

# James Goll: 15 Keys for Interpreting Your Dreams

Walking in the prophetic language of dreams is a form of tapping into the mind and heart of God and can be an exciting and exhilarating journey. But understanding and interpreting your dreams and other revelatory spiritual encounters can often be a complex and even confusing process.

I encourage you above all else to keep interpretation simple! Keep the big picture of the dream and overarching theme in mind.

With too much detail you could miss the interpretation. This is a lot like not seeing the forest for the trees.

Here are some basic principles of dream interpretation presented in concise statements that will help bring clarity to the revelation you receive.

## 15 Keys for Interpreting Your Dreams

- Most of all, dreams should be interpreted on a personal basis first (John 10:3).
- Most dreams should not be taken literally. They need interpretation (Dan. 1:17; Gen. 40:8).
- God will use familiar terms that you know (Matt. 4:19).
- Ponder on the dream or revelation and ask the Holy Spirit for insight (Daniel 7:8, 8:15-16; Luke 2:19; 1 Cor. 2:12-14).
- Ask the Holy Spirit what the central thought, word or issue is in the revelation. Reduce the dream to its simplest form. What is the main thought?
- Search it out in the Word. Dreams from the Lord will never

go against His written Word (Prov. 25:2).

– What did you sense and feel from the dream? Was it a good or evil presence? What was the primary emotion?

– Relate the dream to your circumstances and spheres of influence.

– Consecutive dreams often have similar meanings (Gen. 41:1-7, 25-31). God will speak the same message more than once in more than one way.

– What are the colors? Is everything black and white with one main object in color?

– Interpretations can be on three levels: personal, church or national and international.

– More than one interpretation can come forth in one dream. Just as with Scripture, there is the historical context as well as the personal, present implication. So it is with dreams. It might be a general word for the church with specific applications for yourself (or others).

– Some dreams may only be understood in the future. They unfold over time. Details will make sense down the road.

– Write down in a journal the summary; date it; write down where you were, the time (if you woke up from it), the main emotions and a possible interpretation.

– The key to proper interpretation is to ask questions, questions, questions!

### **Dream Interpretations Belong to God**

Finally, remember that dreams are significant to all.

To receive a dream is the first step of a divine purpose moving from the mind of God to become reality in human history.

Dreams and visions are where space and time are pushed away, where God allows our inner selves to see beyond and behind the conscious plane and where possibilities and hopes come out unrestricted by natural limitations.

Remember, God wants to help you with interpreting your dreams. So don't forget to invite Him into the process.

*Father, we know that dreams and visions and their interpretations belong to You. With honor coupled with a deep hunger, we ask You to give us Your wisdom applications to understand the revelation you are giving us, in Jesus' great name, amen.*

Keep interpretation simple!

*Note: This article has been adapted from Lesson 8: "Keep Interpretation Simple" in James Goll's book, The Scribe. {eoa}*

*Dr. James W. Goll is the founder of God Encounters Ministries. He is an international bestselling author, a certified Life Language Coach, an adviser to leaders and ministries and a recording artist. James has traveled around the world ministering in more than 50 nations sharing the love of Jesus, imparting the power of intercession, prophetic ministry and life in the Spirit. He has recorded numerous classes with corresponding curriculum kits and is the author of more than fifty 50 books, including The Seer, The Prophet, The Discerner, The Lost Art of Intercession and Praying with God's Heart. James is also the founder of GOLL Ideation LLC, where creativity, consulting, and leadership training come together.*

Read articles like this one and other Spirit-led content in our new platform, CHARISMA PLUS.

---

# Prophetic Word: The Lord Wants You to Use Your Voice to Advance the Kingdom

I was in a time of prayer recently when the Lord began to speak to me about becoming a voice. I believe this word was not just for me but for many in the body of Christ in this hour.

As the Lord spoke to me about becoming a voice, He revealed to me that our voice is not just about our words, but also about the influence God has given each of us. You may never preach or teach for the people God has placed in your realm of influence; your voice may be the way you carry yourself and how you live your life. Your lifestyle and character can be much louder than your voice or your words when you are called to impact people.

I don't care who you are, where you are or what you do for a living, God has called you to impact those around you. You have a voice! You may look around you and think you have no influence, but you do.

Never underestimate how God may use you as a voice into other people's lives to advance His kingdom. If you are a believer, you are called to make an impact. Never discredit what or who God has placed in front of you. God will use you to influence the atmosphere and people around you. You may be the only chance some have to encounter God. Let the Lord use you as a voice to draw people to Himself!

You have a voice, and you have influence; use them for the kingdom of God. The Lord is looking for those who will pour

into those around them; offering discernment, wisdom and guidance that only someone walking with Him can offer others. Parents, you should be the voice in your children's lives!

