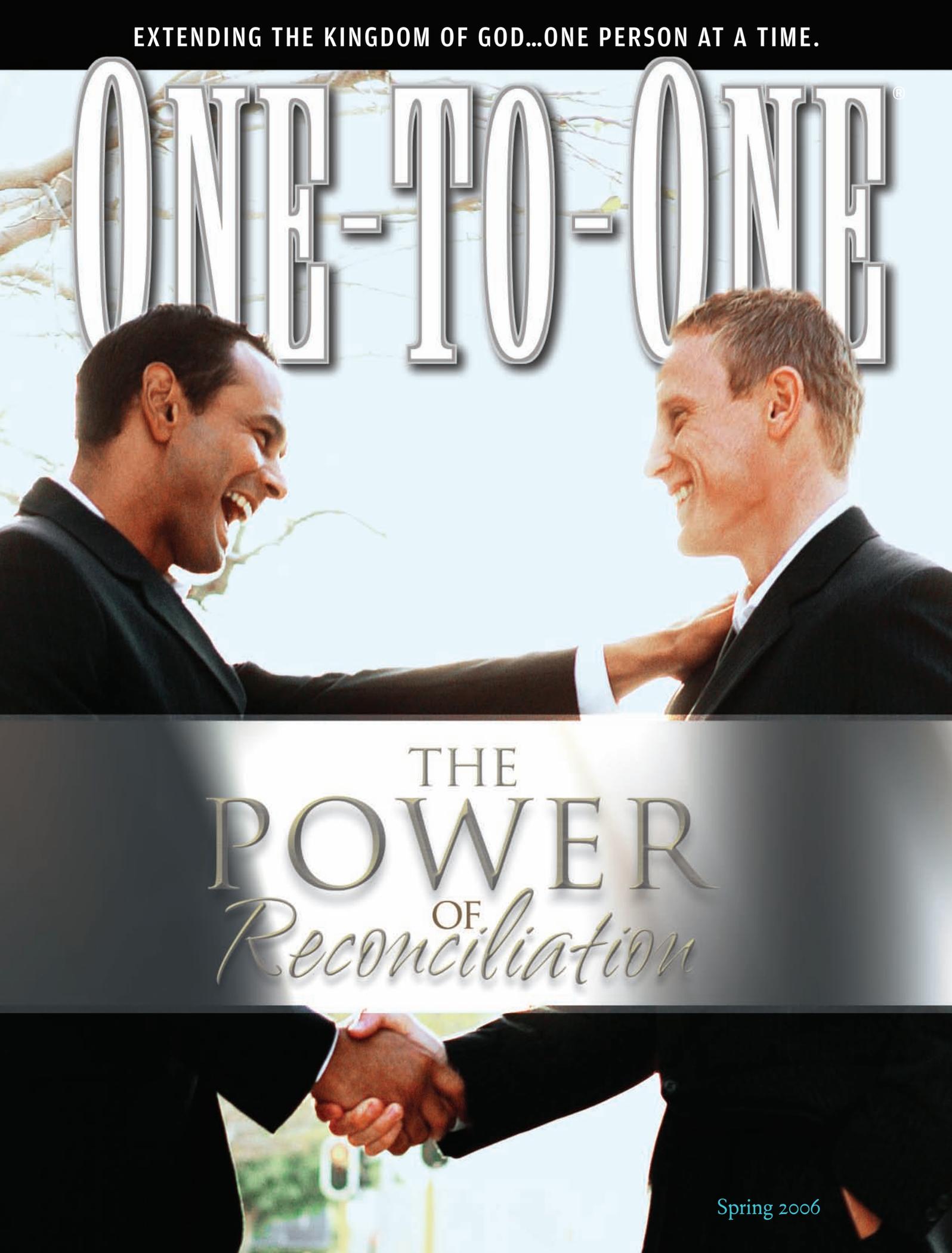


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A photograph of two men in dark suits and white shirts. They are smiling warmly at each other. The man on the left is looking towards the man on the right, who has his hand on the first man's shoulder. They are shaking hands in the lower portion of the image. The background is a bright, slightly blurred outdoor setting with some foliage.

## THE POWER OF *Reconciliation*

Spring 2006

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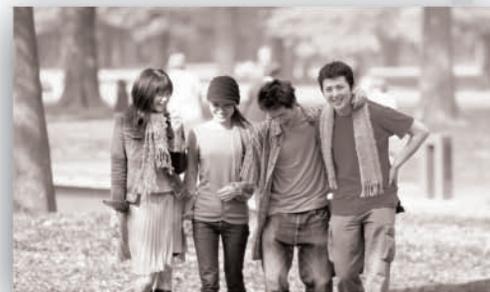
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# The Word of Reconciliation

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is...

