

For These Millions, There Is No Independence Day

On May 2, Israelis celebrated their Independence Day. On July 4, we Americans will celebrate ours. America was the first modern democratic republic anywhere in the world, and Israel became the first anywhere in the Middle East. Shared democratic values of personal freedom and liberty have created a bond between the United States and Israel that few other nations share. America stands among the nations as the symbol of freedom and meritocratic opportunity, while Israel serves as a bastion of freedom on the very frontier of autocracy and tyranny.

While the citizens of both nations enjoy peace and prosperity, many of our brethren do not. Take for example the 1 million or so Jews still living in the former Soviet Union (FSU). Thousands upon thousands of these Jews live in deplorably impoverished conditions, teetering on the edge of survival.

As described by Don Horwitz, Executive Director of Christians Care International (CCI), the only global Christian ministry providing direct support services to impoverished Jews of the FSU, "Endemic anti-Semitism and persecution have trapped thousands of vulnerable Jews in inescapable poverty and hopelessness."

"It is heart-wrenching to visit Holocaust survivors in the former Soviet Union living alone, unable to afford the food and medicines they need to survive," says Horwitz, who spent last week in Ukraine with CCI, tending to the urgent needs of vulnerable Jewish populations.

For these Jews, there is no Independence Day.

Religious persecution is not confined to the world's Jews. Increasingly, Christians are victimized by those that hate

them for their religious beliefs. In fact, according to the Center of Studies on New Religions, Christians were the most persecuted group across the globe last year. The report determined that 90,000 Christians were killed because of their religion in 2016, falling victim to attacks and killings across the Middle East, Africa and Asia. The study went on to state that as many as 600 million Christians were prevented from even practicing their faith. For these Christians, there is no Independence Day.

As free Christians and Jews in the United States and Israel celebrate our liberties, we must ensure that the people of our religions stand together in the face of anti-Semitism, persecution and religious violence. Today, millions of Christians stand by Israel, driven by their belief that God gave Israel to the Jewish people. Some in the Jewish community reject this support as self-interested and apocalyptic. Yet this is a wrong-headed and foolish approach. Rather, the Jewish people and Israel must welcome the support of our Christian friends for the Jewish state, for 6 million Jews cannot stand in the desert alone.

Free Jews must return the favor by speaking out vocally and acting boldly to call out and defeat persecution and violence against Christians. Just as Jewish Americans marched for civil rights in America, so too must we march for religious rights for Christians. Whether Israeli or American, let us give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy, and work every day to free others around the world from the chains of anti-Semitism, persecution and violence. {eoa}

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The 20th Century's Most Divisive Trial Explodes Again

Ninety-two years ago, a historic trial erupted on the national scene. The repercussions of the case reverberate throughout America to this very day, affecting every generation.

The Scopes Monkey Trial was one of the most sensational cases in America's history. It was called "The Trial for America's Soul" and is commemorated yearly with a reenactment at the National Historic Landmark courthouse in Dayton, Tennessee.

Nearly a century ago, a substitute teacher was accused of violating Tennessee law by instructing students on evolution in a public school. A presidential candidate, William Jennings Bryan, led the prosecution, while attorney Clarence Darrow defended John Scopes.

During the eight-day trial, Bryan tried to "protect the Word of God against the greatest atheist or agnostic in the United States!" Darrow lampooned his opponent's "fool's religion."

Visualize the Scene

Without hi-tech advances, here's the scenario:

- Unprecedented press coverage with 200 reporters including two from England plus front-page *New York Times* coverage
- 200 telegraphers plus cameramen sending out film via planes
- The trial was broadcast on live radio
- Trained chimpanzees performed on the courthouse lawn!
- *Time* and *Life* magazine disparaged "fundamentalists" while syndicated columnist H.L. Mencken gave trial reports mocking townsfolk as "morons" and "yokels."

The circus-like atmosphere of the trial ended with Mr. Scopes

found guilty and fined about \$1400 (today's money). Bryan died in his sleep five days afterwards. The verdict was later overturned on a technicality and later, a biased and dishonest play and film, *Inherit the Wind*, caused millions to ridicule religious opposition to evolution.

The fundamental issue is the same today: regarding the origin of our universe and mankind, will we honor a secular/evolutionary worldview or a spiritual/creationist worldview? And can instructors present both views or must those adhering to the trustworthiness of Scripture be forced to remain silent in the face of one-sided propaganda?

Center Stage Once Again

The Wall Street Journal featured a story on May 8 concerning a sculptor working with the American Humanist Association to place a 7-foot tall statue of Clarence Darrow outside the courthouse next to that of William Bryan's. AHA's mission is to "bring about a progressive society where being good without a god is an accepted and respected way to live life."

On July 1, on these grounds, we participated in a patriotic rally. It wasn't primarily about freedom of speech or religion. Rather, it focused on the ongoing attempt by secularists in America to blur or remove symbols reminding us of our Judeo/Christian heritage.

I was the main speaker alongside Dale Walker, president of the Tennessee Pastors Network; Sen. Mae Beavers, Tennessee gubernatorial candidate and numerous Christian leaders. Our presence gave expression to our passion to preserve America's heritage and proclaim that our Founding Fathers were not atheists and evolutionists.

A recent Gallup Poll on this issue reveals: 42 percent believe God created humans in their present form and evolution is wrong; 31 percent state God directed the process of evolution; and, only 19 percent feel God was not involved so they accept

evolution.

Call to Christian Activism

The dogmatic theory taught in schools and perpetuated by Hollywood that human beings accidentally evolved over billions of years by “natural selection” is mind-boggling. It’s akin to postulating that Mount Rushmore formed spontaneously. Without any Creator to whom we’re accountable, Darwinian evolution teaches we’ve descended from ape-like creatures through mutation and time.

In his 160-year old *Origin of the Species*, Darwin stated, “Let us assume ...” or “We may well suppose ...” over 800 times! We’re supposed to acquiesce so our youth base their lives on assumptions rather than the authoritative Word of God, which emphatically says, “Remember your Creator in the days of thy youth” (Eccl. 12:1).