God is calling parents to raise their children with an awareness and understanding of His ways. Be the voice in your children's lives. Don't depend on teachers, pastors or other influences in your children's lives to guide them. You are the most important voice in your children's lives. God has equipped you to protect, lead, teach and guide your children into the plans God has for them.

As you become a voice and God elevates your level of influence, you will need to find voices to speak into your life that you can trust. Find those that are full of character and integrity who have walked with the Lord through many seasons and give them a voice into your life. Each of us needs other voices to give us wisdom, pray for us and help us on our journey toward our destiny.

You will not complete your purpose or have the impact God has called for you to have if you do not seek out and listen to the right godly voices. Be careful to what and whom you listen. Ask the Lord for greater discernment, and you will be a voice He uses to influence those to whom He has called you.

Get ready to become a voice that advances the kingdom of God. God is about to elevate and amplify those whose voices are pure and those who carry His heart and His power to those around them! {eoa}

**Joe Joe Dawson** is the founder and apostle of Roar Apostolic Network and Roar Church Texarkana. He is the author of Kingdom Mindset, Destiny Dimension, Living Your God-Sized Dream and Recipe for Revival.

Read articles like this one and other Spirit-led content in our new platform, *CHARISMA PLUS*.

---

# Are You Devout or Dangerous?

“Are you devout? Or are you dangerous?” That is the question Pastor Mike Signorelli of V1 Church poses in his latest teaching from Pentecost Sunday.

Signorelli takes us to Acts 2 to set up the scene for Pentecost. There we see the fire of the Holy Spirit come upon the believers in the upper room, which led the devout men dwelling in the city around them to be amazed and astonished at those who to them were mere Galileans, simple, uneducated men. The difference between the devout men and the dangerous ones was that the devout had a spirit of religion, whereas the dangerous ones were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Signorelli reminds us that Satan does a lot of our devout practices too. Satan read the Bible. Satan knows Jesus, and he attends most local churches every week! So what takes you from devout to dangerous? Doing the will of the Father.

In Mark 16:15, Jesus gives us a mandate to “go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.” Signorelli points out that it doesn’t say go to church or a Bible study, or go post a carefully curated video on Tik Tok—but go into all the world. He says this will then make you desperate to go to church so that you can be refilled and equipped!

He goes on to make a bold statement that, “Being a Christian who doesn’t tell non-Christians what Christ did for them makes the most miserable existence possible.”

So we’ll ask again, “Do you want to be devout, or do you want to be dangerous?”

For more teachings download the V1 Church app or follow Mike Signorelli on Facebook or Instagram. {eoa}

*Read stories like this one and more in our new platform, CHARISMA PLUS.*

---

## **Latino Coalition of Israel President Declares Prophetic Blessing: 'Fresh Wind' Fall on Believers**

Mario Bramnick, the president of the Latino Coalition of Israel and South Florida Pastors Network spoke with Jeff Struss following the South Florida Legislative Prayer Breakfast, and he has a strong word of blessing for believers.

Watch this video and receive it now.

---

## **Joyce Meyer: Praying Without**

# a Doubt!

Prayer is a vital part of our relationship with God, and it's a great privilege, not an obligation.

When you really think about it, it's amazing to know that the God who created everything and knows everything actually wants us to come to Him boldly—through Christ—to have a relationship with Him.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) says, "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." It's so important for us to trust God's love for us and know that He's merciful and sees us as righteous because of what Jesus has done for us (2 Cor. 5:21). If we don't, we will struggle to have confidence that He hears our prayers and wants to help us.

The truth is, God knows everything about us—what's right with us and what's wrong with us. He loves us unconditionally, and He wants to have a relationship with us and meet every need in our lives. Our imperfections have nothing to do with His ability and willingness to answer our prayers.

## **You Have to Believe**

Doubt is a common hindrance to answered prayer, and when we experience it, it's usually because we're focusing on ourselves—our weaknesses and mistakes. The key is keeping our focus on God, trusting Him to give us wisdom and discernment so we know what to believe and what to do. James 1:5 says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

True wisdom comes from God, and He wants to give it to us "liberally and without reproach." "Liberally" means He gives more than enough, and "without reproach" means that even when we're in messes we've created ourselves, we can still go to

God and He will help us.

Now, this doesn't mean He won't correct us, teach and train us when we've made a mistake. Like any parent who loves their children, He disciplines us because He loves us and wants what's best for us. But when we're in trouble, He doesn't decide whether to help us or not based on our performance. His love is unconditional.

Here's an example to demonstrate what I'm talking about: If my son were in trouble with the neighborhood bully and called for his dad and me to help him, we wouldn't respond to him based on whether he had done all of his chores at home. It would be ridiculous if we heard him crying for help, yet we took time to check the list first to see if he had done everything he was supposed to do before we intervened.

