

The Shelter

OR

The Tempest

-Introduction

Why this book is going to transform your life forever?

Either Christian or not, everyone is facing the reality of life and death, in these conditions it is always difficult to maintain stability in our life thus we drive ourselves over the rocky cliff of life which will result to death and sometimes hell.

Are you scared of death?

Are you scared of Hell?

Are you going to Heaven?

Does Heaven exist?

One of the greatest tragedies in life is to live and never discover your destiny, but worse than this is to discover your destiny and forfeit it.

I pray that while you are reading this book God enable you to understand the “WHY” of your existence and the purpose of it even if you are in the greatest puzzle of your life.

But I am sure of something He will never leave you nor abandon you, if you put your trust in Him.

I was encouraged to write this book as a story base, but I decided against it for several reasons.

I feel that it is better to write it as a conversation between readers and writer and mostly as an encouragement to all.

Only the scriptures deserve to be considered infallible. As you read I pray that the Holy Spirit will lead you to the truth, and help your faith to grow.

Didier Zephir

Firmly Rooted Faith

What is Faith?

(Heb 11:1 KJV) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

All those who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord of their life by faith understand that the universe was formed by the word of God so that what is seen was not made of what was visible.

Where sight is, there faith ceases.

One day the children of Israel were standing in a similar place like you, they were in the quest of their destiny. But on the brink of a breakthrough they had a breakdown.

Why?

They got a breakdown because they had a Faith failure.

Do you want what God has promised you?

Do you refuse to settle for less than what God said you can have?

Do you have your mind made up whatever it costs you're going to get what God has promised?

If this person is you then let me tell you God find in you an instrument of great value and He is going to use you for the purpose of your existence.

Now if you're satisfied where you're at, with what you've got, seeing what you're seeing and doing what you're doing and experiencing what you're experiencing, then this book is probably not for you.

But if you happen to be one of those rare breeds called dreamers, and if something inside of you is kicking and if your spirit is divinely dissatisfied, and if you know God has destined you for more then you are the one why this book exist.

To be able to see the unseen realize in the reality it will only depends on the condition of your faith.

Nothing will succeed without faith. There is no victory without a fight in your spirit.

Every battle you are going to fight should be first and foremost be won in your mind and that will require faith!

If a soldier go on a war without preparation be sure of one thing he is well prepare for defeat and in the worst case death. What I mean through this is that there is a cost for success and a cost for victory.

How much will it cost you for the victory?

Let me tell you my dear, you cannot buy victory from God, BUT you can trust Him for the victory.

Remember that faith . . . the weight of a grain of mustard seed . . . will do more than a ton of will, or a mind full of determination.

Genuine faith can no more manifest itself without result, than the sun shine without light and heat.

Knowing this, and believing it to be true, what is it that we have been mistakenly calling faith, because real faith never fails to bring about the result? In my own heart, I am satisfied that many of God's children have failed to behold the difference between faith and belief.

To believe *in* healing is one thing; but to have faith *for* it is altogether something else.

That is why so many needy people, who believe, come to the Lord on the basis of His promises in the Word and *try* and *try* and *try* to affirm that they are healed.

Faith is also an obedient to God's command to believe.

(1Jn 3:23 KJV) And this is his commandment that we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

There are many testimonies about the demonstration of the power of faith I could have written in this book, but I want you to bring forth your own testimonies, for God called us son and daughters, prince and princess thus we all have the same heavenly Father and we all share the same heritage.

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19 [\(NKJV\)](#)

Do you believe in this verse? If you doubt it let me tell that God is not a man to lie and He do not change like shifting shadows depending on variation of light.

You know sometimes it is easy to pray for someone else blessing or healing, but when it comes to yourself it seems so hard and seem that God is far away. You know what I am talking about?

All these happen because either you feeling the grief or the pain. It is true that it is painful but let tell you another truth faith have nothing to do with emotions.

Emotions are creation of God, but the devil uses these same emotions to make us to focus on the physical pain rather than the spirituals healing and blessing.

