

Bret Baier of Fox News Remembers 9/11, Says 'Prayer Changes Things'

The events of 9/11 changed the life of Fox News anchor Bret Baier, and his book, *Special Heart: A Journey of Faith, Hope, Courage and Love*, tells the story of his son, Paul Francis, who was born with a heart disease.

"I believe in prayer—it provides the light at the end of the tunnel. Prayer got us through the darkest times, in particular with our son, Paul Francis," says Baier, who also anchors *Special Report With Bret Baier*. The journalist adds that his favorite Bible verse is Luke 12:48b (KJV): "'For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required.'"

Baier was raised Catholic and became one of the first Fox News reporters hired after sending in a demo tape in 1998. But on 9/11, while working as the Fox News Atlanta bureau chief, he drove to Washington, D.C., to cover the Pentagon attack. He has worked in Washington, D.C. ever since, initially as a Pentagon correspondent, then White House correspondent and then in 2009 taking over from his mentor, Brit Hume, who rededicated his own life to Christ following the death of his son.

Baier and his wife, Amy, have two sons, and he proudly says, "They are now 10 and 13, and Paul is doing great, but he still has more surgeries ahead of him."

As a journalist, Baier has particular advice for young people considering media. "Listen first to other people—I pray for balance on a story, and to get to the truth, weighing the scale. I don't tell anyone what to do, but prayer is a calming force for my day. I encourage young people to learn to listen to the other side while standing up for your values."

Having been to Afghanistan 11 times and Iraq 13 times, Baier has traveled the world and seen firsthand the difference faith makes not only for the easy times, but for life-and-death experiences.

Church was an on-again, off-again experience for Baier after college, he says. But his son Paul Francis and the way God touched their family and answered prayer played a big part in deepening both his and Amy's faith as well as their commitment to the local church.

"We believe in the power of prayer. I am an advocate for prayer and am involved in it during normal times with our local church. People are dealing with a lot of things, and for my family, we need God."

In a day where faith, hope, courage and love are in short supply, Baier challenges us all to do the one thing we can do that changes everything: pray.

"We pray with our boys every night that God will lead them, protect them and guide them," Baier says. And while careful to stay neutral about his political views, his advice for the upcoming election is to pray that God will "guide the country—and give us wisdom—no matter which way people vote."

As bestselling author of *God, Trump and COVID-19* Stephen Strang says, there are many spiritual signs related to the 2020 election that the secular media would "never cover ... except to ridicule." It is a special blessing to have those who are part of the media that influences the world be men and women of prayer who see and believe in its power and pass it on to all.

In just 53 days, America will gather to decide the two paths before us. This is a time of seriousness, which, as Baier reminds us, calls for prayer for the wisdom of God to lead.
{eoa}

Amir George is the author of *Liberating Iraq* and directs *The World Helpline* at .

People Needed: *Capitol Hill Daily Prayer 7:30 a.m./12 p.m., Hart Senate Office Building, Constitution Ave./Supreme Court entrance.*

Even if you can't come, please pause to pray at 7:30/12 and let us know at thewhitehouseprayerteam@.

Larry Tomczak: Stephen Strang Reveals Keen Insights Into Trump and 2020 Election

In 1969 David Ruben published a book titled *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex*.

You may recall the provocative title. Did you know the impact of the book?

–It was the No. 1 bestseller in 51 countries of the world.

–The book reached over 100 million readers.

–It was the No. 1 bestseller on *The New York Times'* list for 55 straight weeks.

–In 1972 it was made into a very successful film by Woody Allen.

–Dr. Ruben wrote a sequel to the book years later which also sold mega copies.

Currently there are scores of books focusing in on our

president, Donald J. Trump. Some are critical and become No. 1 bestsellers. Others are positive and draw accolades from Trump supporters.

Recently, I had the opportunity to sit down with my 45-year friend, Steve Strang, one of the finest Christian journalists in America, who has also written numerous bestselling books on the president of the United States.

In my weekly *Here's the Deal* commentary and the podcasts included within, I can't promise we'll answer every single question you'd like about our president, but I can invite you to glean information and insights from Steve, who has personally interviewed four presidents, including President Trump.

God, Trump, and the 2020 Election

Steve Strang is the pioneer founder and CEO of Charisma Media and was voted by *Time* magazine at one of the 25 most influential evangelicals in America. He's been featured on Fox News, CNN, MSNBC, CBN, Dr. Dobson's *Family Talk* and many Christian outlets.

One of Steve's latest books is titled *God, Trump and the 2020 Election: Why He Must Win and What's at Stake for Christians if He Loses.*" I strongly encourage every patriotic American to read this book and do it now with the election approaching within a matter of weeks!

