

# ELIMLIFE

2017 / ISSUE 3

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## Imagine

IMMEASURABLY MORE  
KINGDOM BUILDERS  
BRIDEGROOM IN WAITING

+ ———  
THE CHURCH  
IS IN TROUBLE  
8 reasons not to worry

+ ———  
KIDS  
God has the  
best imagination

+ ———  
PROMOTED  
TO GLORY  
A tribute to David Tinnion

**ALL NEW LOOK**  
NOW BI-MONTHLY

# DON'T BE SHY

HELP US GIVE VOICE TO  
WHAT GOD IS DOING IN  
AND THROUGH OUR  
GENERATIONS TODAY

Bursting to share something but never plucked up the courage? Love to journal, write or create but never given exposure to the ramblings in the secret place?

## GREAT!

You're exactly who we want to hear from from.

It could be a move of God in your church or a personal encounter with Jesus. Perhaps it's a blog or poem you've read. It could even be a photo you have taken or a post you shared online. If it impacted you, it can impact others and we want to know.

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ELIM LIFE MAGAZINE . CONNECT . CONTRIBUTE . COMMUNICATE

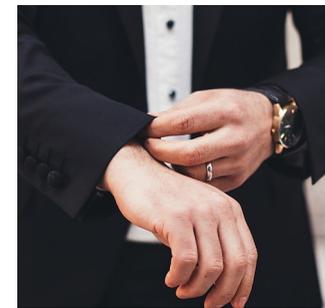
CONNECT  
TODAY  
WITH YOUR  
ELIM LIFE

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 **EDWIN MICHAEL**  
Irish Superintendent

I'm delighted to be writing in the first edition of the rebranded Elim Life. I want to thank Sara and her team for all their work and trust you will enjoy the new format.

Eph. 3:20 says, God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.

I have absolutely no doubt that, in line with the verse above and the theme of this first edition, God will use the magazine to bless, encourage and impact lives in ways we never thought possible. 

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## A note from the Editor

**W**elcome to our brand new edition of **Elim Life!** As a team we are so excited to share this edition with you and we hope that as you read you will be inspired, challenged, and encouraged as we explore the theme of **imagine together.**

I've heard it said that some people have little or no imagination, while others have been described as rockets with their crazy ideas. Where you would place yourself on a scale? I believe each of us have an imagination and that it is a beautiful and special gift created by God.

Think back to those childhood days when you could spend endless hours with an empty box. Your world was shaped by the scenes carved out in your mind not by the reality of the picture surrounding you. Age can at times make us have a more realistic viewpoint but what if instead of allowing reality to shape our thinking we allowed our imaginations to paint the scenes.

God spoke the world into existence in a matter of days. Everything we see and know was thought up in His mind and then brought into reality by His very breath. Imagine if we allowed that same thinking to help us shape our worlds today? What could we think and ask God to do? Our world has been shaped by history makers creating places for sick people to be helped back to health; and those who looked after the orphan and the widow. People who thought creatively and hospitals and orphanages were established. Their response was limited to time, resources, and finances just like ours would be today. But their reaction was rooted in love, and dreamt up in heaven. They pioneered regardless of the risk or personal implications and how

much better is our world today because of their vivid imaginations and willingness to pursue a dream.

*Ephesians 3:20 "Now to Him who can do exceedingly above what we can ask, think or imagine ..."*

Our imaginations don't even come close to God's. If we conform, if we respond as the world does are we limiting God's power from being active and at work? If we allow our imaginations to be weakened or dissolved because of age, circumstance or situation are we limiting an unlimited God? Imagine what we could do if we grasped the enormity of our God? He is faithful, we can dream and do when we believe in the One who never falters or fails. We can place our hope in Jesus and walk out His purposes for our lives with surrender and abandonment because doing anything less may mean we are settling for what He never intended.

I firmly believe that God has big dreams for every single one of us and I hope and pray as you read the pages following you will dream again; that you will look out at an expansive wide open future and bravely ask God what He can help you dream up and do for His kingdom and His glory.

I am very excited to be able to say we will now be a BI-MONTHLY magazine. So more for you to read and more ways for you to contribute! Content deadlines for the next couple of issues are on the back cover.

Much love & prayers,  
Sara

NEWS

## INDUCTION AT MARKETHILL ELIM



**S**unday 11<sup>th</sup> June was a great day in so many ways, not just because it was the Lord's day but because the church family at Markethill Elim had the wonderful privilege of welcoming a beautiful family into the church.

But this was no ordinary family as those that were coming in, were to take up a role within the leadership of the church. Pastor Jonny, his wife Linda-Jane and children Abigail and Ezra were received with open arms as they took on the role of Assistant Pastor in the church to work along side Pastor Ian. The Superintendent of Elim Pastor Edwin Michael officiated at the induction and shared faithfully from the word of God. It was such a blessed morning to see such a crowd of people there to support them on this exciting part of their journey with the Lord. Please pray for them and encourage them as they begin ministry together.

## ELIM IN BANDON, CO.CORK

**A**fter several happy years on McSwiney Quay, Bandon, West Cork Community Church has moved in June 2017 to the Allin Institute, just the other side of the river.



The Allin is located at a busy junction, and makes a profound impression to the streetscape, with its retention of historic features such as sash windows, cast-iron down pipes and panelled timber doors. It's a powerful symbol of Bandon's past: built as a Protestant centre by James Allin of Youghal in the 1860s and rebuilt in the 1920s, following its burning by the IRA.

We want to address that historical symbolism and make it a centre of reconciliation and hope. It's been called "One of the most prestigious buildings in Bandon", and we'd like to honour that "prestige" by making Jesus famous there. The building comprises of meeting rooms, gym, hall, coffee lounge, competition snooker room and other facilities.

Along with regular services, we will be running a full weekly programme of coffee mornings, prayer & Bible study, Youth House-group and outreach events, Parent & Toddler group, and our Preschool Music programme: "Mainly Music." So, pray for us and come visit.

# PASTOR JACK McKEE RECEIVES MBE

FROM IRISH SUPERINTENDENT EDWIN MICHAEL,  
THE IRISH LEADERSHIP TEAM AND EVERYONE IN THE ELIM FAMILY

*"Pastor Jack McKee has just received an MBE in the Queen's birthday honours list for years of community work in the Shankill and Falls area of Belfast. I want to say a huge congratulations to both him and Kathleen and all the team at New Life City Church both past and present for the impact they have had and for their perseverance through some of the darkest and most difficult times. May God continue to bless and use you."*

I know it's the done thing for those who are honoured in receiving such an award to make sure they give credit to those who have stood by them over the years, but believe me, I know only too well that I have stood on the shoulders of giants and have at times walked in the footsteps of others.

I want to say a huge thanks to those who saw fit to nominate me and to those who supported the nomination. Thank you for seeing

something worthy enough for such an honour. Many thanks to the Leadership, past and present, of the Elim Movement for giving me the opportunity to serve God by serving our community, and for the amazing support during some very trying years.

