



# FAR REACHING MINISTRIES



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# HIGHWAYS OF GOD

I was in Egypt many years ago to meet with the underground church. It was before the founding of Far Reaching Ministries, and yet, it would be one of the most significant foundations in ministry that the Lord would use to prepare me.

When I flew into Egypt, I had brought several hundred dollars with me to give as the Lord directed. I would only be in Cairo for four days, before I flew to South Sudan. I felt the Lord had told me to set aside a few hundred dollars and give the whole amount of money to one individual of whom He would show me. For four days, I met many people who had needs, but the Lord kept telling me that this was not where the money was supposed to go. So, it wasn't until the last day, when I was left wondering if I was going to meet this person.

I had a strange itinerary where I was scheduled to fly from Cairo at two in the morning. Before my flight, I was invited

to an Egyptian family's home for dinner at seven that evening. As we ate and fellowshiped, a couple of hours later at about nine o'clock, there came a knock at the door. Before the door opened, I felt that the Holy Spirit spoke to me and said that the one you are to give the money to

is on the other side of the door. When the door opened, a tall, dark Nigerian man stood there, and you could see the love of Christ in his eyes.

After he sat down, I was curious as to why he was the one that I was to give the money to, so I began to ask him about his life. I asked

where he was from and about his profession. He replied that he was from Nigeria, and a missionary to Egypt. I asked him what missions' organization he was with and he said that he did not have one. So, I asked him how he supported himself. He said that when I have a need, I go into my prayer closet and pray. Sometimes, I am in for a short time, and other times, I am in for hours but there is a point, when I am praying, that I have secured what I need,

**“BLESSED ARE THOSE  
WHOSE STRENGTH IS IN YOU,  
WHOSE HEARTS ARE  
SET ON PILGRIMAGE”**



**Extremely Disciplined Men**

and the Holy Spirit speaks to me, and then I go about my ministry. I then asked, “I am curious, if you do not have a missions’ organization that supports you, and the only way you get your money is through prayer, then how did you get from Nigeria to Cairo?” He said, “Wes, God put it on my heart and called me to come and reach Muslims with the love of Christ, so I walked from Nigeria to Cairo.” This made me think, if you were able to fly straight through it would be 2,100 miles, but walking is probably over 2,500 miles at least.

What struck me about this man was that he was not an Arab, but a black man, which in Egypt, he would be considered a second-class citizen by many. He was not a Muslim, but he was a Christian which would take him down another notch. He was leading Muslims to Christ, which would place him at the bottom of the barrel in their society, and he would be persecuted—yet, he had great joy! He was in the Master’s hands and he knew his calling.

I went on to travel to South Sudan, and eventually back to the U.S.. When I arrived home, there was a letter waiting for me from this brother. He explained that his rent was due that day, and he owed for four months. When he arose that morning, he went into his prayer closet at seven and prayed until seven that night, when the Lord told him to go to the

Egyptian family’s house where we would meet. It was when I left the house that I shook his hand and I gave him the \$300, which was exactly the amount he needed.

This brother’s life and commitment impressed me, so I contacted the Egyptian family because I wanted to support this brother, but they said, “Wes, he came to us one day and told us that he had completed the work in Cairo and at the Lord’s direction, he was going to a new city in Egypt. He left no forwarding address because he did not have any place to stay yet.” I have never heard from this brother again.

In Psalms 84:5 it says, *Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.* What this refers to is those who have hearts that are set on the highways of God. I could not help but wonder how many pairs of shoes this man would wear out on the highways of God in his life. For some people, they get saved on their deathbed and take one step. Yet, another gets saved, and by choice will only travel a few steps, but for others, they will walk across a continent wearing out many shoes on their pilgrimage. This brother has never contacted me again because he was not looking to man for provision, but was traveling the highways of God, knowing that He will supply his every need.



**Always giving thanks to the Lord**

Over the years, God has used individuals like this Nigerian man to prepare me for what was to lay ahead for ministry and to trust God with the ministry needs. The last year has been a year of tremendous change for the ministry, and truthfully, most of it has been good. The Chaplain Corp has brought many to Christ, and right now, we seem to be winning on all fronts against the enemy. But, it has come at a great cost. In the last three years, 41 of our men have made the journey to the other side, and they are now home with the Lord. In all, we have lost 54.