As parents, we don't refuse to help our children because they don't do everything right, perfectly or the way we want them to all the time. God is our Father, and He knows we are not perfect. He wants to be involved in every part of our lives and we don't ever have to doubt that!

### **Be Single-Minded**

When we doubt God, we're left midway between believing and not believing—we're double-minded. But first Corinthians 2:16 says we can live with the mind of Christ. In other words, we can learn to think the way God thinks so we're not led by the mind of the flesh, "which is sense and reason without the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 8:6b, AMPC).

James 1:6 says when we come to God for wisdom, it must be in faith "with no wavering (no hesitating, no doubting). For the one who wavers (hesitates, doubts) is like the billowing surge out at sea that is blown hither *and* thither and tossed by the wind." This doesn't mean we won't ever feel doubt, but when we do, we can know how to stand up to it.

Sometimes when I'm teaching, I doubt whether I'm sharing the "right" message based on how people seem to be responding to me. That's when I have to trust God and tell myself, "I've prayed about this. I've sought God about the teaching, and I'm not going to be double-minded. I trust God!"

I want to encourage you to ask God for the desires in your heart and then stand in faith for Him to do His will. Decide to trust Him and His Word, no matter what you feel, what people say or what your circumstances look like. The only thing that really matters is what God's Word says, and you will overcome doubt by putting your faith in Him every time you pray. {eoa}

*Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.*

Read articles like this one and other Spirit-led content in our new platform, CHARISMA PLUS.

---

## **Prophetic Word: The Lord Is**

# Pouring Out a New Anointing for Parents

Beloved, have you struggled with being a parent? Have you strangely found yourself in the middle of a heart change lately, being drawn more toward your home, family and children than ever before?

If so, then today's encouraging word is for you!

I saw in the Spirit that the Lord is pouring out a new anointing for parents and parenting.

Many people have loved their children, but struggled to focus on them because of the cares of the world and stresses of life. You have done your best, but felt overwhelmed much of the time.

But in the Spirit, I saw the Lord pouring out a fresh anointing of the spirit of Elijah.

This is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in which He moves specifically to turn the hearts of the children to the fathers (and mothers), and the hearts of the fathers (and mothers) to the children. As it says in Malachi chapter 4:

"See, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreaded day of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse" (Mal. 4:5-6).

Those who are receiving this anointing are suddenly finding themselves content and fulfilled at home when they never felt that way before.

They suddenly find themselves yearning for their children even during the day when they are used to working and the children

are accustomed to being in school or with helpers and caregivers. Many have lost their drive to do things they used to feel were important outside the home, and they are wondering if something is wrong with them!

If that describes you, Father says this to you today:

“My child, I gave you the desire of your heart when I gave you your children. You did not have the capacity at first to love them as I love you, however, so I am giving you that capacity right now.

“My child, I am not mad at you. You have been so faithful. But I want you to know that your children are a heritage from Me; the fruit of the womb is your reward. And I want you to fully enjoy your reward, both for My sake, for your sake, and for your children’s sake.

“So I am anointing you to be at home.

“I am anointing you to rest and create peaceful places for yourself and your family. I am anointing you to love your children well; to invest in them; to be best friends with your spouse; and to love your spouse as I desire you to love them.

“I am rebooting your love-walk, and the first place your love-walk belongs is in the home.

“Your home is a place that is supposed to be peaceful, restful, safe and lovely. It is supposed to be a place of harmony and unity with Me and with the others I have placed in your life. I care greatly about your home, and it has been neglected for far too long.

“My beloved, again, I am not mad at you. We are simply going to fix this together.

“I am anointing you to be at home because it is the best place for you to be. This doesn’t mean you won’t go to other places also; you need to go to other places throughout the course of

your daily life.

“But home is and is supposed to be the *best* place for you; the most wonderful place of all the places you go. It is the place I have prepared for you, and it should shine brighter in your heart than all the loveliest places you may venture throughout your day.

“Oh, My beloved, I love you so much. I want the best for you. So I am anointing you for the best things, and although the old anointing will not pass away, it will diminish in the place of your priorities down to where I originally intended for it to be.

“My child, I love you so much. I have prepared a nest for you.

“Remember what My Son said when He left the earth? He said, ‘I go to prepare a place for you.’ He meant both in My heaven *and* on the earth, My friend and child and beloved one.

“Remember that as it is in heaven, so it should and must be on the earth. So is it not right that I should manifest a place for you on earth just like I have in heaven? That was My first act, after all—to create a cradle for your very existence, made right out of the lovely earth. I planted a garden because I wanted you to have the loveliest home.

“Beloved, *I care about your home!*

“I care about everything that concerns you, and I am turning your heart toward home. I am turning your yearning to the things that last; the things that are forever:

– Your relationship with Me.

– Your children.

–The legacy of your marriage.