A very special thanks to the Leadership and everyone at New Life City Church, past and present, who have



been part of this journey and are therefore rightly part of this award. To the Management Team and all our staff and volunteers at City Life Centre and Stadium Projects. This is as much your award as it is mine.

To all those within our community who are the real community workers, legitimised by your positive contributions in very difficult circumstances - thank you for what you do. You are as deserving, if not more so, of this award.

Thanks to all our many American friends and churches who have stood alongside us and encouraged us for many years and in so many ways. Thanks also to those organisations, both statutory and private, who have strengthened our

“  
NONE OF THIS WOULD  
EVER BE POSSIBLE  
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”

hand to be an influence for good across north and west Belfast and beyond.

A mega thanks to my son Jonathan, daughters Chara and Paula, who have stood firm in the face of some very dark and threatening days; who, like others brought up in conflict, have seen more than they ever should have seen, but have stayed the course; have been at my side and have had

my back when I needed them most.

A very huge word of thanks to my wife Kathleen, because if anyone deserves an award, it's Kathleen. She has given so much to so many, and has taken on much more than she ever should have had to. No one knows better than Kathleen knows! Our story is one story.

But none of this would ever be possible without Christ. For He who called us, not only counted us faithful, but has been faithful to us. He has kept us and blessed with a great bunch of people at New Life City Church and at City Life Centre. I with many others look forward to one day meeting with the King, and to receiving His Reward, which is far better than any earthly accolade. ■

✎ PASTOR JACK McKEE

# ELIM IMAGINE CONFERENCE

**E**lim Leaders Summit is an annual event which gives us Pastors and leaders of the local Church an opportunity to come together and get fresh vision, to sharpen our skills, meet with friends old and new and experience the presence of God together. This year was the first under the leadership of Pastor Chris Cartwright and the theme for the week was "imagine".

Pastor Cartwright preached a prophetic word for the Church that resonated with many. He encouraged us to listen to the words God is speaking to us personally "From now on" reminding us that God is speaking words that call each of us and that we should each experience moments that will change us forever. Peter was called from being comfortable to being a person of calling. Three words that will shape our movement in the coming years are "From now on".

My take away from conference, the thing that impressed on my heart was said by Patrick Dixon, "That we can reach more on the outside than the inside". He encouraged us to transmit our faith, to be aware of the next generation, with the reminder that this life is too short to waste time.



This year the messages were broadcast online which enabled a wider audience reach throughout the Elim family. It was really beneficial for those who couldn't make conference to hear all that was said and catch a little of what was happening at Harrogate.

It's always a great time away and I'm looking ahead and expecting great things for next year already. The movement has a great future ahead.

Some of the messages are still available to watch or listen to online, check them out at: [www.elim.org.uk](http://www.elim.org.uk)



DARREN McWILLIAMS

## A TRIBUTE TO DAVID TINNION



**B**y now everyone knows that March saw the home-call of our dearly loved David Tinnion. He has received his promotion to Glory but we grieve over our loss. All of you had the joy of knowing him and I know you will continue to pray for his wife Bobbie at this time. His funeral was on Sunday 19th March and the church was filled with people, many more were unable to come from other parts of the UK (the funeral was in their church at Ballymena Elim, Northern Ireland) and of course condolences were sent from the many nations of Elim Global.

David's heart attack happened during his preaching on the subject of missions on Tuesday 7th March at a prayer meeting in the church, he was sharing of a recent missions trip to Uganda. God was calling him, but we were not ready to let go until Thursday 16th March when we had to accept that God's ways are higher than ours.

I write a daily blog from a verse in the Bible ([www.missionspaul.com](http://www.missionspaul.com)) and it so happened that on the day of David's death the verse was amazingly applicable to the situation. God was speaking! You can read it by going to my page and finding March 16th or paste the link into your browser:

<https://missionspaul.com/2017/03/16/david-tinnion-the-believers-spoke-well-of-him/>

David's passion in life was to train leaders. He has trained thousands across the world in his life.

The retiring collection at the funeral was for a new training centre in Aberdare, Kenya. We would like to offer everyone the opportunity especially those who were not able to be at the funeral to give to this project, 'The David Tinnion centre'. All the funds will go to build a training centre for Elim Kenya in the Aberdare hills where there is already a church and a school. Any remaining money will be used for the training of leaders around Elim Global. We have kindly been offered by two of David's previous churches to hold a memorial service for his life. However after discussion with Bobbie we believe this is the best and right thing to do and will mean that David's legacy of training will continue until Christ returns.

One final note: as you send money please drop a short line of tribute from yourself as we will be placing these into a special book to be presented to Bobbie at the opening of the training centre in Kenya. If you have already given at the funeral or subsequently then you can simply send your tribute to either of the offices. 

 PAUL HUDSON  
International Missions Director

### GIFT INFORMATION

**IRISH CHURCHES:**  
Please send to -  
Irish Missions Office,  
55 Heron Wood,  
Dromore, BT25 1HE  
Cheques made out  
to Elim Missions.

**ELIM UK CHURCHES:**  
Please send to -  
Elim International Missions,  
De Walden Road,  
West Malvern, WR14 4DF  
Cheques made out to  
Elim International Missions.

# *immeasurably* [MORE.]



through the apparent defeat and the death of the One who was sent to bring deliverance. That He would then entrust the most extraordinary story ever told to the most ordinary bunch of men and would conquer billions of human hearts, over the millennia that followed, not with might or brute force, but with love and grace.

All of these things are perfectly understandable to us today looking back with hindsight, but to the people who journeyed through the events in real time, the purposes of God were incomprehensible without God's help. This latter fact makes me observe with fresh confidence and faith our 21st century world which, at times, appears to be spinning out of control. The God who can do immeasurably more than all we could ask

**G**od's ways and thoughts are far above ours and because of that He is 'always going to surprise us!' History bears this out. Who could have imagined that the Pharaoh, oppressing the Children of Israel and drowning their children in the River Nile, would eventually be defeated because a baby preserved

in that very same river and adopted into the Pharaoh's own home was the instrument of God to bring freedom from oppression? Who could have dreamt that God would begin the salvation of the human race through the fragility of a baby born in the obscurity of Bethlehem? Or that He would strip hell of its claims

or imagine knows the end from the beginning and His purposes cannot and will not be defeated. This God who takes in all of human history in a single glance also sees you. He doesn't only deal with the macro, He's interested in the micro. He directs nations but at the same time guides individuals, ensuring that all things are working together for the good of His children. Surprises are on the way for us all, because He's the God of the immeasurably more.

Not only is He going to surprise us but He's going to 'improve on our plans'. When I consider the life of the Apostle Paul, I see his personal desires and plans surfacing. For example, in Acts Ch 16, Luke records Paul's desire to evangelise Asia Minor and Ephesus but instead God turned Paul westward and

into Europe, a factor which undoubtedly changed world history.