Without faith you will never be able to see the blessing and grab it because you will have all you attention on the physical.

The young shepherd David before being the great king David as we all know the story, he had to fight with the giant Goliath.

How he did fight him?

He defeated Goliath with five cobble stones. You know what?

In the physical it is five ridiculous stones but in the spiritual each of these stones represented F.A.I.T.H

David did allow himself set his mind of the giant but he rather focus on what God gave him.

Goliath was real and much stronger than David, he even described David as a child.

And this same child square Goliath in the eye and told him

“You came against me with sword and spear but I come against you in the name of the almighty.”

What I want to highlight is, the devil will shout and make a lot of noise but you need to have the “gut” and trust God and see the unseen.

You will always see things whatever level of holiness you may think you are but if you dwell on the bad thing your eyes are projecting to your mind you are in trouble.

By dwelling on thoughts that are not from God, it means you agreeing with the power of darkness.

In other words does not complying on having faith in God mean having faith in the devil?

The answer is a big **YES**.

More than once I have gone home from some prayer meeting with the shouts of victory ringing in my ears... but I have gone home to weep and cry, out of a disappointed heart, unto my Lord.

The crowds were shouting because of some who were healed ; but I was weeping because of those people who dragged their tired, sick bodies back to their homes—just as needy as they were before they came into the services.

Was there no balm in their soul? Was there no compassion or sympathy in the heart of the Man with the nail prints in His hands?

Why were some healed in such a miraculous way, and others dismissed with an appeal to keep on believing and return later, to go through the formula again?

The degree of hope we have is directly related to the inheritance

We have...

1. If our inheritance is a good one, our hope is strong, or "Living"
2. If our inheritance is a poor one, then our hope is weak, or "Dead"

If you believe the inheritance you have in Christ you are on the right path the contrary too is true.

David knew where he stands and he was not moved by what was seen but of what was unseen.

Let us not forget that you, David and I are all human being and all sinners but yet he chooses to hear the sweet voice of wisdom of God instead of his surrounding, the crowds and the giant.

In the mist of the tempest, devil will talk sweetly to you, your neighbour will talk to you and may be you wife, husband or parent will shout at you, but God will speak too.

You can work out your faith by God's word and prayer. It is important to often have group prayer meeting as it help each individual to strengthen themselves in the spirit.

(Psa 78:41 KJV) Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.

(Psa 78:42 KJV) They remembered not his hand, *nor* the day when he delivered them from the enemy.

Of course I am sure that no one would like to be like the children of Israel and limit God!

Trust God my dear, the Lord of heaven is good and is goodness endures forever. He is worthy to be entrusted and his word is true.

Before starting on the next chapter I just want to go over the main points of the faith's chapter.

- (Heb 11:1 KJV) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
- Remember that faith . . . the weight of a grain of mustard seed . . . will do more than a ton of will, or a mind full of determination.

You can work out your faith by God's word and prayer.

- It is important to often have group prayer meeting as it help each individual to strengthen themselves in the spirit.

Last word for the chapter of faith,

You have to believe even when it seems there is nothing happening, because God timing is always right and he will give the fruit only when it is seasoned.

Emotional Wounds

It is noted that most of the diseased that the human being suffer in their body is mostly due to the emotional sickness and emotional wounds.

Emotions as I wrote in the previous chapter were created by God, but devil use this same emotional state to project images that are not true to our mind thus creating stressful behaviour in it, through which weakness and diseases become to life in our body.

The point I want to make is spiritual sickness equal to physical sickness.

Life is sometimes tough and it is difficult for everyone to find their way in the path of life.

Sometime when you think back how your childhood has been or how your life is going on now, of course everyone would have like to have a better life or more opportunities in their business.

"Hello, My name is Dale Marie, I have enjoyed your web site. And I very much felt lead to share this story with you. I am somewhat a new Christian, although I was saved in 1988, I have come to know the Lord Jesus in a personal relationship in the past 4 years.

