

# Ron Boehme Journal 2020

## Port Orchard, Washington

*January 3, 2020 – 25,096 – 6,760*

An amazingly numbered year has begun, and it's started somewhat quiet with me finishing the new office at First Christian (Prayer Room is next) and trying to get set-up for my sixty-eighth year of life. This will be a year of scaling back a little at FIU and ratcheting up my involvements on the home front, FCC, South Kitsap, and God's revival and mission desires in our area.

I am looking forward to this new change and want to obey the Lord in every detail of it.

Jesus, I commit the new year to you. Give me your vision for the world, my nation, South Kitsap, our family and all the divine assignments that you have for me. What I am calling the *8-18 Window begun before I step off this earth into eternity*.

Why can it not be the most fruitful era of my life?

*January 7, 2020 – 25,100 – 6,756*

Had the privilege of speaking again at FCC this past Sunday on "There is No Book Like the Bible." 2020 has been declared the Global Year of the Bible, and we are excited at the church of using this as the background theme to speak to our people about God's wonderful Word. It appears that I will now have this privilege about once a month in 2020.

The year has also started on a rather ominous note as that due to near-record-breaking rains in December and January, this week our septic system failed, and I moved into survival and plan of attack mode to figure out what to do. "What I feared has come upon me" has got to be one of the most depressing Scriptures in the Bible (Job 3:25).

I've now had TWO septic system failures in my lifetime. Not easy, has brought some dread, but I want to trust God again to show us what to do and fix the problem—for the future.

Lord Jesus, please lead us again as you did at 6830 Arlington Place in 2008. I'm weary, it's difficult, but I know that life is really perseverance while depending on your great strength and grace.

Show us what to do, Great God our Savior!

*January 13, 2020 – 25,106 – 6,750*

These have not been easy days as I've been pumping the water out of the ground about one-to three hours a day to save our family from moving out. God has given me a "system" now which is working, and I'm grateful for the direction.

The more I've prayed about the situation, the more it seems right to bite the bullet this year and both re-do the drainage ditches on our property as well as get a new septic system for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I hate to spend the money, but I also want the peace of mind for the remainder of our lifetime that would go with an upgrade as well as give Jason a good hand-off for the future of the property.

As I was praying and researching this, I found that the company that gave us the special septic loan in 2008 (Craft3) is still operating in Washington State and looks viable for us again. Praise the Lord. It's still a lot of money to borrow (\$24,000) but considering that we purchased the Dullum House at below market value, and Lord-willing, there will be inheritance money coming in the next few years, this seems like a wise choice to make for the overall family.

We are never going to have a small household here at 6831 Arlington Place, so going the extra mile is probably right for us.

I will continue to pump each day for the next six weeks and then put on the warmer-weather calendar the curtain drain fixes and new septic system.

Thank you, Lord, Jesus for guiding all the details of our lives. I need in septic as much as I do in salvation—and love you for your closeness in my life.

*January 18, 2020 – 25,121 – 6,745*

Had the privilege of speaking again today at a men's breakfast at Bayside Community Church in Kingston, WA. Enjoy the relationship with these guys and encouraged them to join the Global Year of the Bible.

*February 1, 2020 – 25,135 – 6,731*

Last evening with a night from hell (not really, but it just seemed that way.)

I've mentioned that we're having a very wet winter and our curtain drains on the property protecting the septic field have failed and I've had to limp them along daily until we apply a summer fix.

Well, January set some records for rain (ninth wettest in history—after a very wet December—and tied record for most days in the months with rain at 29 out of 31. Ugh.)

Yesterday and last night. Out third “Pineapple Express” of the season came into the area already saturated with rain. I worked the sump pumps almost every hour until midnight and went to bed for a while and got up at 4 AM to have at it.

It was nightmare. The wind was so gusty and howling, I could barely hang onto my umbrella times at. And did it pour down, hour after hour after hour. I moved around in the dark, moving and arranging sump pumps, holding my flashlight between teeth and desperately praying to God to help me stay a head of it.

A couple times during the six hours I spent outside, one of he pumps kept stopping. At first, I thought it was the power cords maybe getting wet. Later I just began thumping it on the ground and it would come back on. The crazy storm went all night as I asked God to intervene—and to help me.

My phone said the downpour would last until 9 am, but at 7:30 the drops stopped, and I was able to save the house and yard. Praise the Lord! Today I took a nap and then scoured the town for more pumps and supplies and, during a rainless afternoon, engineered a new plan to take care of the problem through the remainder of the winter.

Thank you, Jesus, for always hearing my cries, caring for me, and showing me the way forward. I practiced Psalm 31: 24 today (The Message): “Be brave. Be strong. Don’t give up. Expect God to get there soon.”

Tomorrow I am speaking at First Christian on “How I Learned to Devour the Bible: You Can Too! May God bless is His word and illustrations of it out of my own life.

*February 23, 2020 – 25.157 – 6,709*

I’ve been so busy transcribing my past journals that I haven’t taken the time to write in my current one.

It’s not been easy to re-live my “death of a vision years”—which really took place 1984-1986. I’m learning a lot by studying that time, but parts of it are not easy to read. In fact, they are very painful as I am going through again the dealings of God in my life some 35 years ago.

God had to take me through an incredible leadership crucible—to beat the pride and ambition out of me so that I could be a godly servant leader. Through it was agonizing, I’m thankful for His loving hand of discipline on my life.

I’m really enjoyed the new office/center at First Christian Church. I had the opportunity to again on Sunday, this time on the subject of “The Blessing of Fasting.” The day before I had ministered to aa friend who is an alcoholic, and he and his wife came on Sunday morning and came to the front after the service to be prayed for by the elders. It was a moving and powerful time.

Thank you, Lord, for the privilege of working in the lives of others. It is all because of your wonderful love and salvation.

*March 1, 2020 – 25,164 – 6,702*

This month's MST newsletter contains some important items:

*March 2020*

Dear Praying Friends,

We have just passed two wonderful milestones in the YWAM story.

A couple of months ago, in Lausanne, Switzerland—the site of Youth With A Mission's first training school in 1969—we celebrated *fifty years of training* with a special celebration and much thankfulness to God. I have some friends that attended that first pioneering "School of Evangelism," and I personally got involved just five years later at YWAM's second training setting—a Bavarian Castle near Munich, Germany (Schloss Hurlach).

That school changed my life and catapulted me into missions.

Since that time, YWAM has trained *millions* of young people all over the world in over twelve hundred campuses in 180 countries. Over my 46 years in the mission, I've had the privilege of speaking at hundreds of those schools to thousands of students.

The last one was YWAM Discovery Bay just a couple of months ago. I never tire of seeing young people (really people of all ages) get filled up with God and excited about doing their part to fulfill the Great Commission. Our Discovery Bay DTS just returned from a great time of ministry in Mongolia and Southeast Asia.

This week Youth With A Mission is celebrating *sixty years as a mission* with some special meetings in Mexico. I was not able to attend, but many friends are there to remember and thank God for past victories and pray us into the future. Our goal in this early part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is to grow from 25,000 full-time YWAMers to 200,000 worldwide.

That will take a miracle. But we serve a miracle-working God who has already shown us plenty and is "the same yesterday, today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

My new ghost-written book on the life and legacy of Dr. Corinthia Ridgley Boone was debuted at her 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration last Saturday at the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C. I pray that it will inspire many African Americans to rise to their destiny in God. If you're interested in a copy, I'd be glad to send you one (\$10 donation).

Whether it's crazy primary elections, plummeting stocks, or scary new viruses, our hope is in the Lord and the advance of His Kingdom. Thanks for helping me to do my part. You are in my prayers and *always front and center in deep gratitude to God for your friendship*. Have a good month.

*March 3, 1986 – 25,166 – 6,700*

After a few days of the doldrums (nothing major, but not the bounce in my step), God showed me that my ability to travel at this stage in my life—plus all the other burdens of life—are weighing me down in this season. Transcribing my journal from past years really reveals how much I love the *go of the Gospel*. It was exhilarating and so fulfilling to me—to be serving Jesus all over the world.

Now that we're caring for our mothers and I am going nowhere, God showed me today that this can be compared to Paul's years in prison near the end of his life—two of them in Israel and two more in Rome. Paul—my middle namesake—loved his Gospel travels as well and this comes across in his many letters and in the book of Acts.

I can relate.

But near the end of his life, Paul was held back by prison—the circumstances of his life—and instead of despairing, he learned to choose joy, hope, and live in complete contentment. That's EXACTLY what I want to do. During those years he wrote the books of Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon.

Lord—I choose these things as well and thank you for your revelation. I enjoyed on walk on Beach Drive today and re-committed myself to “The Call”—no matter what that means. You are the pearl of great price—the only One worthy of my life and worship.

Forgive me for the self-pity and despair. Paul used his “confining” years to write for you—and I shall do the same with my students, blogs, books and messages.

I commit to be a Paul.