Later in Acts Ch19, Paul was allowed to plant a church in Ephesus. God didn't veto Paul's plans, he just improved on them. Again in Romans Ch 1, we read about Paul's desire to visit Rome. It appears God hindered him but during the delay Paul wrote to the believers there instead. The consequence is that the church in all ages was gifted with a theological masterpiece which gives foundation to so much of what we believe. An improvement on Paul's plan? I certainly think so. However, later God allowed Paul to get to Rome but not exactly as he might have hoped to. I'm sure he never imagined he would go there as a prisoner, facing charges of treason and possible execution. God improved the plan, though it probably took Paul some time to view his circumstances as an improvement. In the end it was his time in prison that produced letters to the Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon,

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not to mention his personal witness, which impacted the Pretorian guard and reached the emperor's palace. In Phil Ch1:12f, Paul would go on to say, "I want you to know brothers and sisters that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the Gospel". Amazing that God didn't veto his plans but simply improved them.

In closing, keep dreaming and above all keep trusting. God is going to 'surprise you' and He's going to 'improve your plans' because He's the One who is able to do immeasurably more than all we could ask or imagine. ■



**Recently my husband and I had the pleasure of naming our new-born son.** It was a fun experience - finding out the meaning of names, making lists, settling on the perfect one and then changing your mind as soon as they arrive because they “don’t really look like a David” (despite the honest fact that all babies look essentially the same - small and wrinkly).

Some names have lasted throughout generations. Names such as Joshua and Caleb. But some names that were common in their day, have now faded into obscurity. Names such as: Shammua; Shaphat; Igal; Palti; Gaddiel; Gaddi; Ammiel; Sethur; Nahbi; and Geuel.

The names I listed belong to the 12 men in Numbers 13, sent into Canaan to explore the land that God promised to the Israelites. Of those 12 men, only two of their names are honoured and remembered today. Only two names were blessed by God in a way that has extended throughout the generations, and they belonged to people who used

their God given imagination in a way that showed their faith in God.

Numbers 12 tells us that the men who go into the Promised Land are terrified by what they see: giants (literal ones!); massive fortified cities; and people who were well able to defend their land. What they see worries them so much that they report back to the rest of the Israelites that the land “devours those living in it” (NIV). The people are so distressed that they decide to choose a new leader and go back to Egypt, to slavery. Ultimately, God tells these people that they will never make it into the Promised Land. They are condemned to years of wandering through the wilderness.

Except for two of the men, Joshua and Caleb. These men used their imagination to see what the other ten men couldn’t and God blessed them for it. They didn’t use day dreams or wishful thinking. They used God given imagination.

Caleb and Joshua were seeing exactly the same thing as the other spies – giants, powerful people and fortified cities. But they decided to live by faith and not by sight. Caleb says “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we

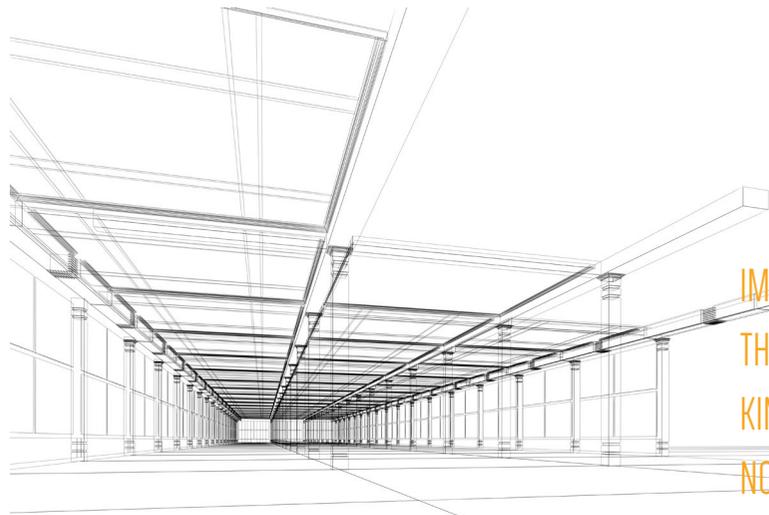
can certainly do it.” (Numbers 13:30 NIV)

Joshua and Caleb were not quick to forget what God had done for them in the past – from freeing their people from slavery to sustaining them daily on manna from heaven, and everything in between. They remember that at every point where God has promised, He has delivered on that promise. And they know that God has promised the land of Canaan to them, so they accept that God will keep his promise.

They look ahead and imagine what the victory looks like based on what they’ve seen God do in the past.

When their sight shows them something that seems impossible and terrifying, they close their eyes from what they are seeing and they begin to imagine what it will look like when God is faithful again. With their eyes closed to the earthly situation they were able to imagine what the heavenly reality looked like.

The Israelites were within touching distance of entering the Promised Land. But they ended up wasting their opportunity and wandering around the wilderness. It seems like such a waste doesn’t it? But Luke 17:20-



IMAGINATION IS  
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SEE IT.

21 tells us that the Kingdom of God is in the midst of us and we have access to it NOW! Are we wasting our opportunity to build the Kingdom and bring it to the people in our worlds who need it?

We don't have to settle for walking around the wilderness waiting for heaven, and the final fulfilment of God's promises – we get to be a prophetic picture to our world of what heaven looks like on earth. We are Kingdom builders and God has given us the blueprints to build it – our imagination.

Imagination is the blueprint for Kingdom Builders.

Not so that we can day dream, but so that we can bring victory into situations where the earthly eye can't see it, but the heavenly eye can. So

that we can see a world in bondage, but know we can live in freedom. So that we can see people in debt, in sorrow, in loneliness, in pain and we can imagine what God's victory looks like in their situation and then bring that hope to them.

How many times recently have we watched horrors unfold on the news in front of us and uttered the words "I can't imagine what that is like".

But what if we did imagine it? What if really did put ourselves into the place of the people around us? Our family, our friends, our communities, our cities, our country. What if we imagined what it was like in their world and then imagined what victory looked like in their situation through the eyes of heaven? And in response we started taking action to bridge the gap between what their earthly

situation looks like and what we know God's victory can look like for them in that situation.

What if we went from "I can't imagine" to "I can imagine" and therefore I am going to do something about it.

Maybe like Caleb and Joshua, who were blessed for their faithfulness, our actions will be blessed and marked throughout generations. All it takes is faith, and some God given imagination. 



## WHAT TO DO WHEN A NATION HURTS

**E**ugene Peterson wrote, "When disaster strikes... it is the task of the prophet to stand up at such moments and clarify who God is and how He acts. If the prophet is good—that is, accurate and true—the disaster becomes a lever for prying people's lives loose from their sins and setting them free for God."