Former Gov. Mike Huckabee said of the book, "Stephen Strang flawlessly captures the spiritual significance of Donald Trump's presidency in this critical hour. As fewer and fewer Americans value belief in God, Strang's airtight case reelecting Trump is both timely and urgent!"

Pat Robertson, founder and chairman of the Christian Broadcasting Network, stated, "Steven Strang is a keen reporter whose prose cuts like a laser into the troubled soul

of America and exposes a condition where the elites of our nation have actually turned against it.”

I wholeheartedly endorsed the book saying, “The unprecedented, extraordinary developments in America today necessitate discovering sources of insight and encouragement to understand the times with knowledge of what to do (1 Chron. 12:32). Steven Strang is a uniquely gifted and experienced journalist whose latest book is an invaluable resource to help us in these turbulent times. It’s clear, comprehensive and cutting-edge. On a scale of 1 to 10 I give it a 10 plus a double thumbs-up!”

Consider the Contents

There are three podcasts embedded in this article encouraging you and equipping you regarding the most significant election in America’s history rapidly approaching. A quick overview of what Steve shared includes the following:

–What do you want to know about Donald Trump?

–Steve has interviewed four American presidents but explains why this interview was the best!

–Are you paying attention that politicians in states are now closing churches and arresting pastors, so will this finally wake us up?

–What is Donald Trump really like in person, and is he a Christian?

–CNN asked a question that caught Steve Strang by surprise regarding how the president wants to be remembered ... Don’t miss it!

Clock Is Ticking/Time for Preparing

Steve recently said, “Depending on who wins this election, there will be a drastic difference in our country. It will

even affect our liberties to worship God as we see fit and limit our ability to share the gospel with the world!"

The Bible tells us, "The horse is prepared against the day of battle, but victory is of the Lord" (Prov. 21:31). God is stirring the hearts of His people to recognize the urgency of the hour and the destiny of our nation which is at stake.

Here's the deal: We are called to be salt and light in our society, and now is the time to reject compromise, cowardice and complacency to stand up for values honoring God and our nation's Judeo-Christian heritage. "Who will rise up for me against the wicked? Who will stand up for me against those who do iniquity?" ().

Our time has come, and we will stand united and strong for the glory of God! {eoa}

'The Return' National Day of Prayer and Repentance Follows 19th Anniversary of 9/11

When al-Qaida used airliners on 9/11 in a deadly attack, Americans seemed poised to return to her Christian roots, but in the 19 years since, repentance has cooled. Now, thousands of pastors, congregations and individuals are preparing to attend the "The Return: National and Global Day of Prayer and Repentance"—an invitation to all Americans to turn from sin back to God through prayer and repentance.

The image of hijacked airliners becoming missiles combined with COVID-19, tumbling monuments and nightly riots may serve

to rekindle the desire of many to ask God difficult questions about the future of a nation whose very currency proclaims, "In God We Trust." "The Return" is designed for Americans to get honest with themselves and the God of their forefathers.

Who: Co-Chaired by Pastor Kevin Jessip and *New York Times'* bestselling author Jonathan Cahn.

What: "The Return" is a movement that calls on para-church organizations, congregations and individuals to humble themselves in repentance and anticipate God's redemption and restoration.

Where: Washington Mall, between the Washington Monument and Capitol Hill (coordinated events throughout America's cities, towns, houses of worship and homes).

When: Main Event: Sept. 26, 9 a.m.- 6 p. m; **Celebration Event:** Sept. 26, 6-9 p.m.; **Friday Night Event:** Sept. 25, 6-9 p.m.

Why: The window of opportunity is open for the American church to consecrate herself through personal repentance and to position herself to be used as God purifies the bride of Christ.

How: Connect with "The Return" at or call **pray (**7729) to register and learn more. Follow "The Return" on social media at Facebook: @ReturnEvent2020; Twitter: @2020_Return; and Instagram: @The_Return2020.

"The Return" is set for 40 days before the presidential election and on the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower, in the days of America's founding and dedication to God. Surrounding the "The Day of Return" on Sept. 26 at the Washington Mall will be 10 days, known from ancient times as the Days of Awe, to be set as a special time of prayer and repentance from Sept. 18-28.

An exciting worship and prayer service, for youth and all

ages, called "The Return: Next Generation" is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 25 from 6-9 p.m. ET, leading up to "The Return" on Saturday. The special service will honor military and law enforcement, and Mike Lindell will be launching his new national addiction Lindell Recovery Network. National music artist Danny Gokey will be leading worship, and a moving keynote message will be given by Nicky Cruz.