Intellectual elites see biblical teaching on creation as an offense to intelligence. They declare it unscientific and dismiss the biblical account of man’s origin. Atheist Richard Dawkins said, “If you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution, that person is ignorant, stupid or insane.”

Jesus declared, “Have you not read that He who made [*created*] them at the beginning made them male and female” () so does Dawkins’ description apply to Him? Are Psalm 19 and Romans 1:19-33 which affirm God as Creator simply fairy tales?

Call to Communicate Truth

Because of the stigma and national embarrassment of the Scopes trial (along with the defeat of unbiblical Prohibition), multitudes of Christians were disheartened. From the 1920s to 70s many retreated from engagement in the public square. Failing to recognize what Augustine called our dual responsibilities in the “City of God and the City of Man,” scores said, “Just preach the gospel...” “Stay out of politics...”

“Let things collapse so Jesus will come back!”

Jesus directs us to preach the gospel but it's the gospel of His kingdom, advancing His reign over every sphere of life. We have the Great Commission but also the Cultural Commission whereby, as “salt” and “light,” we “expose unfruitful works of darkness” (Eph. 5:11).

We're called to be Christian advocates for righteousness. The Abolition Movement that eradicated slavery and the Civil Rights Movement that combated injustice through nonviolence are just two examples of Christian activism that changed America.

Christians are not to be silent bystanders in the face of this tsunami of secular humanism. We're called to be peaceful, prayerful and passionate ambassadors for our Judeo-Christian heritage.

Our society has experienced unbelievable devastation, having drifted from our biblical foundation of God as Creator and scripture as our authoritative guide. I call your attention to the *Bullseye Challenge* that exposes this tragic development, while helping us in just 30 days educate our families and churches in an unshakable biblical worldview!

We must be equipped and engaged in this ongoing battle dealing with Origins 101. One man, Charles Darwin, propagated a theory that adversely impacted the world. Will you join with Christians like those who gathered in Dayton, Tennessee, to promote truth and persuade others like our Founding Fathers did to honor our Creator as our Declaration of Independence affirms? {eoa}

This Is the Full Impact of Moon Jae-in's Visit to D.C.

President Donald Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in's meetings last week in Washington, D.C., will have major and long-lasting impact on the relationship between our two countries.

Following Moon's departure, the White House released the following "joint statement," which outlines the new direction for the of Korea alliance in the future. Its goal is to advance the comprehensive strategic Alliance between the two countries and to deepen their friendship.

Since its founding, the Alliance has served as a linchpin for security, stability and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula, in the Asia Pacific region and increasingly around the world. As we mark the 67th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, the commitment of the United States to the ROK's defense remains ironclad. President Trump reaffirmed that the United States will defend the ROK against any attack and both presidents remain committed to jointly addressing the threat posed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Built on mutual trust and shared values of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law, the United States-ROK partnership has never been stronger, and the two leaders pledged to build an even greater alliance going forward.

Strengthening the United States-ROK Alliance

The two leaders affirmed the alliance's fundamental mission to defend the ROK through a robust combined defense posture and the enhancement of mutual security based on the United

States-ROK *Mutual Defense Treaty*. President Trump reiterated the United States commitment to provide extended deterrence to the ROK, drawing on the full range of United States military capabilities, both conventional and nuclear. Regular dialogue channels, such as the Security Consultative Meeting and the Military Committee Meeting, are instrumental in deepening our alliance. The two leaders decided to continue the alliance's work to expeditiously enable the conditions-based transfer of wartime operational control of ROK forces. The ROK will continue to acquire the critical military capabilities necessary to lead the combined defense, and detect, disrupt, destroy and defend against the DPRK's nuclear and missile threats, including through interoperable Kill-Chain, Korean Air and Missile Defense (KAMD) and other alliance systems.

The two leaders reaffirmed the alliance's commitment to counter the growing threat to peace and security posed by the DPRK's nuclear and ballistic missile programs. To increase coordination on alliance issues, the leaders committed the foreign affairs and defense agencies of the two countries to regularize a "2+2" ministerial meeting, as well as a high-level Extended Deterrence Strategy and Consultation Group to employ all elements of national power to strengthen extended deterrence.

Maintaining Lock-Step Coordination on Our Policy Regarding the DPRK

President Trump and President Moon pledged to continue to coordinate closely to achieve our shared goal of complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. The two leaders called on the DPRK to refrain from provocative, destabilizing actions and rhetoric, and to make the strategic choice to fulfill its international obligations and commitments. The two leaders affirmed that the DPRK's nuclear tests and unprecedented number of ballistic missile tests constitute

direct violations of multiple United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) and highlight the accelerating threat the DPRK's missile programs pose to international peace and security. They affirmed their commitment to fully implement existing sanctions and impose new measures designed to apply maximum pressure on the DPRK and compel Pyongyang to cease its provocative actions and return to sincere and constructive talks. The two leaders also urged all UN member states to swiftly and fully implement UNSCR obligations and took note, with appreciation, of constructive actions by some countries around the world to exert diplomatic and economic pressure on the DPRK to return to credible negotiations on denuclearization. They noted the important role China could play to this end. In addition, the two sides committed to enhance cooperation to combat the DPRK's dangerous and destabilizing malicious cyber activity.

Noting that sanctions are a tool of diplomacy, the two leaders emphasized that the door to dialogue with the DPRK remains open under the right circumstances. In reaffirming that resolution of the nuclear issue is a top priority for both countries, the two leaders emphasized that the United States and the ROK do not maintain a hostile policy toward the DPRK and, together with the rest of the international community, stand ready to offer a brighter future for the DPRK, if it chooses the right path. The two sides will closely coordinate on a joint the DPRK policy, including efforts to create conditions necessary for denuclearization talks, through a high-level strategic consultation mechanism.

President Trump supported the ROK's leading role in fostering an environment for peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula.