I love this! I feel like it describes where we as the church need to be amid our country's calamity. Instead of neglecting God's authority, we need to unite in love and speak truth. If we aren't doing this, then of course fear and hatred will have preeminence in our country, causing widespread alienation.

Hollywood likes to portray the end of the world through alien invasions and zombie apocalypses, but I believe the end of the world as we know it will look a lot different. Decades ago I read a book that theorised the time would come when the

world would be divided into two opposing camps or trains of thought. When this climate of widespread division existed, then it would be a small thing to incite opposing factions into attacking one another until we experienced a full-blown apocalypse.

**“ A HOUSE (OR COUNTRY) DIVIDED CAN'T STAND. AND THE TRUTH IS, NO MATTER WHICH CAMP WE CHOOSE, WE'RE ALL AT RISK IF WE DON'T TURN BACK TO GOD. ”**

It seems like on a lot of levels, our world is currently facing this reality. There is a divisive spirit being released throughout this nation and earth right now. It's so vehement and obvious, yet, people seem to have forgotten we're not wrestling against each other. We're battling against spiritual forces (Ephesians 6:12).

I believe if we prayed like Elisha did in 2 Kings 6:17, we could have eyes to see and ears to hear the very real forces that whisper lying innuendos. The angels might tell us that the goal of these principalities, powers, and rulers of wickedness in high places is to divide the whole world into two camps and then cause those two camps to meet on battlefields. A house (or country) divided can't stand. And the truth is, no matter which camp we choose, we're all at risk if we don't turn back to God.

As the church, it's time to raise our voice in love. It's time to heal, dream, build and pray. Whether black, brown or white, we can and need to respect one another. We need to hit our knees rather than pick up stones. Let's focus on cultivating unity instead of sowing into a spirit of division. Let's reflect God's love to a hurting world and remember it is *in God we trust*. He reigns without rival. 

### LISA BEVERE

Used with permission of Author. Lisa Bevere's authentic, passionate, and witty teachings weave profound biblical truths with practical application. A New York Times best-selling author, her books are in the hands of millions worldwide. Lisa and her husband John, who's also a best-selling author and teacher, are the founders of Messenger International.

# BRIDE GROOM IN WAITING

**W**e serve a betrothed King! A soon to be married King! He came 2000 years ago and paid a dowry price for His bride and He will return to take His bride home.

Believe it or not the church is that bride! God has a large blueprint for history in which His Son is destined to be married. God has been seeking to give His Son a gift. God the Father in all His power, genius and creativity wants to give His Son a gift for Him to enjoy for eternity and He chose the church. We are the Son's inheritance.

We often say, "God has a plan for my life," which is true, but really that is not the whole story because God has a plan for our eternity! When we trust Christ we are forgiven and He promises to never leave us. That promise goes into eternity, He promises to bring us home. He promises to bring us to His home, Heaven, the New Jerusalem, where we will be joined to Christ forever as His bride.

*"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."*  
John 14:1-4

In John 14 Jesus is talking about receiving us eternally. This passage is so rich. It gives us insight into how Jesus looks at people. There stood Peter, James, John, the disciples and Jesus is saying to them, "I don't just see you now, I see you in eternity with me." They were walking down dusty roads together that day but Jesus saw them walking down streets of gold together in eternity. On other occasions they talked together in the Garden of Gethsemane but He foresaw them talking in the Garden City still to come. Jesus sees us today, He sees us 100 years from now, He sees us 1000 years from now; He sees

the eternal us. Jesus says let not your heart be troubled because we will be eternal companions.

Scripture begins with a wedding in the Garden of Eden as the Father walks Eve down the aisle and scripture ends in the book of Revelation with a wedding and the Father presenting the Son with His bride. Weddings evoke the thought of the highest degree of joy this world can offer. Think of the joy expressed at weddings and now try and imagine what the next world will offer as the bride is joined to her groom. But for now we are in the in-between period. We are waiting on His soon return, we are betrothed to Him. He will come again to collect His bride and we must 'Make ourselves ready' (Rev19:7).

The book of Revelation says before the bridegroom comes back there will be a joint cry of

longing from the Spirit and the bride. Rev 22:17 'And the Spirit and the bride say, come!' The Spirit and bride will be brought into unity as the day of His return approaches. Notice it doesn't say the body of Christ or the Church of Christ, because before His return the

church will awaken to its bridal identity. It must awaken to its bridal identity in order to come into unity with the Spirit. The Holy Spirit and the bride will be saying and wanting the same thing. There will be intercession like never before because we will cry together, "Come". That cry will be two-fold. Come, not just in your return, but come in revival, visitation and habitation. The Holy Spirit will intercede through the Church and the Church will intercede through the Spirit for Jesus to come.

We are the bride of Christ! That is not a theological statement, it is our story and eternal destiny. In these last days the Church will invite people to come to the cross and be forgiven, but also the Church will issue an invitation to a wedding. There is a Bridegroom who is waiting and He is good and He wants to spend eternity with us. ■

**WE ARE THE BRIDE OF CHRIST!  
THAT IS NOT A THEOLOGICAL  
STATEMENT IT IS OUR STORY  
AND ETERNAL DESTINY.**

# ARE YOU TELLING IT RIGHT?



▮ CRAIG McCONNELL  
Worship & Creative Director, UT Belfast

**We live in a world where everyone is vying for our attention.** Companies will pay \$4.8m for a 30 second advertisement slot during the Super Bowl just to get you to notice them. Whether it's a billboard, a bus-stop, a coffee cup or an Instagram post, we're surrounded by content designed to tell us a story.

Creativity and design have their origins right at the very start of the Bible. Genesis 1 begins with, "In the beginning God created..."

Take a moment and read Genesis 1. Notice the amount of times you read phrases like,

"God created", "God placed", "God made", "God named", "God looked".

Have you ever been in a conversation where someone is about to tell a story and the person next to them says, "Let me tell it. You don't tell it right."?

“ **IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO HAVE A GOOD STORY. YOU NEED TO SHARE IT WELL.** ”

Maybe they leave out the funny bit, or they don't explain the context. Maybe they keep

jumping around and leaving bits out. The point is that the story isn't being told in a way that engages a captive audience, and so the listener hears a story that doesn't really compel them, and they forget it just as quick as they hear it.

It's not enough to have a good story. You need to share it well.

In the social media and smartphone driven society, it can no longer be enough to tell the story well for one hour on a Sunday morning. What about the other 167 hours of the week?

How are you sharing the life-changing story of the gospel of Jesus the other 167 hours of the week? When someone scrolls through Instagram or Facebook, are you putting engaging, well designed and regular content in their newsfeed?

Now, more than ever, the world needs to hear the story of the Gospel. The narrative has changed, even in the past few months. People are actively seeking something new.

You have the answer. You carry the Kingdom.