*March 12, 1986 – 25,175 – 6,691*

I've really enjoyed a nice “birthday week” with our Family Night diner with the moms and Monday, a staff party at FIU On Wednesday and many thoughts today about the privilege of being 67 and knowing the grace and love of God in my life.

I so enjoy reading both Psalm 71 and John 3 each birthday season because they always fall on that day in the Prayer (which I've used for over 35 years). This year, these words from *The Message* really jumped out at me:

“While I stretch out, reaching for you, and daily add praise to praise, I’ll write the book on your righteousness, talk up your salvation the livelong day, and never run out of good thing to write or say.”

Both the writing quotes really hit me. I WILL write the autobiography and give praise to God and hopefully never stop writing many other things.

Today was also a day when the coronavirus is deeply impacting our nation and the world. Today the stock market had its largest drop in 33 years. President Trump is doing all the rights things, but the media is selling fear and panic—and so far, they are winning.

But not in the end. This too shall pass.

Today at Faith during my prayer walk around Vassault Park, I used all three laps to meditate on my life in detail (and God’s abundant blessings).

- I thought on the circumstances of my birth and my mom and dad, Robert and Dorothy.
- I thanked for the 8 homes I’ve lived in as an adult and 5 more before marriage.
- I mused on becoming a father and the growth of our six children.
- And the many blessings of a life lived for God.

I’m so grateful for the gift of life. Thank you, loving Father, for blessing me beyond imagination. I’m looking forward to writing that book.

*March 25, 2020 – 25,188 – 6,678*

The Covid 19 Pandemic has swept the world the past two weeks—shutting down our nation like I’ve never seen in my lifetime. Today, Governor Inslee ordered all Washingtonians to hunker down at home (except or necessary trips to store, doctor etc.) indefinitely to try to flatten the curve” of the virus’ spread. President Trump and his crack team are going a great job of marshalling a medical response and an economic stimulus to keep the nation afloat.

My latest two blogs give my deepest thoughts on the Covid 19 Pandemic.

### *Finding God’s Peace During Covid 19*

I shared a message on Sunday to a reduced church audience due to the corona virus. After cancelling communion the previous week for the first time in 132 years, we served it in latex gloves with great care.

Yesterday our state closed churches and restaurants so this Sunday we'll be going digital (like many others). Later, President Trump urged groups of ten or less. Some nations are in complete lock down. Numbers of the infected and measures to combat the illness change daily-- as you well know.

But let not your heart be troubled (John 14:1).

You can find God's peace during Covid 19.

None of us likes disruptions. The panic of the coronavirus the past few weeks has been very unsettling. The pandemic's ramifications change daily, upsetting financial markets, closing public gatherings, schools and universities, church activities, impacting people's jobs, and many details of our individual lives.

These days require great wisdom in three areas.

### KEEP PERSPECTIVE

Seeing the big picture always helps us understand where we are. Unless we are beginning the Last Days (which I doubt, but only God knows), then our current malady will pass as many have before.

In fact, life in a fallen world has *always* included major disruptions and trials--far more numerous than the seasons of peace.

Some of us are young and haven't experienced panics before. Others have forgotten that the past one hundred years saw major "disruptions" nearly every decade. They usually came upon us through disease, war, or economic problems.

- 1914-18 - The Spanish flu, the last major global pandemic, caused 50 million deaths worldwide (before the age of vaccines) with 670,000 people dying in the United States. Much of the disease was spread in the "trenches" of World War I--which cost another 40 million lives.
- 1929-39 - The Great Depression disrupted life for millions of people and brought the American economy to its knees. My wife's grandpa left Kansas during that time (where he was making \$1 a day) to find a job out west. Many families suffered during this time of great anxiety.
- The 1940's brought World War II upon humanity--bringing many hardships to families, the economy--and 75 million people dead in Europe and Asia.
- 1950's & 60's - The Korean and Vietnam wars served as hot-spots during the rise of global communism. Americans felt only the "Cold War" effect. But globally, some 80 million people may have lost their lives (half in China under Mao Zedong).
- 1968 saw an outbreak of the Hong Kong flu. One million people worldwide died including 100,000 in the United States.

- The 1980's saw the AIDS epidemic sweep the world. AIDS is a behavioral disease, so not all people were threatened. Still, 32 million people died.
- 2001 - Most of us remember the great disruption of 911 and how it changed us. Global Muslim terrorism since then has killed 110,000 people--mostly other Muslims in the Middle East.
- 2009 - Many forget that the H1Ni virus--more commonly known as the "Swine Flu,"--erupted just a decade ago claiming 575,000 lives worldwide and 12,000 in the U.S.

That's just the past hundred years. Multiply that by 6,000 years of human history, no modern medicine, and many warring nations and one can only conclude that tribulations are a "normal" part of life.

Also remember that about 150,000 people's lives are disrupted by natural death *every day*.

So, for perspective, right now there are 194,727 confirmed cases of the corona virus worldwide resulting in 7,896 deaths (March 17, 2020). The CDC reports 5,723 infections in the USA with 97 deaths.

Those numbers will rise. But right now, they're very small compared to past disruptions.

#### CHOOSE YOUR SOURCES OF INFORMATION CAREFULLY

Germs don't have intentions. They've been with us since the Fall and will remain until God creates a new heaven and new earth--germ and disease-free (Revelation 21:1-3).

But moral agents do have purposes during events--and there's a lot of "cross-fire" right now between them.

First, always remember that *invisible demonic forces exist* to frighten and destroy human beings (Ephesians 6:12-13). You hear their "echo" in various politician's pronouncements and much media hype (especially social media).

Reject the voices of fear and death.

Second, *select your media sources carefully* because they make money and gets clicks for sensationalizing the news. Some of them want America to be cut down to size. Others desire our current Administration to fail--with the corona virus providing the latest "crisis too good to waste."

I am staying away from cable news right now, listening to one reputable podcast daily and few other on-line reads.

Third, *choose wisely which political leaders you believe*. Though the media is primarily leading the panic, certain politicians have closed some businesses prematurely in fear--probably deepening the coming recession.

This wasn't done during the Swine flu epidemic just a decade ago when 12,000 Americans died.

Why are they doing this? Because of agendas. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio wants America to nationalize certain industries (go communist). Bernie Sanders wants the government to take over health care (same). Others believe this is a good "trial run" for bringing authoritarian government to our nation and eventually the world (one world government).

I believe the Trump-Pence Team is striking the right balance. They certainly saved America from the fate of Italy and Spain by banning travel from Asia in January. Some closures may be too severe and economically costly, but they are sincerely attempting to knock out the virus in 15 days (its shelf life for infected humans) so that calm can return over the next few months. The lack of test kits falls squarely on the CDC. Private business is ramping up to fill the void.

Thank God they're praying in the White House and President Trump called for a special National Day of Prayer this past Sunday.

That's the final wise key to navigating the future.

#### WALK IN GOD'S PEACE

I told our congregation last Sunday that this epidemic went global due to a failure of the Communist Chinese government to practice "confession"--a key to human freedom (being the main conduit of repentance). By not quickly owning up about the virus, not confessing its need to the world, and covering up the problem to try to save face--we now suffer a global pandemic.

Pride kills--both individually and corporately (Isaiah 14:12-21).

Peace is ultimately not the maintenance of the status quo or a set of good feelings. It's a permanent characteristic of the Being of God--with Jesus Christ reigning as the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

You experience true peace to the degree that you walk with God--in repentance and faith (Psalm 23). If you're not sure of that relationship with Him, take the extra time that closures have given to pray in your home, take a long walk, ask his forgiveness for your sins, and commit your life and family into his secure arms.

Hard times don't last but your walk with God will (1 John 2:17).

Greg Laurie encourages us:

"Maybe you grew up in church and walked away from your faith or maybe you have never considered God at all. Right now, is the time to do it. Jesus died on a cross 2,000 years ago for you and me to give us hope and life not only for now but for eternity. If we turn to Him, we can confidently replace fear with faith."

And peace.

Then go to work to help others.

Kay Cole James reminded us this week of the extremely wise British World War II motto: *Stay Calm and Carry On*.

With perspective, discernment and God's peace, we will certainly conquer Covid 19. Guaranteed.

### *The Quiet Revival*

From the 1790's to the 1850's, camp-meeting revivals sprang up in Kentucky, Tennessee and other places in the newly formed United States of America. These gatherings brought thousands of people together to pray, worship, and hear passionate sermons--often delivered by itinerant pastors atop tree stumps.

What historians would later call the "[Second Great Awakening](#)" saw [great demonstrations of emotion and religious fervor](#) as thousands co-mingled in the teeming fields of faith. My home church (the Restoration Movement) which was born during those days.

That revival was loud and demonstrable.

Today, another spiritual renewal is visiting America and the world--because of a virus. It's different than the camp-meeting variety.

Let's call it the Quiet Revival.

During Colonial Days, people experienced daily the ravages of disease and other disruptions of normal life. Some years over ten percent of the population of Philadelphia died of yellow fever. Indian wars, Revolutionary War mayhem, and a lack of modern medicine made life precarious and fleeting.

