



Grace Fellowship International



Taking the Cross of Christ to the World

*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me (Gal. 2:20).*

## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CHURCH

As I approach the end of my life and ministry at 83, I believe I have earned the right to speak the truth in love and frankness to the Body of Christ. As God called Moses to set His people free from bondage in Egypt and Joshua to complete the task of leading them from the Wilderness to Canaan, He called me to be a spiritual 'Joshua'. Since His proven call in 1967, there have been multitudes of believers (and some unbelievers who became believers!) who have entered the Promised Land, in their experience, around the world.

Our Lord has honored His call with transformed lives as those who *spied out the land* assist those yet bogged down in Wilderness living. Some of these have developed ministries similar to Grace Fellowship International (GFI) and, thereby, expanded the message of the cross for which I praise Him! Taken together, a movement in the Church termed 'exchanged life counseling' has developed over the years.

However, this message remains the 'minority report' when considering the Body as a whole. Therefore, our purpose now is to inform and mobilize the Church so that a 'mass exodus' from the Wilderness might be realized to God's glory!

Though millions are involved, it need not be a daunting task if viewed from God's perspective and the pattern He has set over the past five decades is followed in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The major task is convincing pastors and leaders of the viability of such an answer based on our experience in recent years. This has been documented for both pastors and people in two books, *Pastors to Pastors*, *Testimonies of Revitalized Ministries* and *Discipling the Desperate*. Taken together, we have in our churches some unbelievers and a host of unbelieving believers!



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In briefly assessing today's Church, there are some who are literally dying for an answer, some who are seeking more than they are presently experiencing and many who are satisfied with the status quo (Latin for the mess we are in!).

There is a small percentage of those who are living such a life but are unable to articulate it to others, who delight in finding a way to communicate their experience to others. Many are yearning for more victory than they are living

One way to begin would be having the entire congregation reading *Handbook to Happiness* as a 'book of the month'. Some would find their answer and many would be spurred on to learn more! The pastor could then bring a series of messages on Romans 6, buttressed by appropriate testimonies—his and others!

As understanding develops, tutoring in the cross could be provided, along with small group study and sharing. Of course, the pastor's unqualified support is vital to the ministry of the cross which may stretch him in some areas!

Such an emphasis, across denominational lines, could easily usher in a new or completed Reformation which is sorely needed since renewal or revival would be part and parcel of the message of resurrection life.

From my vantage point, it is a small step of faith to see God's honoring such an emphasis. However, overcoming inertia, endorsed by the Christian establishment's having emplaced many substitute answers, is to challenge the preponderance of current church leadership.

Since God gave me the answer and called me to deliver it to His church, I have no hesitancy in proclaiming it from the rooftops to all who will hear. Decades of witnessing the Spirit's transforming lives and providing books and media to train others enable me to stand firmly where God has placed me and call to others not so graced!

Mega churches are good in prosperous times but of questionable benefit in times of retrenchment, which are upon us in the not too distant future! Preaching the cross is the power of God, and the Spirit honors it today just as He did in the first century.

I do not have 95 theses to nail on one door; but I do have one thesis, the cross, for 95 denominational doors, and here I stand so help me God!



God honored Luther's stand with a Reformation based on the truth of justification by faith; let's trust Him to complete the Reformation He has started, based on sanctification by faith or scriptural discipleship (Luke 14:27) and see Him turn His Church right side up!



## THE CHURCH IN THE WILDERNESS

As I mount to view the Church  
From the vantage point of time,  
My heart is overwhelmed  
By God's grace sublime.  
Though Christ's blood was shed  
That sin might be propitiated,  
His Church has turned a blind eye  
And with the flesh is satiated.

Preoccupied with buildings, budgets and bodies  
The flesh is in ascendancy;  
It must come to brokenness  
If it is to know dependency.  
So long as programs and human effort  
Combine to keep things humming,  
Church growth and apparent success  
Will staunch the need for overcoming.

When it no longer can be propped up,  
The Truth must be squarely faced;  
Human effort with best intentions, (Gal. 3:3)  
With the Christ-life must be replaced.  
With the Cross for Jesus clearly taught,  
It is missing the believer's Cross; (Rom. 6:6)  
Increased effort and more spending  
Will cause the Body to suffer loss.

As believers experience revival  
And the way of holiness know,  
The Church will dispense with self-effort  
And the way of true growth know.  
As revival spreads from person to person,  
The Church will take on a glow;  
Those looking for Truth will come,  
And the Body can't help but grow.

C. R. Solomon  
October 25, 2007



## I HAVE A BURDEN FOR THE CHURCH

God gave me a burden  
No longer to solely bear;  
In the Word we're admonished  
One another's burdens to share (Gal. 6:2)  
God has transformed lives  
Over four decades long;  
His church should take the baton  
And enter the battle strong.

Personal revival is commonplace  
With believers led to the Cross;  
Churches could see this daily  
If they rid themselves of dross.  
The seven last words of the Church;  
"We haven't done it this way before",  
Could hamper the Spirit's working  
As He did in the days of yore.

Hurting believers in the church  
Know not where to turn;  
When they encounter problems deep,  
Spiritual help they may spurn.  
They may have sought for answers  
Where the problem was not addressed;  
Symptomatic treatment could result  
In their becoming more distressed.

Is your Church a haven  
For those who are seeking rest?  
If they darken your door for help,  
Will they go away blessed?  
Rather, will they be referred  
To the world system profferings,  
Or will they receive ministration  
From the Holy Spirit's offering?



We would be the Church's handmaid  
To supply that which we've learned;  
Equipping believers to be effective,  
Is something for which we've yearned.  
But we need the open doors  
To welcome a new approach,  
That personal revival ministry  
Could be above reproach.

And in the matter of money,  
There is much to be desired;  
As the Church across the country  
Has much help that is required.  
Will you help to meet this need  
That our country's health might turn?  
With believers renewed and soul's saved  
Revival fires again can burn!

Books: Soldiers of the Cross