Are you telling it right? ■



## STAGE DESIGN

▮ Craig shares just one aspect of helping to **tell the story right.** ▮

### Why is stage design important?

I think it's so important that we engage our whole being in the act of worship. Not only our ears (listening), or our mouth (singing), but also our eyes (design). The church has been inspiring and encouraging visual worship for centuries. The tools were different, for sure. Stained glass and stone sculptures becomes Coroplast, hazers and moving heads but the aim is the same. Point people to Jesus!

### Favourite stage design material?

Coroplast! I love how easy it is to work with, how cheap

it is and how well it responds to light.

### Where do you get inspired?

I could spend hours on churchstagedesignideas.com. I'm forever taking photos in cafes and coffee shops, screenshots of stuff online and a fair amount of "how could I do that for £10".

### Favourite stage design you've done?

I guess my favourite stage design would have to be the most recent one: Circle Screen. It's received the best response, and been our cheapest stage design. An old broken trampoline.

# The Church is in Trouble



This article first appeared in issue of Christianity Today, leadership Journal. Used by permission of Christianity Today, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

It must be. My blog feed keeps telling me it is.

For several years now, barely a day goes by without someone writing about the imminent demise of the body of Christ. Everyone seems to have a different reason why they think the church is dying. But despite all the gloom-and-doom, I have not lost one moment of sleep over the demise of the church.

Here are 8 reasons not to worry (there are more, but I had to stop somewhere):

**1 THE CHURCH BELONGS TO JESUS, NOT US**  
And Jesus knows what he's doing. Always.

**2 THE CHURCH ALWAYS THRIVES UNDER PERSECUTION**  
If persecution is coming to the church it may reduce church attendance numbers and perceived cultural influence, but it won't kill the church.

**3 LOSS OF PRIVILEGE IS NOT THE SAME AS PERSECUTION**  
The loss of morning prayers in some schools is not persecution. Neither is the removal of a Ten Commandments monument from a courthouse. Don't get mad at me. I'm not saying those things are good. But they're not persecution. There are Christians in places like Syria and Iran who know what real persecution feels like.

When we claim persecution for what is little more than loss of privilege, we minimise the real persecution our brothers and sisters face all over the world today.

**4 CHURCH IS BIGGER THAN OUR BUILDINGS AND OUR DENOMINATIONS**  
I do believe that we will lose many church buildings in the coming decades. It will be especially challenging for churches with small congregations with full-time pastors and a mortgage in a big city.

I sympathise with those who love their church's historic building and/or denomination, only to lose one or both. But I'm grateful that buildings and denominations are not needed for the church to survive and thrive. In fact, we may need to lean on our buildings and denominations less in order to lean on Jesus more.

**5 THE CHURCH IS PEOPLE WHO LOVE JESUS, GOD'S WORD AND EACH OTHER**  
This is one of the main reasons the church

thrives under persecution. It forces us to turn to what really matters and can never be taken away – loving Jesus, the bible and each other.

**6 THE CHURCH HAS FACED BIGGER PROBLEMS THAN THIS – WHATEVER YOUR "THIS" MAY BE**  
We tend to magnify the severity of small pains that are close to us, while diminishing the reality of much larger pains that are further removed from us. There have been bigger problems than this. But the church is still here.

**7 CHURCH IS THE MOST RELENTLESSLY GROWING ORGANISM IN HISTORY**  
For almost 2,000 years of great triumphs and horrifying persecution, the church keeps going. When Jesus builds something it tends to stand. And stand strong. Anything Jesus does will not just survive but thrive. Eternally.

**8 WORRY DOESN'T WORK**  
In fact, worry makes it worse. Jesus Told Us Not to Worry About Anything. You can toss the previous seven points. This is all you need to know. To wildly (but hopefully not inappropriately) paraphrase Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew 5:25-33:

*Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your church building, where you will worship or fellowship; or about your denomination, what decisions it will make. Is not church more important than buildings, and the faith more important than denominational creeds? ... Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his church's life or a penny to its offering basket? ... But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

Whatever is of worry is not of faith. And we need all the faith we can get.

# ELIMLIFE

Mini



## God has the best Imagination

When God made the world He made it out of nothing!

1

Genesis 1 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Then God said "Let there be light" and there was light.

2

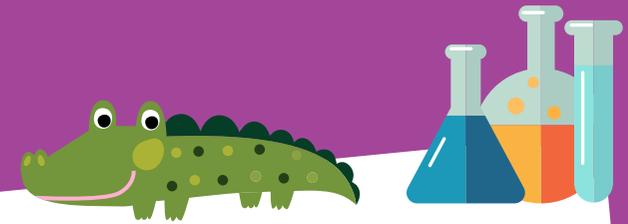
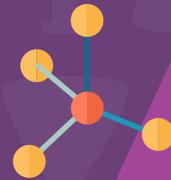
Then God said "Let there be space between the waters, to separate the heavens from the earth ... let there be space between the waters to separate the heavens from the earth". God called the dry ground "land" and the waters "seas". And it was good.

3

This went on throughout the Genesis story when God created plants that would grow fruit. He created every animal on the land and fish in the sea. Adam named the creatures.

4

Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground." So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!



Do you see what happened in the story? God spoke, and it happened! God said "Light!" and... IT HAPPENED. God said "Earth and Sky" and then it happened! God said, "Giraffes, tigers, lions, bears, lizards!" And then it happened. What did God use to make them? Just his Words! What else? Nothing. IMAGINE if you tried that? Try it, yell for a cat and see if you can make one with just your words. CAT!! (Try a few- dog, piano, rhinoceros, duck-billed platypus - funny, weird stuff!! Nothing happened, right? Only God can make something out of nothing.

That's the amazing thing about how God makes things. He has the best imagination. He thinks up all the things we love in creation and makes them out of nothing. Just with his words. Only God can make things this way.



Do you realise that when God made a Giraffe, there had never been one before. Not only can he make something from nothing, with only his words, the things he makes are TOTALLY unique! So instead of making things from nothing, with just our words, we can make things with the stuff that he's made. We can take clay and make sculpture. We can take crayons and markers and draw pictures. We can take wood and steel and make instruments and play music.



Why don't you use your imaginations to think about what God has done in creation. Pretend that you can make something totally unique. Have you ever wanted to see a dog with wings? Or a bird with a cat's tail? Let your imaginations go wild because God has given you the inspiration of His creation and the fun your imaginations.



You can draw or paint a picture, or create a song on your favourite instrument, or if you want to try something new use the steps on the next page to make some clay.



Mini

# Let's Create!

We would love to see what you make - take a photo and get an adult to tag us on Instagram or Facebook.