The two leaders expressed deep concern about the well-being of the DPRK's people, particularly in light of the

egregious human rights violations and abuses committed against them by the government, and noted their intention to ensure sanctions have minimal impact on the DPRK's vulnerable populations. President Trump expressed support for President Moon's aspiration to restart inter-Korean dialogue on issues, including humanitarian affairs. The two leaders reaffirmed the importance of cooperating with the international community to hold the DPRK accountable for substantial progress on the deplorable human rights situation in that country.

The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to promote regional relations and enhance United States-ROK-Japan trilateral cooperation. The two leaders affirmed that trilateral security and defense cooperation contributes to enhanced deterrence and defense against the DPRK threat. They decided to further develop this cooperation, using established bilateral and trilateral mechanisms. They also underscored the importance of leveraging the United States-ROK-Japan trilateral relationship to address global challenges such as cancer research, energy security, women's empowerment, and cybersecurity. President Trump and President Moon decided to discuss further ways to enhance trilateral cooperation together with Prime Minister Abe of Japan at the upcoming United States-ROK-Japan Trilateral Summit on the margins of the G20 in July.

Advancing Fair Trade to Promote Economic Growth

President Trump and President Moon committed to foster expanded and balanced trade while creating reciprocal benefits and fair treatment between the two countries. In that regard, the two sides further committed to fostering a truly fair and level playing field, including working together to reduce the global overcapacity of such basic materials as steel and non-tariff barriers to trade.

Both sides pledged to work together, as part of the process

of the Commercial Dialogue, to promote investment, support entrepreneurs, and facilitate cooperation between the United States and the ROK to boost economic growth and job creation in both countries.

Enhancing Bilateral Cooperation on Other Economic Opportunities

Both sides also committed to work together through the Senior Economic Dialogue to promote and expand cooperation on other economic issues and to explore the enhancement of economic opportunities through a joint public-private forum. Given the roles of science, technology, and innovation in driving economic growth, the two countries will enhance cooperation in cybersecurity, information and communication technology, and civil space technology. Highlighting the important economic role women play in their societies, the two sides pledged to launch a bilateral partnership to advance women's economic empowerment.

Actively Collaborating as Global Partners

President Trump and President Moon affirmed that United States-ROK cooperation on global issues is an indispensable and expanding aspect of the Alliance. With respect to global health security collaboration, the two leaders affirmed their support in helping partner countries prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease threats. The two leaders condemned the grave human suffering and violence in Iraq and Syria caused by ISIS, and reaffirmed the strong United States-ROK partnership in the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS. President Trump welcomed the ROK's commitment to increase humanitarian assistance to countries most affected by terrorism and violent extremism, including its pledge to provide 10 million United States dollars for Iraq this year. The two sides underscored the importance of joint efforts by the international community,

including the United States and the ROK, to rebuild peace and stability in Afghanistan, and pledged to continue to work together to support the Afghan people and government.

Future of the Alliance

The two leaders shared the view that strong and dynamic ties between our two countries are the foundation of the United States-ROK Alliance. They decided to advance future-oriented cooperation through high-level consultations in the areas of economy and trade, renewable and nuclear energy, science and technology, space, environment, health and defense technology. President Trump and President Moon affirmed that the United States and the ROK will work together to support and uphold the rules-based order in the Asia-Pacific region. The two leaders affirmed that the strength of the United States-ROK Alliance serves as testament to the power of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and acknowledged that the future of the two countries is linked through people-to-people ties, with more than 1.7 million Korean Americans in the United States, hundreds of thousands of Americans visiting and working in the ROK each year, and close ties created through cultural programs and student and professional exchanges. President Trump and President Moon heralded the exemplary nature of the United States-ROK Alliance, from strengthening our security by deterring and defending against the DPRK threat, enhancing strong regional relations, and advancing our economic relationship and expanding our global partnership. Both leaders expressed their expectation that the friendship and partnership between the two countries will continue to strengthen and grow for many decades to come.

The White House also announced that Moon has invited the president to visit South Korea, and that invitation was “gladly accepted.” A date for that visit has not yet been confirmed, but it widely expected those meetings will include

continued development of this new relationship. The two leaders are likely to meet again at the upcoming G20 summit meetings. {eoa}

My Loved One Just Died—Is She in Heaven?

One of the most difficult things a Christian can face when grieving is knowing whether or not their loved went to heaven.

No one wants to consider the alternative to heaven.

No one wants that alternative for their loved one.

Most, if not all, of us have faced a loved one's death without being fully certain of their salvation, which leads to an even greater depth of grief, not knowing for certain where they are.

While many people would want to comfort us, telling us that our loved one was a good person and "surely God wouldn't send a good person to hell," for those of us who understand that good works are not a basis for eternity in heaven, this is small comfort.

Here are three things to remember when you're not certain your loved one is in heaven:

1. God is a God of mercy.

Yes, God is a just God, and those who defiantly refuse God's gift of salvation will go to hell. However, God is also a God of mercy. This contrast is the perfect nature of God: He is both just and merciful. If need be, God will reveal Himself in

human form if that is what it will take for a person to surrender himself to Him.

2. God doesn't want any to perish.

No one is born predestined to destruction and hell. No one. The Bible says that it is God's will that none perish, and God will go to great lengths to call a person to salvation.

Does this mean that every person will be saved? No. Because God has chosen to limit Himself to human will. This is the astounding thing about God. He is all-powerful and could make us surrender to Him, but He chooses to limit that power to our will. Therefore, we can choose to circumvent His will; we can choose not to surrender to Him.

But God will reach out until a person's final breath to call them to salvation.

3. We can't know what went on in the final hours of their life.

While a person may not be fully conscious, or conscious at all, in the final moments of their life, until the last beat of their heart, God is calling them.

And mental consciousness is not required for salvation.

While a person may no longer have their mental capacities, their spirit is still responsive, and God is reaching out.

This is why Jesus warned us so strongly against judging others. We cannot possibly know where a person has gone once they've died, and to assume we know what took place between God and them in those final seconds, in those final heartbeats, is to be incredibly presumptuous.