Then God used boisterous and crowded camp-meetings to stoke faith of the American people, encourage social reforms (including abolishing slavery) and focused the people heaven-ward toward the ultimate triumph of the Kingdom of God. That was then.

This is now.

God can awaken individual people and nations in multitudes of ways. He's not limited to crowds, stumps, jumbotrons or stadiums. He uses many creative methods to get our attention and draw us to Him. In early America God used loud sermons and crowds of people pressing in on one another to accomplish his purposes. In 2020, is God using the global pandemic of the Covid 19 to speak to people in the privacy of their own homes?

I will not ponder the "whys" of the pandemic here. Nor whether God causes or simply allows natural disasters to get our attention. That's next week's subject. Today let's examine how God is using *quiet and quarantine* to teach the peoples of the world some important truths.

Here are some aspects of the Quiet Revival.

### *Sabbath*

Last night, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee gave an indefinite "stay home order" to all Washingtonians (except movement for essential needs). This follows the edicts of governors in California, New York, New Jersey and other states trying to slow down the spread of the virus.

Hunkering down is unusual and creates hardship for many families—both in scheduling and economically. But it produces a Sabbath-rest from our workaholic lives--a commandment that the Western World has neglected for at least two generations.

We pride ourselves on 24/7 work weeks and numerous cities that boast that they "Never Sleep." Maybe we need to learn "sabbath" again--for our own good. In fact, maybe 2020 is our "Year of Jubilee" from the rat-race of busyness.

### *Entertainment*

It's interesting that the first major closures brought on by the Covid 19 pandemic came from the NBA, Major League Baseball and other sporting events. I love sports. I was an avid athlete in my early years. But I also allowed it to become a god in my life which took too much of my time and attention.

Now movie theaters have closed, and Hollywood's line-up of blockbusters stands threatened. Yes, we can still watch shows at home and on our devices. But we can do better than that.

I have felt for many years that entertainment, sex, and money stand out as the Western World's biggest idols (see 1 John 2:15-17). All three are tottering during the pandemic. We must change our idolatrous ways and emerge from this crisis with better practices in our lives.

### *The Church*

Houses of Worship shuttered for the first-time last Sunday and Easter services may be in jeopardy. But the Church of Jesus Christ--the people of God--got creative and used technology to beam the Good News of Jesus Christ around the world. My home church streamed Sunday services for the first time---and more people watched than normally attend Sunday services (four times as many views).

While taverns and bars often serve as a secular version of fellowship and "communion," *they* didn't "stream" this week--just the people of faith. Let's continue to use world events to share koinonia together along with the life-changing message of Jesus Christ.

### *Thoughts and Prayers*

Hunkering down world-wide has forced billions of people to do more thinking, reading, talking and praying to God. I have greatly used my prayer walks during this time to intercede for the afflicted and ask God to give wisdom to our leaders. Everywhere you look, you see a slowed-down society taking walks, enjoying God's creation and conversing with each other (six feet apart). Global trauma is bringing a renewal of meditation--a key to spiritual growth.

If opposites attract, then these are special days with God. Social isolation is attracting spiritual intimacy with the Creator of the universe. At every store I frequent, most people want to talk about God. As I was buying chicken tenders for our family last night, the girl at the counter expressed a desire to renew her relationship with Him. Spiritual gain often grows through physical and psychological pain. Share your faith during this season--in thought, word, and prayer.

### *Family*

The schools are shuttered, and kids remain at home with their parents--a hardship for many two-income families. But as Dr. Lindsey M. Burke puts it, ["We Are All Homeschoolers Now."](#) God is using the pandemic to bring fathers and sons and mothers and daughters together in ways unimaginable just one month ago. Yes, it's hard (I heard a radio broadcast yesterday of whining parents), but it's an important time of renewal for the nuclear family.

Shirley and I home-schooled our six children for thirty years. We see it as the greatest season of our lives. In 2020, circumstances have forced it on many parents "for their good" (and their children). Parents--don't let this priceless "blessing in a crisis" go to waste.

## *Love*

Trials reveal who we really are. They either make us bitter (bad character) or better--revealing good character that reaches out to help others.

Many leaders such as Governor Tate Reeves of Mississippi and Pastor Hernan Castano in Houston Texas are encouraging their people to pray for those around them and reach out in love in their local communities. An explosion of compassion is taking place everywhere with professional athletes paying the salaries of idle stadium workers and people sharing toilet paper and foodstuffs with worried neighbors.

Pastor Bryan Montgomery of Danville, Kentucky is changing the way his congregation reaches out to the local community. "Our country is at its best when we are serving others," he told a local reporter. "The church is going to have to adapt, but as much struggle as it may be, all of that hard work will eventually pay off. Pastors are going to thrive as they serve their cities during this crisis."

They will know we are followers of Jesus by our loving actions.

University of Texas professor Rodney Stark says that until about 3000 years ago, in a slower, less populated world without noisy machines and sleepless cities, one phenomena dominated human life:

"Everybody heard from God."

Maybe the Covid 19 pandemic is quieting us to listen more carefully.

*"In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength" (Isaiah 30:15)*

*April 7, 2020 – 25,201 – 6,665*

Much of the WORLD is now on lockdown due to the Covid 19 Pandemic with over 1 million people affected 82,000 deaths. The quarantine began when I was beginning my spring break from teaching at FIU, and I used those weeks to:

- Launch a new Prayer Room at FCC that I now use most days, and
- Finish the organizing of my library so that books can be loaned out to others.

I enjoyed using this time productively. It also allowed me to “get out of the house” a little while most people had to stay put.

The Spring Quarter has now begun with 34 students and the record 18 classes that I am involved in. Thank God the university was prepared to move everybody on-line. Made it much

easier than most businesses and certainly lower level schools. We found out today that school will be canceled for the remainder of this year in the state of Washington.

Sobering times—but God is at work. I find myself praying more, singing more and wanting to be God’s instrument during this amazing time in history.

Here is my latest blog on the coronavirus scourge that might bring some hope.

### *The Plague Psalm and Easter Hope*

There have been many plagues during the past seven thousand years of recorded history. The Bible mentions them nearly 100 times and their effect upon both individuals and nations (e.g. Deuteronomy 28:59, Hosea 13:14, and Revelation 16:9, 18:4).

One person even wrote a song about it (Psalm 91).

More songs have been written about Jesus Christ and his resurrection than any other subject in history. This Sunday billions of people will celebrate His victory over death--even while a plague stalks the planet.

Here's some encouragement from the Plague Psalm and Easter hope.

Let’s set the stage with some Covid 19 perspective.

The current pandemic is unique to history because air travel allows a deadly virus to infect major portions of the planet quickly--in hours and days--as passengers travel internationally. It's estimated that [430,000 people traveled from China into the U.S.](#) after the virus surfaced before President Trump imposed travel restrictions January 31.

That's a lot of highly contagious germs to infect 330 million residents (we have the third largest national population after China and India).

Our global news cycle also increases the panic and hysteria over the disease. It's a helpful tool for preventative measures and information but an ominous cause for fear and possible manipulation of the masses. (Sometimes ignorance *is* bliss.)

During the recent lock-down, I have found myself listening to uplifting music and singing more than usual to strengthen my spirit while doing spiritual warfare in the heavenly realms where demonic forces use events on earth for their evil purposes.

We must not let the demons paralyze us--but conquer their temptations with greater expressions of prayer and praise.

Yes, we should exercise strict self-government with proper hygiene, social distancing (a term I'd never heard of until recently), and other preventive measures.

Federal, state and local governments are using their power to keep people safe and help with the economic fall-out of job loss and shrinking stock portfolios.

The private sector is unleashing new medicines, re-directing factories to provide medical equipment and supplies, and will eventually create a vaccine to stop this disease in its tracks.

But nothing beats the human rush for solutions more than personal protection from God.

I've been reading the Bible from cover-to-cover annually since 1972. Each year I choose a different translation to appreciate different phrases and nuances of God's revelation. This year I'm doing my daily devotions in Eugene Peterson's *The Message*.

Psalms 91 has become a favorite during this time of isolation. Please meditate on its riches below and then allow me a little commentary.

There are important reasons why the Psalms (Songs) is the biggest book in the Bible and placed right in the dead center of it.

We *need* to worship and sing--to keep our eyes on God.

### *Psalms 91*

- 1 - "You who sit down in the High God's presence, spend the night in Shaddai's shadow,
- 2 - Say this: 'God, you're my refuge. I trust in you and I'm safe!'
- 3 - That's right—he rescues you from hidden traps, shields you from deadly hazards (pestilence).
- 4 - His huge outstretched arms protect you—under them you're perfectly safe; his arms fend off all harm.
- 5 - Fear nothing—not wild wolves in the night, not flying arrows in the day,
- 6 - not disease that prowls through the darkness, not disaster (plague) that erupts at high noon.
- 7 - Even though others succumb all around, drop like flies right and left, no harm will even graze you.
- 8 - You'll stand untouched, watch it all from a distance, watch the wicked turn into corpses.
- 9 - Yes, because God's your refuge, the High God your very own home,
- 10 - Evil can't get close to you, harm can't get through the door.
- 11 - He ordered his angels to guard you wherever you go.
- 12 - If you stumble, they'll catch you; their job is to keep you from falling.