By Stephen Simpson



IN NEARLY 37 YEARS OF publishing, we have been privileged to work with many dedicated employees. Some of them are especially memorable. For instance, I will always appreciate the opportunity I had to work with and become friends with Mark Pie, our art director for many years. Mark was best known for his ingenious and hilarious “Lighter Side” cartoons for *New Wine Magazine*.

Among our magazine staff through the years, it has been a well-known fact that whatever

have been tests these past few weeks. I won't name names, of course, but some of us have been tested and found testy.

Concerning tests and trials, James wrote these words:

*“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him” (James 1:2-5).*

Patience is certainly a key component in reconciliation. We live in an impatient society

the theme is for the particular magazine issue on which we are working, we will experience great testing. For instance, a magazine issue on “Spiritual Warfare” seemed to provoke significant spiritual warfare in our own personal lives. “Economics” was always a fun topic to cover, let me tell you! Of course, Mark once famously said, “If we ever do an issue on mental health, I am outta here!”

So, here we are, working on an issue on “Reconciliation.” And guess what? Oh, yes, there

that often seems thin-skinned and hard-hearted...a “Land of the Fearful and the Home of the Offended.” Many people today operate in a matrix of disposable relationships, going through them like so much tissue paper in flu season. Mad at someone? Dump them! Offended with someone? Cut them off! An inconvenient baby? Abort it! Finished using someone's gifts for your own gain? Throw the person away! You think you “deserve better” than your spouse? Divorce them! Maybe

we have done these things to others—maybe we have had these things done to us by others. There's plenty of hurt to go around these days.

We become easily scandalized; then, fearful of honest, healthy, redemptive confrontation, we lapse into permanent bitterness and separation...and strife. No wonder modern civilization seems to be rapidly fragmenting. In a splintered world, the opportunity and need for reconcilers and reconciliation is great.

Thank God, we as believers have access to God's grace and power, to be reconciled to God and to one another; and then to share the word of reconciliation with those who are broken and cut off. Our opportunity: to receive God's healing and then to minister it to others. The apostle Paul puts it like this:

*“Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God” (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).*

How amazing is it that God has “committed to us” the word and the work of reconciliation? To us? He calls us His “ambassadors.” That is, we speak and act, not on our own behalf, but on His. He has given us a charge; it is both an honor and a responsibility. In order to properly steward and execute this privilege, we must keep in mind who's Name and who's Word we carry.

Our task is not a short-term one; it is a life-long mission. It might even cost us our lives. Reconciliation is costly. But, then again, we are not our own. We belong to Him. We have been purchased and redeemed by the great price of His precious blood. He has every right to call us into His work. Reach out in faith—be reconciled to God, and become a reconciler in His Name. May He use this issue of *One-to-One* for His glory. 121

**Stephen Simpson** is the Editor of *One-to-One Magazine* and serves as Pastoral Team Leader for Covenant Church of Mobile. He also travels and ministers. For more information, contact: [stephen.simpson@csm publishing.org](mailto:stephen.simpson@csm publishing.org) or call (888) 811-2CSM.

# THE **POWER** OF RECONCILIATION

**HOW TO OVERCOME ALIENATION AND BRING HEALING TO INDIVIDUALS...  
AND TO THE NATIONS**

*By Charles Simpson*

**T**HE NEED FOR RECONCILIATION APPLIES WHEREVER alienation exists. We cannot know the blessing of reconciliation until we have known the bitterness of alienation. Alienation is a wound not healed, a loss of love, and a loss of life. It is a tragedy that can cause sickness, disease—and ultimately—death. Most of us have experienced it in some fashion and bear the scars of it. It is a massive and systemic human problem.

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It would be foolish to treat the subject of reconciliation as easy or merely academic. The truth is, if we take this issue seriously, reconciliation is tough work. However, it is not only biblical, it is commanded.

No amount of religion seems to cure our problem. Muslims fight Muslims; Jews fight Jews; Catholics fight Catholics; Baptists fight Baptists; and on it goes. It is a genetic flaw in all of us. Where did this come from? In the very beginning it was not so. Adam fellowshiped with God; Eve was one with Adam; and that place of fellowship was called “Eden.” It was heaven on earth. But the same one that caused trouble in heaven also brought his evil work to earth. Soon questions were raised to Adam about God’s word; disobedience occurred and murder shattered the first family. The entire earth was affected. Some may doubt the Genesis account, but the evidence of alienation and strife is here for all to see.