“O My child, you were bought with the price of My Son’s

precious blood. Did you really think I would abandon you? I am not leaving you, and you have not lost your anointing. Instead, I have given you a new and greater anointing for the things that really matter the most.

“Beloved one, turn your heart to Me. Turn your heart to the things upon which I am focused, instead of looking at temporal things.

“Be willing to accept this anointing of Elijah, which will turn your world upside down. And why do I say it will turn your world upside down? Because your world was not right-side-up to begin with.

“You were looking at the ‘Martha’ things, but now I want you to look at the ‘Mary’ things of just sitting at My feet, enjoying the children and family I have given you, and investing in them fully *before* you do the temporal things that concern you in life.

“I am with you always, My child. Never forget it.

“Love, Abba.”

**Jamie Rohrbaugh** *equips people to walk in the manifest presence of God and all the victory He provides. She blogs for a global readership at , where she writes about prayer, the prophetic word, living supernaturally, inner healing and kingdom wealth. She is a frequent contributor to Charisma magazine, The Elijah List, Spirit Fuel, Intercessors for America and various other ministry outlets. Her podcast, Take Your Territory with Jamie Rohrbaugh, can be found on iTunes and Spotify. Download her FREE ebook, Praying the Names of God: 555 Biblical Names of God and How to Use Them In Prayer and Worship, here.*

Read articles like this one and other Spirit-led content in our new platform, CHARISMA PLUS.

---

# Much of the 'Prophetic' Has Become Pathetic

This past week I was watching and listening carefully to judge a supposed "heavy" prophetic word a friend sent to gain my perspective. More on that later. I normally don't have the time, patience or even interest to listen to the 999 supposed "prophetic" words that are out there on internet la-la land, with most not worth a nickel to me, but because I have high regard for my friend I made time to watch and listen to the prophecy.

We have so much of the so-called prophetic in America, and this is one of the reasons for the rampant deception that presently exists in many churches and Christians. Frankly, I'm weary of the excesses, extremes and abuses of the gift. Most Christians are not familiar with the real prophetic, so they are swallowed up by the false. People aren't grounded in the full counsel of the Word or how to follow Jesus and be led by the Holy Spirit. Instead, they follow their favorite elevated preacher(s) and make idols out of their false prophets. "Ooo! Aaah! Wow! Amen!" they say as their mouths drool with false wonder and emotionalism when it's not even God who is speaking through them.

Just to be clear, I do not despise the authentic prophetic, for I have been a beneficiary of it throughout the many years of my life and ministry. I believe strongly in the Ephesians 4:11 ministry gift of the authentic prophet. But most of what I'm seeing and hearing today is not that. Instead, it's a cheap imitation at best. It's false. It's highly manipulative. Worst of all, it is deceptive and misleads multitudes of Christians who have itching ears for sweet-tooth messages and

possess no discernment. Many of these poor souls lack the fear of God and a genuine love for the truth, so they are easy targets for the enemy and those self-promoting foxes (cunning and crafty; Luke 13:32, Ezek. 13:4) who peddle the false prophetic. The landscape of Christianity today is filled with such. They are tares that must be separated from the wheat.

There are two main sides of the false prophetic. One is the sugary, dainty prophecies that only prophesy "peace, peace" (Ezek. 13:10, 16) and the other is the gloom and doom kind that usually only speak of judgment and wrath, falsely implying that God is angry with everyone.

What the Lord is really saying in this hour is what we need to hear. And yes, I realize He can be saying many different things through many different vessels, but there is a true and a false. There is a soulish and then there is the spiritual. The Lord rebuked the false prophets throughout Israel's history as He did through the prophet Ezekiel:

"And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who prophesy, and say to those who prophesy out of their own heart, "Hear the word of the Lord!" Thus says the Lord God: 'Woe to the foolish prophets, who follow their own spirit and have seen nothing!'" (Ezek. 13:1-3).

(For a sobering example of this, read the entire chapter of Ezekiel 13.)

Back to the supposed prophecy from a supposed prophet from the link my friend sent me. Initially I sensed no anointing on it, but as time went on, I wavered because the individual seemed sincere, even shedding tears at one point. Why did I doubt my first impression when I did not sense the true anointing and the "check" I had in my spirit that something was not quite right? I wasn't sure any more because I moved into the soulish realm. This is what Christians do all the time because they're

not familiar with the real anointing of the Spirit.

### **Know the True Anointing**

“But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things” (1 John 2:20).

“These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you. *But the anointing* which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you” (1 John 2:27, author’s emphasis).

