DISTRIBUTION AND DISCUSSION SESSIONS

We all live daily on the Edge of Eternity; however, since Satan is so super active these days, our law enforcement personnel live on the sharp edge never knowing when Satan will attack them through one of his Demons from Hell. Therefore, it would seem the Christian "thing" to do to add a little shield of protection to our law enforcement protective kit by providing them ready access to the most powerful shield ever known to mankind, a Christian Bible.

We think that Weekly Bible Distribution and Discussion Sessions per shift of law enforcement officers at the precinct/district level would be a step in the right direction for added protection. Christian historical literature recounts numerous instances whereby the Bible acted as a shield; stopping a bullet, turning a blade, adding courage at the right moment and enabling a kind word be spoken to tamp down a volatile scenario.

Bibles, perhaps pocket size would be provided to all Law Enforcement Personnel who would like to have added protection when on the Sharp Edge of Eternity. The Distribution/Discussion Sessions would take place in a window of time 20 minutes prior to the start of each shift. An open discussion of the grueling duties of law enforcement in the particular precinct/district level activity could result in the Faith Based Community of each area being able to interact with people in various forms of need.

#### C. AN INITIAL 90-DAY PRAYER-TIME FLY-OVER OF EBR PARISH

The 90-Day Prayer-Time "Fly-Overs" of EBR Parish would be conducted in small private planes with a two-person Pastor Prayer Team that would be praying for God's mercy on our area to stem the violence the duration of the flight. These flights which would encompass a fly-over of all of EBR Parish each day would continue for 90 consecutive days weather permitting.

#### D. ACTIVE CHRISTIAN PRISON MINISTRY

Prison Ministries in general, whether local, statewide, national or international are world-wide Ministries in scope that have achieved great success in changing the direction of offenders' lives and reducing recidivism. Offenders in Angola Prison, La Women's Prison and Dixon Correctional Institution in our area have greatly benefited from the prison Ministry Programs. The success rate of the New Orleans Seminary Ministry is unparalleled in producing the desired results with offenders. An active ongoing Prison Ministry in the EBR Parish Prison would be designed to accommodate the short term sentences or jail time of the offenders.

#### E. THE STOP THE VIOLENCE PRAYER BLANKET (STVPB)

The Prayer Blanket would work much like a "Prayer-Chain" used in Kairos Prison Ministries. Each Prayer-Blanket would consist of 12-five minutes increments per hour and for a total of 288-5 minute increments per a daily 24/7 time frame. It is anticipated that many of the Prayer-Blanket Prayer Warriors would take multiple time slots. Each individual participating in the STVPB would pray fervently on their knees for five minutes to God the Father through His precious Son, Jesus Christ, as our intercessor that God would intervene in the Baton Rouge area with His awesome grace gifts and dramatically reduce the violence.

#### F. THE PARTIAL AMNESTY REDEMPTION LEGISLATION (PARL)

The Partial Amnesty Redemption Legislation (PARL) would be developed with specific checks and balances as well as goals and achievements by the offenders to receive the benefits of the PARL. Two of the largest areas of quicksand in Prison Reform are Probation and Parole. The recorded criminal record that follows the Offender after release from actual prison confinement greatly hampers the released offender from gainful employment, and educational opportunities as well as financial well-being.

A great majority of offenders in prison and on parole or probation would desperately like to have a "Re-Set Button" for their lives. This writer can after more than fifteen years involvement in Prison Ministry envision the PARL program being highly successful especially with the younger offenders and middle-aged prisoners who have spent years in confinement. The economic value of the PARL program to the economy of Louisiana and to the annual State Budget would be absolutely overwhelmingly positive.

Under a strict set of guidelines and checks and balances, a qualified offender would accept a certain lower sentence for his/her offense by accepting responsibility for their offenses and becoming a qualified model to re-enter society. First, the offenders taking advantages of the PARL Program would provide an awesome new well trained workforce to businesses in need of specifically trained employees. Secondly, the dramatic reduction in prison population would dramatically reduce state prison expenditures reducing a tax burden for Louisiana Taxpayers.