We seem to have a natural weakness in discerning good and evil. Separation from God has blinded us, and we go on inflicting damage upon ourselves and others. General Omar Bradley said, “We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants.”

Satan’s sin was pride, and with his craftiness he seduced the first couple to want to “be as God” (see Genesis 3, Isaiah 14:12-15). Alas, we were bitten by the “pride bug”, and pride is the primary ingredient in conflict (see Proverbs 13:10). It seems very strange that with all the evidence around us, human pride has not diminished, and alienation continues. Much of our psychology and theology is still self-centered. How can we defeat the roots of division and alienation?



## GOD'S CURE

"God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself" (2 Corinthians 5:19).

God is "Our Father in Heaven." He loves us even in our sin. Earthly fathers usually still love their children when they are disobedient. But our Father in heaven loves us with a greater love. He sent His unique Son to teach us, and to give His life for us, so that through Him we could be reconciled to our Heavenly Father. It is amazing that after all of the disobedience, after all of the cursing of Him and killing each other, He still loves us.

So, He sent His Son to reveal His heart for us, to reveal His truth to us, and then to be the sacrificial Lamb Who took our sin upon Himself. "He paid it all." He took His own blood to the heavenly altar to obtain our redemption—to buy us out of alienation and self-destruction. Then He became our Mediator before God and our High Priest, making continual intercession for us.

What right did we have to such love and mercy? None. What did we do to earn our redemption? Nothing. At what price did we gain our justification before God? His blood. There is no cure but God's cure, no offering for our release but His offering. We were "dead" in our condition and totally helpless; He purchased us and made us alive. Therefore, we can no longer live for ourselves.

## WHO IS COUNTING?

Jesus came but He did not count our trespasses against us. Can God count? He has counted the stars and the hairs on our heads. But He did not count our sins against us (see 2 Corinthians 5:19). Indeed, He dismissed the old and made everything new. It was as though the past never happened.

Counting is a problem. God doesn't count the past, but we do. And we keep counting. Some cultures have counted for literally thousands

of years. And some people count for a lifetime. Offences are like stones that pile up to build high walls. And the walls that we build around us become our own prison. Counting adds up to seclusion and separation.

If we learn anything from history, it is that we do not learn from history. We keep missing opportunities to prevent conflict before it begins. Yes, there are "just wars" and righteous people must resist evil. Some are more right than others – but it is "being right" that often hinders being righteous. If we are RIGHT, we should not humble ourselves RIGHT? WRONG!

God was right above all right. Jesus was right and never wrong. Yet, He humbled Himself and made Himself of no reputation. Was He right to do that? We owe to His humility all that we are, and ever hope to be. In fact, we owe our lives to Him. What He asks of us is, stop counting; it is not the way to reconciliation. "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart..." (Matthew 11: 29).

Sometimes a poor memory can be a good asset. When we forget trespasses, we can act accordingly. God deliberately forgets (see Micah. 7:19). If we are to be known as His sons and daughters, we must forget also (see Matthew 5:9). Of course, we do forget our own offenses, but we must also forget the offenses done against us.

Let me confess that I am not a passive person. I thought "turn the other cheek" was for a "previous dispensation". My ancestors were not given to ignoring offenses. I am a Scot-Irish-German. That is a pretty tough ethnic cocktail! I also boxed; that is not a good preparation for reconciliation. This message of reconciliation has come to me—and I give it to you—with great difficulty and only partial success. Pride and aggression have followed me as relentless hounds, and sometimes they have overtaken me.

## AMBASSADORS

So how can we become ambassadors for Christ (see 2 Corinthians 5:20)? No, I do not mean,

"How can we become Christians?" or members of some religious body—that is not enough. The question is, how can we represent Christ our Lord—represent His attitude and His purpose? How can we represent His Kingdom?

For starters, we must *eliminate our own attitude and purpose*. We legally died when He died. The old is gone—remember? We have no rights. Dead men have no rights. The Cross is where we ceased; we are now His. How we felt, or feel about the world or someone, no longer matters. The Cross deals with our feelings. There is no reconciliation apart from the Cross.

Secondly, we must *receive a measure of divine love for transgressors* that will help us to look past their offenses and bridge the gap. It is not a better method that we need as much as a better motive. Given our own past and weaknesses and how Christ went all the way for us, we should be able to relate to transgressors.

Then we should *get specific*. Generalities and platitudes are worthless until applied to a specific person or situation. Loving "everybody" is a delusion; loving *somebody* is a reality.

The next step is the hard one: *Humility is more than sweet talk; it is accepting responsibility* for what someone else may be unable to accept responsibility for. Galatians 6:1 says, "You who are spiritual restore...." Humility is to take the initiative and demonstrate spirituality. In God's example, the offended one took the initiative upon Himself and the blame upon Himself, though he was without fault. The Son of God humbled Himself.

