

***The Changing
(or Exchanging)
Heart of Africa***

by

**DR. CHARLES R. SOLOMON
Author of
Handbook to Happiness**

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AUTHOR S PREFACE

This book was prepared for the express purpose of summarizing for Christian leaders the resources available to assist them in their vital ministry to the church, providing them an answer for the saved as well as the lost; the lost need to be saved from sin, and the saved need to be saved from themselves! It is intentionally brief and will serve as notes for meetings to be held by the author October 7-16 in Nairobi and Cape Town.

It is distilled from thirty-eight (38) years of ministry, beginning with God s call in 1967. God has demonstrated His faithfulness in His Word s not returning void in the teaching of sanctification as well as in salvation. The Romans Road does not come to a dead end with understanding the Lord Jesus death and resurrection for us (Rom. 3:23, 6:23, 5:8,10:9,10, 13), but it continues to its scriptural consummation of our death and resurrection with Him (Rom. 5:12, 6:3-6,11,13) for our sanctification. I trust the Line Diagram (p. 21) will serve as a road map for both!

Not only is His righteousness imputed to us through the objective work of the Cross for us, at justification; but it is, also, imparted to us (2 Cor. 5:21) through the subjective work of the Cross in us as His Cross becomes ours (Gal. 2:20) in sanctification. Though we will not become sinless; we should sin less!

It is my prayer that the embers of the fires of the East African revival will again be fanned into flames by the Holy Spirit to become a conflagration that will engulf the entire continent and jump the oceans to the rest of the world!

Dr. Solomon
June 2005

From Darkness to Light

Africa, the so-called Dark Continent,
Has a magic all its own;
Blessed ones who can visit
Are God's wonders shown.

Though brimming with potential
The half has yet to be told;
Many have helped themselves
To its diamonds and its gold.

Its wealth in minerals and oil
Has lured many to its shores,
But its real wealth is its people
Who are drawing on God's stores.

Resources waiting to be tapped
Stagger the imagination; (1 Cor. 2:9)
The eyes of the world on her
As she rises in jubilation!

The moving of the Spirit
Is evident to one and all;
As He prepares His Church
And revival begins to fall.

Though few have this world's goods,
Many mine riches from His Word;
Those with lives transformed
Are yet waiting to be heard.

As God's curtain is pulled back
Revealing the results of tribulation, (Rom. 4:3-5)
The patience of His people
Will bring peace to many nations.

With the darkness obscuring blessings,
Light will shortly be unfurled
As the preaching of the Cross (1 Cor. 1:18)
Reveals Jesus, the Light of the world. (John 8:12)

The Body of Christ in death throes (Phil. 1:28,29)
As its members experience the Cross;
or Resurrection Life to come forth, (Rom. 6:4-6)
The visible church must suffer loss.

Losing our lives to save them (Matt. 16:24,25)
Is the heart beat of revival,
But the flesh in all its forms
Grasps at any means of survival. (Rom. 7:19,20)

When the Cross has done its work (Rom. 6:3-14)
And the Body of Christ is purified,
We will count our suffering all joy (James 1:2-4)
As, with Him, we are crucified. (Gal. 2:20)

The world mutely awaits the witness
Only a suffering church can give; (1 Pet. 4:12,13)
No longer to be an African church, (Eph. 5:27)
But His Body through which He lives!

RECENT CHRISTIAN HISTORY

In the late 1800s and the early part of the last century, God greatly used Andrew Murray during his ministry in South Africa and through his anointed devotional writing. However, his ministry has had a more profound impact on other parts of the world than at home in the early years. Now, almost 100 years after his death, there are stirrings of the Holy Spirit to build on the foundation which God used him to lay. Brother Murray's writing also had a major influence on the lives and ministries of Jesse Penn-Lewis in Great Britain and Watchman Nee in China.

Then, about 50 years ago, Roy Hession was used of God in the East African revival of which Bishop Festo Kivengere was a product. Though now with the Lord, both of these brothers were instrumental in teaching the revival message which is grounded in the believer's identification with Christ in His death and resurrection. Following closely after them is Rev. Godfried Oseh-Menseh who is now in leadership at African Enterprise. This ministry was founded by Dr. Michael Cassidy in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa in the 1960s as an interracial ministry and has been greatly used of God. Roy Hession's testimony in his book, *The Calvary Road*, has been a blessing to many the world around.

In 1965, God dealt with my life graciously and sovereignly to make the Cross a reality, as with the foregoing brethren, and called me from the aerospace industry to a similar ministry in 1967. Beginning a counseling/discipleship ministry, Grace Fellowship International (GFI), full time in 1970, the Holy Spirit began miraculously to transform lives and led me to write my first book, *Handbook to Happiness* (Tyndale) in 1971. Ministries using this counseling model have been planted on six continents with the main locations in Africa presently being in Nairobi, Kenya, and Cape Town, South Africa.

While lives have been changed around the world in various languages and cultures, I would like to share with you the lives of some Africans who are currently ministering the fuller message of the Cross. These brethren are available for ministry in English, Swahili, French, Zulu, Xhosa, Afrikaans, and other languages. All of their lives have been transformed in the last decade, and they are dedicated to reaching their own people with the vital message of the Cross, which will be explained in more detail in this booklet, with their testimonies following.

THE AFRICAN DILEMMA

Though it may seem presumptuous for an American to propose an answer to the African dilemma, let me share with you from over thirty years of spiritual ministry around the world. Though complexions, cultures and languages vary all over the globe, the basic problem is the same. Consummate selfishness dominates the various societies, though having different faces and manifestations. (Materialism has been a chief expression in the United States which has diluted the effectiveness of the Church at home and its outreach abroad through missions.)

In sharing the message of freedom in Christ in a number of other cultures/languages, we have witnessed the Holy Spirit's transforming lives to His glory, just as He has in our own country. At the outset, it is necessary to point out that the Christian message in the States has become increasingly self-centered as has much of its outreach in missions. The centrality of the Cross and a life of brokenness have been replaced with emphases which are more palatable to Christians who are products of a materialistic society. One has only to visit the commodious structures and the seeker friendly services to wonder how exporting such an approach could have a significant positive impact on the Church in the developing nations. All too frequently, African churches are Westernized by well meaning missionaries; and, unwittingly, such churches import some facets of materialism along with a Westernized gospel.

Churches and other NGOs are making valiant attempts to meet the overwhelming needs which are obvious on every hand; while there are those who come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, very few are disciplined to the point that they, in turn, can become instruments of revival in their own homes and communities. In all too many cases, Western initiatives throw money at the symptoms such as alleviating the suffering in the wake of the AIDS pandemic while not addressing the root problem. Though it is laudable to relieve human suffering, treating the body does not address the problem of the heart. And, even if such a person comes to faith in Christ and his soul's destiny is secure, he may be prepared for Heaven, but ill equipped to live victoriously while yet on Earth.

Then, to go beyond ministering to the individual, the ills of the community and the government of the country may also be ministered to by various countries, religions, and/or the World Bank which can serve to make them dependent upon entities other than God to meet their needs; and they may become donor countries. Such outside help may also be self-serving in some cases, where seemingly altruistic help may further the cause of those supplying the need.

Attempts to influence the operation of Church or State with a

foreign concept, such as democracy, with a people not accustomed to self-government can, likewise, be initiated and implemented in self-strength. Though the motivation may not be selfish, it is usually not done in the power of the Spirit and, consequently, is dealing with symptoms, not the root problem.

While my experience has been mainly in dealing with the psychospiritual and behavioral aspects of individual believers, it is not a great leap of faith to see how such life transformations could be widely taught and have a significant impact on families, communities and governments. In the history of the Church it has been the rule, rather than the exception, that communities experience positive changes even in mundane things such as sanitation, when a good percentage are converted to Christ.

Deepening the spiritual walk of believers makes the message much more believable to onlookers who have need of a spiritual rebirth. Miraculous life transformations are the proof that God, indeed, works in this way; the spread of such transformations will obviously affect families, communities and entire countries.

Beginning with the colonization of Africa, self-serving countries and business enterprises sought more to help themselves than to be of unselfish service to the countries which they colonized. While they were helpful in building infrastructure and, sometimes, bringing Christianity in some form to such countries, there was little or no attempt to prepare the people for self-government. Once independence was achieved, there have been many faltering attempts at successful self-government. When weaknesses became glaring, there have been those Africans, such as Idi Amin in Uganda, who learned their lessons well from the colonizers and sought to continue the exploitation of their own people. Notable among these today are Nigeria and Zimbabwe, where the few profit at the expense of the many.

Although there have been many sincere attempts to improve the lot of citizens through independence and self-government, there have also been blatant examples of tyrannical oppression and corruption in some nations. This has resulted in the violation of human rights with Sudan being a prime example in recent years. As a result many have suffered material and emotional deprivation as they have experienced hunger, famine, and atrocities in some countries, such as Rwanda, where genocide was experienced in the tribal conflict. As a result of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, there are devastating demographic effects due to the loss of much of a generation. The loss of dignity, wounds and damaged psyches, and even slavery, combine to present such a challenge that only a spiritual initiative on a continental scale will suffice to make major inroads in meeting the massive human need. While existing programs are helpful

in addressing some of the symptoms resulting in a degree of reformation, only revival or renewal brought by the Holy Spirit will result in the needed transformation.

The temptation is to right wrongs and help countries find the way out of the wilderness of insurmountable symptoms rather than accurately to diagnose the root problem and provide assistance in seeking God's cure for the ills of the individual and society as a whole. Since countries are merely groupings of individuals, it is obvious that what is life transforming for one will do the same for a group, when one so transformed is equipped to communicate such a message in his own sphere of influence.

This has happened in the lives of innumerable believers in various parts of Africa with many of them already prepared to be the bearers of good news of renewal to the Church and to others who are ready to be part of the answer instead of part of the problem. While my direct ministry experience has been limited to South Africa, Zambia, Ghana, and Kenya, there are those from many other countries who have experienced and are teaching the same message in Africa.