13 - You'll walk unharmed among lions and snakes and pick young lions and serpents from the path.

14. "'If you'll hold on to me for dear life,' says God, 'I'll get you out of any trouble. I'll give you the best of care if you'll only get to know and trust me.'

15 - Call me and I'll answer, be at your side in bad times; I'll rescue you, then throw you a party.

16 - I'll give you a long life, give you a long drink of salvation!'"

Verse 1 tells us to "shelter in God's presence" and "rest in the shadow of the Almighty" (El Shaddai). Are you practicing His presence during the quarantine? Are your walks and talks filled with a sense of His serenity and protection--the ultimate source of peace?

Verses 3-6 mention the array of problems we face on our hostile planet. They include accidents, pestilence (bugs), war, and disease (plagues). We face them all from time to time.

I've raised chickens for over twenty years (partly to be ready for hard times) and love to watch the doting and protective hens. Verse 4 tells us that God is our Mother Hen--and we're safe under his wings. Are you cozy in his care or wandering outside His will where there's danger?

Verses 5-10 explain that we should never be afraid--that God will powerfully protect us. Always? Will no believers die from the coronavirus?

No, they will. This is a *general* truth--not an absolute. It's much like the book of Proverbs which contrasts the blessings of righteous (faithful) people with that of bad folks. In general, living a godly life will bring blessings, honor and life--but not always. In the same way, trusting God during difficult seasons--praying to him and resting in his care--will generally bring extra grace and power to your life.

God-centered living might even bring some miracles--through guardian angels. They weren't made up by Disney or Hallmark. Psalm 91 tells us that God uses angels to protect us from harm--probably numerous times in our lives.

What a comfort.

In Dr. Corinthia Boone's autobiography that I ghost-wrote this summer, she shares a remarkable childhood story:

*"When I was ten...I hopped on my bike for a ride. After circling the yard, I decided to cross the highway. I did not look carefully."*

*"Suddenly, my bike soared into the air while I held on for dear life! I saw the shadow of a car beneath me. In a split second I landed safely on the other side of the road. I froze where I was, looked around and saw my parents and neighbors staring at me in shock. They saw me ride right in front of the car and had expected me to crash."*

*"Instead, the Lord delivered me safely to the other side. I told my parents what I saw--that somehow, I was 'lifted' over the car. My parents were greatly relieved, but I got a good talking to about looking both ways before crossing the street."*

Mother Hen God and his "messengers" are always at work.

This wonderful psalm-song ends with God promising to keep us from trouble (verse 14) if "we get to know and trust him." We are to "call" (pray) and he will "answer" (verse 15). He will "rescue" us and even throw us a victory party.

That sure beats quarantine.

The keys are friendship with Him, singing his praises and knowing that eternal hope is found in a "salvation" relationship (verse 16) with Jesus Christ.

The writer of the Plague Psalm knew the true antidote for all maladies--*faith, hope and love* (1 Corinthians 13:13). This Easter we celebrate that Jesus Christ paid for our sins and became the first person to come back to life and never die again--thus proving his divinity.

You won't perish either and live in great hope if you believe in Him (John 3:16) and keep singing his praises.

Including the Plague Psalm.

*Hallelujah and Happy Easter.*

Jesus, I long to be obedient during this time of "shaking" in the world to lead others to you and champion your revival among the nations. For many years I thought that a global Depression would lead to global revival. But it appears that you are using a global disease—and a voluntary shut-down of commerce—to bring the same result.

I am listening and praying, dear Jesus. Help me to be a faithful voice for You.

*April 10, 2020 – 25,204 – 6,662*

**This will be the first time in 52 years that I will not enjoy Easter with the normal masses in church—thanks to the pandemic. But God is on the move—and the Church was never a building anyway.**

Today I did the Crosswalk by myself from First Lutheran down to Marina Park. I held a small wooden cross in my hand and prayed all the way. Mom Boehme joined me at Westbay and we did the final leg together. Special mother-son time.

Despite the world being “shut-down” due to the corona virus, this weekend might be the greatest evangelistic harvest in the history of the world—all by Internet and television. God is opening hungry hearts all over the globe and many leaders are stepping into that void.

Christ is the reason. And may millions be saved this year—despite the present plague.

*May 4, 2020 – 25,228 – 6,638*

I spoke at First Christian on Sunday to our virtual congregation on “The Great Disruption”—Shaking and Awakening. Being filmed is not new but being in my home church pulpit with no crowd was certainly sobering and different. But God blessed the word, and many told me later they were blessed and enlightened by it (I spoke out of Hebrews 11: 14-29 and Haggai 2:4-9).

The Covid-19 Pandemic continues with many good governors beginning to open their states to both business and faith and others, like ours (Gov. Jay Inslee) using “safety concerns” and “Public health” to do a slow re-boot and continue to control the people. For the first time in my lifetime, there is a growing wave of nation-wide protest (civil disobedience) to the over-reach of our leaders and I am fully supportive of it.

I spoke to our Sheriff today—my friend Gary Simpson—and he is torn over the issue—believes he can’t pick and choose what laws to enforce (at least publicly) but that he will take a hands on approach to churches that want to open up in our state before being given permission in Olympia.

Soft tyranny is growing and so must be our response to it.

I was meditating this morning on both Samuel and Jeremiah and wondering whether my life (and lifetime) will be more closely mirror one or the other. Both saw revivals in their early years and judgment in their late years. But Samuel’s was followed by the Davidic revival while Jeremiah’s was more of a terminal judgment from God.

Which will my lifetime see? Lord--I want to prepare my heart for both and be faithful to your Word and Kingdom purposes.

I also had an interesting and encouraging phone call this week from a long-lost friend—Fred Markert, YWAM visionary extraordinaire with whom I was teamed on the Revive America Tour. Fred is a leading strategic thinker in the world—now living in

Birmingham, Alabama. For many years God has been brewing a Revival Initiative in his heart for America—bigger than anyone I’ve ever heard encompassing the seven spheres of society. He called to ask me to be a part of his leadership team.

The most interesting part of the conversation was Fred telling me there is a “Christian Illuminati” in the United States—made up of billionaires and multi-millionaires—who have a secret name and really desire to be used of God to bring a desperately needed transformation to American society. Fred swore me to secrecy about their name, so I won’t write it down here. (It relates to David and his few years away from Israel before becoming king.)

This group meets regularly and wants Fred to help lead a Revival Initiative in America that could turn the tide in our nation. I read the proposal today, prayed about it, and he and I spoke again this evening.

*I’m in*—in any way God desires.

I’ve always been “in” anything that could bring revival to the United States of America. Stay tuned.

*June 4, 2020 – 25,253 – 6,613*

On the heels of the Covid-lockdown, a black man named George Floyd was carelessly and maliciously killed by a police officer in Minneapolis a few weeks ago—igniting the biggest riots I’ve ever seen in the United States in my lifetime.

Peaceful protesters have been a blessing in many cities, but they have been co-opted by different groups bent on destroying our nation. It’s like a one-two sucker punch in the *culture war* for America’s future.

I’ve rarely been so concerned about our nation yet am crying out to God in daily walks and personal prayer times. Here’s the most recent article I wrote on the riots.

#### *A Satanic Pentecost: Why America is Burning*

I wrote on the War for Western Civilization last week not knowing the next battle for America would soon erupt.

On May 31, we celebrated Pentecost Sunday--the day the Early Church was born. Some powerful spiritual events took place last weekend including [GO Day](#), [Make Jesus Known](#), the [Praise Walk](#) (March for Jesus), and the [Unite 714 prayer day](#)--all meant to empower God's people.

On the same weekend, the satanic world empowered their forces to wreak havoc and destruction in dozens of U.S. cities.

A Satanic Pentecost.

Why is America burning?

You can't form a battle plan for prayer or practical involvement until you properly identify the landscape and opponent you face. Today I'd like to analyze who is responsible for the present rioting in American cities. A satanic Pentecost has been launched—fires of hate instead of tongues of Good News-- that we must understand and resist.

Here how I view the battlefield.

### *Satanic agitation*

We must never forget that Satan and his invisible demons tempt and manipulate human beings on earth. Satan is the father of lies and the original source of violence and murder (John 8:44). Whenever you see deception and anarchy, you know that diabolical spiritual forces are inciting the mayhem.

I wish "the evening news" acknowledged this truth. Demons are motivating and stirring up people to do carnage. We must *bind* them in Jesus' Name as our first course of action.

### *A despicable police-mistake.*

George Floyd, who was being arrested for forgery, died May 25 after Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin knelt for minutes on his neck during an arrest. Floyd's last agonizing words were that he couldn't breathe. Three officers witnessed Chauvin's actions but did nothing to stop him.