When we do these four things, the rest is up to the other person or persons. But our prayer is that our efforts will succeed. Having provided an example, we can then be ambassadors and effectively proclaim our message, "Be reconciled to God" (see 2 Corinthians 5:20). This is our problem. An un-reconciled church afflicted with pride has a great struggle to reach an un-reconciled world.

## AMBASSADORS

As you receive this issue of *One-to-One*, I will be gathering together with many friends



and co-laborers at our annual CSM Leadership Conference in Tennessee. As I prayed about and planned for this conference, I believed that God was telling me that it should be about **Reconciliation**. So, I discussed it with some friends and proceeded with preparations. As I thought about speakers for the conference, the Lord told me to invite Bob Mumford. Bob and I used to minister together often for more than 15 years. Then, division came. For 20 years, until now, we have never been together on the same platform. What a tragedy. Of course it was all Bob's fault—right? **Wrong**. Bob accepted the invitation, and we will minister together at this conference. Thank God!

How does God, the Father, view the world? We know that He loved the world. He told us to love even our enemies, and pray for them who persecute us and despitely use us (see Matthew 5:43-48). He said that if we did so, we would be like our Father in heaven. Were the ones to whom He spoke “born again?” I will state something that may offend some who still hold a view that I once held: God views all people as His children in the natural sense. He is the only Father Who is the source of life (see Ephesians 3:15 and Acts 17:24-29). The Devil is only the “father” of certain attitudes.

I believe that He views the unbeliever as His separated child with whom He longs to reconcile. Unbelievers are not children of His Kingdom. They are not a willingly part of His government, but they are His by creation. And therefore, we have a kinship (not fellowship) with them. Our message to these people is: “Be reconciled to God.”

No, I do not believe in “ultimate reconciliation” or “universalism.” In the end, all rebellion will be judged. That however, is not our task. Our ministry, or service, is to bring about reconciliation (see 2 Corinthians 5:19).

We are not here to criticize or condemn the world or to “inspect other people's fruit.” An adversarial posture will only exacerbate the problem and nullify our message. Unless we come to understand our own Lord, His mes-

sage and ours, we are positioned for more strife. We are at present a house divided.

## INDONESIA

I went with my friend Ken Sumrall to Indonesia in 1968. Prior to our trip, I had written to various Christian leaders in the city of Jakarta. None replied. I discovered later that they couldn't afford postage or the cost of sending a cable. When we arrived, every leader to whom I had written was at the airport. Not one of the leaders knew the others would also be there. Later, one of the leaders told me that they were embarrassed and uncomfortable because they did not fellowship with one another.

It was in my hotel in Jakarta that God spoke to me about reconciliation—almost 40 years ago. Since then, I have seen and have been part of much division. May God forgive us. But the message remains and the world waits to see the power of a united people in the Holy Spirit. It will be like the first Pentecost, only much, much greater in scope.

Indonesian Christians have gotten more close together and are growing in larger numbers. Persecution there has changed their perspective toward each other. I pray that we can be **led** to our message and not have to be **driven** to it by serious difficulty—such as more 9/11-type tragedies.

Alienation is the problem. Christ is the cure. The unreconciled may not see Christ until they see Christ in us. Then they will hear our message (John 17:21) and the Lord will again confirm His blessing and power upon us (see Psalm 133). **121**



**Charles Simpson** is Editor-in-Chief of One-to-One® Magazine. He ministers extensively throughout the United States and among the nations.