THE PROBLEM: A Self-Centered Society with a Distorted Identity

In individual counseling, especially in the United States, the symptoms are usually diagnosed as the problem with much effort and money being expended on an attempted resolution. That being the case, medication and therapy of various persuasions are commonly prescribed with many, if not most, seminaries having been caught up in this approach. When symptoms, such as depression, are alleviated, it is usually thought that the treatment is successful. However, the root problem is self-centered or fleshly living which is rarely dealt with during the course of therapy since most therapists have the same problem self at the center of their own lives.

Since the problem and the answer are described in detail in my other books, I will not attempt to repeat it here, other than to include in the Appendix a condensation of chapter 2 of Handbook to Happiness. That condensation has now been translated into more than 35 languages, including Swahili, French, Arabic, Afrikaans and Zulu which cover the main languages of Africa. (The book, itself, is now in print in English, Spanish, Korean, Romanian, Russian, Hindi, Portuguese, and German with French and Indonesian ready for the press. Chinese and Arabic are being edited with Dutch and Japanese in translation.)

In society, as with individuals, the ultimate problem is one of identity. With the individual, this may take the form of success or failure, emotional, mental and/or behavioral problems, traumatic injury or loss and many other debilitating or life-enhancing symptoms. However, it can all be boiled down into one root problem: self-centered or fleshly living. On the one hand, it may be very good, even religious, flesh; or it might be neurotic or sinful flesh. However, the root of each is the same: the soul or personality yielded to indwelling sin volitionally or by default. Unless and until reliance on such self-strength and the resources it can muster is broken and the Cross becomes a reality, there may be years and great outlay of funds which are expended in a vain effort to curb or resolve the symptoms. We have seen the Holy Spirit make the Answer a reality for the counselee in as little as one interview. This stands in stark contrast to popular counseling assumptions, prevailing therapy, and humanistic attempts to assuage the symptoms.

In the counseling interview, the purpose is to help an individual see that the self-centered identity is the problem not the symptoms that he has encountered in a vain attempt to make life work from a wrong identity. Once targeted, he can exchange the false identity for his true identity in Christ by faith; and the Holy Spirit responds by taking complete control of his life and transforming it either suddenly or gradually.

In like manner, the basic problem in society is a conglomeration of false identities impacting and impinging upon each other. Though government attempts to coalesce these into an organized society, it frequently becomes organized chaos! Various groupings such as churches and religions have their own stylized behaviors which are acceptable or unacceptable with their adherents expected to fit some prescribed mold, which is usually more man-centered than Christ-centered.

Then, leaders float or fight their way to the top and may begin to use heavy handed techniques of taking control and doing all in their power to retain such control. Though government is instituted of God, few are the leaders who are self-sacrificing in their leadership; too frequently, self-exaltation takes the place of self-abnegation or self-denial.

Though not true of all of Africa, there is one identity that is prevalent in much of the population, a group identity under the heading of Ubuntu. In effect, it is a society-centered life, as compared with a self-centered life, the latter being the result of individual identity. Neither identity is Christ-centered though many may have experienced a new birth. The identity as practiced in Ubuntu can be summarized: I AM BECAUSE WE ARE.

In order to attempt understanding of how the root problem is manifested, I have chosen to display the functioning of African society as a circle (as is done for the individual in my writing), being comprised of spirit, soul and body. The root problem, a society-based identity (S), is central with its functions being a derivative of the identity.

It will be seen that any and all of these can be practiced in human strength which all but precludes the miraculous though God can manifest Himself in sovereign ways since He is still in control! Though much time, effort and funding can be directed to these which are legitimate activities, assuaging the symptoms only serves further to entrench the root problem. Someone has said that diagnosing the problem correctly is 90% of the solution! We could address the above symptoms; but it would take years of education, experience and expertise to make a dent in them, even with massive funding. However, if we are able to accept a scriptural solution to man's dilemma, it becomes profoundly simple and simply profound!

While the answer can not be levied on society, the individuals of which it is comprised may be introduced to the precepts that God has given us in His Word such that individual life transformations may spread to the church and the larger society.

Over the years, God has used the Line Diagram from Handbook to Happiness to reveal the liberating truth in scripture of the believer's identification with Christ in His death and resurrection to make miraculous changes in lives all around the world, including Africa. It has also proven

to be an excellent evangelistic tool. While the individual application is included in more detail at the end of this book, I would like to propose it as a manner of presenting the answer to the humanly impossible situation that much of the continent is facing as a result of centuries of self or society-centered living. As mentioned previously, this has not always been helped by the encroachments of Western self-centered living, from both Church and government. Indeed, much of the worst, such as pornography, has served further to alienate society from the Church not to mention the deserved admonition of those from Islam who have reprimanded the United States for such decadent behavior. Since Islam does not distinguish between Church and state, Christianity receives a black eye due to the offerings of our decadent Western society, which profits financially from sin in all its forms.

In the above circle, the functioning of society is shown under the headings of spiritual, psychological, and physical. The choice and positioning of these, as related to society, is arbitrary but serves to illustrate the impact of identity on the various aspects of life. Though the functions may be legitimate and absolutely necessary, if carried out in human strength, the results will be decidedly less than miraculous!

THE ANSWER: A Christ-Centered Society With a Restored Identity

The Line Diagram is used to show the origin of the self-centered (or society-centered) identity and God's way of rectifying such an abnormal condition in a believer's life.

The diagonal line is shown as our lineage of birth that goes back through each of the ancestors all the way to Adam. Having been in each of the ancestors and our primary progenitor, Adam, whatever happened to him happened to us. He sinned and died; our being in him resulted in our sin and death at the same time which passed down through the ancestors to each of us (Rom. 5:12). When convicted of that and receiving Christ by faith, we are baptized into Christ and His eternal life (represented by the horizontal line, forever in the future and forever in the past) so that whatever happened to Him happened to us (Rom. 5:15-6:14). However, most of us are only given half of the answer, that He died for us, so we are sentenced to trying to live for Him while asking for God's help. Unless and until we come to understand and appropriate by faith that we were crucified and resurrected with Him, we are doomed to live in our own strength. We know we have a new future, but we fail to realize that we also have a new past; His past (which is always present) becomes our past, as does His death and resurrection (Eph. 2:4-7).

When this faith transaction is understood and consummated in our lives by the Holy Spirit, we lose the old identity individual or group and are able to live out of an entirely new identity which is not based on our past but His (Gal. 2:20)! We not only get a new future but a new past at the same time! Which of us could not use a new past? Our past might include love and acceptance, but it can also include the loss of family through atrocities or other destructive influences from which we need to be delivered and so that we can be truly reconciled to the perpetrators. This new identity in Christ could be summarized as: **I AM BECAUSE HE IS!**

Once the new and true individual identity is appropriated through the Holy Spirit, it also results in a new group identity which could be called Ubuntu with a spiritual twist!! Since the believer is a member of the Body of Christ, the brotherhood gives a much closer relationship than did the practice of Ubuntu, though accomplishing all of the objectives and much more (1 Cor. 12). Thus, it goes full circle from practicing Ubuntu with a view toward brotherhood to establishing a new individual identity in Christ which results in becoming brothers and sisters in God's forever family.

Andrew Murray was mentioned in the beginning as having a foundational ministry in South Africa a century ago. The following excerpt from his excellent devotional book, *God's Best Secrets*, is a cogent description of the truth illustrated in the foregoing Line Diagram.

CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

Andrew Murray

The thought of fellowship with Christ in His bearing the cross, has often led to the vain attempt in our own power to follow Him, and bear His image. But this is impossible to man until he first learns to know something of what it means to say, I have been crucified with Christ .

Let us try to understand this. When Adam died, all his descendants died with him and in him. In his sin in Paradise, and in the spiritual death into which he fell, I had a share; I died in him. And the power of that sin and death, in which all his descendants share, works in every child of Adam every day.

Christ came as the second Adam. In His death on the cross, all who believe in Him had a share. Each one may say in truth, I have been crucified with Christ . As the representative of His people, He took them up with Him on the cross, and me too. The life that He gives is the crucified life in which He entered heaven, and was exalted to the throne, standing as a lamb as it had been slain. The power of His death and life work in me, and as I hold fast the truth that I have been crucified with Him, and that now I myself live no more but Christ liveth in me, I receive power to conquer sin; the life that I have received from Him is a life that has been crucified and made free from the power of sin.

We have here a deep and very precious truth. Most Christians have but little knowledge of it. That knowledge is not gained easily or speedily. It needs a great longing in very deed to be dead to all sin. It needs a strong faith, wrought by the Holy Ghost, that the union with Christ crucified, that the fellowship of His cross, can day by day become our life. The life that He lives in Heaven has its strength and its glory in the fact that it is a crucified life. And the life that He imparts to the believing disciple is even so a crucified life with its victory over sin and its power to access into God s presence.

It is in every deed true that I no longer live, but Christ liveth in me as the Crucified one. As faith realizes and holds fast the fact that the crucified Christ lives in me, life in the fellowship of the cross becomes a possibility and a blessed experience.

THE RESULTING EFFECTS ON SOCIETY: Christ-Centered Living With a Spiritual Identity

The Christ-centered circle which follows is used to depict the changes in society which stem from the changes in the individuals of which it is composed. When churches begin routinely to teach their members the crucified life, they will know the power of God to revolutionize their churches and the witness to society at large.

Obviously, such a transformation can not happen overnight, but much can happen in a very short time if churches and believers begin to live and teach the message of the Cross (Col. 2:9-3:4). Such a Spirit-empowered witness will be readily accepted by many who are desperate for an answer and have tried all of the avenues known to them. It has been my experience that such people are prime candidates for having the Holy Spirit radically to transform their lives. It has also been my experience that those in the developing nations are much more open to this message than the churches in the West (which suffer from immersion in the offerings of materialism).

Due to the urgency of the need in most countries, it is vital that churches join hands and hearts and teach the message of the Cross which is foundational to true revival and renewal such that Africa might cease to be known as the dark continent and truly show forth the Light of the World so that it can become a light to the world (2 Chron. 7:14)!