God is a God of mercy and grace, and He will do everything necessary to call a person to salvation until their final breath.

While we may never know for certain whether or not our loved one is in heaven, we can make a choice to trust in God's mercy and grace, in His love and justice.

Without the merciful and loving nature of God, full of grace and justice, none of us would have any hope in this world.

And this truth is the ultimate comfort for us all. {eoa}

Rosilind Jukic, a Pacific Northwest native, is a missionary living in Croatia and married to her hero. Together they live in the country with their two active boys, where she enjoys fruity candles and a hot cup of herbal tea on a blustery fall evening. She holds an associates of practical theology and is passionate about discipling and encouraging women. Her passion for writing led her to author a number of books. She is the author of *A Little R & R* where she encourages women to find contentment in what God created them to be. She can also be found at these other places on a regular basis. You can follow her on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Google +.

Has America Passed the Point of No Return?

Is it too late for America? Are the nation's best days behind us? Can our sickly country be saved?

On July 1, 2016, conservative author and filmmaker Dinesh D'Souza sent out an email titled, "On the Brink of Losing America Forever," and it certainly feels that we are that close. But have we passed the point of no return?

We could all point to a virtual mountain of sins and crimes

that are rampant in our country, including the killing of more than 55 million babies in the womb. We could all indict America on many fronts. That is easy to do. But has Almighty God written us off forever?

As we celebrate the 241st anniversary of our nation this July 4th, this is the most important question we can ask. Everything else is secondary. Can America be saved?

In my first book on revival, written in 1989, I asked, "Is God through with America? Is He ready to spew us out of His mouth? Is it too late for revival? Is our country ready to die?"

Now, almost 40 years later, these questions are much more urgent. Do we realize how much farther we have fallen?

I have asked these questions again in my newest book, *Saving a Sick America: A Prescription for Moral and Cultural Reformation*, due out in September. It is a book filled with great hope for our future. But it is a hope based in realism, since we will never get healthy unless we realize just how sick we are.

To use a physical analogy, America has cancer, and without radical treatment, that cancer will soon be terminal. But with major medical intervention and a total change of lifestyle, the prognosis is promising. How will we respond? Taking a pill and taking a nap will not cure our condition. Trying to eat a little better won't reverse a mortal disease.

In the same way, a nice church service won't turn the tide, a lovely sermon won't awaken us, and a casual prayer meeting won't stir us from our stupor. We need a sense of desperation and urgency. Do we have it? Are we praying and crying out and making changes in our own lives as if America hung in the balance?

We need another great awakening—a massive, spiritual revival—but a national awakening will not come up without

national desperation. How hungry are we? How urgent are our prayers? How intense is our desire for God to visit our nation? Do we realize how sick we are?

In the introductory chapter to *Saving a Sick America*, I wanted to paint a picture of just how far we had fallen, and in do so in just a few pages. How could I drive this home? While giving this prayerful consideration one day, everything became clear. I would tell the story of an all-American dad who fell asleep while watching *Leave It to Beaver* with his family in 1961, only to wake up in 2017. The changes are stark and shocking and disturbing. How did we get from there to here?

But my goal in that chapter (and in the book as a whole) was not to depress us or discourage us. Instead, my goal was to awaken us to the urgency of the hour so that we will turn to God with urgency and make urgent changes in our lives.

It is not too late for America unless we make it too late by our complacency and carnality and indifference. But if we will turn to God with all our heart and soul, our best days could be ahead, as preposterous as that may sound.

That's why the last chapter of the book is called, "The Church's Great Opportunity." There I tell the story of an American shoe company that decided to expand overseas, sending their best salesman to start a new branch in Africa. Before he arrived, the company spent years in strategic planning, targeting this particular region as ideal for their global expansion and shipping thousands of boxes of shoes to their huge new warehouse. But within hours of the salesman's arrival, he called the company headquarters in a panic. "Get me out of here!" he exclaimed. "No one here wears shoes!"

They flew him home immediately, temporarily halting their plans, then met as leaders to reevaluate their strategy. After lengthy discussion, they decided that their plan was sound, sending their second-best salesman.

Once again, within hours of his arrival, the salesman called headquarters with an urgent message, but this time his tone was very different. "We need thousands more boxes of shoes!" he exclaimed. "Nobody here has any shoes!" That is the mentality we must embrace here in the USA today in the midst of massive societal decline: *Everyone needs what we have to offer.*

As I wrote in *Saving a Sick America*, "Without a doubt, our nation is desperately sick, on the edge of spiraling into moral and cultural chaos. And without a doubt, much of the church is backslidden, having been seduced into apathy, lethargy and carnality by a compromised, watered-down 'gospel' and by the endless temptations of the age. In many ways, these are dark days for our country spiritually and morally, and we must not minimize the urgency of the hour. But rather than throw our hands up in despair, we should recognize that this is the perfect opportunity for the church of Jesus to rise up in the truth and power of the Spirit, bringing the message of life and transformation to our very sick country. This is the church's great opportunity. This is our time to stand."

By God's grace, I'm determined to stand strong, to speak the truth and live the truth, regardless of cost or consequence and to turn to God with all my heart. Can we stand together? Do we really have a choice?

I truly believe that America can still be saved, but only if we do not minimize the urgency of the hour. {eoa}

Why Your Journey in Prophetic Dreaming Won't Look Like Anybody Else's

I grew up in a non-Christian home where I learned that supernatural things originated from evil sources. The problem was I had a lot of weird things happen to me. I had nightmares, heard voices, saw things that weren't there and grew up fascinated by paranormal activity.

But when I was in my 20s, God invaded my life, and everything changed. The darkness and fear that plagued my God-given gift faded away as I pursued freedom and a closer walk with Him. I started hearing Him in my dreams, having visions, just knowing stuff and feeling what other people felt. It was immediate but not instantaneous.

