

Spirit-Filled Pastor Challenges Believers to Prepare Now for Christ's Coming

Awaken Ministries was launched in October 2020 as the fruit of 40 years of walking with Jesus and being in ministry as a pastor and evangelist. My son, our pastor at Encounter Church, said to me that I should write a book to share all of my experiences and about what I have learned to help others in ministry and in life.

Then when the pandemic hit and my travels to Zambia, Cuba and Israel were postponed, one of my disciples and longtime friends said we needed to pray about how to get the message God had given me out to the world.

A few weeks later, without any discussion regarding what God was telling me to do, Steve Strang, president and founder of Charisma Media, called me and said I needed to join their podcast ministry. After a few days of prayer, we partnered with Charisma Podcast Network to launch *Awaken Ministries* with a podcast (my book, so to speak) and a new website,.

I began to record the messages and stories of my journey with Jesus and to invite people to join me on our journey together. The focus of this adventure and call from God is that Jesus' return is imminent. Since that is true, then how should we live in this season of His return? What should be our purpose and emphasis in fulfilling His vision for this season? How should we live our daily lives, and how can we raise up end-times messengers for Jesus to proclaim His Second Coming?

God was the first end-times messenger in Genesis 3. He is the author and inspiration, declaring that His Son, Jesus Christ,

would come to save His people from their sins. Our Father then chose the prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel and Zechariah to be His messengers. They would not only prepare the way for the coming of Jesus the first time but also announce He would return in His glory a second time.

Jesus then became the ultimate end-times messenger and taught of His return in Matthew 24 and 25 as well as in other Scriptures. The angels who saw Him ascend into heaven became His messengers in Acts 1. Then His 120 in the upper room after Pentecost became His end-times messengers, emphasizing over and over again that Jesus was not only the Messiah, but He would also return to establish the fullness of His kingdom.

This baton of truth was then passed to every generation. In the 21st century there seems to have been an explosion of end-times messengers raised up to awaken a generation asleep in a spiritual slumber as in the days of Noah.

I believe God has called me to be one of His messengers, (I share that dramatic encounter in my podcast), and to raise up and train future messengers who know Jesus, His Word and the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit. We will know the teachings of the prophets and Jesus regarding His return, and God will send us into our communities, then to the nations, to Israel and to the church with the message:

- Repent and believe in Jesus as the Messiah.
- Be baptized in the Holy Spirit.
- Deny self; take up your cross and follow Jesus.

“Awaken” is taken from Romans 13:11-14 where Paul tells the Roman believers to wake up. The night is over. He admonishes them to put away the sins of their flesh and put on Christ. The day of Jesus’ return is upon us.

I believe that the Bible is written to inspire every

generation that Jesus' return is imminent. Some will say it has been 2,000 years since Jesus left, but that is man's time. In God's time, Jesus has only been gone two days. His return is imminent!

I challenge you to join me in our journey to prepare the way for the coming of our King. We are the John the Baptists of this season. God needs more than one messenger like John, who was to reach Israel as the voice crying in the wilderness. He has a whole world to reach with the gospel of Jesus Christ and His return.

Join me in our podcast by going to and subscribe to *Awaken*. Check out our website at . If you do not have a local church, come and visit us at Encounter Global Outreach in Orlando, Florida, at 6208 S. Orange Avenue. The website is .

We are on an epic journey with Jesus! I believe there has never been a better time to be alive, to be in love with Jesus and to serve Him to fulfill His vision to prepare the world and your community for His return. {eo}

Blake Lorenz gave his life to Jesus Christ in January of 1980, and that began his journey and adventure with Him. His life has included many great experiences, first and foremost marrying the love of his life, Beverly Brackman, in 1981 and sharing three children and now six grandchildren together. After experiencing a radical encounter with Jesus, he felt God calling him to attend Asbury Seminary, where he received a master's degree in 1984. Along this journey, he has pastored small and large churches in the Orlando area for over 33 years and has been blessed to do evangelism work around the world, visiting five continents and preaching the gospel to tens of thousands. In 2020, he launched his new website, and his podcast, *Awaken*. This podcast allows him to teach and challenge people to join him on a journey together in this season of looking forward to the return of Jesus.