Most of my life has been a struggle with depression, I have tried to commit suicide so many times I lost count, I was addicted to prescription drugs and most of my days were filled with how I could kill myself. And each time I would try I would fail. I took as many as 150 aspirin to 50 pain killers at a time, but I would awake the next morning and be angry that I had failed, only to try again. To make a long story short, I was at the end of my rope so to speak, I had come in contact with a prescription drug that I knew this would be the one, I was tired of feeling all the hurt in my life, I didn't want to feel anymore.

I made one last attempt of calling out to God as I stood in the shower one morning. And pleading for him to help me, I felt something touch the top of my head and move over my entire body, and I felt a release of the depression, it was like the sun had come out. And I knew I was healed, I was on Prozac at the time and the Lord told me to throw it out, I would not ever need that again. It has been 4 years and I am free of depression that plagued my life for nearly 20 years. I began sitting and praying in a quiet place, I wanted so much to see Jesus, to touch his hand and his hair, to be as close to him as I possibly could. As I sat one night in a quiet place, my mind just on wanted to be near him. And as I sat there I could see him and my hand reaching to touch him, only to be told that I must first praise and worship him before coming to the throne. Being a new Christian I thought I had done something wrong. I didn't know about entering the throne room, I didn't know about giving our Lord Praise and worship. But I soon

learned that this was the way that the Lord wanted us to approach him.

I still remember how strong my will was to see him, and yes seeing him sitting there. From that moment on the Lord showed me many things that it would take me more pages to write about them than just this one. My life was saved and I can't ever think of being without the Lord in my life, I would surely die without him.

*God Bless you,
Dale B."*

This is an amazing testimony. And without believing in God as can imagine Dale B would have been history today.

This is a fact my dear, emotional wounds result to physical sickness and the worst case death.

Let's us not be trap.

Emotions are the most sensitive part of all human being. Sometime we even try to hide what our real feelings are to others, because it reveals our real personality.

Most people recognize that emotional distress can contribute to disease. The emotion or their immediate secondary effects--such as digestive stress and disturbed sleep--may weaken the body and make one susceptible to infection. The emotions may also trigger flare-ups of chronic diseases; many patients with autoimmune disease mention that this occurs after an emotionally stressful time.

(Col 3:9 ESV) Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have, put off the old self with its practices

(Col 3:10 ESV) ...and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

That is what God has called for, no matter how you have been treated, no matter of what people may think of you, just remember one thing, even if it seem no one care about you, or it seem that no one want you, let me tell you that Jesus Christ cares.

Whether you are black, white, yellow, or pink, Jesus care about you and he love you.

Do not let emotional wounds be a stumbling block for your success and surely not for your salvation.

Many time kids are traumatised by what they see their parents do or of what they hear them say. And they grow up with this fear in their heart thus creating a barrier in their relationship with others and the most

saddened part of it, it created an obstacle to their relationship to God and the way they see Him.

But our heavenly father is telling us that even if a mother can forget his child God will never forget us.

(Joh 3:16 KJV) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

God our heavenly Father is telling us that if we refuse to less than accepting the inheritance he gave us we will have an everlasting life.

Why to refuse?

The price of what Jesus paid on the cross overcomes our emotional wounds.

When Jesus was nailed out there, our sorrows and pain and any kind of wound that may exist were all nailed together with Him.

A living hope

I want to tell you a story about something that happened to me a long time ago. I had to take a plane trip from Boston to New York City. I got on the plane, and everything began to progress in the usual way. We got clearance from the tower, moved away from the gate, rolled out onto the tarmac, and then stopped moving. And we sat there, and we sat there, and we sat there. Finally, I looked out the window and what I saw was absolute darkness. There wasn't a single light on in the airport. All the lights had gone out. Then the pilot came on the speaker system and told us that not only were there no lights in the airport, there were no lights anywhere in the city of Boston, anywhere in the state of Massachusetts, or anywhere in the New England region of the United States.