America's current struggles, along with the pain of the 9/11 memories, may serve to awaken Christians to the need for repentance, co-chair Kevin Jessip believes.

"Without revival, America and its future will be lost," Jessip said. "Therefore, we have a window of time we may never have again."

Christian leaders from across the country support of "The Return" include Pastor Kevin Jessip and bestselling author Jonathan Cahn (co-chairs), Mike Lindell, Michele Bachmann, Pat Boone, Dr. James Dobson, Mark Gonzales, Robert Morris, Marcus Lamb, John Kilpatrick, Pierre Bynum, Gen. William Boykin, Carter Conlon, Bishop Harry Jackson, Alveda King, Anne Graham Lotz, Pat and Gordon Robertson, Kevin and Sam Sorbo, Stephen E. Strang, E. W. Jackson and many more supporters listed at

The following Christian organizations are partners of "The Return": EpicPay, Every Home for Christ, Family Research Council, Family Talk, Gateway Church, Hispanic Prayer Network, House of David Ministries, Inciite Events, Intercessors for America, Jensine Bard Ministries, John Kilpatrick Ministries, 10 Days, All Pro Pastors International, America's National Prayer Committee, Anne Graham Lotz & Angel Ministries, Assemblies of God, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Bless Every Home, Calvary Chapel and Capitol Hill Prayer Partners, CBN, *Charisma* magazine, Church of God, Collide, CTN, Daystar Television Network, Engage Media Partners, National Day of Prayer, Museum of the Bible, MyPillow, National Christian Foundation, Outreach, Pentecostal/Charismatic

Rediscover the Fullness of Your Prophetic Call

The last few decades have centered prophetic ministry on the praxis of personal prophecy to build up, encourage and comfort (1 Cor. 14:3). It's not uncommon to find churches in major cities around the world who actively train their members to hear God and minister His Word to others. Conferences, books and podcasts have multiplied on this topic, and God's people have been blessed as a result.

However our emphasis of one application almost invariably means neglecting other critical applications. Has this been the case with our prophetic call? In our emphasis of personal prophecy, have we inadvertently neglected our prophetic call to justice and reconciliation?

In a June 2020 sermon, Pastor Matt Chandler of The Village Church argued that the modern church has refused to participate in society's discussion on race—a far cry from the ministry of Martin Luther King, whom we all honor and love. Chandler suggested we've abdicated our inheritance to the hands of “justice” movements that are antithetical to God's kingdom:

“And now one of the things that has happened is the church by and large has refused to participate. Which means that we have turned over—God help us—we have turned over what is our inheritance to dark ideologies,” Chandler said.

Today the social dialogue concerning race relations is no longer led by the voice of the church, as in the days of Martin Luther King. Instead, secular voices of Black Lives Matter and critical race theory have risen to leadership prominence. It seems to me we have traveled far from our prophetic heritage of abolitionism, suffrage and civil rights for a more personal inspiration focus of prophetic ministry. Is it possible for us to rediscover our transformational voice in culture while maintaining our voice in body life?

I do believe it's both crucial and possible for the church to recapture a fuller sense of our prophetic call. God Himself is motivated to this end. It's in His heart to give the world a true testimony of Jesus—which is the spirit of prophecy (Rev. 19:10).

In this article, I list five practices to help us rediscover our prophetic call. While this list is by no means comprehensive, it reflects some keys I'm embracing today.

Cultivate friendships with people different than you. While many Old Testament prophets modeled lives of separation and asceticism, there are others—along with Jesus—who embodied a different approach. Jesus modeled a life before His Father and among the broken. This is the heart of the incarnation. While Jesus prophetically spoke against sexual immorality (Matt. 5:28), He was never accused of hating the sexually immoral. Instead He was called a friend of sinners (Matt. 9:11) because his entourage was full of broken people.

When we invest in friendships in our communities, our voice is shaped by God's love for our neighbor. In time, God's love gives us the necessary authority to speak His difficult words.

Enter the pain of others. The Bible's call to weep with those who weep (Rom. 12:15) is an invitation to experience the heart of God that breaks for humanity's brokenness. While this experience of prophetic lament can take place in private

intercessory prayer, there is greater effect when done in the context of authentic friendship. Who in your greater community is in pain?

When we speak prophetically against societal ills without first entering into the pain of our neighbor, we sound like a resounding gong or clanging symbol (1 Cor. 13:1) to the world around us. Conversely, when we enter the pain of others prior to speaking out, our voice is baptized in the supernatural power of the God of all comfort (2 Cor. 1:3-5).