You can only know all things “in the anointing.” I cannot always explain to you what the anointing is, but I can sure tell you what it ain’t. That anointing is simply the Holy Spirit who abides in every true believer. It’s also important that we are established in the Word and know the whole counsel of God, but have you ever thought of the fact that the early Christians didn’t have a full Bible yet as we do? The Comforter, whom Jesus left us, is all they knew. In fact, the apostle John was so bold to tell these early believers, “They went out from us, but they were not of us, for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have remained with us” (1 John 2:19). Sounds pretty denominational and self-centered, doesn’t it? But back then they knew one another by the Spirit. They discerned the true from the false by the anointing.

Notice in verse 27 that John said that we don’t need anyone to teach us. Now that sounds pretty arrogant, too, doesn’t it? But he’s not saying we don’t need to be taught, for God had placed teachers in the body of Christ. What he’s saying is to let the anointing teach you while men speak.

Before I minister the Word of God I will sometimes say: “It’s not important what I say. What’s important is what the Holy Spirit says while I’m speaking.” See the difference?

When I was listening to the aforementioned video of this supposed prophet, I disconnected from the anointing within me.

I yielded more to my soul and emotions and was fooled.

Believers today need to familiarize themselves with the true anointing of the Holy Spirit and be around it. Quit putting your faith in the wisdom of men and put more faith in the power of God. {eoa}

**Bert Farias'** books are forerunners to personal holiness, the move of God and the return of the Lord. They also combat the departure from the faith and turning away from the truth we are seeing today. *The Tumultuous 2020s and Beyond* is his latest release to help believers navigate through the new decade and emerge as an authentic remnant. Other materials/resources are available on his website, Holy Fire Ministries and YouTube channel. You can follow him personally on Facebook, his Facebook ministry page or Twitter.

Read articles like this one and other Spirit-led content in our new platform, CHARISMA PLUS.

---

## **Are You Still Confused About the Israeli-Hamas Conflict?**

While fueling his vehicle at a gas station near Abu Ghosh, Israel, Calev Myers was shook by a huge explosion. Turning around to observe what he thought was construction activity, Myers instead saw pillars of smoke rising into the air as sirens blared and people ran for cover.

Over the next few days Myers, president and executive chairman of the Alliance to Reinforce Israel's Security and Economy (ARISE), observed a barrage of missiles over Tel Aviv and even in his own neighborhood. The display reminded him of the Star

Spangled Banner's stanza, "And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air."

"It was like something from a *Star Wars* movie; literally, just hundreds of explosions as these rockets are being fired at us from the Gaza Strip," Myers said. "This is a very serious situation," Myers said, speaking of the 11 day period of civil unrest in Israel.

"Unfortunately, some of our Jewish citizens forget that there are Arab Israelis who really have nothing to do with Hamas, and have nothing to do with the current violence that's perpetrated against Israel, and they've been angrily demonstrating against their Arab neighbors.

"It's a very serious situation both with being attacked externally from Hamas in Gaza, then also with the civil unrest within Israel," Myers said.

As a lawyer living in Israel, Myers defends both Jews and Palestinians and prays for peace. He possesses a solid understanding of the conflict, which cultivated over a 70-year period: beginning in 1948 when Israel was reborn as the Jewish state.

Amid the missiles soaring overhead, blaring air-raid sirens, Israel's Iron Dome intercepting rockets, Myers recorded a video to thank supporters for the prayers and, as he often does, provides context for the conflict. Anybody who desires a better understanding of the conflict is invited to watch, Myers said.

"There is some hope I would say," Myers said. "Within Israel, I can tell you as a resident of the Judean Hills, I received an invitation to a solidarity rally in which our Arab Israeli neighbors from Abu Ghosh intend to do a rally together with the Jewish communities in this area.

The rally is intended "to say that we are standing together as

Jewish Israeli Arabs against the inter-ethnic and inter-religious violence, and we want to live together in peaceful coexistence. So there is another voice coming out in the Israeli society today, which gives a ray of hope," Myers said.

Asking for prayer, Myers said, "I know that many of you do pray for Jerusalem because we're instructed in the Psalms, in the Scriptures, to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. I so much appreciate your prayers and your support," Myers said.

"We're thankful for that. We're thankful that He who keeps Israel will not slumber or sleep. Thank you for tracking and praying for us," Myers concluded. {eoa}

*Read articles like this one and other Spirit-led content in our new platform, CHARISMA PLUS.*

---

## **The Inspiring Faith of an Australian Gospel Worker Detained in North Korea**

If it was a crime to tell other people about Jesus, would there be enough evidence to find you guilty as charged?

In North Korea it is a crime to tell others about Jesus, and Australian John Short was charged and put on trial.

Short is an Australian gospel worker who was detained in North Korea after depositing gospel tracts outside a Buddhist temple during a tourist visit inside the "hermit kingdom." You can hear him tell the amazing story on *Forbidden Faith: Inspiring Conversations with Persecuted Christians* on the Charisma Podcast Network.

