

Charisma Online January 2011

Win a Purple Pig!

What happens when people dedicate their lives to prayer? Ask Every Home for Christ President Dick Eastman and his wife, Dee, who started one of the first 24/7 prayer centers in the early 1970s and have since seen 2.8 billion gospel messages planted in homes around the world, as well as countless people supernaturally healed. Dick chronicles their miraculous, prayer-filled journey in *The Purple Pig*. Win a copy by visiting to enter.

What is the Spirit Saying?

Controversy has always followed prophets and prophecy, but like it or not, God still uses men and women as His mouthpiece. To help those eager to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to the church, Charisma regularly posts prophetic messages from respected leaders in the body of Christ. Visit to read more or sign up for our weekly newsletter, *Prophetic Insight*.



When News Isn't Enough

These days people don't just want to know about the latest news; they want to know why it matters and how it affects their world. While the talking heads on TV news networks give their two cents, offers you relevant insight and commentary from Spirit-filled leaders—along with the same reliable news coverage you've trusted for more than 35 years in Charisma magazine. Visit today and get news you can actually use.

Your Daily Word

Be encouraged each day by short messages from ministers including Mike Bickle, R.T. Kendall and Rod Parsley. Start your day right with a Scripture and inspirational message. Sign up at .

✘ **There's a (Free) App For That**

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Roses by Christmas

"Frank, you don't have to do this!" Harriett called out to her husband. It was early afternoon of Christmas Eve in the 1920s, and the arctic winds were beginning to howl across the Kansas plains. "A promise is a promise!" Frank called back to his newlywed wife. "And God has promised me that I would have roses especially for you by Christmas!"

For God So Loved the World

John 3:16 is probably one of the most oft-quoted verses in the Bible: “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (KJV). We often use it in conversations with those who are lost in order to point the way to salvation. But at this time of year it takes on particular significance even to those who are not lost, for it is a reminder that our tradition of giving to others is a reflection of God’s generosity toward us. WE give because HE gave.

The Truth Behind the Stereotypes

Some stereotypes are true—at least that’s what a recent  report about regional churchgoing habits proves. The findings, drawn from two reports titled *Markets 2011* and *States 2011*, “confirmed many spiritual assumptions about various regions of the country,” says David Kinnaman, who directed the seven-year research project for the Barna Group. “The South hosts many of the nation’s Christians, while the West and Northeast play to more secular stereotypes.”

An Uncluttered Christmas

✘ I used to be a consummate Christmas shopper. By the time December hit, I was way ahead of the game. I would have a mountain of bargain finds, admired goodies and toys to die for tucked away on a shelf just waiting to be wrapped and stowed lovingly under the tree. I found that shopping ahead spread the financial burden throughout the year and helped me avoid the last-minute holiday shopping rush.

Charisma Online December 2010



At age 33, evangelist Christine Caine discovered a secret so powerful it changed how she viewed her past, present and future: Her mother confirmed that she and her brother had been adopted. What Caine believed about her birth and heritage was false. She thought her world had been shattered.

What do you do when it feels as if everything is crumbling around you? Watch as Caine shares her testimony of overcoming one of her greatest struggles and tells of how Christians should view circumstances that are out of their control at .

✘ **Charisma Digital Moves up the Ranks**

According to a leading digital magazine provider, *Charisma's*

digital edition experience ranks in the top five of both secular and Christian magazines. We're proud of our digital issues and don't want you to miss out. Each month we load them with digital-only features, videos, podcasts and photo galleries in addition to our print magazine articles. Plus, in the spirit of the holidays, we've neatly wrapped this month's issue in an easy to read format. Go to [to explore our acclaimed digital magazine.](#)

Look Who's in the Hood

Matthew Barnett knows how to take ministry outside the four walls of the church and transform entire communities with the gospel. He's watched the Dream Center in downtown Los Angeles grow from a group of 39 people in 1994 to reaching 40,000 every week. On Dec. 7, at 9 p.m. (EST) Barnett will share his approach to creative ministry and how you can make a lasting impact in your area. Join the call and submit your questions at [.](#)

Stumped by the Bible?

The Bible tells us in 2 Timothy 2:15 to show ourselves approved to God, "accurately handling the word of truth" (NASB). So what do you do when a verse or topic in the God's Word leaves you baffled? We know how you feel, which is why we've gathered Bible scholars and teachers to answer your toughest Bible queries. Send your questions to [@](#). Your submission and the answer may appear in a future issue of the magazine.

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How to Release Heaven on Earth

God has a marvelous plan for His church, a plan that will help release heaven on earth. The prophets predicted a time when salvation, righteousness, peace, joy, rejoicing and redemption will come to Israel and the world.

Feedback December 2010

CHRISTIAN VOICE FOR IMMIGRATION

I've been reading *Charisma* magazine for quite some time now, and I have to say that this month's issue really woke me up ("A Voice for Immigrants" by Anahid Schweikert, October). As a Hispanic American I have tucked away the issue of immigration reform in the back of my mind. After hearing your conference call with the Rev. Samuel Rodriguez and reading the cover story, I was enlightened. Thank you for featuring Rodriguez—he has a powerful message that is centered on Christian values. It's nice to see an integral figure representing the Hispanic Christian community.

Matthew Barragan, via e-mail

Thank you for featuring the most prominent Latino Christian leader in *Charisma* magazine. I read the article "A Voice for Immigrants" and I found myself identifying greatly with the message of Samuel Rodriguez. I've been an avid reader of *Charisma* for some time and have always been inspired by the articles and stories you featured. This month's issue has been especially encouraging for me as a Latino, and I am overjoyed to see how we can come together as brethren in Christ across color lines and highlight those who are doing great things for the kingdom of God.