Chauvin [was charged](#) Friday with third-degree murder, and bail was set at \$500,000. All four officers were fired from the Minneapolis Police Department. Chauvin's charge could go higher. He committed a careless and despicable act by taking Floyd's life. That's one point on which every American can agree.

Floyd's death lit a match of racial hatred against "systemic injustice." But is it warranted?

There are nearly 800,000 police in the USA. Most attempt to do their jobs well and over 99% of Americans do not commit crimes (16 million crimes - 2018 - .2% of population of 325 million). In 2019, 320 whites, 238 African Americans, and 159 Hispanics were killed by police during a crime incident.

Black deaths by police are not systemic--and most police protect the public.

In the case of George Floyd, a rogue cop (with eighteen citations) committed a deplorable act. Justice should be swift and harsh.

*Anarchists producing looting and destruction.*

There is no excuse for the violence and looting now raging in America. George Floyd's death is being flaunted as a tool for anarchy by those who hate this nation.

Dr. Martin Luther King would be heartened by the *peaceful* protests taking place. They are necessary in a republic of laws not people. But he would be deeply grieved over the violent and senseless destruction of property. Godly protest never commits crimes.

Two evil forces have tarnished the peaceful protests. Using social media to find soft targets, leftist militants like Antifa and paid anarchists have used Floyd's death as an opportunity to burn and loot the cities. They should be arrested and judged just like Derek Chauvin.

Attorney General Bill Barr weighed in on the escalating violence: "Unfortunately with the rioting that is occurring in many of our cities around the country, the voices of peaceful protests are being hijacked by violent radical elements. Groups of outside radical agitators are exploiting the situation to pursue their own separate and violent agenda,"

Fanning the flames of violence or racism is despicable too.

*Political leadership unwilling to bring law and order (justice).*

Racism isn't the issue. A crime is a crime. It doesn't matter what color a person is or who perpetrated it. Justice *must* be blind.

Now that cities burn primarily in Democrat-run principalities and states, we are witnessing progressive mayors and governors' impotence to use the police and the National Guard to restore order. Their own policies of being soft on crime are coming back to haunt them. In many cities, politicians are "letting" the anarchists destroy people's livelihoods.

That's insane. Vote for officials who believe in evil and will protect you from it.

*Failure to renew the African American family.*

The "elephant in the room" behind the African American violence has been the destruction of the black family since the 1950's. With 70% of African American children now born out of wedlock, many absent fathers, poor schools, a plethora of inner-city gangs and too many welfare incentives, a large portion of the African American population stands mired in anger and hopelessness.

Many other American families are not far behind in the 21st century.

Four things can help transform African American lives: 1) Faith in God, 2) Choice in education and graduating high school, 3) Having children within marriage, and 4) Ridding the cities of gangs and filling them with opportunities.

*Complicit media outlets and celebrities who promote America's demise.*

I am sickened by news broadcasters who legitimize anarchy by calling them “protesters” and by celebrities like Colin Kaepernick encouraging more violence. They cheerlead evil and should be denounced by all peaceful protesters and law-abiding citizens.

*Ginning up the progressive base to defeat President Trump in November.*

This assault on the cities is the latest attempt by demonic/human forces to destroy America and Western Civilization by defeating Donald Trump in November. They failed via the Russia Collusion hoax and the Mueller investigation which will be exposed this summer in the Durham Report. Impeachment also tanked, along with some Blue State governors’ exploitation of the coronavirus pandemic (lock downs).

Thus, an anarchist *hissy fit* was ordered to not let a "crisis go to waste." To bring down America and the West, a weak globalist leader is needed occupy the White House.

Donald Trump must be removed.

Two quotes and a Scripture come to mind as I ponder the Summer of 2020 cultural battle. James Madison explained in 1778 the secret of American liberty:

*"We have staked the whole future of our new nation, not upon the power of government; far from it. We have staked the future of all our political constitutions upon the capacity of each of ourselves to govern ourselves according to the moral principles of the Ten Commandments of God."*

A society must operate by self-government (control) out of love and respect for God or it will descend into anarchy or a police state. Those are the three choices.

America stands at a crossroads.

Samuel Adams warned in 1775:

*"While the people are virtuous, they cannot be subdued; but when once they lose their virtue then will be ready to surrender their liberties to the first external or internal invader." ... If virtue and knowledge are diffused among the people, they will never be enslaved. This will be their great security."*

Does America have enough personal and public virtue to weather this storm?

We will soon find out.

A final prophetic word comes from Isaiah 24:4-6 where I will substitute the word “cities” for “earth” to bring it home:

*"The [cities] dry up and wither, the [cities] languish and wither, the heavens languish with the earth. The [cities] are defiled by its people for they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore, a curse consumes the earth and its people must bear their guilt."*

It's time to repent, pray, stop evil, reconcile and pour the light of Jesus into our traumatized nation.

We must extinguish the satanic Pentecost--or die as a nation.

Lord Jesus—please guide us through this dark hour with your hand of protection, pull to repentance, and faith in the breakthroughs you want to bring to the world—even in judgment. Help me to be faithful to pray and to speak into the situation as you guide me. Our eyes are set on You.

*June 12, 2020 – 25,265 – 6,601*

We made it back to Sunday services on June 7 after over two months away. What a unique period in history. We scattered benches around the sanctuary—six feet apart and had plenty of hand-sanitizer everywhere. We also went to two services—about fifty in each—and I used the time to pray in the Prayer Room. God. Bring us back!

I also rejoined the eldership at FCC after a multi-year absence. I believe God wants me back in this role to help navigate the uncertain future in front of us—either the beginning of End Times, the start of a major decline, or the rebirth of revival. I am praying for the latter.

In America, the destruction continues in a way not seen in my lifetime. This week radicals took over six blocks in Seattle as the mayor and police stood down and fled. They are calling it their own little country called CHAZ (Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone). It's amazing how the police are being vilified and politicians cower and are sympathetic to the destroyers.

God nudged me to go get two dozen donuts and twenty coffees from Coffee O and take them up to the police station. I walked it in and thanked all our first responders for what they do for us. It was a small gesture, but thankfully received.

And one of my students who's an African American YWAMer is Kona flew to Minneapolis this past weekend to preach with Circuit Riders on the very spot where George Floyd died. Hundreds gathered, people got saved and healed, and a few were baptized—right there!

Thank you, Jesus, for your grace during these difficult days. The following blog contained a photo of the street gathering in Minneapolis. Below are my heart thoughts on what needs to happen in America during the Summer of 2020.

*Every Knee Will Bow*

The Second Civil War continues in America.

Here are some facts on which most people agree.

The police brutality murder of George Floyd spawned peaceful protests for justice that were hijacked by anarchists and looters who desire power, not peace. The one-two punch of the Covid-19 lock downs coupled with the Satanic Pentecost has left America fearful, poorer and on edge.

One positive trend has emerged from the chaos.

*Kneeling.*

I submit that one form will bring revival and hope. The other, revolution and despair. Here's the most sobering part:

Every knee will bow.

I dedicate this blog to the "justice generation" whom I've served in Youth With A Mission for forty-six years and at Faith International University.

[Bill O'Reilly says that](#), "True social justice is fairness. The use of power in order to treat everyone equally in the public arena. That means creating all access opportunities. It does not mean overlooking destructive behavior or a guarantee of life success. You have to work for that."

The current turmoil reminds me of the 60's and 70's when long hairs tried to stop the Vietnam War and mainstream drugs and free sex. I joined another group of hippies known as the "Jesus Revolution." We wanted change too--but with God's view of justice.

None of us ever gets that perfectly right, but some get closer.

Another group of long hairs (with wigs) lived in the latter part of the 18th century. They pursued social justice by bloodshed, looting, and forcibly toppling the government. Google the French Revolution (1789-1799) and you can read all about it.

It was ugly.

The French social justice mob became the political parents of the Nazis and communists. They made people *take a knee* and then shot them in the head.

Other 18th century patriots dropped to their knees in America from 1734 to the 1770's. We call it the "Great Awakening." Their form of kneeling involved prayer and personal repentance. The movement began with a sermon by Jonathan Edwards in Northampton, Massachusetts in December 1734 which served as a primer on American social justice. It was called "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God."

Don't be offended by the title. God hates sin more than you hate sex trafficking and racial oppression.

That generation eventually threw a "Tea Party" in Boston Harbor after years of restraint, appeals to justice, and enduring the invasion of an occupying army. They defeated the British in the American Revolution--which became the political fruit of bowing their knees to God.

They said, "We have only one King--Jesus." That passion and bravery gave birth to the USA--the first nation in history (besides ancient Israel) founded on biblical principles of liberty and justice.

It wasn't perfect. Slavery had been a normal part of human culture for thousands of years. I know that's hard to believe today. Slavery originally began when poor people "sold" themselves to others because they couldn't provide for their families and no government programs existed. They became economic servants or slaves. They had no other choice.