In spite of pressure and physical discomfort, Short refused to give in to fear. He says there isn't room for both faith and fear in the heart at the same time—so he chose faith instead of fear. Short was encouraged by the example of persecuted Chinese Christians with whom he had ministered and fellowshipped during many years serving the body of Christ in China.

Listen as John shares about his experience being interrogated every morning and evening for days on end, including being forced to write a detailed summary of his activities during every year of his life (he was 75 at the time of his arrest).

In addition to John's side of the story, listeners can hear John's wife, Karen, tell what it was like to have no word from John during his 15-day detainment. In this special bonus episode of *Forbidden Faith* with Karen Short, you'll also hear about the powerful impact the spiritual disciplines of prayer and fasting made not only in John and Karen's spiritual lives but in those around them as well.

Listen now to hear John share his experience—and God's faithfulness—while he was a prisoner in North Korea.

You can find out more information about what following Christ is like for Christians in North Korea through Voice of the Martyrs' 2021 Global Prayer Guide. The Global Prayer Guide is a full-color book with country summaries on 60 hostile areas and restricted nations where the Voice of the Martyrs currently serves persecuted Christians. For each country, readers get a general overview of the situation for Christians, who the primary persecutors are, what it means to follow Christ in that country, how difficult it is to get Bibles and a summary of VOM's ongoing work there.

Request your free copy of VOM's 2021 Global Prayer Guide now and listen to inspiring conversations with persecuted Christians on *Forbidden Faith* today. {eoa}

*Read articles like this one and other Spirit-led content in our new platform, CHARISMA PLUS.*

---

# **Compassion Evangelism Impacts Millions for the Kingdom Worldwide**

The story of the five loaves and two fish isn't simply one of Doug Stringer's favorite passages in the Bible. It has become an instruction manual for the human compassion ministry he founded nearly three decades ago—Somebody Cares America/International.

A small organization with only eight regularly-paid staff in its Houston, Texas, office and limited financial resources, Somebody Cares follows the principles Jesus implemented in biblical times to turn a little into abundance to help the poor, the destitute and those devastated by natural disasters.

It has become known as a coalition and network of organizations and churches impacting communities through prayer initiatives, compassion outreaches, leadership training and responding in times of crisis.

From Houston to the four corners of the world, from urban to foreign missions, from inner cities to unreached people groups, Somebody Cares helps to transform lives through united efforts of prayer, tangible expressions of Christ and community transformation through kingdom collaborations. In

what has become known in SCAI's circles as "compassion evangelism," the organization and its network of ministries and churches extends God's tangible love in the form of food, clothing, shelter, financial resources and the comfort of the gospel of Jesus Christ to those hungry for a better life.

Although Stringer's compassion ministry began in the early 1980s, Somebody Cares was birthed as its own entity in 1994.

Following the story in Matthew 14—when Jesus fed more than 5,000 men, not including women and children, with only five loaves of bread and two fish—Stringer doesn't concern himself about a lack of resources when faced with what looks in the natural to be an insurmountable task to help those in need.

He remembers what Jesus did for the 5,000 and how he did it—and then he puts his full trust in God to come through.

"You look at what Jesus said. He said, 'feed them,'" Stringer says, referring to Matthew 14:16 (NLT). "And then the disciples said, 'We don't have anything. How can we feed them?' The point is, Jesus didn't ask them, do we have enough? He didn't ask them about what they had; he said, 'feed them.' And that is what we are committed to.

"For us, we're simply being obedient, and simple obedience is the highest form of worship," Stringer continues. "The first time the word worship is ever used in Scripture is not in the context of singing or with instruments. It's a context of obedience. If we simply just take what we have and offer thanksgiving, God will multiply the loaves and the fishes. After He did that, they had more than enough. It is a principle we have seen everywhere.

"It's compassion, but you don't just do compassion without having the wisdom of God or the heart of God." According to Stringer, "It's about being a part of something bigger than yourself. It's not about who gets a pat on the back or who gets the credit. It's just about helping people, and when you

do that, you see the kingdom advanced. People's lives are changed, impacted, and you ultimately leave equity for God's kingdom. That's when people will become more curious to the gospel. If you see the tangibility of the gospel, then the loaves and fishes principle goes into full force."

Stringer and his team are fully aware they cannot fulfill that mission on their own merit. If they are to leave "kingdom equity," as Stringer calls it, in the areas they serve, they must rely on other organizations and churches to partner alongside Somebody Cares to bring God's tangible love to those who desperately need it.

With limited staff in Houston, carrying out the organization's kingdom commitment would seem impossible. But Stringer says we serve the God of the impossible, and it's not simply about what happens in Houston.

The entire vision of SCAI is based upon what he calls "relational equity." It's the relationships Stringer has built with church and ministry leaders over the past 40 years that has allowed SCAI to grow exponentially.