#### G. A GODLY SOLUTION:

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## Trees

Joyce Kilmer

*I think that i shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree.*

*A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;*

*A tree that looks at god all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;*

*A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;*

*Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.*

*Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only god can make a tree.*

This picture is in itself both glorious and profound. One of a dozen or more giant oak trees on the campus of Central Middle and Intermediate School was laid down in a minor wind event. Jimmy Culpepper, local Forester says "this grove of oak trees are at least a hundred years old. The property was owned by a Doctor from New Orleans who used the house on the property as his weekend getaway. Apparently, all the trees in the grove were planted by hand on some predetermined grid system."

# Christmas Past Present and Future

By J. R. Skains | skainsbousa@yahoo.com

Christmas 2022 is only about seven weeks in the near future from us as we go to press with our Inspire Louisiananewspaper. Will Christmas 2022 be more of a "hard-candy Christmas" for more people than usual this season? Inflation and stagnant wages will play a major factor into what kind of Christmas season we experience. The major emphasis will be on buying, giving and receiving material objects more than the real meaning of Christmas which is an acknowledgment of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and brotherly love.

The Apostle Paul wrote so gallantly in the Book of the Philippians: "I will be content in whatever my circumstances are." How many of us will actually be happy with our Christmas Season? My guess is that true happiness with Christmas is waning because we have taken our eyes off the reason for the season. We are all too caught up in the material world and influenced by a "Woke World Attitude." So many people who are succumbing slowly under the "woke influence" will be looking around and over their shoulders wondering if they are putting too much emphasis on the traditional Christmas spirit.

Christmases "past" is like Eternity Past; it's said and done, its history. We can either embrace our "Christmases Past" as joyful and memorable or

irrelevant and sad and try to erase them from our memory or distort them, but they all happened and we were part of them. My family celebrated Christmas as a time of rest, thanksgiving, small gifts, and plenty of food. But as we are forced into embracing the "Woke World Attitude," we are being indoctrinated to accept Christmas as a "Holiday," not as a celebration and acknowledgment of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The "Woke World Attitude" crowd must deemphasize the Christ in Christmas or they will ultimately fail in their dastardly quest to control the attitude of the world. Satan is having a field day with this distorted concept of "Wokeism." The root word "woke" can better be defined if we look at it as an acronym; "World Of Kaleidoscopic Enhancement," with Kaleidoscopic being further defined as an optical illusionist with an endless variety of colored forms.

The "Woke Crowd" has been attacking and laying the patchwork to destroy the true meaning as we know it of Christmas. Many of you may have already heard the voice of the "Woke" naysayers saying that Christmas Time could not be the birth of Christ because Shepherd's were living in the fields with their flock which they would not have been doing in December.

Another "Wokeism" in relationship to the origination of Christmas was that it begin in Finland as a mid-winter festival was held commemorating the

long winter season. A group of Finnish entrepreneur's (supposedly) came up with the idea that if they could give the Mid-Winter Finnish Festival a "Christian Ring" to it, that the Finnish Festival renamed Christmas would boomer-rang. If that be so, then those Finnish Entrepreneurs were certainly successful beyond their wildest expectations.

How big a deal is the "Woke" idea of eliminating "Christ" from Christmas? Well, first of all Christmas is not exactly a world-wide celebration. Muslim and Jewish people certainly don't celebrate Christmas nor do the Hindus and Buddhist. For the most part, except for the Christian communities, Christmas is an afterthought in most of Africa. Christmas is celebrated in the United States, Canada and south America where the Catholic church has been influential in the last 500. And I imagine that Christmas is the second most popular "holiday" in Catholic circles after Mardi Gras.

So as we move closer into the Christmas season, take advantage of all the good times available to you because there is no guarantee of Christmas Seasons in our future if the "Woke Crowd" wins the warfare. If you get the chance to sing "Joy to The World, The Lord Has Come," during the season, be sure and sing it with gusto and praise because the time is coming, and it is right around the corner, the such songs won't be heard sung in public places or even our homes.

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