**SUPER EASY SALT DOUGH RECIPE!**  
Salt Dough is a wonderful product that is used to create crafts, sculptures and ornaments. It is a simple recipe and can be easily made at home using 3 basic ingredients and then placed in the oven to dry out. **You will need:**

- A cup of salt
- 2 cups of flour
- 3/4 cup of water

- Follow the simple instructions below:**
1. In a large bowl mix salt and flour together.
  2. Gradually stir in water. Mix well until it forms a doughy consistency.
  3. Turn the dough onto the bench and knead with your hands until smooth and combined.
  4. Make your creations - let your imagination kick in!!
  5. Place the salt dough creations into the oven at 180°C or leave to dry overnight.

**Once dry your creation can be painted, sprayed or have glitter added to create colour and extra fun!**



## LOL CORNER

Did Eve ever have a date with Adam?  
No just an apple!



What kind of man was Boaz before he married?  
Ruthless



Check out this video link of a fab worship song. You can also learn the dance moves too!

2017/2018



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- Term 1: Mon Sept 25<sup>th</sup> - Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017
- Term 2: Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Jan - Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018
- Term 3: Mon 16<sup>th</sup> April - Mon 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018



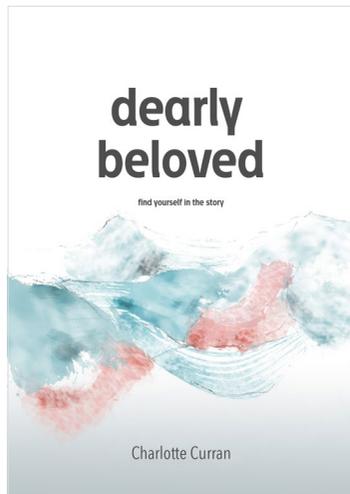
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# REVIEWS

## DEARLY BELOVED

by Charlotte Curran



I have known Charlotte for many years, and throughout that time, she has always been the most wonderful of storytellers, in a variety of media, be it drama, music, or preaching and teaching.

This however, is her first book and it is true to form in terms of taking the reader on the journey through the most beautiful love story ever told – that of Christ and His church. Charlotte unravels the mystery and beauty of the heavenly bridegroom and His love for His bride in a way that so beautifully places the reader in the heart of the story, and in doing so, it ministers to the soul and brings the revelation of the overwhelming, unbounding, limitless love that God has for His children. Furthermore, it provides gentle, but challenging teaching on how we, the church, need to respond to this love in how we live our lives for Him as His bride. With heart-warming and humorous illustrations of marriage, family, friendship, as well as refreshingly insightful interpretation of Scripture, Charlotte both captivates and ministers through the words on the page in a way that makes you fall in love with Jesus just a little bit more.

It was a complete pleasure and joy to read this book, and one I know I will return to again and again. I look forward to passing it on to family and friends and seeing the blessing that I know it will bring. **EL**

**EL** LAURA MCFARLAND



## STAY THE PATH

by Bobbie Houston

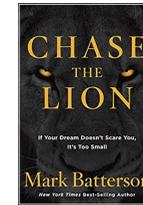
In her most recent book Bobbie Houston encourages everyone to stay the path, to finish the race and to endure through every season.

She writes honestly and openly about personal experiences from her extensive ministry life and exhorts the reader to stay focused on their own personal path, to discover the personal route God has designed and designated just for them.

This book made me laugh out loud in places and also made me stop and think, it was an inspiration and a challenge. Even after 40 plus years of ministry Bobbie is not drawing back or slowing down but rather is seeking to encourage all who will listen to draw near to Jesus and allow Him to guide them through the best days which are still ahead. It's not a saying but a vision that encapsulates her very being and allows her to keep going in every season and circumstance along the way.

Well worth picking up. **EL**

**EL** SARA ALLEN



## CHASE THE LION

by Mark Batterson

Quit playing it safe and start running toward the roar! Normal people run away when they see a man eating beast travelling towards them but not lion chasers! They see an opportunity for God to show up!

In this book Mark Batterson delivers a bold message to everyone with a big dream. It's a wake up call to live and stop existing as this life is simply about arriving at death. Reminding us that our dreams should scare us, that they should be so big that without God they would be impossible to achieve.

"Chase the lion! Change the world! Chase dreams so impossible that victory demands you to face fears, defy the odds and hold tight to God. These are the kind of dreams that will make you a bigger person and the world a better place."

Written in a way that both challenges and encourages, this revolutionary book will help unleash the faith and courage you need to identify, and chase the dreams in your life. **EL**

**EL** ANN THOMPSON

# EXTENDING THE GOSPEL TO EVERY CORNER OF THE WORLD



## W

hether it's house churches in Africa or thriving launches in Asia, God is building his kingdom as Elim Missions partners with movements and leaders throughout the world. Ben Hampshire caught up with some of the key players who are making a difference and winning many to Christ.

"Go and make disciples of all nations," was the final commandment Jesus gave to his followers, and Elim is most certainly making a significant contribution to the Great

Commission. While there are numerous churches being planted across the UK through the Movement, the same is true throughout the globe as Elim Missions is partnering with, training and equipping, various church planters within their own context.

Elim Missions tells Elim Life, "The question is not whether Elim wants to be a global movement, but rather, are we willing to be a part of a global movement that God is causing to happen? We have prolific church planting movements which are not just planting churches, but planting churches that then go on to plant more churches."

ARE WE WILLING  
TO BE A PART  
OF A GLOBAL  
MOVEMENT THAT  
GOD IS CAUSING  
TO HAPPEN?

Elim has long maintained strong links with the north of India, and Rajesh Duthie believes the partnership between Elim and his organisation in Asia is taking the church planting movement to the next level.

"I work with GEMS, the Gospel Echoing Missionary Society, a key partner of Elim, as missions director in India," Rajesh explains.

"GEMS has historically had excellent links with Elim. Many Elim missionaries have come to work in the north of India and have had significant success in their work.

Bihar is known by many as the graveyard of missionaries, but over the last six or seven decades Elim has sent missionaries who have been successful in spreading the gospel in the hard-to-reach communities.

GEMS is almost 44 now and started when two Elim sisters, Olive Jarvis and Sylvia Beardwell, came to India as missionaries. By God's grace there are now 1,006 churches that have been established by GEMS. On average, evangelism

is on the up in India and we are seeing many people baptised.

Last year alone we saw around 5,000 people baptised, which means there are already three times more than the average amount of conversions taking place in the country.

There are many evangelism teams that have been created by GEMS as well as mini



BY GOD'S GRACE THERE ARE  
NOW **1,006 CHURCHES** THAT HAVE  
BEEN ESTABLISHED BY GEMS.

and major gospel campaigns throughout the year.

We have seven different training locations that we use for our teams and our Bible College is now reconnected with Elim.

After 35 years with no partnership, Elim has a very strong partnership via Regents Theological College and we have lecturers coming over to teach here as well as being affiliated so we can now

present certificates in applied theology to our students. This has made a significant impact in India and really taken our students and training on to the next level. Partnering with Regents has been one of the best connections we have made in recent years as it really has helped us move forward.