Another important relationship Stringer cultivated many years ago was with Paul Tan, the senior pastor of City Blessing Churches in Los Angeles and the president and apostle of City Blessing Churches worldwide.

Still another crucial relationship Stringer formed is with Jack Hayford, the former senior pastor of The Church on the Way in Van Nuys, California, and former president of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. Hayford invited Stringer to speak at a Love LA pastor's gathering that year, and that trip helped Stringer to network with other attending pastors and ministry leaders and to ignite their interest in SCAI's mission.

Stringer also connected with Daniel Bernard, a former missionary to Nigeria who returned to the Tampa Bay, Florida

area. He started Bay of the Holy Spirit, a network of churches and ministries that realized Somebody Cares Houston was a model they could implement in their area. In 1997, Bernard contacted Stringer and asked if they could officially become a chapter and called it Somebody Cares Tampa Bay. He invited Stringer to meet with 120 pastors to officially launch Somebody Cares Tampa Bay.

Stringer also connected with Marlene Yeo, a pastor who worked with homeless children in the New England area. Yeo is now the executive director of Somebody Cares New England.

“It’s all about relational equity, mending the net. Every one of our chapters is autonomous,” Stringer says. “They have a license and an agreement with us to carry on our core values and not to misuse them. It becomes a ‘spiritual fathering’ or mentoring. We are just the command center in Houston.”

Since 1994, chapters have been established worldwide in Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Fiji and Aberdeen, Scotland. In the U.S., chapters have been birthed in Puerto Rico, San Antonio, Texas; Haverhill, Massachusetts; Baltimore, Maryland; Denver, Colorado; Jasper and Newton Counties in Texas; Tampa Bay, Florida; St. Augustine, Florida; Citrus County, Florida; Pasco County, Florida and Hernando County, Florida.

SCAI also has affiliates called Love Botswana in Africa; Love Bought International, ministering to orphans in Colombia; and Coreluv for Orphans in Haiti. SCAI has had significant ministry and ongoing relationships in countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Middle East. It also has centers in Texas cities and regions like Brownsville, Denison, the Rio Grand Valley and Brazos Valley.

Save Our Streets Ministries in Bryan, Texas, also helps to facilitate Somebody Cares Brazos Valley. Medical Missions International is an official affiliate as well as many others.

“With that many affiliates and chapters, you can see why the

needs of hundreds of thousands are met,” Stringer says.

Because “we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose” (Rom. 8:28, MEV), some SCAI chapters have arisen out of crisis situations. After Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico in September 2017, Stringer formed a strong relationship with Rey Matos, pastor of Catacumba 5 church in Anasco.

After that deadly Category 5 storm struck Puerto Rico, Stringer partnered with Matos, and through the FEMA office there and several other disaster relief organizations, sent shiploads of resources and medical equipment to help the devastated people on the island. Some parts of Puerto Rico are still recovering from the storm, and through Stringer’s relationship with Matos, people are still receiving aid spearheaded by SCAI.

### Quick Response

When a need is identified or a crisis situation arises, that’s when the network of ministries and churches go to work with lightning efficiency. Conference and Zoom calls are set up with Stringer and his teams to discover exactly what the needs are, and strategies are established to meet those needs, including how the costs will be covered.

As soon as strategies to attack the need are put in place, churches and ministries are contacted, and God’s works are set in motion.

“It’s incredible that, most times, we start with nothing, but we’re able to find men and women of peace in communities who really want to help,” Stringer says. “People come out of the woodwork, so to speak, to serve. So, it all starts with availability.

“That’s when you start leveraging the local churches and people in the communities.” Stringer continues, “Every

hurricane, every natural disaster that we are called about, it's amazing how so many churches want to come alongside and help, some as distribution centers. Resources just seem to come pouring out."

Stringer says, "We get the inertia, the momentum, going. This is another place where you see Jesus' principle of the loaves and the fishes get started. The need becomes identified, and then you simply become obedient to God's Word, and you trust that He is the one who is going to meet the need. It's an incredible principle."

## Disaster Relief

While compassion evangelism was originally intended to be the staple focus of Somebody Cares, the organization has become well known for its efforts in disaster relief. When the Indian Ocean tsunami wreaked major havoc in 14 countries in 2004, Somebody Cares was on the ground soon after.

When the 2010 catastrophic magnitude-7.0 earthquake struck the island nation of Haiti, Somebody Cares organized relief efforts from distributing food to coordinating the building of temporary houses for numerous families whose homes were destroyed by the quake. Thousands of hot meals were provided along with groceries and clean water, as well as bringing encouragement to hundreds of pastors.

SCAI has been instrumental in helping many other cities and regions recover from destructive natural disasters, including Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, Hurricane Rita in September 2005, Hurricane Harvey in August 2017 and Hurricane Laura in August 2020.