# Charles Simpson

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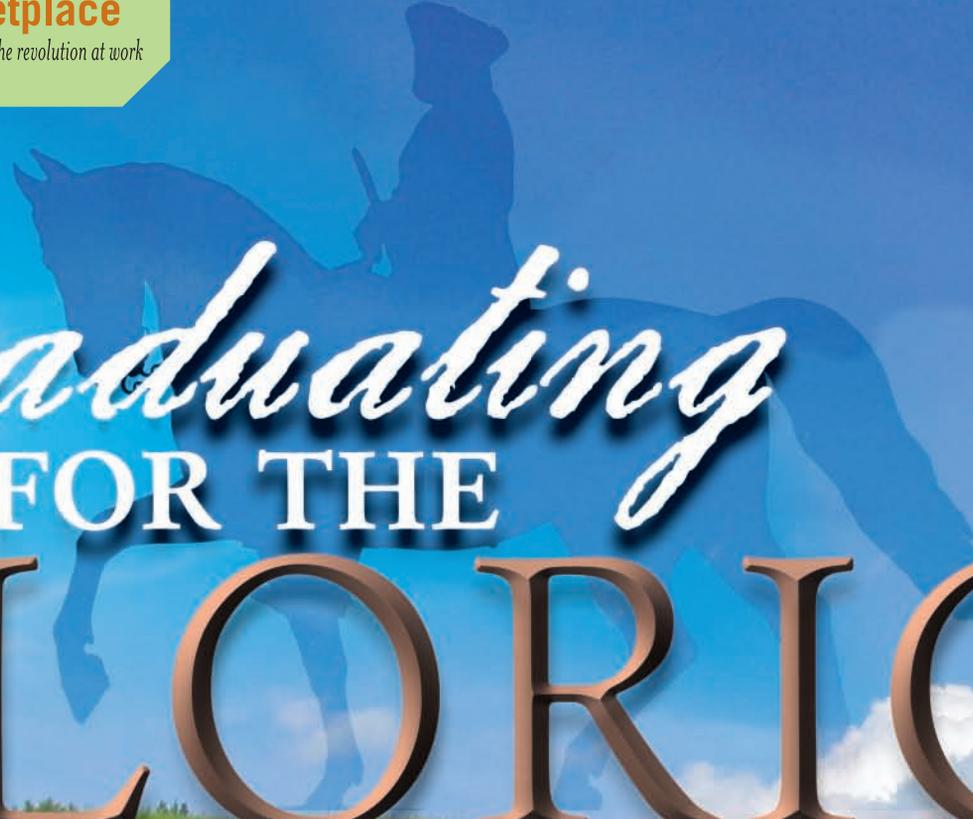
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# Graduating FOR THE GLORIOUS

It's not just what you learn, but what you do with what you learn!

by Jonathan Simpson

*As* WE APPROACH THIS TIME OF YEAR, WE LOOK AHEAD TO GRADUATION SEASON FOR MILLIONS OF STUDENTS.

Graduations come in many forms; sometimes from school, and sometimes through other tests in life. They may happen several times in one's life, even without the cap and gown and applause. These may also prove to be more valuable than the visible diploma on the wall. These "graduations" are life events for which there has been training and preparation, but we may or may not know when to expect the final exam.

Confidence in one's self alone is a deception. This kind of self-confidence is often handed out along with the diploma at many a modern-day graduation ceremony. But Proverbs 15:33 says, "The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom. And before honor is humility." In days past, this truth was more understood than it is today. But truth endures, as do the consequences of our attitudes and our actions. How important is it for us to pass along this truth to the emerging generation, and what effects will this have on the world of the future?

## THE GLORIOUS CAUSE

June 16, 1775, was a graduation day for George Washington. As he stood before congress to formally accept his new position as Commander of the Continental Army, he was very conscious of his limitations: a modest beginning at home, his little formal education (seven or eight years of schooling), his past warfare experiences (which were mostly disasters), his never having led an army in battle... and so he said:

***"I am truly sensible of the high honor done me in this appointment, yet I feel great distress from a consciousness that my abilities and military experience may not be equal to the extensive and important trust. However, as the Congress desire it, I will enter upon the momentous duty, and exert every power I possess in their service and for the support of the glorious Cause."***



US

*Cause*

For George Washington, the motivator was not “self-confidence” but it was instead the “glorious Cause.” One of history’s great thinkers, G.K. Chesterton, wrote:

**“The old humility was a spur that prevented a man from stopping; not a nail in his boot that prevented him from going on. For the old humility made a man doubtful about his efforts, which might make him work harder. But new humility makes a man doubtful about his aims, which will make him stop working altogether. A man was meant to be doubtful about himself, but undoubting about the truth; this has been exactly reversed. Nowadays the part of a man that a man does assert is exactly the part he ought not to assert—himself. The part he doubts is exactly the part he ought not to doubt—the Divine Reason.”**

What happened to **our** glorious cause, our divine reason for action? Were they hijacked by the likes of Rousseau, Tolstoy and Shelly? Did they convince us, as they believed, that they were the holders of truth, morality and virtue?

Should we value the thoughts of men who could not dare tell the truth about their own lives, who wallowed in self-pity, whose minds “no mere man” could comprehend, who deserted their children, cheated their friends, leeches off of widows, and who uttered statements such as: “I would leave this life without apprehension if I knew a better man than me.” Or, “Posterity will honor me... because it is my due.” Or, “I rejoice in myself.” Or, “My consolation lies in my self-esteem.” Should we not weigh their doctrines and manifestos against their testimonies? Apparently our universities do not think so.