When this takes place, the Church will truly begin to function as the Body of Christ. Only so will we begin to see the changes depicted in the Christ-centered Wheel begin to be effected in the world around us. The following poem succinctly states what the Church must become to fulfill its destiny and its God-given mandate. Please study it thoughtfully and prayerfully as a fitting conclusion of our time of reflection on Africa's extremity which is God's opportunity.

THE BODY OF CHRIST

When Jesus left the Earth
And to His Father did return,
He promised to empower us (Acts 1:8)
If the world we do spurn. (1 John 2:15)

But the Body of Christ today,
Unlike that of yesteryear,
Has forged unholy alliance
With much the world holds dear.

Come out from among them
And be ye separate, saith the Lord ; (2 Cor. 6:17)
But our seeker friendly services
Tend to make our message blurred.

While all who will are welcome,
The trumpet must give a certain sound; (1 Cor. 14:8)
With admixture of Word and world,
The ship of Zion runs aground.

The message of the Cross,
Being to the world crucified, (Gal. 6:14)
Is not a welcome message
Since so many live in pride.

That which panders to the flesh
Is the root of much distress,
Though it quickly gains acceptance
And good reporting by the press.

Losing our lives to save them (Matt. 16:23,24)
Is not something we enjoy; (Heb. 12:11)
Being made perfect by the flesh (Gal. 3:3)
Proves to be the devil's ploy.

A broken and a contrite heart (Ps. 51:17)
Is the Holy Spirit's working;
In avoiding the Cross claims, (Gal. 6:14)
His commands we are shirking.

The teaching of the church today
Often stops with the Cross for Jesus; (1 Pet. 2:24)
Despite fleshly efforts and intentions,
All the while in Christ He sees us. (Eph. 2:6)

If we have not been informed, (Rom. 6:6)
We will attempt to be reformed; (Gal. 3:3)
But we must be conformed, (Rom. 8:29)
If we are to be transformed. (Rom. 12:2)

Brokenness is not an option; (Phil. 1:29,30)
It precedes the Spirit's filling. (Eph. 5:18)
If our life is to glorify Him,
To our death we must be willing.

Being ...always delivered unto death
that the life...of Jesus might be made manifest, (2 Cor. 4:11)
Is the Spirit's sole prescription
That we enter promised rest. (Heb. 4:10,11)

The Church has lost its heading
With the world in problems deep;
If God's answers to be given,
It must awaken from deep sleep.

The firm direction that is needed
Must be based on deep conviction;
The answer is resurrection life, (Rom. 6:4-6)
Coming only from co-crucifixion. (Gal. 2:20)

The world plunging into darkness (John 3:19)
Will be searching for the light,
Not knowing it has been stifling
That which could have been so bright.

With darkness blackest before dawn
The Light of the world awaits, (John 8:12)
That those who receive Him gladly (John 1:12)
Might enter Heaven's gates.

Only as the Body of Christ
Receives Holy Spirit power (Acts 1:8)
Will it know His anointing
For victory in this dark hour.

Then, those who count the cost
And are ready their lives to give, (Luke 14:27
)Will be the light of the world (Matt. 5:14)
As Christ, through them, does live. (Gal. 2:20)

- C.R.S.

TESTIMONIES: VOICES OF RENEWAL

Validating the message from an African context by those whom God has called to propagate it makes it necessary to introduce them and allow the reader to hear directly from Africans in their own words:

1. REV. CHARLES AMBAKA
KENYA

After being a Christian for 24 years and a pastor for almost 20 years, it was not until 1999 that the Cross (co-crucifixion with Christ) became a reality in my life. It comes as a big surprise to many of my colleagues and fellow pastors when they hear me share this testimony because they find it difficult to reconcile. My life as a Christian and later as husband, parent, and pastor, was marked with a lot of insecurities that opened the door to frustrations and lack of fulfillment in all areas of life which started reflecting in my interpersonal relationships. It became a life of survival and putting on a face for the sake of being positive and portraying self-esteem. This life of pretence started wrecking my life, and I found myself sick with ulcers which played havoc with my life for many years, and antacids became part of my wallet. I became tired and frustrated with no solutions coming from my friends from whom I tried to seek counsel and help.

In 1997, I got an invitation to attend an Exchanged Life Seminar conducted by Grace Fellowship International (GFI) in Nairobi which the Lord used to open my eyes to realities that I had never known in my spiritual life. For the first time, I saw the awesome transforming power that the Cross was meant to bring in the Christian life. I realized that I had gone through various degrees of rejection that permeated my life in later years. I saw the subtle work of the flesh for the first time. In my spiritual up-bringing, it was emphasized that the devil is our greatest enemy; what a change it brought about when I realized it was the self-life which was my greatest enemy! I saw for the first time that this self-life was what brought all the mess in my entire life, including my marriage and ministry. It was not until 1999 that I finally surrendered and entered into experiential identification with Jesus Christ. It was no longer about me and what I do but what Jesus has done through the power of the Cross.

My fellow pastors, I lived in denial for years; but I came to a place of giving up and allowing the Lord to assume total influence in my life. As a result, the Lord has restored my entire life. My wife and I have dedicated our lives to share the message of the Cross with the world as a result of

its great transformation in our lives as we teach, train, and counsel with people. We have seen a number that behavioral science could not cure being made whole as they allowed the centrality of the Cross to work in their lives. This work has taken place in individual lives, couples, and untold numbers of pastors and church workers.

To pastors who are married and in the ministry, I will say, Let s stop being missionaries in our marriages, but let s come to the end of ourselves and allow the Cross to work in us . No great change comes by trying to change our wives, which I did for many years. True change only comes when we die to our efforts by embracing the power of the Cross. I am more on honeymoon today than when I was married 17 years ago. Judy says, Since the message of the Cross became experiential in my husband s life, and later to me, my husband seemed to be going overboard as I saw it. I thought he was becoming too passive; but now I can testify of a changed and transformed man, husband, father, and minister. Charles has put the Cross before him and the world behind with it s systems and ways. The Cross of Jesus has become central in his life. The world needs to hear that the Cross is not a symbol but a life-changing experience.

Vision: To train, prepare and equip the Body of Christ, starting with pastors, with the message of the Cross and its centrality as a God-given tool for counseling and discipleship.

Mission of GFI Eastern Africa: To set up satellite training centers in the region which will later culminate in a GFI training institute for the purpose of effective and intensive preparation of leaders, establishing recovery centers in the region that will be used for counseling and recovery, and enter into strategic alliances with the ministries of like-minded missions.

2. VICTOR TSHABALALA MADZIVADONDO ZIMBABWE

My full name is Victor Tshabalala Madzivadondo. I was born in a Christian family. My father was a pastor (Mfundisi) and also became a teacher at a certain stage in his life. He played an advisory role in the formation of black political parties. He was a close friend of Ndabaningi Sitole, the founder and first president of the political party called ZANU before Mr. Robert Mugabe and his man split to form ZANU PF in 1963. He married Nomathemba Radebe while pastoring in King William's town in Ciskei, now called Eastern Cape, a province of South Africa. My parents divorced when I was three years old. The courts gave Daddy the custody of the children. At the age of five, I converted myself against God

because He didn't seem capable of meeting our needs. Even though my father was educated, he just did not seem to have the common sense to meet his family's needs. At some stage, we were so poor that poor people felt sorry for us! After the divorce of my parents we lived like nomads from one place to another. My dad never kept one job for any length of time.

As I grew older, it was not long before I deduced that my poverty was orchestrated by an evil system. This system was engineered and maintained by the supremacist and diabolically motivated racist white minority. I thought that white people created the idea of the devil in order to take our attention from the real devil who happened to be them. I hated anything which suggested the existence of the spirit world, even ancestral worship. I became a confirmed communist without reading any book of Marx. At the age of eleven I made peace with the idea that whites were a wicked race. My first liberation struggle started in Norton when one morning I burned down the maize field of a certain farmer and ran away. Growing up, I played with few white boys. I still can remember well Denim Eva, a sweet little white boy who always missed his toys each time he came to play with me at our house or each time I visited their house. In anger, his parents used to come to the black townships to search each house for the stolen toys. All the time they would ask me to lead the search, and I would take them as far as possible from where I had hidden the toys. I was never caught until we left the area.

At school, the teachers used to say that I was mysteriously intelligent. I went to school already knowing how to read and write. The headmaster promoted me to grade three thinking that would be more challenging for me. My father decided to take me out of school to learn at home. I naturally found it hard to learn in a class room. My father realized early that I could learn more through reading than coming to grips with those issues I could not understand. I enrolled only to write exams.

One day, a friend of mine who later revealed that he was a member of the central intelligence of the ruling party told me that he was impressed with my perceptions on the politics of Africa and wanted to introduce me to the seniors. After six weeks of being propagandized, I started to work under cover in schools and colleges. I was sent to several countries for short courses. It was in Mozambique where I really gave my life to the Lord. We had confronted at a road block a missionary called Garcia whom we suspected to be a CIA agent. The gentleman had set up a tent crusade in the area. Some of the comrades told us that he was preaching that Africa shall be saved from communism, which we thought was preaching politics. I was very rude to him even though I had

been much younger than he. I remember using profanity about Jesus and told him that the Bible was being used to extend Western cultural imperialism. In the evening, I was assigned to attend his tent crusade disguised in dark glasses and a cap. In his preaching, the missionary condemned religion and encouraged people to have a personal relationship with God. One of the statements that impressed me from Rev. Garcia was that religion is an oppression of the people and a sedative which those in power use to inflict pain on the poor without their feeling it. I gave my life to the Lord that night. I realized that this missionary was a real comrade and compatriot, a real friend of the proletariat, unlike the rest of his fellow white blood suckers who want to oppress and create markets for their countries.