It was the "Great Blackout of New England." That whole corner of the United States, where sixty or seventy million people lived, was suddenly without light. So, I had to get off the airplane and with great care find my way back to the house where I had been staying. There were no street lights. Traffic was jammed up at every corner. No electric trains were working. There was very little security protection for the people on the streets. Elevators in skyscrapers stopped wherever they were, most of them between floors. People had to walk down from the top of the highest buildings in the world, sixty, seventy, eighty, ninety, even one hundred floors, to get out on the street and try to get home.

Restaurants couldn't serve meals. Shopping malls and movie theatres went totally dark. People couldn't get to the hospitals. Mothers about to give birth had great difficulties. Doesn't that sound sad? But that's not the worst. Wait till you hear how sad it gets. For thirteen or fourteen hours, that whole area of the world was without television. How sad! What were they going to do with their lives? How could life be worth living without television?

Best-selling books were written about this great blackout. They even made a comical movie telling the story. And for years and years afterward, the people of that area shared with each other their personal experiences of where they were when the lights went out. That's how powerful an impression the darkness made on them.

People Trapped in Darkness. Now, dear people of God, there are many people in this world, perhaps countless millions, who live their whole lives in darkness. Why? Because they are living without the light that has come into the world. They are living without the light whose name is Jesus Christ.

I'm not just talking about places like Africa or China where there isn't a strong Christian tradition. I'm also talking about the West. In Europe and the Americas, the light of Jesus Christ is fading. In Ireland, for instance, for the first time in its history, people are saying that young people aren't coming to church. And in the United States, statistics show how relatively few come to give God Almighty even one hour of the 168 hours he gives us every week.

We had better take notice of this fact because we--let me rephrase that--because you have the job of getting the light back on. It isn't enough to say, "Well, we have Jesus Christ in our history. We have Jesus Christ in our art, in our music, in our literature." No, we have to get the light of Jesus Christ shining brightly again in human hearts. And we have to start with our own hearts.

Living without the Light.

Being without spiritual light is far worse than being without physical light. Without the light of Christ, we have no protection. The devil loves the darkness. He's called the "Prince of Darkness." Without the light of Christ he is free to kill our hope and fill us with fear. Without the light of Christ, we are unable to move forward, unable to grow in holiness as God calls us to. Without the light of Christ, we are spiritually paralyzed, just as those planes on the tarmac, those cars on the streets, those trains in the city, and those elevators in the buildings were paralyzed without the light.

Without the light of Christ, our human actions have no traffic lights. We have no red light saying, "stop," to our selfish passions, emotions, and self-interest. Even more importantly, we have no green light telling us, "go, get moving," in accomplishing the good works that God created and destined for us. We have no red light saying, "don't do evil," and no green light saying, "go, produce fruit in abundance."

Without the light of Christ, human beings are engulfed in the utter darkness of egotism and selfishness. Do you know what the selfish person wants? He wants the right to be the only selfish person on earth. He doesn't want anybody around him to be selfish, but he thinks that being selfish is his right. What a sadness!

Another darkness is resentment. If you have any resentment in your heart, please be healed of it. It does you more harm than the person you're resenting. It's poison in your life. Bad memories, bad relationships--this is the darkness for so many people. Greed is another one: wanting more than you could ever use. Imelda Marcos was said to have had three thousand pairs of shoes. I calculated that if she were a centipede, she could put on a new pair of shoes every day for two months. There's also the darkness of addictions. What a horror in our world! People are addicted to alcohol, drugs, food. What are they hiding from? They're trying to hide from the darkness, but they only enter into it more and more deeply.

Longing for Peace. For so many people, the darkness in their hearts makes it impossible to say, "I have peace. I have enough." What a blessing peace is! This is what evangelization is all about. St. John called Jesus the light that shines in the darkness, then he went on to say that Jesus is the light that darkness cannot overcome (John 1:5). Jesus, and only Jesus, can fill our lives with light.

Have you ever lived through a hurricane?

I have several times while I was in the Caribbean.