Elim is also involved in our leadership development as we have members of the team run part of our pastors and leaders conferences in India. Also, we are now planting Elim churches in India and Elim Missions is directly supporting our pioneer church planting projects throughout the nation.

At GEMS we also run a 150- bed hospital which was actually started by these two nurses, Olive and Sylvia, who started a small medical centre. Now that has developed to become a multispecialised hospital and last year alone we treated 72,000 patients. Elim missionaries also founded Bengali Middle School around 40 years back and that has now become an educational facility with 120 sites for learning, with 26,000 students studying in our education programmes." ■



## VISION TO SEE A CHURCH IN EVERY VILLAGE IN NEPAL

**When giving money through long-term Elim partnerships it can bring success, as Bhab Gale has seen in Nepal.**

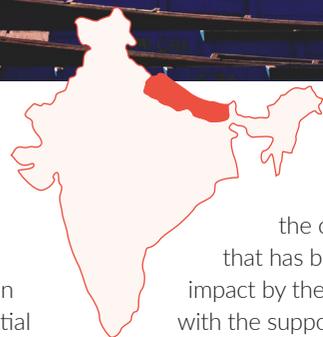
"I come from Nepal and am based in Kathmandu, but we work mostly in the rural villages," he says. "Our vision is to see one church and at least one leader in every village in Nepal."

We have a ministry called United Vision Nepal, which is the organisation I have worked for over the last nine years, and part of the vision is to train different church planters from different parts of the nation.

We have regional directors, but part of our job at United Vision Nepal is to train potential church planters, which is something we do every three months when we bring them to Kathmandu from their various districts for teaching and training.

We currently have around twelve church planters who have been completing the training over the past year.

Elim has been supporting this church planting ministry for the past nine years and this has had a great impact in Nepal. We have seen 168 churches planted during this time across



the country so that has been a great impact by the ministry with the support of Elim.

As you will know, Nepal has been hit by earthquakes in the last year and Elim Missions has financially supported our relief work, where we have been able to deliver relief packages to 15,000 people. We have also been able to focus on another part of the relief work – for churches that have fallen victim to the earthquakes we have been able to send church relief packages with supporting materials and resources.

With the financial help from Elim we have been able to

help these churches restore, rebuild and get back on their feet, so that has had a significant impact."

But relief work can only go so far, insists Bhab.

"In my opinion church planting is very significant and plays a very significant role in Nepal," he adds. "In Matthew Jesus does not make a promise to build a non-governmental organisation or charity, but he says, 'I will build my Church and the gates of hell shall not overcome it.'"

So therefore it is the Church that is there to see lives and nations transformed. Nepal is in a transition period right now politically, including a change of constitution and law.

A lot of changes have happened, but it is not enough and it cannot really change people. Law and constitution are good, but it is in Jesus that people find transformation.

Second Corinthians talks about anyone in Christ being a new creation. When people are saved they have an inside-out transformation, and that leads to nations being transformed." **E**



## THE DIFFERENT WAYS YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT ELIM MISSIONS ALL AROUND THE GLOBE

The impact of the Elim Movement is being seen in all corners of the world, and Co-ordinator John Martin urges people to partner with what God is doing through Elim Missions.

"There are always ways in which people can support Elim Missions," he explains. "One of the main things we need is prayer; we need churches to come together and pray for Elim Missions, to pray that we would be effective and see people come to Christ and churches planted."

**“ ARE GOING TO TAKE OUR OPPORTUNITY TO PARTNER WITH WHAT THE LORD IS DOING. ”**

You can also support Elim Missions financially. We're finding as a team that God is saying, 'I'm going to do this,' and it's then up to us

as to whether we are going to take our opportunity to partner with what the Lord is doing.

The reality is, planting churches costs money, so sowing into Elim Missions helps that happen. We're launching a project called Pound-by-Pound, which is where people donate just a pound a week to sow money into church planting through Elim Missions. We also see such a huge need for training church leaders throughout the world.

Leaders are crying out for training and something we have launched with the support of Keith Warrington is 'Be Equipped', which is where we send pastors, elders and team members to go and do training in various areas. If anyone is interested in helping train people overseas, they really should get in touch with Elim Missions. **E**



## COULD THE CHURCH BE THE GAME CHANGER FOR CHILDREN IN CARE?

LAUREN CALVERT

**I cannot help but allow my mind to wonder and begin to dream what could happen if the Church responded to the needs of our community/country through fostering. How could the lives of children in care be transformed through someone showing them Jesus?**

Throughout Northern Ireland in 2016 there were 2,890 children in care. 2,890 broken children. 2,890 children who have experienced a level of abuse and neglect. 2,890 children desperate to receive love. This is the highest number of children in care ever recorded in Northern Ireland. How do I know this? I am currently studying Social Work and throughout my degree I have been exposed to the needs and brokenness of so many children. There will always be children in care but imagine, just for a moment, what might happen if we the Church were able to provide a stable environment for 1 or 2,300 or even 2,890 children and gave them a chance in life. What if we the Church became the foster carers Northern Ireland needed?

How does God want us to respond? Throughout the Bible God's concern for orphans and the fatherless is mentioned 40 times. We ourselves have been adopted into God's family (Ephesians 1:5). Our lives have been transformed because of His love for us. Isn't it time to pass this on? To bring children into our families who have often never experienced human love never mind understand the concept that they have a heavenly Father who knew them before they were knit together in their others wombs.

Often as Christians we know what not to do but when it comes to knowing what to do we wait for God to send flashing signs in the sky! The Bible very clearly tells us that we need to look after the weak in society (And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' Matthew 25:40) yet our churches are not filled with foster children.... yet!! Who better to look after the most vulnerable children in society than the church? We all have a role to play in this.

Even if you cannot commit to fostering a child yourself you can support someone in your church who does by cooking meals, being a respite carer for a family you know, offer to take the children while the parents take time to clean or just relax. This isn't a responsibility for one family, it takes a whole church effort. Imagine if the Church in Northern Ireland could care for all the children without a home!

This is not an unrealistic dream, David Platt a pastor in Alabama did exactly this:

*"One day I called up the Department of Human Resources in Shelby County, Alabama, where our church is located, and asked, "How many families would you need in order to take care of all the foster and adoption needs that we have in our county?" The woman I was talking to laughed.*

*I said, "No, really, if a miracle were to take place, how many families would be sufficient to cover all the different needs you have?" She replied, "It would be a miracle if we had 150 more families."*

When I shared this conversation with our church, over 160 families signed up to help with foster care and adoption. We don't want even one child in our county to be without a loving home. It's not the way of the American Dream. It doesn't add to our comfort, prosperity, or ease. But we are discovering the indescribable joy of sacrificial love for others, and along the way we are learning more about the inexpressible wonder of God's sacrificial love for us."