A short time after I met Jesus, John Paul Jackson came to the Vineyard church I attended in Phoenix. He taught about faith and expecting God to move miraculously, but what really caught my attention was the ministry time. He pointed at a young man in the congregation, asked him to stand up and began telling him about his past, present and future. He did this more than 20 times that night with different people.

I was captivated! Wow! My heart cried out, "God, if that is available, I want it!" At the end of the evening, John Paul announced he was going to teach a course called The Art of Hearing God, and I knew I had to go. At that course, I learned God not only gives us dreams, but He also wants us to learn how to interpret them. They have meaning beyond the experience itself. I was hooked.

The Thing About Dreams

John Paul's course started me on a journey of study, and

today, almost 20 years later, I know I have only scratched the surface of what God offers in the dream world. I started studying dreams and visions, practicing interpreting them and getting feedback from others: “Does this interpretation make sense to you? Does it seem to fit?” I began writing down my dreams. I pursued understanding, and now my life is marked by dreams—I interpret them, I have them, they guide me and I teach others about them.

By far, the most important thing I have learned about dreams is this: When it comes down to it, studying dreams is not about dreams. They are not the answer by themselves. They are about relationship with God. A dream from God will tell us about Him and help us see Him more clearly. We study dreams so we can know the heart of our Father better. My next article will cover this subject in greater detail.

Your Story Is Incredibly Unique

Your story with God probably doesn't look like mine. And it doesn't have to. All of us are on a journey into deeper relationship with Him, and that journey looks different in each and every case. Some of us have spiritual experiences all our lives, while others can't put their finger on a single time when something spiritual or supernatural happened to them. Some of us have incredible encounters later in life that seem to throw open the door to heavenly realities. All of a sudden—after living fairly normal lives—we're propelled into an adventure that is weird and exciting and mind-boggling, all at the same time.

Maybe the concept of God speaking through dreams is new for you. Whether you're just starting this journey or have been on it for a while, keep going—it is worth the effort. Our God is a God who speaks, and while each of us has a unique story with Him, we are all in relationship with the same God who doesn't change. In His world of dreams, a grand adventure awaits us.
{eoa}

John E. Thomas is the president of Streams Ministries and the co-author of The Art of Praying the Scriptures: A Fresh Look at Lectio Divina with John Paul Jackson. Teaching on prophetic ministry, dream interpretation and the kingdom of God, he travels internationally and works to help restore the awe of God to a world that has lost its wonder. John and his wife, Dawna, live outside of Dallas, Texas.

If you want to learn more about dreams and dream interpretation, check out John's newest resource, Dream Foundations, which will be released July 11 on .

Prophecy: 'Angelic Beachcombers' Are Storming the Beaches of the Nations

They appeared to be angelic beings with metal detectors searching for treasure on the beaches of the earth. What seemed to be washed up upon the shores of life through storms and spiritual shipwrecks, disregarded by many, was now in great demand in heaven.

Much treasure was buried in the sands of beaches upon the earth. As angels began to dig deeper in the sand, an outline began to form of what appeared to be a large treasure: a form in the image and likeness of God appeared just beneath the sand—a human being!

Angels began reporting to heaven that many who were made in the very image of God had actually buried themselves and had died spiritually, trying to find rest and relaxation in the pleasures of the shifting quicksands of life. But Jesus now

appeared, walking on the waters along these shorelines of the nations. The waters were being anointed.

'Kings and Queens of the Earth Were Meant to Live in Castles'

As these "angelic beachcombers" continued to dig many of these lost treasures free, the grains of sands beneath them began to cry out the sweetest word ever heard upon this earth: "Repent!"

The grains of sand seemed to speak this word with so much love, as no human voice had ever spoken to these treasures before. In fact, one angel wrote with its finger across the beaches the word "repent," and then built a heart-shaped sandcastle around it as heaven proclaimed, "Kings and queens of the earth were meant to live in castles. Return to Me!"

True "R & R" was coming to these worn, broken lives as they began being kissed by the Son of Righteousness rising upon them with healing in His wings. Sweet repentance and restoration was invading the beaches and shorelines of nations! Lost wedding rings were being restored to fingers. Great financial needs began to be met supernaturally from the mouth of a fish. Jonahs began to get up one more time from when they had fallen down and began to shake the sandman from their sleep!

'Comb the Beaches, Mountains, Valleys, Cities ... and My Own House'

I then heard the Father commanding these angelic beachcombers, "Begin on the beaches of the earth and then begin to move inland, combing the mountains and the valleys, the cities; and don't miss combing through My own house to search and bring forth many of My treasures who have buried themselves in their own church traditions and are locked up inside those church walls. Compel them to go out now into the highways, the byways, the cities and the beaches and pick up the spoil that lies waiting."

I'll see you at the beach. {eoa}

Bill Yount has been a member of Bridge of Life in Hagerstown, Maryland, for the past 36 years where he is now an elder and a home missionary. He is currently an adviser-at-large for Aglow International. Bill faithfully served in prison ministry at Mount Hope for 23 years and now travels full-time, both in the U.S. and internationally, ministering in churches and Aglow circles. "Humility and humor" characterize his ministry as he brings forth a fresh word that is "in season," proclaiming the word of the Lord. The shofar (or ram's horn) is often used in his meetings, breaking the powers of darkness over regions, churches and households. The shofar represents God's breath blowing into the nostrils of His people, reviving them and awakening the lost. Many of God's messages, which Bill ministers prophetically, come out of his everyday life with his family and friends. Please visit Bill's website at .

Evidence Pointing to a Huge Voter Fraud Problem Is Mounting

This week, The Heritage Foundation is updating its Voter Fraud Database with 89 new entries, including 75 convictions and a slew of overturned elections and civil fines targeting vote fraudsters.

With these latest additions, the database now documents 581 cases of proven voter fraud and 848 criminal convictions.

Heritage's database proves not only that voter fraud is real and ongoing, but also that it is not isolated to any

particular state or region.

With the addition of cases from Nebraska and Oklahoma—two states previously unaccounted for in the database—Heritage now has documented proof of electoral fraud in 47 states. This truly is a problem that spans the nation.