Take restorative action. Since our family moved to the American South, we have intentionally taken our kids to historic civil rights sites as well as Confederate monuments. At these sites we have celebrated our progress, grieved our brokenness and prayed for the fullness of God's kingdom still yet to come to our nation. I'm certain that these simple trips have done more in the cause of justice than any social media post I have shared on the topic.

When we take restorative action, our lives get further aligned to the messages He gives us to proclaim. This releases transformational power on our ministry.

Routinely check your allegiances. One of the greatest hindrances to the gospel in our day is misplaced allegiances, particularly in the political realm. The problem is not political involvement, but uncritical support of a party, platform or personality. Uncritical support is a sign that our primary allegiance to Christ has been compromised by a secondary allegiance to man—it's guaranteed to diminish our gospel witness and our prophetic voice in culture.

When we repent of misplaced allegiances, we experience freedom from the political spirit and are restored to the supernatural power and purity of the prophetic.

Speak out God's vision for creation. God has a holy dream for creation; a dream that every man-made system fails to

perfectly reflect. Part of our prophetic call involves affirming the points at which human systems reflect God's kingdom and denouncing where they directly oppose it. This double-edged sword separates soul and spirit, carving an image of the heavenly order God intends to bring to earth.

When we speak out God's vision for creation, we interrupt earthly narratives with the great truth: God is full of both wisdom and goodness, and it's in our best interest to trust Him.

Grace to the people of God as we recover a fuller sense of our prophetic voice and play our unique part in today's Jesus Movement.

Listen to this episode of *Jesus Movement Now* on Christians and Black Lives Matter here. {[eoa](#)}

NC School Cuts Bible Verses From Church-Donated Planners

After receiving a donation of 600 daily planners from a local church, a North Carolina middle school noticed two Bible verses printed on the planners' back page. The school laboriously cut out the verses from each of the 600 books before handing them out to students.

WBTV reports the planners were donated by the Sulphur Springs Baptist Church. The church printed their logo, a short message and two Bible verses on the back of the planners as an inspiration to students.

“We wish you a successful and blessed school year!” the message beside the church logo reads. It was followed by two verses:

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jer. 29:11).

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Phil. 4:13).

All told, the church spent more than \$2,000 to help provide resources for the school and the students, according to WSOC-TV.

In a Twitter post, WSOC’s Dave Faherty showed how the back page of each of the planners was cut to remove the verses.

Alexander County- a local church donates 600 planners to students at East Alexander Middle. Before passing them out, the school cut out two Bible verses on the back. The story tonight on eyewitness news at 5pm

– Dave Faherty (@FahertyWSOC9) September 2, 2020

“We just put them back there for encouragement. We know the school year ended rough last year. We know coming back with split days,” the church’s assistant pastor James Safrit told the station.

School officials said the addition of the Bible verses made it impossible for the schools to give them to students, according to their interpretation of the U.S. Constitution.

Click [here](#) to read the rest of this story from our content partners at CBN News. {eoa}

Word of God Defeats 'Cancel Culture' on 9/11

This year, the “cancel culture” infiltrated the holy ground of the Twin Towers and tried to cancel the annual live reading of the names of those who died in the terrible tragedy of 9/11. First, the annual “Tribute in Light” in which the Twin Towers are recreated by light and the names read out was canceled by the National Sept. 11 Memorial and Museum, which has sponsored the event since it was started by former Mayor Rudy Giuliani, ostensibly because of concerns over COVID-19. But after an outcry, New York City reinstated the tribute. And the people of America, led by Frank Siller, CEO of the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation, who lost his firefighter brother on 9/11, stepped up to make sure the live reading of names happened.

“The horrific loss of life from the largest terrorist attack on U.S. soil requires that we read these names—out loud, in person, on this day, every year,” Siller said, according to Newsday.

The fierce reaction to the initial cancellation caused Siller and the families who lost their loved ones and who by tradition read the names every year to continue the tradition of reading the names aloud at a new event near ground zero on Liberty and Church Streets, where the event was held before the 9/11 memorial was complete, according to Fox News. Here, the words of Vice President Pence and the second lady rang out to the silence, then cheers of the assembled family members, so grateful that the tradition had been preserved.

Karen Pence began with the words of David in Ecclesiastes

3:1-11 (NIV):

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

The vice president followed without comment, reading David's Psalm 23 (KJV), "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

As bestselling author of *God, Trump and COVID-19*, Stephen Strang, says, "Endorsed by Senators Kamala Harris and Corey Booker as well as John Podesta ... *Brown Is the New White* is the guidebook for the communist revolution now unfolding ever so slightly under the radar."