Imagine the privilege of watching a child who knows nothing but abuse and neglect receive love, grace, affection and attachment for the first time. You could be part of it, as well as introducing them to Jesus. For the first time in their lives they could know someone who will never change, never leave them, who loves them unconditionally, will always be there no matter what time of the day, removes their fears, accepts them for who they are and has a plan and purpose for

them. This is a game changer for children in care. They need you to show them Jesus! We can no longer write these children off because they carry too much baggage, we need to love these children and watch the baggage and chains of brokenness drop from them. These children are loved beyond measure, it's up to us, the Church to step up and show up, to demonstrate the love of God in our response to their needs. Are you willing to play a part? 

If you would like to find out more please check out [www.adoptionandfostering.hscni.net](http://www.adoptionandfostering.hscni.net) for details



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## Kingdom Living Bible School

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### Open Day



Biblical  
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**Come and speak with the Team**

## Saturday 19th August, 2017

ENROLL NOW

10am - 1pm

Newry Christian Centre, 8 Upper Edward Street



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TWEETS **4,248**
FOLLOWING **1,912**
FOLLOWERS **5,491**
FAVORITES **157**
LISTS **3**




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**Tweets**
Tweets & replies
Photos & videos

 **FEEDS FOR THE SOUL** @ChristineCaine  
Jesus came to make us dangerous to the kingdom of darkness.  
← ↻ ★ ⋮

 **FEEDS FOR THE SOUL** @StevenFurtick  
The price of admission determines the depth of appreciation. Fight for your dream, it's worth it!  
← ↻ ★ ⋮

 **FEEDS FOR THE SOUL** @BrianHouston  
Vision opens your eyes to the future but legs do the hard work of carrying you there. You have to walk it out.  
← ↻ ★ ⋮

 **FEEDS FOR THE SOUL** @RickWarren  
How much of your potential do you think you could reach if you sought the approval of God and no one else?  
← ↻ ★ ⋮

 **FEEDS FOR THE SOUL** @BillJohnson  
We must not confuse our destiny with our assignment. Heaven is my destiny, while bringing the Kingdom is my assignment.  
← ↻ ★ ⋮

 **FEEDS FOR THE SOUL** @wcagls Leadership Summit  
Success is not final, failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts.  
← ↻ ★ ⋮

 **FEEDS FOR THE SOUL** @EugenePeterson  
The only opportunity you will ever have to live by faith is in the circumstances you are provided with this very day ...  
← ↻ ★ ⋮

 **FEEDS FOR THE SOUL** @BethMoore  
It matters greatly to have a strong theology of life & Kingdom yet to come. It's the missing piece and dramatically transforms how we live now.  
← ↻ ★ ⋮

 **FEEDS FOR THE SOUL** @JohnBevere  
The enemy loves to remind you of your past. God loves to remind you of your future.  
← ↻ ★ ⋮

 **FEEDS FOR THE SOUL** @ChrisCartw  
We are called to follow God into a radically different future and learn to be adventurers again.  
← ↻ ★ ⋮

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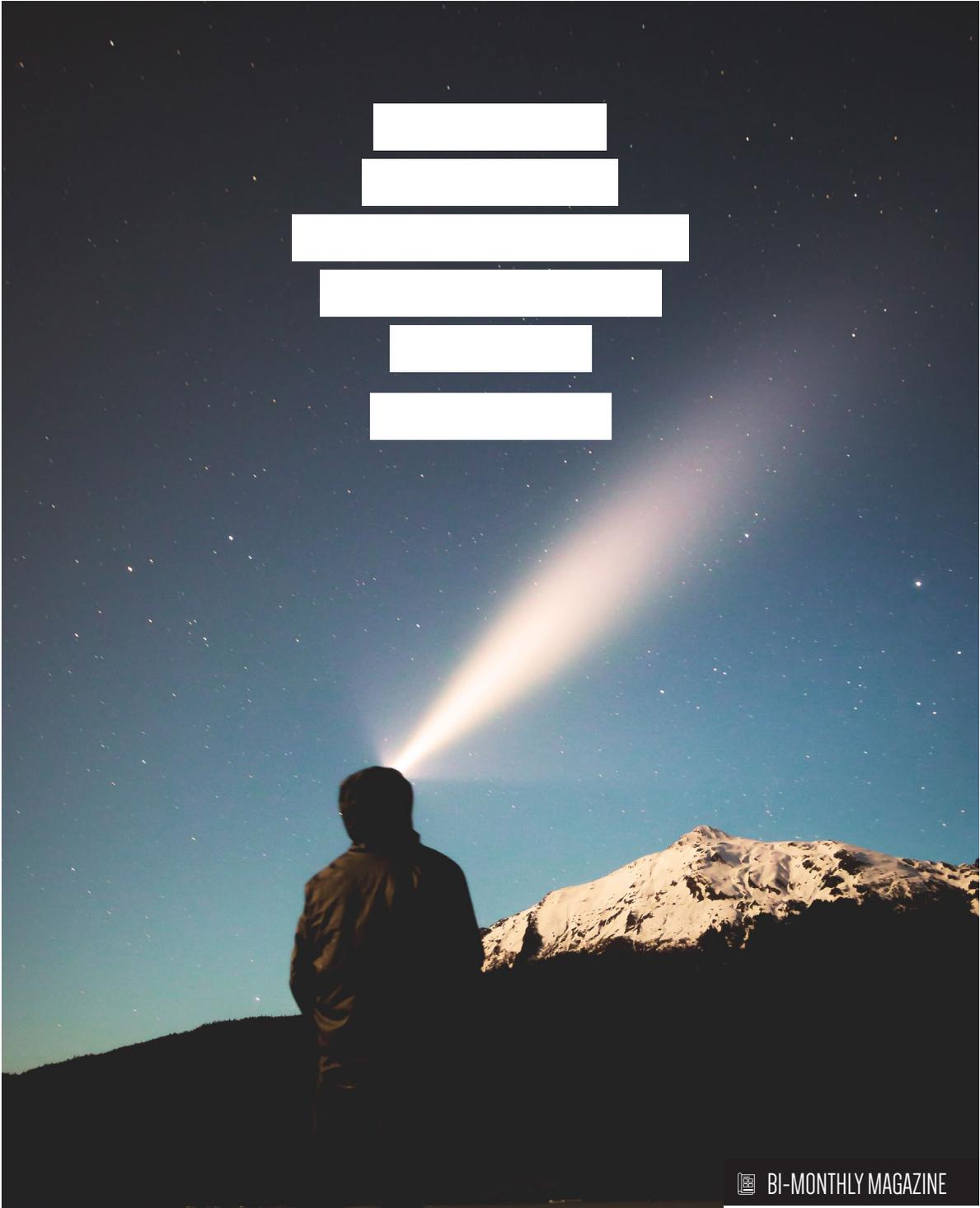






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 BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE

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Content submission  
by 13<sup>th</sup> August

**8<sup>th</sup> November 2017**  
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by 9<sup>th</sup> October