The evidence is mounting, and it is incontrovertible—yet many liberals still refuse to acknowledge the gravity of the problem, or even admit that it exists at all. Voter fraud-deniers paint election integrity efforts as little more than smoke screens for “voter suppression.”

Their political games have consequences: By opposing or seeking to overturn commonsense measures like voter identification laws and efforts to clean up outdated and inaccurate voter rolls in the states, liberals are actually making it much easier for fraudsters to steal votes and for corrupt politicians to rig elections and negate legitimate votes cast by eligible citizens—effectively disenfranchising them.

How’s that for irony?

So long as elections are the pathway to political power and victory for favored causes, there will always be those who prefer to cheat rather than risk losing in a free and fair contest.

Here are a few of the new additions to the database:

- **Connecticut:** Michael Singh of Stratford successfully registered to vote, voted and was eventually elected to the town council despite not being a citizen. The Connecticut Elections Enforcement Commission discovered his noncitizen status and required him to pay a \$4,000 fine and resign from his position.
- **Nebraska:** Two men, Ali Abdullahi and Shueb Ali, pleaded no contest to charges that they voted twice in the 2016

general election. Both men cast ballots during the early voting period and then again at the polls on Election Day. Each was fined \$100.

- **Florida:** The former mayor of the town of Eatonville, Anthony Grant, was convicted of a felony voting fraud charge, a felony election violation, and misdemeanor absentee voting violations. During his 2015 campaign, Grant coerced absentee voters to cast ballots for him and personally solicited at least one absentee ballot from someone who did not live in the town.

His efforts appeared to have paid off (that is, until he was caught): On Election Day, he lost the in-person vote but prevailed overall with more than twice as many absentee ballots as the incumbent.

His victory was short-lived, though. After Grant's indictment, Gov. Rick Scott suspended him from office. He was sentenced to four years' probation and ordered to complete 400 hours of community service.

- **Alaska:** Alvaro Jimenez-Aguilar, an illegal alien, overstayed his visitor's visa. Rather than return home, he assumed the identity of his deceased nephew, falsely claimed citizenship status, and filed a Social Security application. Jimenez-Aguilar was also able to successfully register to vote.

Following his conviction, Jimenez-Aguilar was sentenced to time served, one year of supervised release, and his case was transferred to Immigration and Customs Enforcement for deportation proceedings.

Most states today have woefully inadequate measures in place to detect and guard against the types of fraud identified in these and the hundreds of other cases in the Heritage database. Overworked prosecutors often do not prioritize these cases, particularly after elections are concluded.

As a consequence, election fraud frequently goes undetected and unpunished, inviting future abuses of the system.

It is long past time for states to seriously tackle the issue of election integrity.

Reasonable reforms, such as requiring voter identification both at the polls and when voting absentee, entering into interstate programs to cross-check voter rolls for duplicate registrations, and purging voter rolls of deceased voters and non-citizens will help to protect the integrity of the process and ensure that American elections accurately reflect the will of the citizenry.

None of these reforms would bar legitimate voters from participating in the democratic process.

Unfortunately, protecting the sanctity of that process is not foremost on the agendas of many state leaders. Just look at Virginia, where a recent report by the Public Interest Legal Foundation revealed extensive efforts by state election officials to stonewall the group's investigation into noncitizen voting.

As documented in the report, noncitizens were casting ballots by the thousands, and state efforts to root out ineligible voters are lackadaisical at best.

Virginia is a swing state. In tight races—and there are many of them in Virginia—where a few votes can determine the outcome, even a handful of fraudulently cast ballots can have extraordinary consequences for communities, states, and the nation.

Fortunately, this issue is about to get the attention it deserves in the form of an election integrity commission chaired by Vice President Mike Pence, which will hold its first meeting in July. That group's efforts cannot begin soon enough.

As the Heritage database proves beyond any doubt, voter fraud exists, it is widespread, and it is not going away any time soon.

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Untangling the World's Grip on Your Mind

Are you waiting on God to do something? Do you long to see the power of God working in your life; your family, job, finances, relationships?

Ephesians 3:20 says, "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all that we ask or imagine, according to the power that works in us." Think on this Scripture; ask the Holy Spirit to bring understanding that you may know how to release the power that is within you. Why do you need to ask? So you can receive!

In Ephesians 1:18-19, Paul prays that the eyes of our understanding will be opened so that we may know what we have been given in the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe. God has given us "all things that pertain to life and godliness" so we can become "partakers of the divine nature and escape the corruption that is in the world through lust (2 Pet. 1:2-4).

When we are born again, conversion gives us the ability to see

(John 3:3). Your "new creation life" is continually being renewed as you understand what happened to you when you were born again. Second Corinthians 5:17 tells us, "Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things have passed away. Look, all things have become new."

When you are born again, your spirit becomes new. This is where the Holy Spirit dwells. First John 2:20 tells us, "But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things." The Holy Spirit in you knows all things and will reveal them to you as you study the Word of God. This is renewing your mind. Your soul, (your mind, will and emotions) and your body are the same, depending on you to grow in the knowledge of God. As a child of God, you live from the inside out! "For God is the One working in you, both to will and to do His good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13).

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect" (Rom. 12:2, NLT). Your spirit is brand-new. Only as you renew your mind and understand the new-creation realities in your new life with Christ will the power that has been imparted in you be released in your life.

You are not alone; the Holy Spirit is your Helper, and you have an advantage over the world. The Holy Spirit will open the eyes of your understanding and guide you through this world (see John 16:5-24).

As we live in this world in the midst of all the turmoil with so many voices, it is easy to get caught up in the cares of the world. When we receive revelation knowledge, the Word of God revealed to us by the Holy Spirit, we will walk in the power of we.

God is the power, and the Word in you activates that power.

When we believe the Word of God, we will speak the Word of God. "We have the same spirit of faith. As it is written, "I believed, and therefore I have spoken." So we also believe and therefore speak" (2 Cor. 4:13, MEV). Speaking the Word of God revealed to your heart releases the power of God within you.