It was not long before I started to notice problems in the church. At Bible school, they started to teach us that we should support Israel's political position. Palestinians were seen as aggressors. I had always seen Israel as an American ally deliberately created by the Americans to destabilize the Arab world. In Bible school, I was confronted with right wing theology which suggested that the West were Christians; and it was for this reason they were blessed. I also started to see that church was a big enterprise. Many were making money and great names through it. I also noticed that church had lots of politics. In my denomination there were many fighting for positions. I became disillusioned and started to doubt the whole concept of Christianity until I discovered the message of the cross through books by Watchman Nee, *The Normal Christian Life*, and *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis.

After I got saved, I joined a Baptist Church in Zimbabwe. I liked this church because the pastor was into liberation theology and hated white people with a passion. His support of Palestine was public knowledge. He hung the Palestinian flag in front of the church next to the cross of Jesus. One day, I was very troubled that we still had a white Jesus hanging in front of the whole congregation. On Sunday morning, I approached my senior pastor about the matter. I said, I could not worship with a clear conscience looking at a white man pictured as my Saviour. The senior pastor told me to take it out as long as I did not implicate him. Remember; in our church we still had five white families left by the previous white pastor who were enduring to the end. Much of what was preached in our church was politics and social concerns. The ruling party liked us because we shared the same political sentiments. They gave us radio time and TV. Some pastors got to know us as notorious young pastors.

One day someone left Watchman Nee's book on my table. The book was called *The Normal Christian Life*. This book introduced to me a different kind of Christianity from the one I knew. I almost felt I needed

to be born again, again. I went to my senior pastor and shared with him what I had read; he brushed it off as simply white man's strategy to brainwash blacks. He told me that the book was taking my attention from real issues. It was through this book that I realized I could not transform myself. I needed to exchange my life with that of Christ. I realized that I had not been co-crucified with Christ. Eventually, after disagreement both scripturally and morally, the senior pastor suggested that I leave the church.

The Christian Democratic Forum, of which I had been a member for a number of years, suggested that I stand for the forum's presidency. This I did and was elected president of the forum. On my inauguration, we had the BBC, CNN, SABC, and the ZBC participating. I was interviewed about all issues in relation to Zimbabwe. The ACDP, a Christian political party in South Africa, suggested that I declare the forum into a political party. They had even given us money for the inauguration. Many farmers told me that the present opposition was not credible enough, they needed a more decent party to sponsor.

It was during this time that I came across Dr. Solomon's book called Handbook to Happiness. I read the book and finished it in two days. I read it again as I was flying to the Netherlands for a Christian democratic meeting where I met Michael Loui, who was then the chairman of African Christian democrats in South Africa. The more I read Dr. Solomon's book, the more I realized I was called to approach transformation from a different angle altogether. I realized that true transformation only comes through the exchanged life. As I began to study more of God's Word, I realized that the white man was not my enemy. My enemies were sin, self, and Satan. God brought to me a man of God who had similar understanding. I remember meeting Rev. Andrew Wutaunashe in Johannesburg. All he was talking to me about was the message of the cross. Rev. Phineas Dube is a close friend of Michael Cassidy; I spent a week with him in Pietermaritzburg, and all the time he was sharing the message of the cross to me. Rev. Nick Coetzie is the present president of the Baptist Union; he also started sending me some of his writings related to the cross. Through all these experiences, God showed me clearly what the human problem was. I wrote a letter to my friend, who is now the vice president of Zambia, Dr. Nevers Mumba, that I was stepping down as president from the Christian democratic forum. I have found a better way of bringing transformation to Africa, and it is through the exchanged life. I photocopied for him the diagram of Dr. Solomon's showing the Israelites crossing the Red Sea but still being controlled by self. I gave him a short sermon that stated that many churches and Christians are still living a flesh life. I showed him that what we needed to do was to cross the Jordan River and experience identification with

Christ.

When we find our identity in Christ, we cease to be the product of our past. What a white man did to me in the past is now of no consequence because it is no longer I who lives but Christ who lives in me (Gal. 2:20). In Christ, we are not defined by color, creed, or background. The blood of Jesus covers all of our iniquity. I thank God that I can now work with both whites, blacks, and Indians without any hang up. However I still continue to die. I have not yet arrived, but I have the revelation. I keep applying the cross every day of my life. After this realization, I wrote letters of apology to many of my white brothers whom I had wronged. In my possession are ten letters which I wrote to certain individuals asking for forgiveness. I thank God that I am free of the past so that I can now forge ahead.

Presently, I am running a mission organization called IDIA WORLD MISSIONS; our operations are in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, Botswana, South Africa, and Swaziland.

My testimony cannot be complete without mentioning the following people who really helped to get me out of my self-destructive root of hate and bitterness. Rev. Paul Mtandwa was the first to share with me about the cross and life of Christ. Rev. Dale Gurajena, shared his testimony with me of how he was abused by fellow white Baptist pastors who did not allow him to set foot in their churches because he was black, yet they visited his church at any time. He shared with me about how he overcame hatred. Pastor Green Carter, a white pastor friend, was put under discipline and later fired for bringing black people into his church and for deciding to go and live among black people. He told me how God delivered him from bitterness and that he identified with me and was optimistic that I could overcome my hatred. Pastor Guide Makore and Pastor Joe provided me with books by A. W. Tozer, Andrew Murray, and many other Christ-centered books which encouraged me to live a crucified life.

3. JACQUES NGALIEMA DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

While I was pastoring a church that I planted in Cape Town, South Africa, I did telephone counseling on behalf of Christian radio station CCFM in 2000. The station for which I was volunteering gave me an opportunity to attend counseling training based on the Exchanged Life as we find it in Romans 6 and Galatians 2:20 which was conducted by Grace Fellowship International's (GFI) outreach in South Africa. Before I attended the training I was experiencing a certain void in my life and

ministry concerning the way to experience a victorious life and communicate it to others; thus, I was praying and asking God to show me the scriptural way toward the victorious life.

I planted churches, pastored them, and went through different training and schools. I prayed and counseled many people as well, but I needed something to fill the gap that I had regarding what practical message and direction would enable one to go forward in his Christian walk.

Therefore, upon attending the Exchanged Life conference, I received personal revelation regarding the answer to my preoccupation; in a simple word: Self is the one who must die . This understanding had to be real in my own experience before I could, in turn, minister the same truth to others. Since that understanding, I approached the GFI representative and committed myself to spread this message. Subsequently, I participated in the GFI internship conducted by Nehlsie de Bruto of Curare.

God is allowing me to coordinate and teach the Exchanged Life message, primarily in French speaking countries. My joy is that, after such a seminar or conference, one or more pastors or their people always come to testify that they have received an answer concerning the way to go on in their Christian life. While I was on a mission trip in Mbuji Mayi (a town in the central part of Congo DRC) teaching the message to more than 500 people, an evangelist came to me joyfully telling me that it was God who sent me to that location. He said that He was discouraged in the work of the Lord because believers that he was following up after they received the Lord were experiencing defeat, and he was not seeing breakthroughs. The weekend before I landed down in the Town he was praying and fasting for such an answer. He told me, Now I know the way forward in helping them find freedom from rejection issues in their lives is to give them scriptural teaching on their identification with Christ in His death and resurrection. There are many testimonies of this kind; so I am accomplishing my vision and mission.

Currently, limited finances have driven me to find a way to reach the masses in French speaking countries without the major expense of continuous travel. Thus, I decided to use media since many of our people do not read a lot but they do listen to cassettes and watch TV; that is why I am setting up a mini studio for shooting and editing Exchanged Life teaching on audio and video cassettes, as well as on VCD or DVD. I have translated Handbook to Happiness by Dr. Charles Solomon into French as well. Previously, I had translated his study booklet, For Me To Live Is Christ.

4. NEHLSIE DE BRUTO SOUTH AFRICA

Personally

After I got saved in 1982, I was looking for my identity, especially my identity as a wife. I realized that to be a helper was much more than caring for my husband's needs and assisting him. I started looking for my identity with a walk through the lives of women in the Bible, not realizing that I was living out of rejection. In that stage I learned that I did not know who I was as a person, let alone as a woman or wife. God restored all my wrong ideas about myself and my misconceptions about Him. I discovered who a helper is, but God still had to teach me who I really was.

At that point I started to wonder about the verse in Romans 6. How could I be dead and still be walking and talking? No one could answer me. The pastors I spoke to were confused themselves about who was alive and who was dead. I decided that I would learn Romans 6 off by heart and God would reveal truth to me. That is what I did for a whole year. In 1993-1994 I learned Romans 6:1-15. I just memorized the verses. Then the calling of God on my life and this yearning came together.

Calling

The training in psychology I received during my time of study left me disillusioned. There was no answer in psychology to really solve people's struggles in life. I asked God if I could be living my life in a meaningful way for Him the last years of my life as I was not young any more. He said: Serve me with what you have. I thought, But psychology does not work, Lord. He kept prompting me. I then looked at what I do have and laid everything before Him. I had five options. One of them was that Father would provide me with a truly biblical model of counselling.

He did just that when I was given a book written by Dr. Charles Solomon, *Counselling with the Mind of Christ* (now entitled *Handbook for Christ-Centered Counselling*). After reading that book, my life changed forever.

Firstly, I discovered who I really was. I discovered who the Nehlsie is that died (as my pastor says, the sucker is stone dead!). She was the person who thought that she was no longer good enough because her parents had another baby when she was 5 years old. I discovered that this Nehlsie, who performed for acceptance and who was a people pleaser, was dead! I rejoiced in the fact that I am God's own daughter, and nothing could change that.

Secondly, my calling as a wife to be a helper made so much more sense. Then, Father moved my husband and I into a ministry of counselling but more to train and equip the saints in our local church.

After a training seminar with Dr. Solomon and Dr. Woodward in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, USA, we came back to South Africa so excited to start the internship training of biblical counsellors interdenominationally with the method of GFI, Spirituotherapy. It was at this time that God, through His Holy Spirit, told me in a vision one night that He wants us to call the place Curare. I asked Him what it means, and He told me to cure. Hendrik confirmed that curare is the Latin infinitive for to cure. I wondered why not Greek or Hebrew. At a later stage, God showed me that the Roman Empire was the first enemy of the church. Therefore, the enemy needs to know that there is a place where God's people will receive their healing in Christ.