As Chesterton puts it, “We are on the road to producing a race of men too mentally modest to believe in the multiplication table. We are in danger of seeing philosophers who doubt the law of gravity as being a mere fancy of their own.” Chesterton, who lived from 1874-1936, was certainly prophetic in this regard.

## A GRAND GRADUATION

One of the grandest graduation ceremonies ever held was for two men: Elijah the Tishbite, and Elisha son of Shaphat. For the prophet Elijah, it was a final graduation where God Almighty sent for him with a fiery horse and chariot to bring him up to heaven. It may indeed have been the first ride with heated seats! For Elisha, God gave Elijah’s mantle as a diploma.

Elijah was a man who didn’t mince words. He was a man who had called down fire from heaven—and the Lord answered. Elijah was tough, “a hairy man wearing a leather belt around his waist.” Food, sleep, plush accommodations, and making friends were not high on his list of priorities. Yet we see his compassion in Scripture, as he prayed over the widow’s dead son and the boy was raised again.

The Bible says that Elisha became Elijah’s servant, but from their first meeting until their graduation day, there is nothing said

of Elisha or their mentoring relationship. We see that Elijah continues meeting with kings and calling down fire, but where is Elisha? Not once do we hear Elisha interjecting in conversations saying “If I might add...” or “I feel the Lord saying to me...” So where was he? Elisha was right there beside Elijah from the moment he was called—learning, serving and preparing.

No doubt Elijah was training him, teaching him to hear from the Lord, perhaps telling him past testimonies of God’s power. (They might have even shared some laughs when Elijah told him of the Mount Carmel showdown). Then one day, God decided it was time for Elijah to come home, and for Elisha to take his place. When it was done, people recognized the anointing on Elisha; he didn’t have to tell them.

## A GRADUATION TESTIMONY

On the night that I write this, I am thinking of a special event coming up tomorrow. There will be graduation ceremony for a young lady who, just three months ago, had come to the end of herself. Though she was 20 years old, she had not yet earned her High School diploma. She was in the bondage of drug addictions. She had two children, but no husband or job. She had no home, no money, no car, and little hope left. She had a family that loved her, but who could not keep her. So what happened?

She entered into a Christian home for women in similar circumstances, where she humbled herself before God, began healing, and learned that the Lord had a beautiful plan for her life. Tomorrow, she leaves the women’s home, having graduated for a glorious cause and people will recognize the change in her life. But that will be just the beginning. Other tests and graduations will follow for her. Here at CSM Publishing, we honor this young lady, and all those like her with the humility and courage to seek healing and press onward and upward for a great and godly cause.

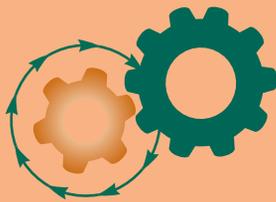
## HONORING GRADUATES

And so, here in springtime, school graduation ceremonies will begin soon. Those who have shown the discipline to study, learn, and achieve the mark should be honored and congratulated. There needs to be a celebration. As it has been said, “We honor what we want more of.” Generally speaking, obtaining a diploma makes entry into the marketplace easier; and increased higher education better ensures our ability to compete in the global economy.

Graduation ceremonies are important, but history will ultimately prove the deservedness of the applause. The question is not what the graduates have learned, but what they will do with what they learned. May humility spur them on and may their cause be glorious! **121**

**Jonathan Simpson** is the Director of Development for CSM.





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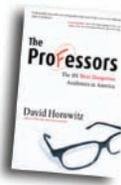
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### ***The Professors: The 101 Most Dangerous Academics in America***

by David Horowitz (Regnery Publishing, 2006)

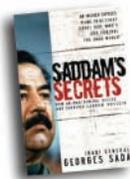
In this superbly researched and documented book, David Horowitz provides ample evidence of the ongoing radical takeover of America's colleges and universities by wild-eyed, hate-filled fanatics bent on the corruption and brainwashing of their students—not only to poison America's youth, but the best and brightest from around the world who come to America for their university education. Documenting the statements and ideologies of 101 prominent professors and department heads, Horowitz demonstrates that these cultural extremists—touting everything from militant Islam to atheistic Marxism to virulent racism—are actually in the *mainstream* of American academia.

You'll be startled by the professor who tells one well-meaning student that the best thing she can do to improve race relations is to "die now," because she and her race are "a cancer on the earth." Hear how other professors are active supporters and fundraisers for terrorist organizations, and how rampant political correctness protects them. Then there's the department head at a major state university who lobbies for sympathy for child molesters. For any student considering colleges and universities—and their parents—this book is a helpful handbook to know what to expect and how to prepare for the oncoming moral onslaught.