During a hurricane, it's as if your whole world is filled with darkness and wind and rain. But when the hurricane passes, it blows away with it every cloud in the sky, and the sun comes out again. After so much fear and worry, the world is filled with light. That's the way Christ should come into our lives, bringing us beauty, bringing us colours, bringing us goodness. Well, like John the Baptist, each of us must be a witness to the true light that gives light to every man. Our job is to turn the light on in this world so that people can walk in light and never return to darkness.

Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, prophesied what would happen when the Messiah came. He said that the Messiah would shine on those who sat in darkness, and in the shadow of death (Luke 1:79). This isn't the death that ends our time on earth. It's the death called sin, the death called fear. This is what you must be doing as an evangelizer. And it's your mistake and your sin if you don't get at it. Zechariah's next words tell us what we have to do: We must guide people's feet into the way of peace. That's what we do when we bring light into someone's life. Now, if you're in utter darkness, you won't see where to put your feet. You won't know where to walk. But the light shows you the pathway, and Scripture says the path takes you to peace.

How many people in the world are hunting for, yearning for peace?

All the alcoholics, all the drug addicts, all those mad, mad, shoppers who think material things will give them peace. No, the Prince of Peace gives us peace. Jesus calls himself the Light of the World, the Light of Life (John 8:12). He doesn't give light to your streets; he puts light, colours, joy, happiness, and direction into your very life.

Live as Children of the Light. How good Jesus is to us! This is how he expresses his mission: "The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me to proclaim recovery of sight to the blind" (Luke 4:18).

Who are the blind? They're the poor people we're talking about, the people who are spiritually, emotionally, and psychologically blind. They have no understanding of where they came from, where they are right now, or where they should be going. They are emotionally paralyzed. But Jesus said, "I have come to the world as its light to keep anyone who believes in me from remaining in the darkness" (John 12:46).

Oh, it's so beautiful, it's such a wonderful, kind thing to do. We give it a fancy name--evangelization--but it really means bringing sight to the blind. What an incomparable act of love and kindness to light the pathway of someone who is lost in darkness! What an act of love it is for us to proclaim with Paul, "There was a time when you were darkness, but now you are the light in the Lord" (Ephesians 5:8).

It's not that you have to go from darkness to light. It's more than that. You have to go from being darkness to being light in this world. Paul goes on: "Well then, live as children of the light. Awake, O sleeper! Arise from the dead"--from the darkness of the tomb--"and the light of Christ will shine upon you" (Ephesians 5:8-14).

This is why we call the gospel good news. We can walk in the light. Without any doubt, evangelization is the supreme Christian service of teaching the spiritually blind to cry out like that man in the gospel, "Lord! That I might see!" (Mark 10:51). And so many blind will see if they just cry out those words.

Open the Eyes That Are Blind

Jesus wants us to come together so that our light shines brighter and brighter.

The most beautiful film I have ever seen depicting evangelization is a Protestant film called *The Miracle of Taxilla*. Taxilla is the name of a hospital in Pakistan. It is the very best eye hospital in that country, and it's staffed primarily by two Christian doctors: a man from England and a woman from India. These two doctors are not there to make money, but because they want to share the love of Jesus Christ.

As the film begins, a Muslim man comes walking to the hospital, guided by two friends because he can't see a thing. When he comes into the examining room, one of the doctors shines a flashlight into his eyes, and there is no reaction. The light doesn't penetrate at all. Then they operate on him, and we see him leaving the hospital with bandages covering both eyes, accompanied once more by his two friends. A day or two later, the man comes back to have his bandages removed. After taking off the bandages, the doctor waves his hands in front of the man's eyes. And we see a beautiful smile come on this old man's face. He lifts up his eyes, and tears begin rolling down his face. He can see!

In this film, the doctor and the staff tell why they are doing this work. Out of love for Jesus, they want to repeat the kindness of Christ who walked from town and village giving sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf. And as you see a man who is blind begin to see, not only do you see tears running down his cheeks, but you put your hand to your face and find the same happening to you. The film ends with this man leaving the hospital, but now he doesn't need his two friends to help him. As he walks away, he turns back and sees the two doctors, and he waves, and he goes home.