Since we started, we have experienced so many times the working of the Holy Spirit in renewing people's lives, from depressed people, marriages at the brink of breaking up, to homosexuals set totally free in one or two sessions.

Our Country

With this insight into the identity crisis we also gained a lot of insight into the problems of our country.

As Afrikaners, we realize that the whole problem of apartheid developed as a result of the Afrikaner feeling threatened by the English since the occupation by the English and developed into the Anglo Boer war. In their effort, driven by the fear of losing identity, they did to others what was done to them, only in a much more cruel, racist way. And now we can see the same pattern developing. Determined to safeguard their identity as Africans, the present government of South Africa is steering the people into another reversed form of racism. The issue of the African Renaissance gives a bigger picture of the identity crisis of the African man. Still looking for a true identity which can only be found in Christ Jesus, the Afrikaners, more than ever, are desperately trying to hold on to the last shreds of their identity, their Afrikaans language.

Family life

Our marriage is new because we live out of the Spirit, and it is so easy to stop an argument because we just walk away from the dead and into the life of Christ.

I have taken up my place as helper to Hendrik, and we are rewarded for that by our Father. Now, I also minister to women about the God-given gift of a helper as opposed to the ungodly teaching of the

world that women need to be emancipated (they need to be crucified and resurrected!)

Our children train up their children to live out of who they really are.

We can never be thankful enough for this knowledge brought to us by reading a book and having been prepared by God to receive it.

5. HENDRIK DE BRUTO SOUTH AFRICA

I grew up living from a false identity, a rejected person, first of all rejecting my parents and eventually also God by pronouncing myself an atheist. I was totally disillusioned with the churches and the people it produced. I also coped with rejection by becoming a performer. This could clearly be seen in the fact that I obtained a Ph.D. when I was 25 years old. While doing my M.A. degree and Teachers diploma I met Nehlsie, my wife-to-be. Only shortly after that (1966), I accepted the Lord Jesus, but whether I was REBORN at that stage is a good question, because I only got to the understanding that I was a lost sinner in 1992! The issue was that I was at no stage confronted with a solid and comprehensive message of the FULL gospel.

I became a member of the Gereformeerde Kerk, which is the most conservative of the three Afrikaans Calvinist churches of South Africa. (They don't know or accept, for that matter, the tripartite model of man at all.) Because of my zeal for the Lord and because of my "prestigious" position as lecturer, I became first a deacon and very soon after that an elder in that same church. Clearly a change to religious performance instead of just performance.

In 1983, Nehlsie and I left our positions at the university because of our zeal for the Lord, to work for the Lord. The years between 1983 to 1992 ("katarsis") and up to 1995, when for the first time I got involved in a full time job again, were characterised by turmoil spiritually because of fleshly coping patterns during very difficult times of survival. To put it differently: I did not really know WHAT the flesh was, that it was the real enemy from within, and how to cope with it at all. Although I was acquainted with the concepts of "I am dead, dying to self" etc. I did not start living the victorious life until I got a grip on the teachings of Dr Solomon through Nehlsie, and eventually for myself, through his books.

Because of my involvement in counselling right from the beginning in my Christian walk, I immediately got involved in the work of GFI alongside Nehlsie, and eventually with Curare, bringing the exchanged life message to people counselled, training counsellors, and training trainers to train counsellors. Our involvement gives us the privilege of ministering

throughout South Africa to all people groups and all denominations, especially the staunch, Afrikaans Calvinistic Churches. On occasion, we are also invited to other African countries.

In this way, God is bringing the individual members of the Body of Christ to maturity and eventually the Church as whole. Thus, the Church is strengthened, the Kingdom proclaimed, and the Bride of Christ prepared for the Bridegroom.

As far as I am concerned, there is only ONE gospel: the full gospel of the exchanged life, where my old life in Adam is exchanged for Christ's life and where SELF is eventually totally denied, the cross taken up on a daily basis and where I knowingly and willingly do His will; and God the Father in Heaven is glorified, establishing His Kingdom where Christ Jesus is King and Lord.

6. DS. PIET DU TOIT SOUTH AFRICA

On 26th February 1963, I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour. I did this in the full knowledge of what I was doing and never had any doubts that by doing so, I had become a child of my Heavenly Father (John 1:12,13).

Then came my teenage years with their accompaniment of wrestling matches involving the flesh and sins which seemed to weigh me down. On the one side I could say with conviction that I was a born-again believer, yet the fruits of victorious Christian living were absolutely nowhere in evidence.

Thus my student years were ushered in, culminating in my being ordained as a minister of the Gospel. I tried to cover the emptiness of my innermost struggles with a religious façade through 13 years of ministry before my Heavenly Father called everything to a halt and took me into a desert experience that would not even allow me to minister whilst he performed a deep spiritual surgical work upon me.

By His grace, He revealed the unrighteousness in my life and that He would not tolerate this in the lives of His children. During that time of crisis in my life I came to hear His voice for the first time. From that experience, I began to discover His Father's heart and came to the realisation of how serious He was with me. It was during this time that the fullness of the revelation of the wondrous Cross was imparted to me.

It was around this time that I began to experience the fullness of my Heavenly Father's love when He brought across my path several people who were to impact my life significantly, the most notable amongst these being Dr. Charles Solomon.

My meeting with Dr. Solomon was, without doubt, a Divine

Appointment. Through his exposition of the Cross and the principles of the Exchanged Life teaching, I came to a full understanding for the first time in my life! To me, it was a massive spiritual revelation which brought an entirely new understanding and led me just to stand in front of the Cross in wonderment at the magnitude of the revelation I was freshly receiving.

For the very first time, I evolved to the fullness of understanding what really happened when Jesus hung upon that Cross; and I received the full insight of what happened to me when I, too, entered into co-crucifixion with the Lord Jesus Christ upon that same Cross.

For the first time I understood that Jesus had taken my old sinful nature upon Himself (Rom 6:6; 1 Pet 2:24), had borne my sins in his body and that my old man was dead absolutely, totally dead, having been crucified with Him. The fullness of the realisation came to me that the moment I had accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour a divine exchange had taken place inside of me. I had exchanged my old sinful nature (which had been crucified together with Him) for His Godly nature which had become my new nature and had come to live within me as my spirit was quickened anew.

I realised for the first time that an exchange of natures had taken place within me and that I was no longer in Adam but instead, in Christ and that Christ's biography had become my biography and that Christ's past had become my past.

I realised that what Jesus did on the Cross was a finished work which had dealt in totality with my old sin nature to the extent of breaking the power of sin over my life and also with everything that had come forth out of that old sin nature.

In Christ, I had been restored to dominion; and I was able immediately to apply the finished work of the Cross to the sinful, fleshly areas of my life with the full realisation that they could no longer exercise dominion over me.

I, thus, have an exchanged nature, an exchanged past, an exchanged bloodline, and an exchanged position and status before my Father God. My righteousness is in Christ Jesus, and this stands unassailably before God.

My whole past, my historical background, my life's story has disappeared from God's sight; and now He sees me only in Christ and Christ's past is now also my past. I now experience that the Holy Spirit is at work in my soul area in the renewal of my mind so that I may contemplate who I am in Christ and appreciate the reality that God is my Father and that by my new birth I am now related to him in Sonship.

It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me. His life is the only life I have, and I allow Christ to live His life through me whilst the

Holy Spirit works it out and applies it. The Christ-centred life based upon the completed work of Jesus on the Cross has made a dynamic and radical difference to my life.

Christ is my Deliverer, my Lord, my life my only life. Now I no longer work for the Lord but with Him. He joins me into His program and I find my rest in Him. I am like a branch grafted into Him as the vine. He has given me a message which I can preach with confidence as it sets the captives free.

Counselling has assumed a whole new dimension in my life. I am no longer the counsellor, but the Holy Spirit is. I simply deliver this precious message to people and the Holy Spirit, being the Counsellor, sets them free by direct revelation.

I am at a loss for words to thank the Holy Spirit for unfolding me into the destiny of being allowed to meet Dr. Solomon and share in his precious teachings. My Heavenly Father has allowed the anointing which He had placed upon His humble servant, Dr. Charles Solomon, to bless me with a spiritual revelation which has impacted so radically upon the ministry my Father has called me to. I express herewith my eternal gratitude for this. Soli Deo Gloria. Gal 6: 14.

7. ANNETTE MYBURGH
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

I was born in South Africa, educated in England, and worked as a professional psychologist, lecturer, and management consultant in several European countries. On June 15, 1995, I testified to a large audience how, at the age of fifty-five, I found victory in the Lord Jesus Christ from a life-long struggle with depression. During most of those preceding years, I practiced and taught psychology, proclaiming the hope of a permanent solution to depression within the methods and therapies of my profession. The paradox was that I could not cure myself. The solutions were only temporary and short lived before the symptoms would engulf me again, dragging me back to square one.

This self-defeating cycle became the pattern of my inner personal life as I tried to hide the condition from the world around me. I saw a similar pattern in the struggles of depressed clients as they entered and returned through the revolving doors of the clinic.

Eventually, I left the clinical setting to specialize in educational psychology and, later on, in organizational behavior. (This discipline is known as industrial psychology in the USA or occupational psychology in the UK.) This specialization gave me entry into the world of corporate giants and entrepreneurial executives in large multinational

organizations. Large chunks of responsibility and financial resources were given to psychologists who had this expertise, in order to develop resource strategies and training programs in leadership, cross-cultural team building, motivation, creative thinking, and interpersonal effectiveness.

Many years spent in this field brought an awareness of the self-imposed stress built into such programs, where characteristics of independence, individuality, self-assertiveness, and personal power were upheld in a competitive and predominantly male environment. Here again, the focus was on strengthening the self, leading to a narcissistic preoccupation with the self that, paradoxically, brought about further stress. This observation was confirmed by the popularity of seminars on stress and conflict management, where countless testimonies of self-defeat, despair, and depression came to the surface.