#### *Other excellent resources include:*

- Ray Ciervo at [www.nopatanswers.com](http://www.nopatanswers.com)
- *Tenured Radicals* by Roger Kimball
- *The Shadow University* by Allen Charles Kors
- *The Killing of History* by Keith Windschuttle
- *Literature Lost* by John Ellis
- *Intellectual Morons* by Daniel Flynn
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- *Imposters in the Temple* by Martin Anderson
- *The Generation That Knew Not Josef* by Lloyd Billingsley

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### ***Saddam's Secrets: How an Iraqi General Defied and Survived Saddam Hussein***

by Georges Sada with Jim Nelson Black (Integrity Publishers, 2006)

Iraqi General Georges Sada has an astounding and gripping story to tell; one that many politicians and media "elites" do not want you to hear. In this powerful new book, you'll read how General Sada, a devout Christian, is a modern-day Daniel, who repeatedly stood up to Iraq's wicked and demonized dictator, Saddam Hussein, preventing untold horror when Hussein secretly prepared to attack Israel with chemical weapons during the first Gulf War.

In this book, Sada also reveals how Saddam manufactured, used, and stockpiled weapons of mass destruction (WMD), and how he managed to sneak tons of WMDs out of Iraq and into Syria in the last weeks before the liberation of Iraq. Featured on national news networks and newspapers, Sada's story is electrifying viewers and readers worldwide. The implications of such revelations are, obviously, tremendous.

Beyond all of that, however, you'll read a deeply moving story of a man of faith and hope, who is actively and effectively working behind the scenes for peace and reconciliation in Iraq today. Known, respected, and admired across Iraq among key leaders of various factions, Sada writes passionately and powerfully about the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His grace in a land that has been kept in darkness and bondage for centuries. You'll never think of Iraq in the same way again after reading this book. 121

**M**any of you are aware that international outreach ministries has helped to launch an amazing Arabic language website. Did you know that we had 51,000 new visitors to our website in January? Since there were 35,000 visitors in January, and 19,000 in December, we are seeing an incremental curve revealing yet another indication of growing spiritual hunger among Muslim people. We also believe it may point to a spiritual change with regard to the strength of the spiritual principality behind Islam.



We are also receiving reports from Muslim countries of large numbers of conversions to faith in Jesus Christ, as well as a new attitude of Muslims reconsidering their faith, because they are not able to understand the violence espoused by extremists. They know these extremists are a very small percentage of Muslims, not representative of the majority, and certainly not of themselves.

Our outreach website is directed at people who are “thirsting for God.” We use a bridge-building approach as opposed to the confrontational style of evangelism so often employed with Muslims.

The material on the site is all written by “MBB’s”—Muslim Background Believers—who really know how to share a message which reaches the hearts of Muslims. We open a dialogue with Muslim seekers based on a recognition that they are truly hungering for God, but do not know how to find Him. The thousands who are seeking out this site are reading the material on it, and “down-loading” answers to the questions Muslims have about Jesus Christ.

The Bible tells us that our struggle is not with flesh and blood, but with rulers, authorities and powers of the dark world and with the spiritual forces of evil in heavenly realms (see Ephesians 6:12). Though this is often our personal experience, it is also our global struggle. Christians need to remember that the Bible is saying the enemy is not people; the enemy is spiritual. The Muslim people are simply cap-

tives to this spiritual ruler of darkness. However, over the past decade, millions of Christians have been praying against these spiritual forces, and we believe we may already be seeing a weakening of its power.

The Bible also tells us that God has raised Christ to a position in the heavenly realms far above rule and authority, power and dominion—in the present age. It is essential that we not allow news media to rob us of our confidence in our risen Lord. He is not worried about the developments on earth, because God has placed all things under His feet and has appointed Him head over everything **for the Church** (see Ephesians 1:20-23).

### **selective evangelism?**

Why does it say Christ has been appointed head over everything **for the Church**? The Church has a primary role in the advancement of the will of God in the earth. In fact, the Bible also tells us His intent was that now, through the Church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in heavenly places, the same spiritual rulers with whom we struggle (see Ephesians 3:10). This is not a time to abandon our faith, nor to give up the struggle. The assignment of the Church is to educate rulers and authorities in spiritual places! An obedient Church will accomplish His divine intent!

Jesus did not give us permission to evangelize the world selectively. Yet, this is exactly what we have done when we have gone to the easier places, and avoided the tough ones.

We should have evangelized the Muslim world a thousand years ago. The hostilities of today are the fruit of Christian disobedience over the years! Do you realize that less than 1% of all Christian giving to mission goes to reach the Muslim world? Yet Muslims comprise nearly 23% of the world population! We have sent two missionaries for every one million Arab Muslims. This is a sad measure of our lack of obedience to the Great Commission. No wonder the world is in turmoil over the emergence of Islam on the world scene!