The key is—precisely as happens in every communist revolution

from the Cultural Revolution in China to Cuba to the former Soviet Union—the erasure of history and the past. And the weapon to stand up to this resurrection of evil was best exemplified by the dignified words of Vice President Pence and the second lady, who along with the restored public reading of the names of those who lost their lives during 9/11, read the simple but powerful words of Scripture. These profound acts stood front and center against the evil trying to erase the blessed history of America in a lesson to all of the constant and never-ending power of the Word of God.

As the Scripture reading ended, the families of the 2,996 who lost their lives in the tragedy began to spontaneously shout, “Four more years; four more years,” reflecting their gratitude to a president and vice president who stand firmly on the Word of God. But unless the 37 million believers who did not vote in 2016 do so, in just 53 days, this will be the last 9/11 memorial marked by the Word of God. {eoa}

Amir George is the author of Liberating Iraq and directs The World Helpline at .

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Former CT Editor, Trump

Critic Mark Galli Embraces Catholicism

On Sunday (Sept. 13), Mark Galli will stand before Bishop Richard Pates in the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus in Joliet, Illinois, to hear these words:

“Francis, be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Pates will then dab Galli’s forehead with anointing oil (using a cotton ball instead of his thumb due to COVID-19). And with that, Galli –who has chosen his confirmation name after St. Francis of Assisi–will become a Roman Catholic.

Galli’s journey to Catholicism is notable, in part because of the nation’s political climate. A former Presbyterian pastor, Galli spent seven years as editor-in-chief of *Christianity Today*, the premier publication for evangelicals whose founder was the legendary evangelist Billy Graham.

But for a few days last December, Galli was perhaps the most well-known evangelical in the country–after penning an editorial calling for Donald Trump’s impeachment and removal from office and arguing he was “profoundly immoral.”

It went viral, earning a rebuke from Trump on Twitter, and bringing Galli–who retired from the magazine in January–a tsunami of publicity. Some of his fellow evangelicals praised the editorial as courageous, given their movement’s overwhelming support for the president.

Trump’s evangelical supporters labeled it misguided and out of touch.

Now, two months before the election, with evangelical allegiance to Trump as strong as before, Galli is leaving the fold.

As with most conversions, however, Galli insists his is personal, not political.

Now 68, he had already decided by the time he wrote the 2019 editorial that he would quit the Anglican Church he had attended alongside his wife, Barbara, for 20 years. His conversion was one reason he decided to retire from *Christianity Today* on Jan. 3, after 30 years as a writer and editor in the news outlet's stable of publications.

"I'm not rejecting evangelicalism," he said recently in an interview from his home, a few blocks away from Wheaton College, the preeminent evangelical school. "I'm only taking Anglicanism deeper and thicker."

A contrarian who can be at turns gruff and tender, Galli is not embracing liberalism. Politically he remains an independent and considers himself a Burkean conservative—one who believes in honoring tradition and in slow and cautious change.

In that spirit, Galli's late in life conversion has been gradual and carefully considered.

The first inkling came in 1994 when he served as editor of a magazine called *Christian History* and wrote a cover story on St. Francis of Assisi, whom he admired for his message of simplicity, poverty and submission to church authority even when he knew the church was not always right.

In the intervening years, Galli has slowly moved away from the evangelical mainstream. He started out a Presbyterian, then became an Episcopalian and an Anglican. For a time he attended an Orthodox church.

Two years ago when Galli expressed an interest in attending the course of study for Catholic converts called Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, his teacher John Ellison, himself a convert, knew Galli's mind was made up.

“Once something commends itself to you as true and real, even if it’s inconvenient, you either look the other way and pretend you didn’t see it,” said Ellison, “or you do something about it.”

A Storied Tradition

About 34% of American adults have adopted a religious identity different from the one in which they were raised, a Pew Research study found.

For Catholics, most of the switching is away from the faith, not toward it. Among U.S. switchers, Catholicism has experienced the greatest net losses. For every convert to Catholicism, six others no longer identify as such.

But there is also a long and storied tradition of Protestants converting to Catholicism. They include Elizabeth Ann Seton and John Henry Newman, now saints. There’s Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker movement, who is being considered for sainthood. Then there’s the English essayist G.K. Chesterton and the English actor Alec Guinness and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Some converts are drawn to the beauty of Catholic ritual. Others to the church’s rich intellectual tradition or the centrality of the Eucharist, the bread and wine used for Communion, which Catholics believe becomes the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

For Galli, all those things were important. So was a certain weariness with the constant theological polemics and splinters in the evangelical world.