My depression became larger than life and increasingly difficult to conceal. The self-deception was finally exposed when, in a car accident in January, 1990, I was instantaneously stripped of all my worldly sources of significance: my position, status, professional expertise, and other indicators of success. Brain injuries caused permanent damage to some speech, intellectual, and motor functioning, leaving me unable to continue my career and privileged lifestyle.

The self was dethroned. While in a semi-vegetable state in intensive care, the Lord brought me to the foot of His Cross. My whole life flashed before my inner eyes. The words of Isaiah 30:18-22 penetrated the scarred tissue of what was left of my memory as the strongholds of pride and idolatry began to crumble. The Spirit of God pushed me to the margins of my individuality. My preoccupation with my own importance had to go so that my inner personality could be reconciled in fellowship with God, in humble identification with the Cross and the resurrected life of Christ Jesus in me (Gal. 2:20). Over a period of three years, the Lord restored part of the brain damage, drawing me closer into a totally dependent relationship with Him. As He became more and more the center of my life, I experienced the words of Isaiah 30:26 and a lasting freedom from depression, despite some remaining physical and intellectual disabilities.

So, five years later, as I stood in front of that audience, I felt compelled to revisit the psychology of depression with these experiences of biblical truths and the newfound power of the Christ-life in me. It took another year before the Lord sent me Charles Solomon's Handbook to Happiness through an interim pastor's wife at our church in Brussels, Belgium, where I now live. While reading it in one sitting, everything I had experienced became crystal clear to me and fell into place: here, at last, was a conceptual framework within which to reconcile the major

psychological themes and explanations with biblical solutions! Since then, I have found Dr. Solomon's Wheel and Line in Spirituotherapy to be a powerful tool, mightily used by the Holy Spirit, not only in the counseling room but also in training seminars.

TESTIMONY SUMMARY STATEMENT

The testimonies of these brethren and their being involved in the teaching of the message and preparing others to do the same has resulted in the transformation of lives across the continent. Obviously, there are many others who could do the same; but most are not yet involved in a wide ministry, as are the foregoing.

While the testimonies make it clear that the old man or old nature was crucified, it is necessary to underscore the truth that the believer's continuing conflict is between the flesh and the Spirit (Gal. 5:17) lest the impression be left that the victorious believer is sinless. Also, it will be well to assure those in the behavioral sciences that co-crucifixion does not result in the annihilation of the personality as some have wrongly inferred. It does mean that the God-given personality will be freed to function under the control of the Holy Spirit according to God's original design, except in cases of organic impairment which would require a physical healing.

SKIN OR SIN?

Where we re from
Is not our life;
Nor is our skin
A cause for strife.

Not what we have
But Whom we know--
Not where we ve been
But Where we go.

No answer derives
From sin or skin;
Our life is secure
Because of Whom we're in!

Not our failure
But His Cross--
Without His Life
Twould be but loss.

Losing our lives
Compared with others,
Levels the ground
With all our brothers.

And when we come
To the end of the story,
It is, Unto me (us). . . grace;
Unto Him be glory . (Eph. 3:8a; 21a)

- C.R.S.

EPILOGUE: Nehlsie DeBruto

In my professional capacity I was working in the field of psychiatry and psychology.

All through this time I was painfully aware of the fact that I never saw anyone cured . Many were assisted and their lives made bearable, but not one person received a new life .

After my salvation, I left my profession--partly out of disillusionment and a feeling of helplessness. When I discovered Dr. Charles Solomon's book, Handbook for Christ-Centered Counseling, things changed. Not only did I discover a powerful tool to help others; my personal life was changed, also. The knowledge that I have died with Christ and that I was now a new creation, totally changed me.

God called me and my husband, Hendrik, into a ministry to broken people soon after we were saved. Twenty years later, He gave us this excellent tool, © Spirituotherapy.

We saw people being changed and healed. We saw people struggling with their sexual identity find their true identity in Christ. We saw dysfunctional families where relationships were disturbed and broken, healed and completely set free from the hurts of absent fathers, alcoholism, and all forms of abuse. Especially in our country, South Africa, where people have, for decades, lived in circumstances where governments gave the inhabitants of the country the message that they were not acceptable on grounds of their language, their skin colour or their culture, there was a need for this message. It was a gift from God to let people know that they are accepted in Christ, to take their place as children of the Almighty God, sit in a dignified place (Is. 60: 1-3) and be conquerors. We received a method of bringing the true message of the Cross of Jesus Christ to a whole country.

God led us to start an organization, called Curare Institute of Healing, to help churches from all Christian denominations and organizations to train counsellors. Curare is the Latin word for 'to heal'. Through Curare, counsellors are trained and equipped to assist others and lead them to wholeness through using the method of Spirituotherapy. In this way people from all walks of life, from all different cultures and people groups are trained to help people who will understand them and whom they, as counsellors, can relate to and understand their specific problems. More people are reached effectively in this way, than a few professional people can reach over a long period of time .

Ministries are being started where people are trained to minister to the increasing number of abused children, the increasing number of people suffering from AIDS and also to their families. A youth ministry is

being started where young people are trained to minister to the youth with their specific problems but which have their root in the absence of the knowledge of true identity in Christ.

We thank God for raising up a person like Dr Solomon who, in obedience to his Father, developed this simple method of bringing people to their calling of holiness and wholeness to fulfill God's purpose:

[The purpose is] that through the church the complicated, many-sided wisdom of God in all its infinite variety and innumerable aspects might now be made known to the angelic rulers and authorities (principalities and powers) in the heavenly sphere.

This is in accordance with the terms of the eternal and timeless purpose which He has realized and carried into effect in [the Person of] Christ Jesus our Lord. Ephesians 3:10&11 (Amplified Bible).

Nehlsie DeBruto
GFI Coordinator for Africa
Fish Hoek, South Africa
nehlsie@eject.co.za
Phone: 27 021 785 2307
Fax: 27 021 785 1188

APPENDIX

This summary of Handbook to Happiness, Chapter 2, applies the wheel and line diagrams to the individual, through Christ-centered counseling. The preceding information extrapolates from this essential model to the root problem and ultimate answer for problems in society.

A Guide to Freedom Through the Cross

by Charles R. Solomon, Ed.D.

As you read this, you may be in the midst of turmoil. Man may have failed you and God may seem too distant to help. You may have grown up not feeling loved in a way that met your needs. You may never have accepted or loved yourself.

The sense of inadequacy a person can feel in coping with life may run the gamut from mild depression to thoughts of suicide. Because of this, your relationships with those you love may be at the breaking point or may already be broken seemingly beyond repair. If you are at the point of mild despair or utter desperation, this message is tailored to your situation.

God loved you enough to send a Person - His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ to die on the cross for your sins, to raise Him again and to provide through Him all that is necessary for a victorious, abundant life. Today you either trust that His death met God's condition for the free pardon of your sins or you do not. If you do not, this simple message, and the diagrams to illustrate it, could transform your life as you receive His Life the Life of the Lord Jesus Christ.

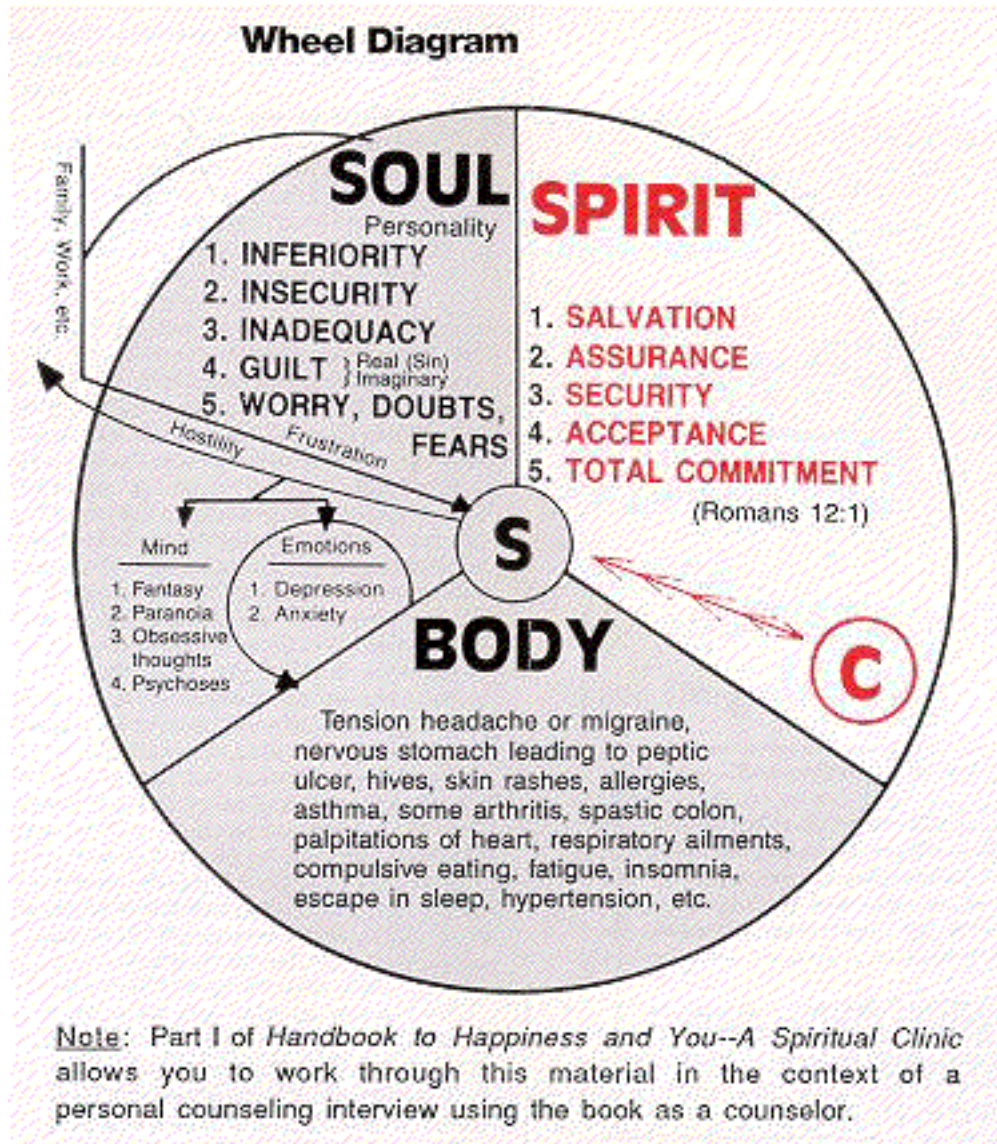
It may be that you have trusted Christ for your salvation but now you are a struggling, defeated believer who has yet to find the way to victory in the Christian life.