We Are Carriers of the Light! What a kind thing to do--to give sight to the blind! But this is your job. Your job is to carry on the mission of Jesus Christ. This world of darkness seems to use more lights than it could ever need: the lights of Broadway and Piccadilly Circus, the lights shining out of

television sets and shining down on movie screens, the lights hanging over the streets of perversion in our major cities. But none of it is real.

We are carriers of the real light, and when we give sight to the spiritually blind, what can they see? Sometimes, for the very first time in their lives, they can see the greatness of the love of God for them just as that Muslim man did. They can see, perhaps for the first time in their lives, something that God has always seen in them: goodness, because God is bringing that goodness back into the light, back to life. They can see their value as beloved sons and daughters of God. They can see the goodness of others when before they were looking at everyone in the world and thinking that all of them were only evil and bad. They can see the truth that can set them free. And someday, because you brought them into the light, they will see the face of God.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God” (Matthew 5:8). That’s giving sight to the blind. And if you do that, if you make an effort to do it, if you give up a little bit of time, you will see results. Here’s Jesus’ call to Paul: “I have made you a light to the nations, a means of salvation to the ends of the earth” (Acts 26:17-18). And he tells each of us that we must speak the words of Christ now. We must be the light of the world.

Turn On the Power. Now we all know how big a job it is to get the power back on in this world of darkness. It's a big job because the devil seems to have all the power. Even some Christians believe he really does have all the power. As soon as they see a problem, they give up. They say, "What can we do? After all, we're only human." But in Jesus Christ, we humans can be divinized; we can be made like God.

Now my little light, your little light, all by itself could never do this job. That's why the Holy Spirit wants us to work together. Every one of you is an utterly distinct, magnificently unique work of the creative mind of God. Each of you has your own particular light. But if we want the world to see, we have to bring our lights together and become a people of the light, shining with the wonder and beauty of Jesus Christ. We have to be lamps, burning with the light of Christ.

What do you do with a lamp? Well, Jesus tells us what not to do with it, even though too many of us do it anyway. We shove it under the table and hide it. No, Jesus tells us to place it on the tabletop, "so that those entering the room can see" (Luke 11:33). It's up to you. And if you don't do it, there's someone out there who won't see because you didn't let your light shine. In order that the whole world can come to see, our lamps must come together, resplendent, as Scripture says, like a city on the mountaintop, shining like a beacon light at sea, leading people to the safe harbor, Jesus

Christ.

Now, throughout Scripture, God calls us to be nothing less than light to the world. Each one of these is a phrase from Scripture: angels of the light, messengers of the light, children of the light. Do you see the emphasis? We're called to be people of the light, disciples of the light, until we all one day come together. I'll see you there, in the heavenly Jerusalem, where "there will be no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God gave it light and the light was the Lamb and the nations shall walk by that light" (Revelation 21:23).

"What Can I Do?"

sWays to Share the Gospel

1) Pray. Devote a part of your regular prayer time to interceding for one or two people whom you think God wants to touch. Be persistent, and trust that the Lord hears you. Also, develop the habit of listening to the Spirit and getting used to his promptings.

2) Forgive. Nothing robs us of our joy and dims the light of Christ in us as much as resentments and lack of forgiveness. It may take time, and we may need to keep going to Jesus for healing and guidance, but it is worth it. Perhaps you can begin by just telling him that you're ready to be made willing to forgive and bless.

3) Help. Wherever possible, be willing to go out of your way to help people in need. From the local homeless shelter to the neighbor who is sick and would like a kindly visit, there are so many opportunities to share the light and love of Christ without saying a single word. Over time, your witness of loving service will open doors.

4) Smile. Check yourself in the course of the day: “Am I at peace right now? Do I know that the Father has my life in his hands? Can I give over to the Lord any anxiety or frustration?” The more you demonstrate the freedom and peace of Christ, the more your witness will touch others.

5) Share. Don’t be afraid to talk about your faith when the opportunity arises. Talk from your personal experience of how God has touched you, protected you or your family, or given you grace in a time of difficulty. Talk about how your experience of salvation in Christ has freed you from sin and given you confidence in the love God has for you.