“I want to submit myself to something bigger than myself,” Galli said.

“One thing I like about both Orthodoxy and Catholicism is that you have to do these things, whether you like it or not,

whether you're in the mood or not, sometimes whether you believe or not. You just have to plow ahead. I want that. If it's left up to me, I am one lazy [obscenity]. I will not do anything unless someone comes along and says, 'You need to do this. This is really important. This will shape your life. Come on, Galli. Get off your butt.'"

For the past two years, Galli has been attending the daily 6:30 a.m. Mass at St. Michael Catholic Church, a large parish with about 3,000 families about two miles from his home. He goes to confession twice monthly. Lately, he has been volunteering to welcome people to the confession room, and sanitize chairs and door handles in between sessions.

He said he was "miserable" during the first two months of the pandemic when the church was closed.

"The Mass is a perfect Mark Galli service," he said. "There's no singing. There are no hymns. The homily is five minutes. The whole service is 25 minutes. They give you a single thought, a single illustration, a quote, and you're done. Wow."

'I Can't Do It Anymore'

In some ways, Galli is not a convert. He's a revert.

Born in California, Galli was baptized a Catholic and underwent First Communion, mostly, he said, to please his grandmother. By the time he was 7, his parents quit going to church.

But the summer Galli turned 13, his mother had a born-again experience while watching Billy Graham on TV.

After that, he and his mother attended a "very conservative" evangelical church where Galli answered an altar call and accepted Jesus. In his teens, and later at the University of California Santa Cruz, where he majored in history, Galli

attended Presbyterian churches. After graduating from Fuller Theological Seminary, he pastored churches in Mexico City and Sacramento.

While still a pastor, Galli discovered the *Book of Common Prayer*, the devotional used in the Anglican Communion, and began using it in his morning prayers instead of formulating his own unscripted version.

“I was tired of the trite phrases I used all the time,” he said. “*The Book of Common Prayer* had these magnificent prayers of praise and confession and thanksgiving, and I thought, ‘That’s what I want to say!’”

In 1989, Galli accepted a job as associate editor at *Leadership Journal*, a onetime staple of *Christianity Today*’s roster of publications, and moved his family from California to the Chicago suburbs. There, the family joined St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, where Galli fell in love with the sacraments and the liturgy. He turned in his Presbyterian ordination credentials.

But the struggles over homosexuality beginning in 2003 when the Episcopal Church ordained its first openly gay bishop, and later, his quest as editor-in-chief of *Christianity Today* to hold an increasingly fractious evangelical world together, took a toll.

As traditionalists, opposed to gay ordination, the Gallis joined Church of the Resurrection, part of the Anglican Church in North America, the breakaway group that left the Episcopal Church. Barbara, who resettles refugees for World Relief, remains an Anglican.

Then for the past seven years as editor-in-chief of *Christianity Today*, Galli worked to provide readers a broad tent for Christian concerns, even as white evangelicals became inextricably intertwined with Republican politics and Donald Trump.

It was a source of ongoing frustration.

“On the whole, he wanted to lead and shape a magazine that reminded evangelicals of the good things about their movement, especially at a time when many of us have seen ugly dimensions of the movement,” said Katelyn Beaty, a writer and editor who was managing editor of *Christianity Today* from 2006 to 2016.

Up until Galli’s editorial calling for the president’s removal, *Christianity Today* was mostly quiet about Trump. The directive was to remain above the fray.

Even as Galli decided *Christianity Today* should publish an editorial ahead of the president’s impeachment—as it had in the run-up to President Bill Clinton’s impeachment in 1998—he was still unsure he wanted to rattle the cage.

“I sat down to write a typical Mark Galli: ‘On the one hand, on the other hand. Let’s listen to one another,’” he said. “I thought about it for a little bit and decided, ‘You know, I can’t do it anymore.’”

Living Under a Structure

If Galli had one gnawing frustration with Protestant Christianity, it was the ceaseless splintering and divisions. He tried to work toward unity.

It left him exhausted.

Still, Galli takes seriously Jesus’ desire for unity in His farewell prayer.

That left him with a choice, he said—to join the institution that claims to be the one true church.

“True unity requires not just a mental and emotional assent, but actually an agreement to live under a structure, an ethos, a way of doing things together,” he said.

To be sure, the Catholic Church is also beset with factions and theological controversies, but now retired and a layman, he'll be a step removed from the squabbles.

Galli conceded that some Catholic doctrines still sit uncomfortably with him.