Then, for thousands of years when one tribe conquered another, the victors forced people to serve them. This was the unjust form of slavery that became normal for millenniums. By the time of the Roman Empire, slaves composed 50% of the population.

Eventually the faith of the followers of Jesus changed things. They served the sick during numerous plagues. They became lion food for devilish sport. Over many centuries, their sacrificial love changed the Roman world as nearly half became followers of Christ.

Slavery nearly died out because they lived and taught that ["we are one in Christ Jesus."](#)

Muslim traders revived slavery during the Middle Ages. Corrupt, religious Europe followed suit to keep up economically with Islam. A Renaissance and Reformation brought renewal of human rights, but slavery was still the accepted norm.

Many of our founding fathers owned slaves because that's all they knew. Our Declaration of Independence thundered the truth of human equality, but it would take the first Civil War to end it in America.

Then, for nearly one hundred years, Americans' struggled to attain equality in society. It took the courageous actions of Dr. Martin Luther King in the 1960's to end racial segregation and lay the foundation for "equal justice under law."

Today, despite the current struggles, America remains the largest inter-racial nation in world history where a poor African American youth named Barack Obama could become president of the nation by popular vote--twice. Couldn't happen in China, Russia, or a European country.

But we have a long way to go.

Your justice quest in the 21st century must start by understanding that God is the standard of justice. He is perfectly righteous in all his ways (Deuteronomy 32:4).

You can't out "justice" God.

You must study His Word carefully to understand true right from wrong. Read Genesis through Deuteronomy with a special emphasis on Exodus and Leviticus. One of the greatest expressions of justice is the Ten Commandments found in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5. Disobeying any of them is unjust and hurts people--from God's point of view.

The Ten Commandments remain the foundation of Western Civilization--which is why we possess more freedom than other nations. Go to one of the fifty majority-Muslim nations in the world. Will you find liberty for most people? Will you see justice for women? Travel to China, North Korea, or even Venezuela. Will you find human rights a top priority?

No.

Back to America.

We still have a non-level playing field in portions of our country—especially inner cities. That's due to many reasons including the breakdown of the African American family, 70% of kids born outside marriage (no fault of government) and the poverty it brings. More African Americans fear cops because they commit a higher percentage of crimes (no fault of police).

Police shootings are rare and usually justified. There were nine unarmed blacks shot by police in 2019 (out of 44 million African Americans). Nineteen whites suffered the same fate.

George Floyd's was unjust—as were at least two of the white killings in 2019.

Yet, the greatest injustice in America in God's sight is the brutality of abortion--our largest form of murder. Since 1972, we have killed *65 million babies*—of which 20 million were African American.

That's *three thousand a day* for forty-eight years.

On the day that George Floyd was killed, 3000 kids-in-the-womb were butchered. And every day since.

That's insanely unjust.

People kill babies for the same reason they enslaved African Americans. Slavery was built on the "choice" (of slave owners) and the lie that African Americans weren't "fully human." We say the same today about children in the womb.

We were wrong then and are wrong now. Where's your protest of the greatest human holocaust in history? (One-to-two *billion* worldwide.)

Yes, it's time to kneel. [Colin Kaepernick](#) did it for revolution. The [Democratic leaders posed for cameras](#). And many [followers of Christ are doing it and bringing salvation to the streets](#).

In some ways it's more respectful to kneel than to stand. Others can protest and we can pray. They want revolution. We crave renewal.

This fall when NFL and soccer players go to their knees, I think we should join them. This is a practice run. One day we will [all appear before the God of justice](#) and answer for what we've thought, said and done. At that awesome moment, God will be just by judging *us* (justice and judgment are the same word in the Bible).

It's time to get ready for Judgment Day while seeking "liberty and justice" on earth.

Because one day, every knee will bow. And only the repentant will be forgiven.

(Please join the [Call2Fall on Sunday, June 28](#) to join thousands in kneeling before God for reconciliation and revival.)

*June 21, 2020 – 25,274 – 6,592*

It was a privilege to speak again today at First Christian on Father's Day. From the moment I received the assignment, God downloaded a message into my mind that I ended up calling "What I Learned from My Dad?" It was a touching word on his great influence in my life and I believe God spoke to many through it.

We then shared a wonderful family meal together around our table and celebrated both June birthdays as well as Father's Day.

Lord, I am so grateful to the father that you gave me and for the privilege of being a dad to my six children. My dad and I may have run into a "dead-end" legacy in this generation but thank you for being faithful to us and working in our lives. You are the great FATHER whom I love, respect and serve.

*July 12, 2020 – 25,295 – 6,571*

Washington State has gone back to requiring masks when you enter any business—so the conspiracy to take down America and the current president continues, bringing much angst to people.

After greeting folks at church today, the Lord led me to go down to Beach Drive—my favorite walking area with God—to think and talk with my Savior. It was a wonderful stroll together. He led me to read the book of 1 Timothy and especially focus on chapter six which talks about the importance of pursuing “godliness with contentment” (1 Timothy 6:6).

For most of my life I’ve hotly pursued godliness—with a passion. In this older stage of life, I want to learn to be content in my role, circumstances, and the situation in the world. I must not lose my burden for revival but balance it with a willingness to be in the background and at peace with this stage of life.

Another way God put it to me was that during my early years, living out my first name of “Ronald” (Mighty Power) was natural and good. But in my latter years of life, better to focus on my middle name of “Paul” (Small, Humble). This also means being a cheerleader to others (the young) just like Paul was to Timothy. I will gladly accept this assignment from God with joy and practice it in my relationships.

While walking on the beach I picked up a large crab shell and put a smooth rock inside of it, symbolizing the “humility” of allowing God to work off the rough edges of my life.

I contently march forward with your encouraging words, Lord Jesus.

*August 12, 2020 – 25,326 – 6,540*

The summer of “testing” continues in the United States with the China virus pandemic still holding much of the nation hostage—especially churches—and “insurrectionists” continuing to loot and burn in major US (all Democrat-led) cities.

Seattle was the first major hotspot that I wrote about in a recent blog. Over the past few months, Portland has emerged as the BLM/Antifa hotspot with various types of riots and destruction taking place for almost ninety days.

I am calling it “double jeopardy”—an alliance between the young hooligan know-nothings and the compliant progressive leaders who refuse to stop them—and even want to defund the police.

A crazy nation turns its back on God.

I have also started my own “personal testing” this week as a few days ago, the former symptoms of my hurting throat began to appear once again. The bottom area of my mouth seems inflamed again and it is affecting my vocal cords to where they begin to “shut down” when I do too much talking.

This problem cleared up almost twenty years ago—but now for some reason, has returned. I do not know what to do but to put my trust in God.

In my quiet time this morning as I thought on “that which I dread has come upon me,” I was encourage out of Psalm 35:

*“Reassure me. Let me hear you say, ‘I’ll save you.’”*

*“But let me run loose and free, celebrating God’s great work. Every bone in my body laughing, singing, ‘God, there’s no one like you!’”*

*“God is great—everything works for the good of his servant. I’ll tell the world how great and good you are. I’ll shout Hallelujah all day, every day.”*

Father—please take this dark cloud from me and show me what to do. If I am through speaking without pain for the rest of my life, then I die to myself and accept your will. I have probably spoken more words for God in my life than most dream of—and for that I am grateful.

Once again I will “trust in the Lord with all my heart and not lean on my own understanding. In all my ways I will acknowledge you and know that you will direct my steps” (Proverbs 3:5,6).

*August 23, 2020 – 25,337 – 6,529*

In some ways this was one of the most stressful weeks of my life. Last weekend, Ken Morrison brought in his big machine and over two days, dug the four ditches we needed to re-do our curtain drain in the back yard and add some “emergency” septic field if needed in the future.

Because of the septic issue and the county’s non-flexibility (and great expense) in dealing with it, I tired to keep the project quiet and just get the work done for the good and blessing of my family.

But Gary Buckley—our old neighbor and nemesis—just happened to be on the street this week finalizing the sale of their home at the end of the cul-de-sac. A couple days into the project, he sent me a nasty email and threatened to call the county—which he did a day or two later.

“What I feared had fallen upon me” and it was a heavy load all week. Jason, Tristan and I worked very hard to get the project done, but on Thursday a person from the Health District showed up to address the “complaint.” Fortunately, the woman was nice, talked about the curtain

drain only, knew my Uncle Don and JD and left—simply saying we should document our work later.

The three of us then dug in and finished the massive project in one week. I have rarely worked so hard in my life and can't really do this type of hard physical labor any more at my age. But God gave grace, and by Saturday night, we had dug ditches, filled them with nearly eight yards of rocks and covered it all back up. Amazing! And God kept us safe from the attack of the enemy.

My heart was pure toward Gary all week and I wish him well—especially salvation. Fortunately, in just a few weeks, he will no longer be our neighbor for the rest of our lives. We are relieved about that. What great evil he has brought us over the last ten years.