More recently, SCAI responded to cries for help during the harsh winter storm that hit its own home state of Texas in February 2021. The storm caused major power outages, resulting in burst pipes throughout the state, which cascaded into water outages. That, coupled with icy roads, also shut down

businesses and schools.

In the months following, many remained without drinkable or running water, and families were on two-month waiting lists for plumbers and plumbing supplies. Somebody Cares equipped churches and ministries to distribute food, water and other supplies to individuals and families who suffered in the aftermath of the unusual winter storm.

SCAI brought in truckloads of bottled water from the Midwest Food Bank to distribute to families. It also purchased plumbing supplies from out of state to fix leaks for those on fixed incomes, those who lost wages and those who struggled without insurance coverage for the water damage incurred.

### **Everyday Compassion**

Through strong kingdom relationships and networking with organizations that thrive on human compassion, Jesus empowers SCAI to meet felt needs around the world, not only during natural disasters—which Somebody Cares is most known for—but also in everyday life.

For example, in 2008, SCAI learned from Pastor Suliasi Kurolo of World Harvest Center, its facilitator for Somebody Cares Fiji, that there were no dialysis machines in all of Fiji. People who needed dialysis had to travel to Australia or other countries for treatment.

Somebody Cares Vice President Jodie Chiricosta put out the word through their network of the need for a dialysis machine in Fiji and, within days, a ministry partner had provided three fully refurbished machines with spare parts. At about the same time, Stringer had been invited to minister at the City Blessings Churches in Los Angeles, pastored by Tan, who is also founder of the Indonesian Relief Fund and World Blessing Foundation.

Stringer and Tan connected, and City Blessing offered to pay

half of the shipping bill for a container to deliver food, medicine and the three dialysis machines to Fiji. Another food distribution organization in Georgia also helped to defer the costs of delivering the machines.

“That’s how the kingdom works—on relationships,” Stringer says. “The machines arrived in Fiji and were donated to the Ministry of Health by the churches of Fiji—which opened new doors of ministry in the nation and provided tangible help to those needing dialysis.”

### **A Beacon of Hope Through COVID-19**

Somebody Cares has even made its compassionate presence known through the COVID-19 pandemic over the past year. Stringer says out of its Houston office and their “little ministry,” SCAI has distributed well over \$400,000 not only to local residents in need, but also sent additional funds to other cities like Baltimore and regions such as New England and sent some assistance to the Navajo Nation. This does not include other funds sent out to help victims of other disasters.

When the pandemic struck, at-risk children who normally attended school and who depended upon school lunches for a meal every day, began to miss out on those lunches when they were ordered to learn from home. The director of Somebody Cares Baltimore reached out to restaurant owners in the area who were also missing out on income because of the COVID-19 restrictions and, because people identified the need, the need quickly became met.

“We have helped people who have been affected by COVID-19, those who have lost income, with their utilities and with rental assistance,” Stringer says. “That’s not even counting the hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of resources we gave away to medical professionals, first responders, community outreach agencies and churches to assist with responses across the country.

“It’s so amazing how God has taken what little loaves and fishes we have,” Stringer says, “The biggest thing we’ve learned through all of this is that if we offer what we have on our own, we’ll never have enough. But, if we offer what we have with all of our thanksgiving to God, we always end up with more than enough. God tends to multiply the fish and the loaves we have when we offer it with an attitude of gratitude.”

### **Compassion Evangelism Still Going Strong**

Stringer says in order to meet the felt needs around the world, SCAI must remain continually creative and stay connected with those who have the same passion to not only provide for felt needs but to spread the gospel of Christ so that Jesus’ mission of the salvation of every man and woman becomes a reality.

“When I first started,” Stringer continues, “I realized that my heart for compassion was not about just doing good works, which become dead works. My heart for compassion was to find strategic, tangible ways to express Christ. When you meet needs and touch the heart, it opens an opportunity to minister to people beyond the arguing of the mind.

“We’ve had so many stories and testimonies over the years,” Stringer says. “Doing good works can be cumbersome and exhausting. You can have compassion burnout if you are not being fueled by the presence of God. From the very beginning 40 years ago, before Somebody Cares came to fruition, I knew right away that this ministry had to be based in prayer, which is communication with God. It had to be fueled out of his presence.

“I realized that everything we do,” Stringer says, “has to be prepared in a place of prayer and a place of worship in the presence of the Lord so that when we are able to minister to people, it comes out of the overflow of his presence rather

than just trying to make something happen ourselves.

“And in that place,” Stringer says, “is when God will take what little you have and multiply it through relationships with those who are like-minded. That’s when the stories of the loaves and the fishes really comes alive.”

**Shawn Akers** *is content development editor with Charisma Media.*

Read articles like this one and other Spirit-led content in our new platform, CHARISMA PLUS.