Let Your Light Shine!

Do you believe that you can be a living miracle in your neighborhood?.

This is the vision God gives us--to work together to be a light in this world of darkness. This is where we’re supposed to be

going, and we're supposed to be able to see the way because each of us is helping to illuminate the way for one another. This vision is not like that other vision called television, where you sit passively observing silliness and worse, and going out and doing nothing. No, this vision is an invitation. It is an opportunity, a calling from God to go out and do something great for God, to do something great with God and with each other for the salvation of the whole world.

We must understand that before everything else, our own lamps must be lit with the unmistakable glow of the holiness of Jesus Christ. That's the light that leads the way. When people meet us, they have to be meeting Christ in all of his love, in all of his goodness, in all of his holiness. They must be seeing the Holy One of God in us. That's what we call witnessing. It's the highest form of witnessing, to glow in this world with the goodness and holiness of Christ. We cannot waste time hiding the light under a table, putting it under a bushel basket with what is an absolutely false humility. We must let that light shine, and we must cry out with Mary, "God has done great things in me, and holy is his name" (Luke 1:49).

The Battle of Prayer.

I want to tell you a story from Scripture that says how you should pray.

This is a story about the people of Judah being called together to prayer in a time of battle. Let me give it to you in a paraphrase from 2 Chronicles 20.

“All of Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, with their wives, and their children. All Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the Lord in worship. And the Levites stood up to praise the Lord, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice. Jehoshaphat, the king, appointed some to sing to the Lord, and some to give praise. They sang and they thanked God for his mercy and enduring love. They came to Jerusalem, to the house of the Lord with harp and lyre and trumpet, and they won the battle.”

We can win the battle, but it will start with prayer. We have to be seen as a people of prayer. We have to be known as a people of praise when we go out to do battle. We have to learn to work together in a world where even husbands and wives can't stay together. Children and parents can't stay together. But we as a people of God, as the church of Christ, must shine in our togetherness.

Be a Miracle.

Now if we were in New Orleans, and we all walked outside and walked across the Mississippi River, right on top of the water, that would be impressive.

But do you know what that gets?

Not much more than chicken feed. If we did that, we'd only be working a miracle. That's not enough for Jesus. He says be a miracle. Be a miracle of oneness, of unity. Be the one body of Christ. Be the local church. Help each other so that the world can believe, so that the world can see that the Father sent me.

In order that the world might see, be united as one body. And then let your light shine in the world. When was the last time you wrote an article for the newspaper? Write one. Send something in to a magazine. Talk about Jesus on the street corners. You don't have to have a guitar, but if you're out there, smile. And if somebody says, "You look different because you're smiling," be ready to answer. Scripture says, "Always be prepared to make a defence to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15). Do you know what hope means? It means I'm going to have a great tomorrow. If I think I'm going to have a rotten tomorrow, that's despair. But we can have hope. In your universities, in your factories, in your office buildings, in your ball parks, in every big city and every tiny town of the

world, bring light, bring joy, bring happiness. But before anything else, let the light of Jesus Christ's holiness shine in you.

Holiness and Evangelization.

In his great document *The Mission of the Redeemer*, the Holy Father says that there is an intimate connection between our call to holiness and our call to evangelize. When we bring our light into the mission field, we have to make sure it's shining with the holiness of Jesus. What does that mean? It means that if you skip the mission to evangelize, you're no saint, and it means that if you're no saint, you won't do a great job at the mission. You have to do both.

Can we let the Holy Spirit bring our lights together? He's good at that. His light can shine within us, and as we come together, this combined light is capable of illuminating the whole world. If we do that, we will see the light of Christ spreading around the world. Let's make this our goal, so that we can see the great prophecy of Isaiah 9:2 come to pass: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. And on those who live in the shadow of death, light has shined."

The name of that light is Jesus Christ. You are a people of the light. Now carry the light. Be kind, be loving, be angels, messengers, people, children of the light, and I'll see you some day, and together we will see the face of God in the light of the Lamb. Amen.