Quite a test of perseverance, forgiveness and “keeping my heart pure” (Bill Bright).

I also found a new doctor this week named Dr Holtzclaw-Swan (he is my mom's physician). We talked about my throat and he believes the soreness is acid reflux related and started me on some stronger meds to knock it out. It is clearly getting better and that is also a blessing from God.

Twenty years ago, it must have been the combination of reflux and the nauseous cyst liquid that kept my throat sore for all those years. Now I simply hope I can manage the reflux to continue to use my voice for God.

Lord, thank you so much for your grace, physical strength, answers to prayer, and the home accomplishments this week. Everything matters to you—both the need for revival in our nation and the renewal of our septic system. Nothing is too big or small for you.

I enjoyed a wonderful two-hour quiet with you on Beach Drive this morning and thank you for the HOPE that you inspired in my heart. In my life, continue to be glorified.

*September 3, 2020 – 25,348 – 6,518*

A county representative came out today (more like a nice environmental cheerleader) and looked at our project and smiled on our diligence. Did not even ask many questions.

Great relief floods my soul. And by September 24, the Buckley hose will be sold and the worst neighbor and nemesis (really a betrayer) will be out of our lives for good. That's an even greater sense of relief.

I am grateful to you, Lord, for both leading this practical project and keeping my heart pure today Gary. He needs you and desperately and Your salvation. I hope and pray that He will find it.

September 18, 2020 – 25,363 – 6,503

The summer quarter ended this week and I am grateful for the thirty “disciples” I was able to train and pray for. I have now been teaching at Faith for seven years and grateful for the opportunity to pour my life into these wonderful students of all ages and ethnic backgrounds.

It has been a hard summer with Covid, the curtain drain project, and most recently massive fires on the west coast that have choked the air with smoke—worse than we have ever seen in our lifetime. I have felt the strain of these many events/circumstances but continued to pray and be a light for God in a this very difficult time.

My throat problem has also made me feel more vulnerable than usual—but *I am trusting God.*

It was nice to have Ryan with us for a few weeks. Megan and Nicole provided his airfare here and the rest of the family raised \$4000 among us to give him a “blessing” as he was the only one in the family to lose his job due to the virus. We are praying that this family love will deeply touch his life.

I will spend the next two weeks slowing down a bit, finishing the summer project, praying for the nation, and trying to get my voice back.

Lord Jesus—my eyes on You for the Big and the small that we face during this unusual and amazing days. Help me to persevere, be content, filled with hope, and looking to you for personal, family, church, and national renewal.

God of revival—come!

September 30, 2020 – 25,375 – 6,491

September 26 brought scores of thousands of people--maybe over 100,000--to our nation's capital to pray for America (a large crowd during the age of Covid). Our church hosted a simulcast of "The Return" and we enjoyed praying with the nation all throughout the day. Tens of millions of people joined the event on-line.

It brought back many memories.

On April 29, 1980, just six months prior to the Reagan Revolution, Shirley and I and the Renewal Team served as the local coordinating group for the first Washington for Jesus gathering that drew 700,000 people to the Washington Mall to pray for revival in America.

Six months prior to the event, we served two assignments: 1) Mobilize the churches from a 100-mile radius to bring their people to the twelve-hour prayer meeting, 2) Help with the logistics for the event (stage, hospitality, buying out the Metro, ferrying speakers etc.).

Washington for Jesus was the first of several special prayer days that have been called in the past forty years and built on a heritage of prayer in America.

On September 26, *two* different events brought the people of God to pray.

I wasn't able to be in D.C. this year (though many friends went), but we decided to livestream the event at First Christian Church—and Rich and I went together to the gathering to stand with our brethren in the nation's capital and pray to God for mercy.

**We prayed with the many thousands from 8 am to 3 pm.**

Jonathan Cahn, a Messianic Jew, and best-selling author led the vision for "The Return." In conjunction with many other leaders, mostly from the charismatic/Pentecostal side of the church, they erected a large stage in the center of the Washington Mall and drew thousands to pray from 9 am to 5 pm.

I found Rev. Cahn's prophetic words humble and powerful in calling America to return to God. Scores of spiritual leaders led worship from the podium and worship reverberated throughout the day. President Trump sent a special message of encouragement to those assembled and Dr. James Dobson's burdened insights stood out as a highlight of the gathering.

During the middle of the day, Franklin Graham of the Billy Graham Association led scores of thousands of believers in a prayer march that began at the Lincoln Memorial and ended at the Capitol building. Vice President Mike Pence spoke at that event--then everyone walked and prayed for two hours along the two-mile route.

It was interesting that primarily Pentecostal adults and parachurch ministries attended The Return while evangelical families and pastors joined the Prayer March 2020. Why the divide in this year's call to prayer?

1980 brought together the *entire* people of God--even to repent of our division from one another. Forty years later, we dispersed into two movements--both wonderful, but not unified.

Are we in greater danger in America in the 21st century because the devil and his forces stand more united, better funded, and thinking more long-term than today's generation of believers?

May God bring [John 17 unity](#) to the Church as we put our hope in God.

*October 10, 2020 – 25,385 – 6,481*

**Today is Shirley's and my 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we love each other a thousand times more than we did in 1976. Love is an amazing thing that grows for a lifetime.**

We went out to breakfast this morning (all we can do while we care for our moms) and reminisced about our wedding, friends, and the blessings of God we have enjoyed. Then I rented

a U-Haul van and hauled 1800 of my *Fourth Wave* books from Edmonds to Port Orchard. They will be sent to many YWAM students throughout the U.S.

God's work goes on with my beautiful wife by my side. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for my precious Shirley Jean.

*October 23, 2020 – 25,398 – 6,468*

**We continue to pray for the most important election of our lifetime.** I'm asking God for a miracle—and preparing for whatever He brings via His sovereignty. Will He “give us over” to our foolish desires or will He grant mercy and change many hearts to allow for revival?

My greatest struggle at this point is my throat—which continues to hurt. The test showed no serious abnormalities (cancer-cells or ulcers), but it's still not right and I don't know why. If it doesn't get better in the next few weeks, I may have to cancel some speaking assignments.

I know that “when I'm weak then I am strong” but that is a hard lesson to practice when it affects both that which you love and believe you are called o do.

So, Lord, I bow before you and ask you to lead me—to give me peace once again about the “thorn in my flesh.” I do trust you, love you, and even if I'm done speaking for a lifetime, will do everything else in my power to glorify You through my life. Thank you, Jesus.

*November 6, 2020 – 25,412 – 6,454*

The presidential election has come and gone—and still hangs in the balance between President Trump and Biden—with possible corruption taking place in various battleground states.

Here is what I wrote the morning after this momentous election which might direct America's future:

The U.S. presidential election turned out to be a long night. It reminded me of the emotional battle of recent Seattle Seahawks' games. I'm sure you felt the same if you love God and America as I do.

I want to encourage you today to do four things in the coming weeks:

*Watch, Pray, Fight and be filled with Hope.*

### **Watch, Pray and Fight--with Hope**

Our Ultimate Commander-in-Chief--King Jesus--told us to "occupy until I come" (Luke 19:13).

I watched the election results on Fox News for nearly seven hours. It looked discouraging as the early votes favored the Biden-Harris ticket (early voting favors Democrats). Then the pendulum

swung toward Trump-Pence as the president took the states of Florida and Ohio and appeared leading in others (election day turnout favors Republicans).

Then, out of nowhere, Fox News called Arizona for Joe Biden and other key states shut down and stopped counting. The Fox commentators filled the ensuing hours with speculation, chatter, laughing with one another with blurry eyes, and wondering what to do.

Then Joe Biden and his wife appeared at an outdoor venue near their home in Delaware to encourage his followers he had won, to keep the faith, and to "count every ballot." One commentator said Biden was trying to avoid the Gore mistake of 2000--to get out in front of a possible legal battle and appear the victor.

I found it strange and unusual that his running mate, radical progressive Senator Kamala Harris, was nowhere to be seen.

Hours later with the vote count stalled, President Trump and Melania and Mike and Karen Pence appeared before a gathering in the East Room of the White House. The combative president proclaimed *he* had won the election and that nefarious forces were trying to steal it. He gave a litany of vote statistics and invited the VP to say a few words.

After midnight I fell into bed and tossed and turned all night.

This morning, the most important election of our lifetime remains in limbo. Some tightening votes in Michigan and Wisconsin might indicate the race could go either way--and will be vigorously litigated. That's a good thing because if the president ultimately prevails, the lamp of liberty remains on in the United States of America.

If Joe Biden and the forces behind him win, then we are in for growing forms of tyranny and increasing danger.

Now is *not* the time to wring our hands and stand on the sidelines. Please join me in the following commitments.

## **WATCH**

We must pay close attention to what happens in the coming days or weeks so you can pray and actively do our part. Sources of information remain vital.

