



CROSSIN' THE GULF
MINISTRIES CHURCH

May 2024

People Need The Lord

Hello Family, Partners, and Friends, grace, peace, and favor to you. I learned something really powerful that I want to share with you. Look at James 1:21 (NKJV):

*Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, **and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.***

The King James Version uses the word 'engrafted' instead of 'implanted'. To engraft (ingraft) something means to set or fix deep and firm; to insert into another for propagation (1828 Merriam-Webster). To propagate means to multiply, to spread (1828 Merriam-Webster). Putting it all together, the WORD of God fixed deeply and firmly in our lives will multiply and spread to save our souls.

Let us clarify what the soul is before we go further. Many people understand and we are a soul – 'oh that dear soul'. Nope. John 4:24 tells us that God is spirit. Genesis 1:26 God made man in His image and likeness and made them male and female. That means that man is a spirit. So, what is our soul? Our soul = our mind, our will, and our emotions. I Thessalonians 5:24b - May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are a spirit, we have a soul, and we live in a body. Recognizing that opens a whole world of revelation and understanding.

When we read Romans 10:9 – that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved – we can now recognize that the 'we' that Jesus saved is our spirit, the real man. What about our soul? That is our part. God did His part in sending His Son to die and conquer death and hell for us to save our spirits. Saving our souls is up to us. Back to James 1:21b - receive with meekness the implanted word (*of God*), which is able to save your souls.

God did His part. We need to do our part. Ever wonder how someone can say he or she is a Christian, but the person acts like a hellion? Troublesome and mischievous. James 1:21, there is your answer. While his or her spirit was saved, the person's soul is not yet, or at least not to the full degree one would hope and expect for a follower and Believer in Christ Jesus. Paul charged the church in Rome to not copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform them into a new person by changing the way you think. Then they will learn to know God's will for them, which is good and pleasing and perfect (Romans 12:2 NLT).

We are to renew our minds and be transformed into a new person by the WORD of God. Are you tormented dealing with mental health issues? The WORD of God can bring peace. Are you worried and concerned about life? The WORD of God can bring hope. Are you feeling lost and uncertain? The WORD of God can bring clarity and direction. The Bible will not provide specifics such as "marry Mary-Jane or John-Boy on the 14th of June 2025." It will, however, give you wisdom to order your steps to be in the right place, at the right time, to meet the person. It will mature you to know in your heart (your spirit) whether she or he is the right one for you. It will train you how to

treat her or him. It will make you sensitive to the Holy Spirit to know when to ask her to marry you or if you should say, “yes,” to him.

We will not need to worry about whether we are saying or doing the right thing when we immerse ourselves in the WORD of God. It will transform our thinking so that we say right and do right beyond our natural experience or teaching. The more time we spend reading and listening to the WORD of God, the more time we will find ourselves in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing, with the right people. Ask me how I know!

My mind has been reflecting on a hymn published in 1992 “People Need The Lord”. My sister and I played in the 90’s on the mission field in Belize, she on her trumpet, me on my flute. We played it so frequently we needed a break from it, but never from its message. The words and melody still pop up in my heart over the years. It rings even more true today. My dad, Jordan, our ministry, and I are endeavoring to get the truth of God’s love and Jesus’ victory out to people. There is much hopelessness and despair, but Jesus is the answer. Lies have been told about Him, but He has so much good to offer. Let the light of Who He is be revealed to you and your soul through His WORD.

John 1:1 (NKJV) - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. God and His WORD are one. People need The LORD = People need The WORD. Think about it!

As you give your seed this month, pray over it, and sow it believing for greater revelation of the WORD of God. If you would like to give towards a particular outreach, we have three dynamic opportunities to share with you. Check out the enclosed flier.

Got questions? Need Prayer? You can reach us via our website or email. We are here for you.

Remember, your Heavenly Father loves you as much as He loves Jesus!

Jesus is Lord,

Pastors Jordan & Melissa Mack

Psalm 23, **Psalm 91**, Isaiah 54:17, Ephesians 3:14-21, Exodus 3:21, **Numbers 6:24-26**, Ephesians 1:15-21, Colossians 1:9-14, **Colossians 3:1-17**

Has this letter BLESSED you? Pass this Partner letter on to a family member or friend and be a BLESSING to them.

Outreach Vision 2024

Opportunities to help change a life. “And the LORD answered me: ‘Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it’” (Habakkuk 2:2 ESV).

Project Joy!



We kicked off Project Joy in 2023 collecting or purchasing and giving approximately 100 Christmas presents for children in need. That was a tremendous start. It gave us the opportunity to pray for families and share the gospel. What was difficult was limiting the outreach to a small area.

For 2024, we set the bar high with a vision of 1,000 presents. We will purchase the presents in Houston and ship to Belize. We can buy better quality toys there at a fraction of the cost, even when shipping is added in.

Goal = \$15,000 by August 2024 to allow for shopping + shipping

Bibles for Belize

It is time to restock our supply of English Bibles. We plan to purchase 100 copies this summer to ship to Belize.

Our previous supply supported a teen outreach program, inmates at Belize Central Prison, a local church, and those we meet in the streets.

Goal = \$2,500 = Bibles + Shipping



Need Prayer? Outreach




Like Jesus, we are training men and women how to pray for others and sending them out two-by-two. Our focus is to reach people where they are and minister the love of Jesus to them.

CTGM is underwriting the cost of the shirts. Pray-ers pay \$7.50 and CTGM pays \$10 per shirt. We started with 10 Pray-ers and now have 22 who will go out monthly to parks, town centers, and other areas simply to pray with and encourage people.

Goal = 70 Pray-ers + \$500 for t-shirts

How to give:

Online - <https://www.crossinthegulf.org/giving/> (Once logged into user profile → Online Giving → select dropdown

for Project Joy or General Use and select  symbol to add a memo for Bibles or Need Prayer Outreaches. Gifts to General Use without memo will be divided as needed between outreaches.

Mail - <https://www.crossinthegulf.org/giving/>

Via Zelle – ctgmc1997@gmail.com or 832-368-2908