Recently, my secretary, Emily, came to me and said, “Wes, you need a new passport. You only have two pages available.” I was surprised because my passport was just a little over two years old—I am now on my eighth passport. When the new one arrived, I was looking at the photo, then compared it to the old one that was taken two years earlier. I could see strain and fatigue in my face. The lives of 41 men being lost, and the wives and families they leave behind, has brought a tremendous responsibility to me.

Paul talked about this in II Corinthians, when he said that daily, I face the pressure and concern for all the churches who are weak, and I do not feel weak. The sight of the passport photo did not make me think I was out of God’s will, but that we do not always get to choose the battles we fight, but the battles are chosen for us by God. For many, it would seem that the hardship is a sign that they are out of God’s will because it was taking a toll on them personally. But what it should signify is more likely we are right in the center of His will.



**Dedicated to prayer**

This Christmas, I want to encourage you to seize those opportunities to travel the highways of God. While Christmas is a time for family and giving, we need to remember that God sent His Son as a great gift and sacrifice for everyone. This is a time to put those in true need at the forefront of minds and bless the lonely, hungry, destitute and hurting by showing Christ’s love.

*Wes Bentley*

# CHRISTMAS

When I was a child, my family had many great Christmases, filled with wonderful memories. My father was in the Air Force and growing up all over the world, I spent many years in Germany. As a child, Germany was a magical place. There was an abandoned castle about a hundred yards from my house. It had one wall, one tower and the dungeon that was still intact. For my brothers and me, we could not have had a better place to grow up and play. In the winter, Germany was covered in snow which meant that we spent

**“WHAT MADE THE CHRISTMAS  
SO SPECIAL WAS THAT WE GAVE,  
NOT LOOKING FOR ANYTHING IN RETURN”**

all our time outside sledding and playing. Even toys in Germany were better. One year, my father bought me a miniature castle with all the knights which supplied endless hours of play and imagination. The Germans decorated beautifully, making extremely special memories.

What stands out to me, where I felt the most Christmas spirit, was not in Germany but at Moses Lake, Washington. This was by no means a winter wonderland, instead a town that did not have much to offer in the way of imagination for a kid. It was a farming community that had a desert landscape far from the mountains and beautiful forests of Germany. What made it special was that, that year my brothers and I worked many odd jobs during the summer to save up and buy Christmas gifts for each other. I think each of us saved just a little over \$20 to buy gifts, but everyone put a great deal of thought into what we bought for one another and spent everything we had. I distinctly remember that I bought my youngest brother a toy soldier set, depicting the Battle of Waterloo with Napoleon’s army and the British army.

Then, I spent many hours painting the plastic soldiers, each piece down to the last detail, so that when he awoke on Christmas morning, he would have the two armies in full-color uniforms. What made the Christmas so special was that we gave, not looking for anything in return. But, that’s the year where I remember feeling the Christmas spirit more than any other.

Every year, my wife, Vicky, asks me what I want for Christmas and I tell her the same thing, socks. She always says I want to give you something you want, and I tell her I want socks. I then say, “Love, when the Great Tribulation comes, I want to make sure I have enough socks to get through it.” This makes her laugh. But in truth, folks, there are not really many things that I want. I find greater pleasure in giving to others, which is what we will be doing this Christmas.

I was down in Mexico this summer, when I came across two different families whose lives impacted mine. One, was a woman who worked for YWAM (Youth with a Mission).

Her name is Bigtha, She was born in Mexico and grew up in a very poor family that struggled just to have enough food to eat. They lived in a shanty house where they could not keep out the rain. This woman went on to tell me that a Christian organization came and built them a simple house which her family still lives in to this day. Through this witness, she came to know Christ. When she



Giving a family a new home

grew up she wanted to join YWAM and go through their Discipleship Training School but did not know how she would get the money. It was only a couple thousand dollars, which was more than she could make in a year. In faith, she prayed, and the Lord provided. As this young woman graduated, she wanted to use her life to help others to have a home, so she joined a team that built houses for the poor. Each house cost about \$15,000 to build and is more of a garden shack than what we would consider a house.