Then there's the ongoing clergy sexual abuse scandal. Galli made his decision to join the Catholic Church the very week a Pennsylvania grand jury issued a report showing at least 1,000 cases of abuse by 300 predator priests spanning seven decades.

"The church is deeply in need of reform," he conceded. "I'm not joining this holy institution that has it all right. I want to be one with these Christians who I think represent the true church in some sense."

Francis Beckwith, a philosophy professor at Baylor University who was president of the Evangelical Theological Society before becoming a Catholic, said conversion can't be easily rationalized.

"We're not simply rational beings; we're also emotional and spiritual beings," Beckwith said.

Galli, who had planned for his confirmation at Easter before the coronavirus hit, has not wavered.

He said he reminds himself of the breadth and depth of the Catholic saints: Augustine, Aquinas, Benedict, Ignatius and, of course, Francis of Assisi, about whom he wrote a book. And he's dazzled.

On Sunday, Ellison, his sponsor, will join him at the cathedral in Joliet. COVID-19 rules do not allow Galli to bring guests. The 22 adult confirmands will wear masks and sit at a distance. It's not the confirmation he envisioned. But it's one he'll live with.

On Monday morning, he'll go to Mass. {eoa}

9/11 Remembered: What Lessons Have We Learned?

Editor's Note: British commentator Martin Clarke offers his perspective on the 9/11 anniversary.

I can't believe it was 19 years ago today as I walked down Grosvenor Street, London, with the American Embassy behind me and learned that the USA was being attacked. My wife called at around 2 p.m. to tell me as I walked back from lunch to my office.

The world went in a different direction that day, and perhaps it was no coincidence that 9/11 is the American emergency dial number. The month preceding the day always confuses a Brit, but today's the day.

It's horrible, and having been to the Twin Towers and the new Freedom Tower, it still hurts. I met and know three people who were there in the towers and survived, and each one was lastingly affected (who wouldn't be?).

I know of others who were close, though I knew none of the 2,977 who died. The fact remains that they were all honest, innocent working people. They all woke up that morning not knowing they would die in only a few hours.

Global atrocities followed, and these will never cease. Lessons were never learned; they never are. And war is still an agenda item.

History repeats itself, and no one can seemingly stop the rot.

Peacemakers are few and far between—the mania of it all prevails. Now the autonomous vehicles of war are being prepared, and the rehearsal games with drones and rampant rhetoric can, by accident, become real at any time. The outcome is inevitable, yet we roll on.

COVID-19 was invisible to mankind—an invisible enemy we will not easily rid ourselves of—yet it arrived and killed. It may be another dress rehearsal for a worse enemy still to come. Yet mankind's biggest enemy remains mankind, and that is often as invisible as the virus.

The busy day, the busy life, the American elections, the indexes of world exchanges, the masks we all wear and the pettiness to which we attend continue. We are fragile, yet believe we are invincible. We are susceptible, yet arrogant. We are clever, but so stupid.

We are human.

Yet there is still hope. Look around, see the youth, see the kindness in community, see the elderly cared for. See what you can do for someone else today. Life can be better if we all do something better and if we can take time out to stop living “selfie” but put others in our frame. If we start small, it will get big and become infectious, for through giving, we receive, and through perpetual taking, we tank.

As I walk down Grosvenor Street today, the embassy is no longer behind me, the crowds have gone, the buildings are largely empty, and we can pause at 2 p.m. in silence to remember. The Garden of Memorial is on Grosvenor Square, and it's worth a visit if you pass there one day.

There are no planes to now carry you across the pond—of course—and none that can do the damage done on that awful day. In remembrance of those who died, President Trump will go to the field in Pennsylvania where one was forced down.

Let's try and make the difference. Let's at least try. {eoa}

Martin Clarke *is a Christian businessman in England.*

World Leader in Mental Health: Is Anxiety All in Your Head?

For far too long, people—and especially believers—have attached a stigma to mental health. They have made several false presumptions about anxiety and related issues. I hope we can put an end to at least one damaging myth that continues to circulate. The myth is that Christians shouldn't struggle with anxiety or depression; they should pray them away.

I know this myth still exists in some circles, but I've never understood why there's such a double standard between physical health and mental health. I've never heard people suggest that Christians shouldn't suffer with shingles or indigestion or diabetes. I've never heard anyone recommend praying away a broken leg. Treatment of physical illness and injury seems to be perfectly acceptable to the critics of mental health.

We don't mind calling a coronary event a heart attack, but it would be just as appropriate to call anxiety or depression a brain attack. The malfunction of the heart causes certain problems; the malfunction of the brain creates others. But both are physical, biological problems.

