

## **Partners with Christ**

**Martin Luther King Jr BDay- Monday Jan 19th**  
Aug 28, 1963- speech- Lincoln Memorial ...

**I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal."**

This is not just a creed of this nation, but a spiritual truth- all men are equal in God's eyes. Dr King believed in his dream/paid w/His life. World needs men/women- not afraid to dream. Men/women who will stand for truth- God's truth. There are many battle grounds today for truth in all areas of our culture.

**In Christ, the ethnic and racial identities that separate ... lose their power to divide. The blood of Christ overcomes them. Anthony J Carter**

All people struggle w/prejudices of some type. Jesus Christ is the great reconciler/leveler. Reconciliation begins w/us being reconciled- God but extends to being reconciled w/one another. We must allow God- deal w/personal prejudices.  
**Mtt 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.**

Only when man has peace w/God will he find  
>the peace of God in his own life, and  
>peace w/his fellow man.

**2 Cor 5:18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation**

Every person has ...

>God given dreams, and an

>eternal purpose/mission from God to fulfill

May we be among those who help men to find  
peace with God and peace with one another.

May we further the work of God's Kingdom here  
on earth as it is in heaven.

## **The February Good News Challenge**

A 28 day challenge to read through the four  
Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The Gospel's tell the good news about the birth,  
life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Act 18:24 Now a Jew named Apollos, an  
Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man,  
came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in  
the Scriptures.**

What a wonderful testimony.

Mighty- capable, competent

The Greek word is used to denote powerful.

The scriptures in and of themselves are powerful  
so anyone who can handle them- powerful.

**2Tim 2:15(NLT) ... Be a good worker, one  
who does not need to be ashamed and  
who correctly explains the word of truth.**

Like Apollos, how can we become mighty in the  
scriptures- accurately handle- word of truth?

I know of no better way than to prayerfully read  
the Word/meditate on what it mean for us.

Our challenge for February- read- Gospels ...

Feb 1- Mathew

Feb 8- Mark

Feb 15- Luke

Feb 22- John

## **Partners with Christ**

January- focusing on 1st part- Mission Statement-

**Encounter God, Love People, Share Life**

**Encounter God ... our Identity**

**Love People ... our Culture**

**Share Life ... our Purpose**

Ben Franklin- Continental Congress, 06/27/1787

**In this situation of this Assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understandings? In the beginning of the Contest with G. Britain, when we were sensible of danger we had daily prayer in this room for the divine protection. Our prayers, Sir, were heard, and they were graciously answered ... And have we now forgotten that powerful friend?**

Franklin believed in a God that responded to the prayers of men and partnered with them.

They had to fight- God showed them favor/victory.

**Exodus 3:1–5 (NASB95)**

**<sup>1</sup>Now Moses was pasturing the flock of Jethro his father-in-law ...**

**<sup>2</sup>The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed.**

**<sup>3</sup>So Moses said, “I must turn aside now and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burned up.”**

**4When the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.”**

God opened up more to Moses when Moses responded to God’s initiative- burning bush. God is always taking initiative in our lives- looking for us to respond- turn aside from our activities

**<sup>5</sup>Then He said, “Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.”**

When Moses encountered- miraculous- burning bush- he encountered- God of- burning bush.

**When a person experiences a miracle, they encounter the God of that miracle.**

When I see God move in my life- causes me to turn my heart towards Him- to worship Him.

**It’s the Presence of God that links us to the impossible. His presence makes anything possible! Bill Johnson**

Out of this miraculous encounter- God spoke ...

**Ex 3:10 “Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt.”**

God- called Moses to walk with Him- partner with Him- to fulfill God’s purposes in the earth.

Now Moses felt inadequate- as he should, and as we should when God calls us to partner w/Him

If we can do everything w/o God's supernatural help- perhaps not doing what God called us to.

**Exodus 4:10–12 (NASB95)**

**10**Then Moses said to the Lord, "Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since You have spoken to Your servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

**11**The Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes him mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?"

**12**"Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say."

Look at the words of Jesus ...

**John 15:4–5 (NASB95)**

**4**"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

**5**"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Consider this ...

**We are nothing without Christ but we are everything with Christ.**

40yrs later- God calls Joshua to partner with Him-  
**Josh 1:2** "Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel.

There were enemies/fortified cities in the Promised Land that flowed w/milk and honey. They would have to depend on God's supernatural partnership to take the land.

**1Cor3:9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.**

We are called to co-labor w/Christ- just as- Jews were to partner w/God- He would give- victory.

### **Conclusion**

**Jn 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."**

Once we are born again we are placed at the entrance into a new Kingdom/way of living. The story of Israel crossing the Jordan River into the Promised Land is a foreshadow of this. If they had stayed on the banks of the river they would have never enjoyed- milk and honey. Unfortunately many of us step into the Promised Land but remain on the banks of the river. We never step out, fight the giants, so we can enjoy the abundance of the land and receive our inheritance- takes courage/faith. Therefore we do not experience the fulness of what God has provided for us in Christ.

**As we seek God in the place of worship and prayer, with faith, we understand that God considers us partners in His mission to bring heaven to earth.**

God gave Israel the Promised Land and we have been given a rich inheritance in Christ. It will take courage/faith- possess our inheritance.