Carlos Cabrera, via e-mail

Thank you for choosing the Rev. Samuel Rodriguez on the subject of immigration reform. You guys definitely chose the right man for the job. I have been following him for years now and I dare to say he is the Martin Luther King Jr. of the

Hispanic Christian community. Thanks again, and I hope you will feature Rodriguez again.

Jay Robertson, via e-mail

I want to commend you on the latest issue. I always enjoy and am inspired by the magazine. However, this month's issue was of particular interest and relevance, as the subject of immigration reform hits close to home. I'm glad you decided to feature the most prominent Hispanic Christian leader, the Rev. Samuel Rodriguez, who has become such a great voice for the Hispanic Christian community and a great advocate for the Hispanic immigrant. He is a leader who has demonstrated integrity and humility. Keep up the good work!

Shayla Quintana, via e-mail

The issue of illegal immigration is not as complicated as people wish to make it. We need to enforce the law, end birth-right citizenship and send the illegals home. On a related note, why aren't people on welfare taking the jobs that "Americans won't do anymore"?

Gayle Robinson, Raleigh, N.C.

DON'T CALL ME 'CHRISTIAN'

In your article "Terms of Offense" (October), the foundation isn't Jesus Christ; it is offense. Nothing good can come from that—only more offense. I thought the author's attitude was divisive and elitist and came across as ashamed of Christian brothers. The Lord prayed that we would be "one." This is sad.

Carla Evans, Dunlap, Calif.

A SPIRITED SCHOLARLY DEBATE

While there may be valid criticisms of “perfect health” theology, the characterization by Gordon Fee (“A Professor With Spirit” by Julian Lukins, September) that “there is not even the remotest possibility that Paul was referring to the curses of Deuteronomy 28 when he spoke of the ‘curse of the law’” in Galatians 3:13 doesn’t seem to hold water. Only a few verses earlier—in Galatians 3:10—Paul quotes directly from Deuteronomy 27:26, saying, “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.” Paul obviously had the curses of Deuteronomy, and especially this section of Deuteronomy, in mind when he wrote this section of Galatians. If Fee wants to argue that there is no “remote possibility” of a linkage, the onus is on him to prove it, and not to write so dismissively.

John Backes, Dallas

Gordon Fee is right on with his statements on 3 John 2, John 10:10 and Galatians 3:13. The pastors who mostly ridicule biblical scholarship are from a seminary or university education. The result? Charismatics will probably be the first group to fall for the Antichrist, the Beast and the False Prophet. [The Antichrist] no doubt will be invited to speak at many charismatic churches since he will be well-dressed, popular and a Christian TV personality, and will travel by jet.

Paul Fertner, via e-mail

WE’RE STILL TALKIN’ TONGUES

There is just too much criticism about speaking in other tongues (“Evidence of the Gift” by Bill Hamon, August).

Perhaps some don't understand that there are two types of tongues spoken of in the Bible. One is the gift of tongues that requires an interpretation, or is a direct contact with God the Father. The other is the initial physical evidence of receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Not everyone operates in the gift of tongues, though that too is available to all who need it. But everyone who receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit will evidence that by speaking in tongues. Does that mean some have more of the Spirit than others? Not necessarily. Some just want everything God has to offer, and they are willing to receive that Spirit baptism just happens. What a loving Father, who would allow Jesus to baptize (or soak us) with His Spirit.

Nancy B. Lee, Lakeland, Fla.

Christian warfare weapons are not carnal, but spiritual, like tongues. The devil and his minions are still out there, so why should the things of the Spirit disappear? The Bible clearly states what tongues are for. God has used this gift in my life to communicate to me and strengthen me, for protection, for praising Him, for help in a situation and for spiritual intercession during prayer.

Wayne B., via e-mail

A HEADS-UP ABOUT 'CHRISTIAN'

Once you know the other side of church history, you will understand why a Jewish congregation in Israel would be reluctant to call themselves "Christian" ("Terms of Offense" by Eitan Shishkoff, October). Did you know that Martin Luther advocated burning synagogues and hunting down Jews? Most Christians don't know that, but Jews do. There is a saying that the only church history Jews know about is in the pages the church has torn out of the history books.

Giving That changes a family tree

Though Angel Mo grew up in poor conditions, he and his family didn't neglect his education. But without the support of Food for the Hungry, Mo says he wouldn't have been able to complete middle school and high school, and become the first in his community to get a university degree. Mo now teaches middle school and encourages his younger siblings to excel, as he was encouraged to.

"I thank Food for the Hungry for all the support and encouragement that I received since I was in grade school. I won't forget that very crucial moment when a staff read Joshua 1:9 to me: ['Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.'] I memorized this passage as a child, and it was the hope that carried me through some very difficult times."

Giving to Grow Faith

In an effort to support ministering to Thailand's "unloved" children, Abundant Life Children's Home started Mai Tai Coffee with the hope that the coffee business would fully fund the children's home. Currently at least 500 farmers have

become Christians as a result of the ministry and are provided the materials and training to grow coffee. They're also given above-market prices for the coffee.

The ministry's leaders say this coffee business has radically transformed the lives of many in Thai villages.

"Through simple coffee cultivation we can fivefold and tenfold their annual income," says Charlie Milbrodt, founder of Abundant Life Children's Home. "It has a double purpose, that farmers are committed to tithe to the local church we have built in their village. This causes the churches to become self-supported where we don't have to pay a pastor to oversee the church anymore."

Buying coffee to support this ministry could reap endless dividends.