Some naïve critics seem to think that mental health issues are "all in your head," so to speak. The irony is, they are! But they are by no means imaginary, and they need to be treated as

conscientiously as an appendix that threatens to rupture, a blood clot that is threatening to break loose or an infected tooth that's causing intense pain and needs to come out. In fact, mental health issues may require more time and attention to diagnose and treat because they often include confusion on the part of the patient.

Another version of this myth is that believers shouldn't need to take antidepressants because faith in God should get us through any trying situation we face. I realize that some people's religious beliefs prohibit them from taking any kind of medicine for any kind of problem. I can appreciate that stand, even though I don't agree with it. I do agree that some people who are on medication don't need to be. But what I'll never be able to understand are those who criticize believers for taking medications such as antidepressants or mood stabilizers while they themselves are on meds for blood pressure regulation, cholesterol control, pain relief or any other health-related issue. It seems like a double standard to me.

Don't buy into this myth. If you're having ongoing struggles with anxiety, depression or any other mental health issue, your problem is just as real—and just as treatable—as any other physical problem. You don't have to simply accept it. God wants you to have hope and help, and the way that will happen for most people is finding the right doctor(s), medication(s), therapist(s) and other resources. All remedies, of course, should be accompanied by prayer and attention to the promises of Scripture—but you don't need a spiritual guilt trip on top of everything else you're suffering.

Untruth and Consequences

I've been calling the outrageous statement that Christians shouldn't suffer from anxiety or depression a "myth," but let's use a more accurate term. It is an outright lie. Jesus called Satan "a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44, NIV),

but the devil isn't limited to spiritual falsehoods. The myth we've just discussed is an untruth that, if you believe it, can prevent you from finding the peace of Christ that's so abundant to those who honestly express their fears and feelings to Him.

In response to this myth, God has filled Scripture with many uplifting and encouraging truths. I want to focus on one at this point: you are invited to "cast all your anxiety on [God] because He cares for you" (1 Pet. 5:7).

Don't be confused; this is not the same as "praying away" your problems. When I see the word cast, I think of all my friends who are fly fishing enthusiasts. They regularly pack up all their camping gear, prepare sack lunches, drive for hours to some remote creek or river, tie their favorite fly to their line and cast the line out. If they don't hook a big trout on the first cast, do they then pack everything back up and go home? No way! They keep casting until they get what they came for.

I believe that's what God has in mind when He invites us to let Him handle our concerns, worries and fears. Anxiety isn't quickly or easily expelled from our innermost thoughts. Someone has said, "Anxiety is a lot like a toddler. It never stops talking, tells you you're wrong about everything and wakes you up at 3 a.m." But God is always eager for us to give Him our worries and ease our troubled minds, little by little. Keep casting your anxiety on Him until you get what you pray for. And like fly fishing, the more you do it, the better you will get at it.

Life is difficult enough without all the corrosive, toxic lies people propagate about mental health problems. If you truly want peace for your mind and hope for your heart, you'll see that these myths are roadblocks on the path to healing—for you or for someone you love. As you learn to cast them on God's broad shoulders and bask in the light of His truth, you'll

discover God's blessings that you've been missing so far.
{eoa}

This article is from Chapter 3 of Peace for Your Mind, Hope for Your Heart by Tim Clinton (Charisma House 2020).

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What You Can Learn as the Bride of Christ

In Isaiah 62:1-12, God prophetically reveals certain aspects of "New Jerusalem," the capital city of the new creation that is yet to come. In verse four, the name Hephzibah is given to the city and to the bride represented by the city:

"You shall no longer be termed Forsaken, nor shall your land any more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married" (Isa. 62:4, NKJV).

Proof That New Jerusalem Is a Symbol of the Bride Of Christ

"Then one of the seven angels ... talked with me, saying, 'Come,

I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.' And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God" (Rev. 21:9-10).

"[New Jerusalem] shall also be a *crown of glory* in the hand of the Lord" (Isa. 62:3a, author's emphasis).

Crowns speak of victory, authority, dominion, strength and power.

God will crown Himself with His bride (see Prov. 12:4).

God will crown the new world with His bride (see Zech. 9:16-17).

Three Important Things:

1. Hephzibah was King Hezekiah's wife, the queen (see 2 Kings 21:1).
2. God delights in you now if you are married to Him.
3. "Eden" means "delight."

So to be a part of Hephzibah is to return to the delightful relationship God had with Adam and Eve in the beginning.

Listen to the full episode of *Discovering Your Spiritual Identity* here. {eoa}

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