# RESCUE FROM PERSECUTION ERITREA

Three years ago, we shared a story about a man, whom we called Gabriel, to protect his identity. We can now reveal that his real name is Michael. If you remember, Michael had been imprisoned for five years in Eritrea for his faith and had to flee the country leaving behind his wife and children. Michael knew that the Lord would provide a way for them to be reunited in His timing.

When I met Michael and he shared his story with me, I learned that he is no ordinary man; he's a brother who has suffered greatly for his faith. He, along with his wife and two young children, lived in Eritrea, where it is not permitted to practice the freedom of religion, and it is strictly forbidden to be a born-again Christian. Michael had become a Christian when he was a young man, after he had suffered a horrible car accident, where he was the only survivor. This event brought to memory what his aunt had shared with him about the Gospel. Michael had hesitated to become a Christian because he knew the consequences he would suffer—to be imprisoned for his faith. Nevertheless,

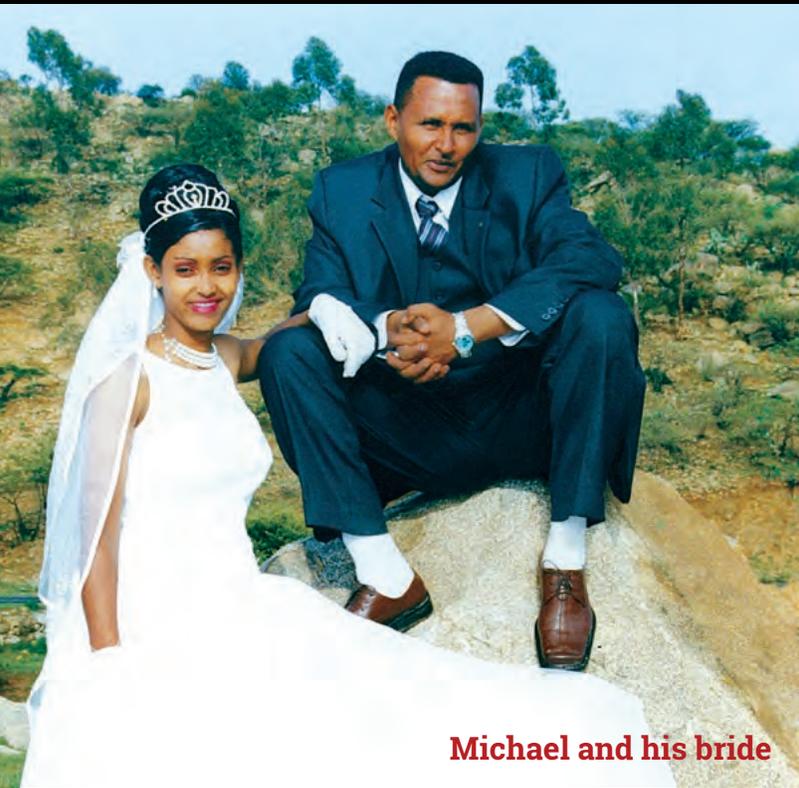
It has two rooms, with a sink but no running water. Yet, the individuals who receive them consider them to be a palace. This young woman learned to build these homes and has now built more than four hundred.

I met this woman when she was serving the senior pastors at a conference. Her husband had asked her what she wanted for her birthday and she said that she wanted new tires for her 20-year-old car (that had 200,000 miles on the odometer), and for him to watch the children while she served at the conference. Her husband replied, "Why don't I pay so you can just go and enjoy the conference?" But she said, "No, I want to go serve." And serve she did. She worked bringing food and cleaning up after all of us. I asked her what her dream was, and she said that she wanted to take their two children to Disneyland. So, we brought them to California and put them up for four nights and sent them to Disneyland. This Christmas, we will be replacing the 20-year-old car with a brand new one.