Isaiah 57:19 (NKJV) says, "I create the fruit of the lips. ..." The power of God within you is released as you believe in your heart and speak with your mouth (see Rom. 10:10).

How powerful are your words? You connect from the natural to the spiritual, from death to life and from hell to heaven by the power of the words of your mouth! Proverbs 18:21 (MEV) says, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit."

"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it" (Proverbs 4:23, NIV). This is a foundational Scripture from which you build your life. Your heart is the dwelling place of your born-again spirit, the new creation in Christ Jesus. Everything you do in life, good and bad, comes from your heart (see Matt. 12:35).

To guard your heart, you must have a hunger for the Word of God. When you hunger for—have a strong desire and focus on the things of God—the Holy Spirit will open your eyes and reveal the truth of God's Word in you. You, child of God, overcome the evil in this world by the revelation of the power of God in you. We need a full revelation of what happened to us when we became a new creation so we can release the power of God in our life. {eoa}

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What We Can Learn About Revival From America's Spiritual Founding Father

He became the most recognizable and talked-about figure in Colonial America. From Georgia to Maine, thousands filled churches and gathered in open fields to hear him preach. Loved by the masses, he was detested by many of the clergy who refused him their pulpits. Undaunted, he preached in the open fields to massive crowds of all sects and denominations.

At a time when the population of Boston was estimated at 20,000, he preached to an estimated crowd of 25,000 on the Boston Common. Great revival seemed to erupt everywhere he went. Denominational walls were broken down, and for the first time, the scattered American colonists began to see themselves as a single people with one divine destiny. Through his incessant labors and his love for America, George Whitefield (1713-1770) helped prepare the way for the formation of the United States of America.

Communities Are Entirely Transformed

A native of England, Whitefield departed his home country at the age of 24 in August of 1739 with a burden for the American colonists and a prayer that they would not live as 13 scattered colonies, but as "one nation under God" (Hyatt, *Pilgrims and Patriots*, 100). With a heart totally given to God and a rare oratorical gift, he was providentially prepared and positioned for such a moment in history. As he traveled up and down the eastern seaboard, shopkeepers closed their doors, farmers left their plows and workers threw down

their tools to hurry to the place where he was to preach.

Nathan Cole gave a vivid description of the stir it caused throughout the region when Whitefield preached in Middletown, Connecticut. Cole was working in his field 12 miles away near Kensington when someone told him that Whitefield would be preaching in Middletown at 10 o'clock that same morning.

Cole immediately dropped his tools, ran to the house and told wife to get ready to go and hear Whitefield preach. He then saddled their horse. They both mounted and hurried on their way to Middletown. Concerned that the horse might tire carrying two riders that distance, Cole would ride for a while and then dismount and run alongside.

As they approached the main road from Hartford to Middletown, they saw an amazing sight. A cloud of dust rose above the hills and trees, and they heard a sound like a low, rumbling thunder. As they drew closer, they realized that the dust and sound were caused by a massive company of horses and riders that filled the road, all on their way to hear Whitefield preach. No one made a sound, and there was something surreal about the scene as every rider seemed somber and intent on their purpose. "It made me tremble to see the sight," said Cole.

Cole and his wife finally reached Middletown covered with dust. There they encountered another amazing sight. He said:

When we got to the Middletown old meeting house there was a great multitude, which was said to be three or four thousand people assembled together. I turned and looked towards the great river and saw the ferry boats running swift bringing over loads of people. The land and banks over the river looked black with people and horses all along the 12 miles. I saw no man at work in his field, but all seemed to be gone. When I saw Mr. Whitefield come upon the scaffold, he looked almost angelical; a young, slim, slender youth before some

thousands of people with a bold undaunted countenance. And my hearing how God was with him everywhere he came along, it solemnized my mind and put me into a trembling fear before he began to preach, for he looked as if he was clothed with authority from the Great God, and a sweet, solemn solemnity sat upon his brow. And my hearing him preach gave me a heart wound. By God's blessings, my old foundation was broken up, and I saw that my righteousness would not save me (Hyatt, Pilgrims and Patriots, 101).

Benjamin Franklin and Philadelphia Are Impacted

Whitefield preached in Philadelphia and saw incredible results. Benjamin Franklin's testimony of the impact of his preaching on the city is particularly significant since he did not profess to be a Christian at the time. In his autobiography, Franklin tells of the incredible transformation that came over the city when Whitefield came there on his first of seven visits to America. He wrote:

In 1739 there arrived among us from Ireland the Reverend Mr. Whitefield, who made himself remarkable there as an itinerant preacher. He was at first permitted to preach in some of our churches, but the clergy, taking a dislike to him, soon refused him their pulpits, and he was obliged to preach in the fields. The multitudes of all sects and denominations that attended his sermons were enormous, and it was a matter of speculation to me, who was one of the number, to observe the extraordinary influence of his oratory on his hearers. From being thoughtless or indifferent about religion, it seemed as if all the world were growing religious so that one could not walk through the town in an evening without hearing psalms sung in different families of every street.

Whitefield and Franklin became close friends and business partners, with Franklin taking on the task of printing and

distributing Whitefield's sermons and journals. They kept up a lively correspondence until Whitefield's death some 31 years later, and Whitefield stayed in Franklin's home on at least one subsequent visit to Philadelphia. In a letter to his brother James, a printer in Boston, Franklin said, "Whitefield is a good man, and I love him."

Franklin admits that he was skeptical of reports of Whitefield preaching being heard by crowds of 25,000 and more. While listening to Whitefield preach from the top of the Philadelphia courthouse steps to a huge throng, Franklin, having an inquiring and scientific mind, retired backward to see how far Whitefield's voice would reach. He then did some calculations and decided that Whitefield's voice, which he described as "loud and clear," could be heard by crowds of 30,000 and more.