If you need a dose of optimism and encouragement, tune into the three-hour Rush Limbaugh program--at least as you drive around in your car. There is a reason Rush commands America's largest radio audience of twenty million people. He has a gift of "faith" and better understanding of politics than any person I know.

He's also battling 4th stage lung cancer and God is doing a good work in his life. He talks openly about his personal relationship with Jesus Christ, trusting God, and what a privilege it is to wake

up every morning and use his gifts. If you need a fighting-spirit dose of faith, then tune into Rush.

I also recommend you subscribe to the [Dick Morris Reports daily "Lunch Alerts"](#) (free of charge) that give helpful perspective on important issues. Dick and Rush are in sync right now about the battle for the White House. They will encourage you.

I have stopped watching television news (though I appreciate the spunk and clarity of Tucker Carlson and the tenacity of Sean Hannity). [Bill O'Reilly.com](#) remains my primary news source. O'Reilly gives forty minutes of simple, clear perspective on the cultural civil war we face--from a traditional (Catholic) perspective. He achieved number one status on Fox News for fifteen years for his wisdom, fairness, and balance. His exploding podcast is worth the \$50 yearly fee. He says [tonight](#) may be his most important broadcast ever.

It was Jesus who told us to *watch* (Mark 13:35-37). Keep your eyes open (and informed).

## **PRAY**

Many powerful prayer thrusts prior to the 2020 elections ascended before the throne of God. He heard, He answered and poured out his favor upon us.

God led Franklin Graham to launch a prayer march for American awakening; He commissioned Jonathan Cahn to organize The Return and draw thousands to D.C. for a solemn assembly. The past two days, Lance Wallnau led a two-day prayer event in the nation's capital while others launched a 48-hour Bible Reading Marathon--to speak God's words over the nation.

Yesterday morning I participated in a sixteen-hour continuous prayer call of various Christian leaders that greatly encouraged me. There are countless other nation-wide and global prayer initiatives taking place right now because God is calling his people to pray--for America, the world, the fulfillment of the Great Commission, and God's Kingdom purposes on earth.

Yesterday, I stretched out my prayer time before God. When the election results deadlocked and came to a standstill last evening, God spoke to me that we must go deeper to prevail in prayer.

Commit to "pray through" during these tumultuous days. "The effective passionate prayers of godly people can accomplish much" (James 5:16).

## **FIGHT**

It is utterly amazing how Donald Trump beat all expectations in this election, especially when you consider:

- Four years of lies about Russian collusion trying to negate his first election to the presidency.
- 93% negative media coverage by the mainstream press.
- Fighting daily the [New American Axis of Evil](#) (the media, Democratic Party and the DC Swamp).
- Many Democrats using the Covid pandemic to shut down the American economy.

For all his faults, Donald Trump is a fighter--the right man for the hour. Besides being a 21<sup>st</sup> century "Cyrus," I view him like Samson--a strongman who indulged in lustful passion in younger years.

But *he* was chosen by God to defeat the Philistines. Nobody else could do it.

Many of us believe Donald J. Trump was raised up "for a time such as this" (Esther 4:14). God has placed the freedom and future of the Western World on his shoulders because he can handle it.

President Trump is uniquely prepared to fight--not for every ballot to be counted--but for every *legal vote to be validated*. He believes he legitimately won the election with a herculean effort in the final weeks. He drew crowds never seen before in American politics--during a pandemic.

Let's join his fight for truth to prevail.

## **HOPE**

When the dust clears over the election results and possibly the United States Supreme Court weighs in with new Justice Amy Coney Barrett, we can be hopeful that we have sought God, obeyed Him, and trust in his sovereignty.

If Trump wins the election, the greater work of revival and reformation commences, and the cause of liberty continues to shine in our land. If he loses, we must keep our focus on the King of kings, Lord of lords, President of presidents--Jesus Christ--who providentially directs history toward the consummation of his eternal reign.

Let's watch, pray, fight, and hope--in Him alone.

We must occupy until He comes.

My throat pain continues, and God whispered to me yesterday during my prayer walk in Tacoma: "Be full of faith until death."

I am trying, by God's grace, and watching and praying.

*November 13, 2020 – 25,419 – 6,447*

**A good friend of mine who happens to be my age (67) died in his sleep on Monday and went to heaven to be with Jesus.**

Bishop Harry Jackson, the founding pastor of Hope Christian Church in the Maryland suburbs of D.C. had battled with cancer since 2001—but experienced amazing healing. This week God decided it was time to come home.

I met Harry during our D.C. years and spoke various times at his church. He was a gentle man, an author, and quite a visionary for racial reconciliation in the Body of Christ. Recently, he served as a spiritual advisor for President Trump—and I enjoyed seeing him on television at the White House and praying over the president in various situations.

His death has really made me think about eternity this week. It can happen at any moment—and then your work is done. I have no regrets about my life, but I do have a few unfinished assignments I would love to complete.

But to live is Christ and to die is gain! Harry, you were faithful, and you made it. I rejoice with you and look forward one day to joining those heavenly grandstands to encourage others upward.

Thank you for your friendship and love.

And as I continue to struggle with burning vocal cords, it was a privilege to share with my YMEC friends for over two hours yesterday as we ZOOMED and end-of-the-year meeting. Though not the same as in person, the meeting was quite revelatory and touching—especially our prayers for one another. I'm grateful to have represented YWAM at this gathering for nearly thirty years.

In the evening I was privileged to speak at a Promisekeepers national ZOOM with Pastor Alec Rowlands. Great men with a vision for reviving the family and impacting the nation—through men. I gave a prophetic message out of Luke 12 and 1 Corinthians 13.

Sharing your words with others continues to be my joy and delight, Lord Jesus.

*December 17, 2020 – 25,453 – 6,413*

I didn't realize I had been away from my journal for so long. It has not been an easy fall (or year), but I continue to hang onto Jesus and cry out to Him.

On November 15, even with sore vocal cords, I spoke again at FCC on Romans 4—the Faith chapter of the greatest book in the Bible. God really blessed His Word and encouraged many people through it.

After weeks of looking into massive election fraud in America, it now appears that the new American axis of evil (Democrat Part/Secular Media/Deep State) have triumphed in stealing the 2020 election from President Trump and handing it to Joe Biden. There is no question in my mind that Mr. Biden won via fraud—but it's too hard to prove in such a short space of time.

I have continued to cry out to God in my daily prayer times both at FCC and FIU. But it appears that God is allowing this moment to go to the powers of darkness. I will write much on this in the coming year.

The week of November 30 to December 4, I joined a YWAM 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Zoom call that they said connected up to 35,000 of our staff engaged at various times. It originated at the Ohana Court at the Kona campus and went all over the world. In some ways it was really a Kona staff conference that they shared with our global staff. But as usual, it was loaded with vision from Loren Cunningham (End Bible Poverty Now), Darlene (her new book *Values Matter*), David Hamilton and some of our younger leaders.

As usual it inspired me and reminded me of numerous YWAM gatherings in the past that greatly shaped my life and ministry. I spent many of the session “chatting” with various friends around the world.

I am very grateful for the privilege of spending 46 years in Youth With A Mission.

On the negative side, my throat problem continues—now four months. I can’t seem to shake it. I even saw a high-level doctor at Virginia Mason hospital last week who used a high-powered camera to look at it. She saw nothing unusual or abnormal.

So, I continue to hurt and trust God.

The fall quarter just ended at Faith and I’m looking forward to some December time to seek God’s face for the coming year and his plans for this stage of my life.

I don’t know what the future holds, but I do know who holds it in His capable hands. All praise during this Christmas season to Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords. I love you, Jesus.

*December 25, 2020 – 25,461 – 6,405 - Christmas Day*

My throat is still hurting, I’ve concluded we need to get a new septic system this summer, but I’m so grateful today that Jesus came to earth—God Incarnate!--to die for the sins of the world, including my own.

It’s a Covid Christmas and many families are not even getting together (our Nathan and Aleah stayed in CA for the first time). But we still brought the family together for Christmas Eve dinner and a Christmas Day spread. We had eleven at the table, and Beth came up later and Megan and Nicole also dropped by.

David and Jordan (and her two kids Collins and Derek) spent the night downstairs so we had a full house. Christmases at our home are not what they used to be when the kids were young, and we enjoyed the beauty and unity of a Christian family. But we still delight to love on them and pray for God’s highest in their lives.

After they all had left, I took a long walk in the darkness and steady rain just to talk to Jesus and thank Him for coming into the world. This year I want to LISTEN to Him more, pray more effectively and trust Him to bring His light into both our family and nation.

I am re-reading *The Light and the Glory* this month by Peter Marshall and David Manuel (both of whom I met years ago). It has greatly reminded of the cost of following Jesus and the hardships both the Pilgrims and Puritans went through to give birth to a godly civilization in the New World.

My heart so identifies with theirs—and the staggering need for renewal in our day.

Lord Jesus—come by Your Spirit to our family and nation. Revive us in your ways and beauty of holiness. May we be willing to pay the price for a rebirth of freedom. Begin in my own heart my humble and glorious King.