The other couple that I met, worked taking care of handicapped children when, they themselves, had a daughter with cerebral palsy. She is a lovely young woman but has no control of her body. They said that their daughter was extremely blessed by my teaching and wanted to ask some questions, so I answered the questions and then prayed for her. The father wanted to give me some pastries his wife had made, but as he was talking, I felt the Lord telling me to give him \$300. As he turned to leave to get the pastries, I shook his hand and slipped him the money. When he came back, he was in tears and he shared that they could not pay their rent, but he told his wife, "Let's go to the conference. At least, we can spend time in the Word." I could physically see the relief in his eyes when he told me that the money would cover all their immediate needs. This Christmas, we will be helping this family with financial support to help them with a home of their own. Christmas is not about receiving that brings joy, but it is about giving that brings great peace and happiness.

With so many memories that fill my mind this time of year, I am ever reminded to think of others who are far less fortunate than I have been. As you prepare for this Christmas season, we ask that you keep those who are in need at the forefront of your prayers. We encourage you to find great blessings in caring for others. This year we will be providing many gifts from food, clothing, medicine, to cars and homes for people in ministry and in great need.

*Wes Bentley*



**Michael and his bride**

he finally surrendered his life to the Lord and began learning what he could from the small Bible his aunt had given to him.

Michael went on to marry a Christian woman, and they attended underground church services. One night while attending a service, he and his wife were arrested. They, along with 300 other believers, were sent to prison for their faith.

While imprisoned, Michael was severely beaten. Three times he was brought into a room with four prison officials. They told him that if he renounced Christ, he would be released, but he refused. The four men each gave him forty lashes with a rod—160 lashes in all! Michael had determined that he would not compromise his salvation to be released from prison and counted it worthy to suffer for Christ. His wife, however, was three months pregnant at the time of their arrest and was released after giving birth because the authorities did not know what to do with

## WIDOW'S HOME



In South Sudan and Uganda, we are building homes for widows who have suffered the loss of their husbands from war or at the hands of terrorists. This is an opportunity for God's people to help the widows and families, to ease some of their anguish by having a secure place to live. These homes will not be western style-built houses—

just bricks, cement and a metal roof. Each house will consist of two rooms. These new homes will be a great blessing to widows and their children, as most people in the bush live in a mud hut with a thatched roof.

The cost to build each house is between \$4,000 to \$5,000, which is more than they would ever be able to afford. To be part of building a home for each widow, please indicate "**WIDOW'S HOME**" on the enclosed gift card with your donation. Please join us in prayer as these women take on the monumental task of raising a family on their own.

her and her infant. But, Michael spent five years in prison before circumstances allowed him to leave the prison for a week. During that short time, he saw his family and it was advised that he should flee Eritrea to South Sudan, where he hoped to find a way for his wife and children to join him. This is where I met Michael, at Calvary Chapel Cush after one of our services. Michael, along with our senior chaplain (also named Michael), discussed his situation with me, not once did he ask for help.

We vowed to Michael that we would assist him in getting his family out of Eritrea, so they could be reunited and live as a family. Many of you gave to assist us in doing this. Though it has taken three years, the funds we received brought about the rescue and reunification of this family, as well as provided enough for them to make a fresh start in life. During the three years, we worked strategically to extract Michael's wife and children safely from Eritrea, and they will be relocating to Uganda to begin their new life.

What a time of rejoicing it will be for this one family to be together this Christmas. With you, we have made a difference in not just Michael's family, but in many lives as the Word has instructed us—to help those who are suffering. Many of you, have selflessly come along side Far Reaching Ministries, over the years, by giving of your time and monetary gifts. With each life saved either by hearing the Gospel message, or by medical supplies, we have been able to show God's love and compassion with the lost. Those who have been recipients of God's mercy know that it has been Christians, from around the world, who have pulled together to assist those in need. This is why Jesus came on that night long ago in Bethlehem, to bring good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to those who are bound...to comfort all who mourn, to give them beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit, that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.

May you be blessed this Christmas season! We pray that you will continue to stand with us, as we stand with those who are in desperate need as the Lord leads us.

***Both Vicky and I wish you a Merry Christmas!***  
***Wes & Vicky Bentley***



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