The Awakening Touches All Sects and Denominations

Although ordained with the Church of England, Whitefield did not have a denominational bone in his body. In England, he had been instrumental in spearheading the great Methodist Revival along with the Wesley brothers. He freely fellowshiped with all true believers, including Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists, Quakers and any who honored God and confessed Jesus Christ as the true Lord of the church.

In one of his sermons, as he was preaching in the open air to a great multitude representing various sects and denominations, Whitefield pretended to converse with Father Abraham, whom he pictured as looking over the banister of heaven at the gathered multitude.

Whitefield cried out, "Father Abraham, are there any Anglicans in heaven?"

The answer came back, "No, there are no Anglicans in heaven."

"Father Abraham, are there any Methodists in heaven?"

"No, there are no Methodists in heaven."

"Are there any Presbyterians in heaven?"

"No, there are no Presbyterians here either."

"What about Baptists or Quakers?"

"No, there are none of those here either."

"Father Abraham," cried Whitefield, "What kind of people are in heaven?"

The answer came back, "There are only Christians in heaven, only those who are washed in the blood of the Lamb."

Whitefield then cried out, "Oh, is that the case? Then God help me, God help us all, to forget having names and to become Christians in deed and in truth!"

Although accounts of his meetings often describe the multitudes as standing and listening in rapt silence, accounts also reveal intense emotional responses at times, as things eternal were made real to their hearts and minds. On one occasion after preaching to a huge throng gathered outdoors, Whitefield surveyed the crowd and noted the amazing response. He wrote in his Journal: "Look where I would, most were drowned in tears. Some were struck pale as death, others wringing their hands, others lying on the ground, others sinking into the arms of their friends and most lifting up their eyes to heaven and crying out to God."

Cultural Change

The Great Awakening literally changed the moral climate of colonial America. Entire communities were transformed. Profanity, lewdness and drunkenness almost completely disappeared, especially in some areas. Reports in New England alone show 30,000 to 40,000 converts and 150 new churches. No one had a greater role in this transformation than George

Whitefield.

There were many local and regional revivals at the time, but, by his incessant travels, Whitefield made the Great Awakening one national event. It was the first time the scattered colonists of various, national, denominational and theological persuasions had participated together in a single event. Denominational walls were broken down, and for the first time, the colonists began to see themselves as a single people with one divine destiny, "One Nation Under God," as Whitfield had prayed.

The preaching of Whitefield also helped democratize the inhabitants of the colonies by showing no preference based on race, wealth or social status. For Whitefield, everyone was on the same level—guilty sinners before God—with only one solution for the sin problem—faith in Jesus Christ. He did not spare anyone because of their social status.

When, for example, a black woman was roundly criticized because she interrupted a white preacher with shouts of praise to God, Whitefield came to her defense and expressed his firm belief that at that moment, "The Lord Jesus took a great possession of her soul." He went on to say, "I doubt not, when the poor Negroes are to be called, God will highly favor them, to wipe off their reproach, and show that He is no respecter of persons."

The preaching of Whitefield helped create a national identity and prepared the way for nationhood. This is why Harvard professor William Perry said, "The Declaration of Independence of 1776 was a direct result of the evangelical preaching of the evangelists of the Great Awakening."

Historian Benjamin Hart points out that when Whitefield visited America for the final time in 1770, even the Episcopal (Anglican) churches, which had initially rejected him, opened

their doors to him. He goes on to say, "The true Spirit of Christ had dissolved sectarian differences. America considered itself to be a nation of Christians, pure and simple, as Whitefield noted with satisfaction. 'Pulpits, hearts and affections,' he said, were opened to him and any preacher of whatever denomination who had a true Christian message to share."

Whitefield Burns Out for God

Whitefield loved America and made seven visits to this land. During his seventh and final visit in 1770, Whitefield was continuing his incessant travels even though he had been experiencing weakness, pain in his chest and had been coughing up blood. On September 29, he preached to large crowds in an open field near Newburyport, Massachusetts. With night falling, he retired to the home of a friend, Reverend Jonathan Parsons, to spend the night. Hundreds, however, followed him to the home wanting to hear more of God's love and power.

Although night had fallen and he was weak in body, Whitefield emerged from the house with a candle and announced to the multitude that he would preach and pray until the candle burned out. There were many tears and cries to God as he continued to pour out His heart to the people and to God. Finally, the candle burned down and went out. Whitefield bid the people a final farewell, returned to the house and went to bed.

His sleep, however, was restless, and he awakened in the middle of the night with an asthma attack. He then went back to sleep but awakened later with a tight chest and difficulty breathing. He finally stopped breathing altogether, and despite a doctor's attempts to revive him, he expired at 6 a.m. on Sept. 30, 1770.

Offers to bury him came from New Hampshire and from Boston's Old South Church. Parsons, however, quickly arranged for

Whitefield's interment in the vault of the Newburyport Presbyterian Church, where his remains still lie today.

Daniel Rogers, who had been converted under Whitefield's ministry 30 years before and had remained a loyal friend, prayed at the funeral. He said that he owed his conversion "to the labors of that dear man of God, whose precious remains now lay before them." Rogers then began weeping and crying, "O my father, my father!" The congregation melted into tears.

Condolences poured in from throughout the colonies and from Great Britain. Franklin was in London at the time of Whitefield's death. When he received word of his friend's passing, he wrote, "I knew him intimately upwards of 30 years; his integrity, disinterestedness and indefatigable zeal in prosecuting every good work, I have never seen equaled, I shall never see exceeded."

Benjamin Franklin, the skeptical printer of Philadelphia, and America would never be the same as a result of the "indefatigable zeal" of George Whitefield in preaching the gospel to colonial America. This is why Thomas S. Kidd, Professor of History at Baylor University, has called Whitefield "America's Spiritual Founding Father."

Where are the George Whitefields of this generation who will proclaim God's truth without fear of man? May they stand up now! {eoa}

*This article was derived from **Dr. Eddie Hyatt's** latest book, *Pilgrims and Patriots*, available from Amazon and his website in both Kindle and paperback. His website is .*