If either of these situations describes your condition, please study the following thoughts with an open Bible and a prayer that God will illuminate these truths for you.

Your Design

The Wheel Diagram depicts man as a three-part being consisting of spirit, soul and body (1 Thes. 5:23). With the body, through the senses, we relate to our surroundings. The soul, or personality, consists of the functions of the mind, will and emotions. The soul enables us to relate to one another. The spirit enables us to transcend our abilities, limitations and circumstances as we are regenerated or reborn and indwelt by the

Holy Spirit.



The spirit is either related to Adam - Satan's family (see Line Diagram [below]) - or to Christ, God's family. We are born into the world as descendants of Adam and partakers of his nature. That means our spirits are dead to God and alive to Satan. We are in the wrong family! Since our lives came from our first father, Adam, and go back in an unbroken chain to him, we were actually in him when he sinned. Thus, we became sinners before we were physically born. This being the case, we are only doing what comes naturally when we commit sins (Rom. 3:23). Every life that remains in Adam will eventually end in Hell, as shown in the diagram (Rom. 6:23). Even though we may live very good lives, humanly speaking, we are separated from God unless and until we are born into His family by a spiritual rebirth.

Your Needs

The word "salvation" (1) in the Wheel Diagram means we must have a spiritual birth. Only in this way can we leave the life of Adam and be born into the life of Christ, which is an eternal life, as depicted in the Line Diagram (John 3:3). To be born spiritually, we must recognize or confess that we are in the wrong life and therefore born sinners, with the unavoidable result that we have committed sins. Then we must accept Christ into our lives, because he died for our sins.

In being born spiritually, those who receive the Spirit life of Christ into their spirits by faith become one spirit with Him (1 Cor. 6:17). If they are to have victory over temptation and experience the peace of God in their lives, however, they must have assurance of their salvation. Assurance (2) must be based on the absolutes of God's inerrant Word or it will be fleeting at best.

Many who know (with their minds) that they have personally trusted the Lord Jesus Christ still lack genuine assurance because they have never felt saved. Due to emotional conflicts, many of which stem from childhood rejection, a person's feelings (or emotions) are seldom in harmony with the true facts, either as those facts are described in the Bible or as they exist in the physical world. How we feel things to be is likely to differ from how they really are until Christ becomes central in our lives and heals the damaged emotions.

The believer, old or new, must know that he enters into a secure, eternal spiritual relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ (John 5:24) and that he can rely upon and enjoy that security (3).

Though many believers know they have accepted Christ, few understand and experience the fact that they are accepted in Him. Most have been forced to earn acceptance on a human basis and feel they also must earn God's acceptance (4), though they have already been accepted

entirely through their Christ Life (Eph. 1:6). Every believer is accepted, but many never accept their acceptance, or righteousness (2 Cor. 5:21), by faith.

Few, too, are those who make total commitment (5) or total surrender of their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ. This is an irrevocable decision in which we give God our permission to do anything He wishes in us, with us, to us or through us. We give up all our rights.

Frequently, circumstances degenerate into near chaos after we make such a decision, because God honors our request for Him to take complete control of our lives. If He is to take control then we must lose control, and that is a process that seldom gives us joy! The circumstances or persons God uses to bring us to the end of our control of our lives are often not in themselves spiritual. They sometimes inflict undeserved suffering, but it is just such suffering that accomplishes God's purposes in our lives (1 Pet. 2:20-21; Phil. 1:23-30). At the time of the suffering or chastening (Phil. 3:10; Heb. 12:11), it seldom seems a cause for rejoicing, but it is the crucible that produces the holiness we long for.

God's purpose for the believer is to conform him to the image of Christ (Rom. 8:29). Such conformity involves suffering. The "all things" of Romans 8:28 which work together for good are rarely seen as good in themselves, except in retrospect.

Your Inner Conflict

The "S" at the center of the wheel [above] represents the self controlled life or "flesh" (KJV). The flesh is in ascendancy in the lives of most believers for their entire Christian experience. It seeks differing forms, depending upon the individual, to get its needs met by some thing or person in either a negative or a positive way. Money, material things, success, fame, sex, power or any of countless other things can drive or motivate a person and become his central focus when he is dominated by the self-life or flesh. Thus the "flesh" is merely the believer's attempt to live the Christian life in his own strength.

The "flesh," therefore, is a very serious problem for the Christian - as serious as idolatry. For when we replace the centrality of Christ with anything - even ourselves whatever we install on the throne of our lives becomes an idol. God must deal firmly with the flesh. And He does, usually by revealing the self-centered life's inability to cope until the believer, finding his situation unbearable, gives up on himself and becomes interested in exchanging the self-life for the Christ-life.

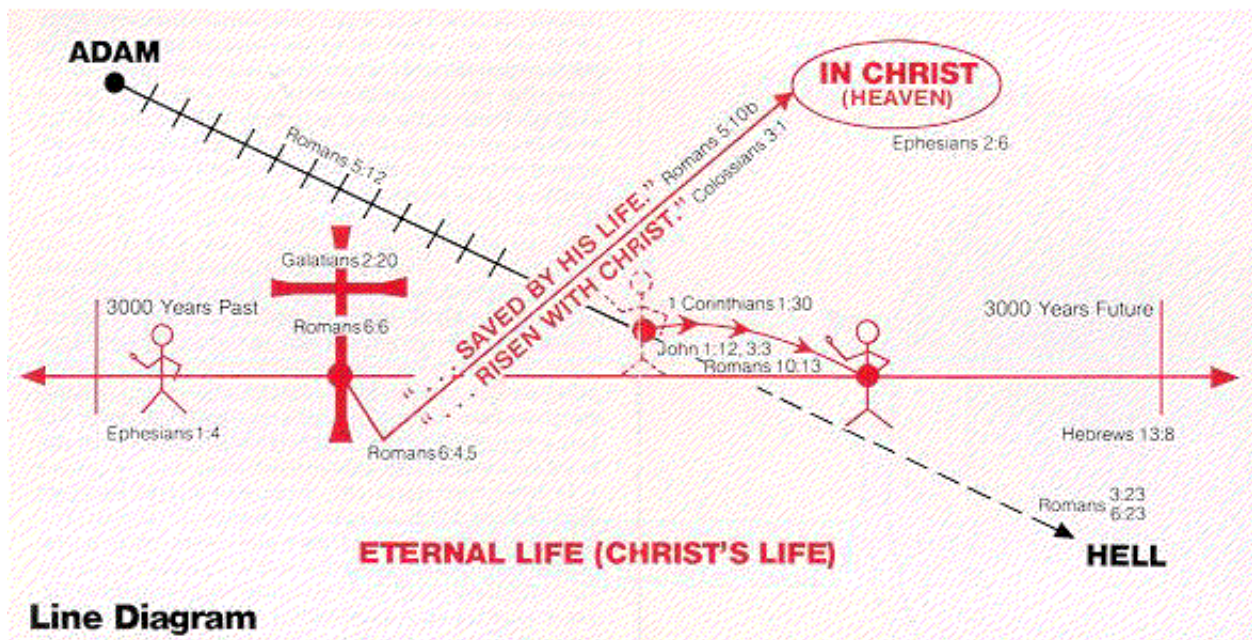
So long as self (flesh) remains in control, the conflicts depicted in the "soul" (personality) part of the Wheel Diagram will continue. They may become worse with age and increasing responsibilities. Occasionally, a

psychologically well-adjusted self-life can cope with circumstances for most of a lifetime, but the results are far from fulfilling.

The psychological deficiencies, along with the guilt (both real and imagined), combine to produce varying degrees of frustration in the self-controlled life. The frustration must be dealt with. Some choose to dump it on others in the form of blows-physical or verbal-while some are more fearful of retaliation and suppress their hostility as best they can. Others suppress anger and frustration because they blame themselves for every problem and annoyance they encounter. When hostility and frustration are suppressed, for whatever reason, they will have an impact in the mind or emotions or both. Internalized hostility or anger often results in depression and/or anxiety in the emotions. Some persons can use their minds to implement various distortions or denials of reality. This enables them to escape the necessity of dealing with the real problem, the self-life.

When the psychological conflict drags on without remedy, however, it commonly results in somatic complaints, as illustrated in the diagram. The physical ailments, though real, actually are symptoms of a deeper problem-the self-life. So are the psychological problems depicted in the "soul" area.

Your Deliverance



These psychological and physiological symptoms begin to disappear when one sees how God can deal with the root problem by dethroning the self-life.

The Line Diagram shows the "life out of death" principle- God's way of disposing of internal conflict. The horizontal line represents eternal life, the life of Christ. By definition, eternal indicates no beginning or end. It exceeds the boundaries of time. Since Christ is God, He has always lived and always will. His life is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8). As portrayed at the left of the line, Christ "became flesh" (John 1:14) and lived in a human body for some 33 years. Then, He was crucified, buried and raised from the dead on the third day (1 Cor. 15:3-4). He continues to live today (Heb. 7:25). Note that eternal life is not only a present and future reality for the believer but also involves the eternal past.