However, the Church has done better in mobilizing intercessory prayer for the Muslims held captive by this dark religious principal. Huge prayer networks have concentrated on the "10/40 Window," a geographical area which includes the Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists. One group claims to start every new church with a

not returning for a defeated, cornered, or escapist Church! He rules and reigns, and His believing, obedient Church will extend His rule throughout the earth while teaching spiritual forces of evil about the wisdom of God. He is the One who will take over the earth; make your plans based on this certainty.

As Peter said, "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened, but in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord" (see 1 Peter 3:14-15). He was quoting Isaiah, who went on to say it this way; "Do not call conspiracy everything they call conspiracy; do not fear what they fear. The Lord almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear" (see Isaiah 8:12-13).

As the saying goes, "It's not over until it's over." When it's over, Jesus will reign on the earth and every knee will bow to confess Him as Lord and King! 121

## A positive, proactive Word from behind the lines

By Gary Henley

# WILL Islam TAKE OVER THE world?

miracle. In the past five years they planted 62,698 new churches, and most of these are multiplying. Now, there are huge protests in India by Hindus who are panicked by the swelling numbers of Hindus coming to faith in Christ. Of course there have been missionaries among the Hindus who have benefited from this prayer; missionaries in far greater numbers than those among the Muslims. Yet, we are also seeing changes even among Muslims.

### DO NOT FEAR

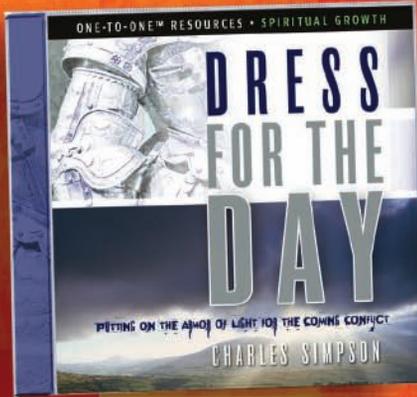
A large "people movement" began in Bangladesh with the conversion of one young man in 1984. Today, this movement reports between 5,000 and 10,000 baptisms per month of Muslim people coming to Christ. In Mozambique, a large number of unusual miracles have triggered a similar people movement there. Some of the missionaries who were in on the beginning of this movement tell us now that it is "out of control"—that is, they have no idea how many churches are being planted of new converts in this mostly Muslim land. They do know of thousands, and regularly receive reports of hundreds more in remote areas.

A recent book, written by a Christian, told about Islam's plan to take over the earth. Yet, in perusing this book, I was able to find only one small, positive hope out forth by the author; he wrote that he hopes Jesus will come back to take us out of here before it gets worse. The Jesus I know is not cowering in heaven, and He is



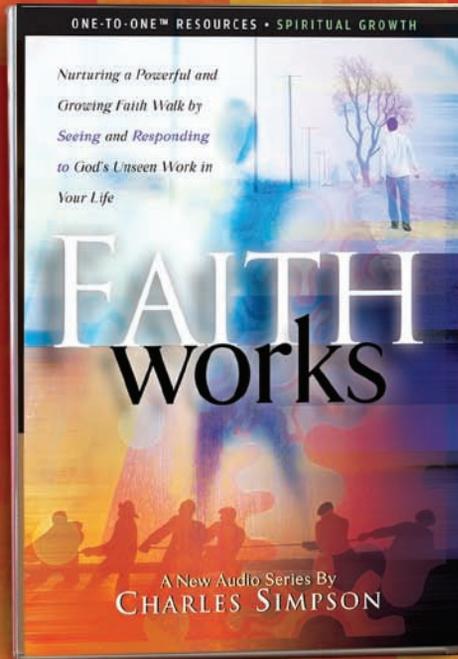
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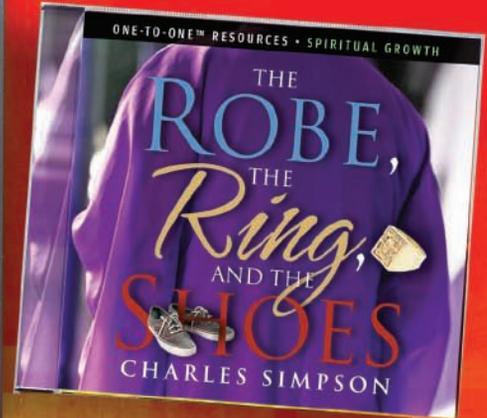
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