Until we are born again (John 3:3) we are not in the life of Christ- eternal life-but we are in the spiritually dead life of Adam. One can readily see that if any one of our ancestors, represented by the hatch marks on the diagonal line, had been missing, we also would be missing. Physically speaking, our lives had beginning in Adam, so whatever happened to him also happened to us. When he sinned, we sinned. When he died (spiritually), we died-just as we would have died in our great-grandfather if he had died before siring any children. Thus, since spiritual death is separation from God, we were all born dead (spiritually). We need forgiveness for our sins, but we also need life. The Lord Jesus Christ came to give us both-by dying for our sins and by giving us His resurrection life (John 10:10).

If you are a Christian, you already know this much. What you may not yet know is the following; For the believer, physical death is the gateway from life in the world and the presence of sin to life in Heaven and the presence of God. Similarly, another type of death is the gateway from the sinful life of Adam to the eternal life of Christ. When a person is "born again," he in the same instant dies. He is born into the life of Christ but he simultaneously dies out of the life of Adam.

Christ comes into our lives when we believe in Him and are born again, but that is not all. We are also made "partakers" of His life- eternal life. Romans 6:3 says we are not only baptized into Jesus Christ (His life) but also into His death. We can't occupy two opposite lives at the same time-the life of Adam and the life of Christ.

Your Identity

When we receive Christ by faith, it means that His death on the cross counts as payment for our sins. But it means much more. It also means that we enter into a new life-one that extends forever into the past as well as into the future. To put it another way, we exchange our history in Adam-the bad and the good-for an eternal history in Christ. We

inherit a new "family tree!" By becoming partakers of Christ's life, we become participants in His death, burial, resurrection, ascension and seating in the heavenlies (Rom. 6:3-6; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 2:6). He only has one life, and this is the life we receive at our new birth (I John 5:11-12).

Unless and until we know by personal faith experience that we were crucified with Christ, we will continue to try to live for Christ, using the methods we learned in our old self-lives. The conflicts stemming from our history in Adam will go on plaguing and defeating us. But when, by faith, we take our rightful place at the Cross in union with Christ's death and resurrection, then-and only then can we truly "walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:4b) where "old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Cor. 5:17).

The Cross experience (understanding experientially our crucifixion and resurrection with Christ) is the gateway into the Spirit-controlled life (Gal. 5:16). It is life out of death, victory out of defeat-the purpose and answer for suffering in the life of the believer. Our path to the Cross, as well as the Cross itself, is a path of suffering, but it is the only path that leads to the end of suffering.

Are you weary enough of your internal conflict and constant defeat to put an end to it by faith? Are you willing to die to all that you are so you can live in all that He is? To do so is to exchange the self-life for the Christ-life and be filled or controlled by the Holy Spirit. To refuse to do so is to continue a walk after the flesh and to grieve the Spirit with a continuation of conflict, suffering and defeat.

Salvation Prayer

If you are tired of the anguish that results from doing things your way, Christ will free you if you will sincerely commit yourself to let Him have His way. If you have never accepted Christ as your personal Savior, your first need is to let God create you anew by giving you spiritual rebirth. You can be born again if you can honestly pray like this:

"Heavenly Father, I have seen that I am a sinner, still in the life of Adam, and that I have committed sins. I believe you sent your only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die in my place for my sins. I also believe He rose again and now lives, and right now I receive Him into my spirit as my Savior. I surrender all that I am, all I have and all I shall be to you. I turn from my sins and my selfish ways to live my new life in Christ. Thank you for saving me. Amen."

Identification Prayer

If you have prayed the "salvation prayer," you have been born

again, for God says He gives to all who believe in Christ the privilege of becoming His children (John 1:12). Now, whether you prayed for salvation just now or in the past, praying an "identification prayer" may help you to experience Christ's life of victory and peace. Before this prayer can be effective, you must be truly sick of your self-life; you must be under conviction by the Holy Spirit of trying to live the Christian life in your own strength, and you must be ready to give up control of your life. If this is your condition, pray in this manner.

"Father, thank you for forgiving my sins and taking me out of the life of Adam and grafting me into the life of Christ. Now that I am in Christ, I believe that I was crucified with Him, buried with Him, raised with Him and that I am seated with Him at your right hand. From this moment on, I choose to have your son, Jesus Christ, live His life in me and through me. I consider myself dead to sin and alive to you, and I am counting on the Holy Spirit to make me aware when I forget my death with Christ and try to live His life for Him in my own human wisdom and energy. I choose to yield my total being to you as an instrument of righteousness, allowing no part of me to be used for sin. Thank you for making Christ and his life real to me. Glorify yourself through me. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen."

SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY

Some of the following books will only be found in Bible school or seminary libraries since they are out of print. It seems that books on losing your life are not nearly as popular as self-help books which tell you how you can do it, many of which fill the shelves of bookstores. However, it may be extremely profitable for you to make the trek to the library to fellowship with some of the saints of past years through their writings.

DEVOTIONALS

Drawing Near	Boa, Ken/Anders, Max
My Utmost For His Highest	Chambers, Oswald
Practicing the Presence of God	Lawrence, Brother
God's Best Secrets	Murray, Andrew
Close to His Majesty	Needham, David

PRAYER

Power Through Prayer	Bounds, E.M.
Quiet Talks on Prayer	Gordon, S.D.
Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ	Guyon, Madame
The Prayer Life	Murray, Andrew
Prayer, Life's Limitless Reach	Taylor, Jack
Kneeling Christian	An Unknown Christian

VICTORIOUS LIFE

UNION WITH CHRIST

Victory Over the Darkness	Anderson, Neil
How to Live the Victorious Christian Life	An Unknown Christian
Not I But Christ	Olford, Stephen

SPIRITUAL LIFE STUDIES

Free for the Taking: The Life Changing Power of Grace	Cooke, Joseph R.
Classic Christianity	George, Bob
Lifetime Guarantee	Gillham, Bill
Quiet Talks on Power	Gordon, S.D.

Introducing the New You	Gregory, Lewis
New Testament Living	Harrison, Norman B.
Calvary Road	Hession, Roy
Bone of His Bone	Huegel, F.J.
The Subtle Power of Spiritual Abuse	Johnson, David
Faith is the Victory	Kazee, Buell H.
Our Oneness with Christ	Kuykendall, David
The Filling of the Spirit	Legters, L.L.
The Cross	Lloyd-Jones, Martyn
Failure, Back Door to Success	Lutzer, Erwin
Growth in Grace	Matthews, Victor
Crowded to Christ	Maxwell, L.E.
Born Crucified	
Three-Fold Secret of the Holy Spirit	McConkey, James
The Mystery of the Cross	McGrath, Allister E.
The Christ Life for Your Life	Meyer, F.B.
The Five Musts of the Christian Life	
Grace Walk	McVey, Steve
Abide in Christ	Murray, Andrew The Two Covenants
Absolute Surrender	
Normal Christian Life	Nee, Watchman
Release of the Spirit	
Changed Into His Likeness	
Birthright	Needham, David
Say Yes! How to Renew Your Spiritual Passion	Palau, Luis
Life on the Highest Plane	Paxson, Ruth
The Centrality of the Cross	Penn-Lewis, Jesse
In Christ Jesus	Pierson, A.T.
Victorious Christian Living	Redpath, Alan
The Christ Life	Simpson, A.B.
The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life	Smith, Hannah Whitall
Handbook to Happiness	Solomon, Charles R.
The Ins and Out of Rejection	
The Rejection Syndrome	
Handbook for Christ-Centered Counseling	
Handbook to Happiness & You	
Handbook for Soldiers of the Cross	
For Me To Live Is Christ	
Handbook of Exchanged Life Poetry	
Handbook to Happiness in Verse	
Gems and Jargon	

Green Letters	Stanford, Miles
Adversity	Stanley, Charles
Authentic Christianity	Stedman, Ray
The Cross of Christ	Stott, John
Key to Triumphant Living	Taylor, Jack
The Saving Life of Christ	Thomas, Ian
The Mystery of Godliness	
That Incredible Christian	Tozer, A.W.
Victory in Christ	Trumbull, Charles
The New Life	Wallis, Reginald
Sidetracked in the Wilderness	Wells, Michael

REVIVAL

Evangelism in the Early Church	Green, Michael
Dynamics of Spiritual Life:	Lovelace, Richard F.
An Evangelical Survey of Renewal	
Renewal as a Way of Life	Orr, J. Edwin
The Eager Feet: Evangelical Awakenings, 1790-1830	
Why Revival Tarries	Ravenhill, Leonard

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

The Bondage Breaker	Anderson, Neil
The Adversary	Bubeck, Mark
The Mystery of Iniquity	Heugel, F.J.
Demons in the World Today	Unger, Merrill

BIOGRAPHIES

Beyond the Ranges	Fraser, J.O.
My Calvary Road	Hession, Roy
Hudson Taylor s Spiritual Secret	Taylor, Dr./Howard, Mrs.
The Life of Madame Guyon	Upham, Thomas C.

COMMENTARIES

An Exposition of Romans	Haldane, Robert
His Salvation (Romans)	Harrison, Norman B.

From Shadow to Substance (Hebrews)	Hession, Roy
Romans	Lloyd-Jones, D. Martyn
Christ is All	Moule, Charles
(Romans, Ephesians, Colossians)	
The Holiest of All (Hebrews)	Murray, Andrew
Romans	Murray, John
Romans Verse By Verse	Newell, William R.
The Walk, Wealth, and Warfare	Paxson, Ruth
Of the Believer (Ephesians)	
Notes on Romans	Stanley, Charles
(England)	

RESOURCES FROM GFI

Radical Christian Living Video Tape Kit
Conference Notebook

Training:

Exchanged Life Conference
Exchanged Life Workshop
Solomon School of Spirituotherapy
GFI Counseling Institute

Book by Dr. Phil Jones:

How To Exchange Your Life For A New One

Books by Dr. Lee Turner:

Grace Discipleship Course #1
Grace Discipleship Course #2

Book by Captain Reginald Wallis:

The New Life

GRACE FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Phone: 865.429.0450

Fax: 865.429.0144

Email: ChuckGFI@aol.com

John@GraceNotebook.com

www.GraceFellowshipIntl.com

3914 Nellie Street

P. O. Box 368

Pigeon Forge, TN 37868

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

John 3:16