God’s Mightily at Work TODAY

Personally and Globally

July 28, 2021 David Carter

One of the things that God is always putting before my eyes is the remarkable work that He is doing in throughout the world in these days.

One of my goals tonight is to communicate a part of that work that I have had the opportunity to view first hand. To appreciate the legacy that is being expanded, you need to be aware of the work of Reinhard Bonnke and Christ for all Nations. I strongly encourage you to read “Living a Life of Fire” by Reinhard Bonnke. The one thing that struck me over and over was his willingness to hear and follow the guidance of Holy Spirit. You will have the opportunity to see a bit of his history in the video we will be watching shortly. But it is important that we see in his life and ministry the power of yielding to Holy Spirt in childlike faith and obedience.

The second thing that I would like to do is to testify about how God is transforming me through this experience – I use the present tense, transforming, because the work is far from complete. I would like to recap briefly how God called me to this adventure. Partly for those who have not heard and reminder to those of you that have. But chiefly I want you to see through my story and the stories of a few of my fellow bootcampers that I will mention just how clearly and powerfully God calls to us today.

Todd White Power and Love

Application Process – miraculously chosen

* I understand that on the order of a thousand or more applied
* People with years of crusade experience were turned down
* My qualifications
  + No significant ministry experience
  + A real willingness to “witness” but minimal practice in which I shared God’s love principally through prayer, but no real communication of the gospel.
  + A heart to serve God and a willingness to leave my job so that I could pursue this opportunity.
* Interview: my goal was to be honest and to NOT try and impress.
  + Afterwards, I knew there were two areas where I underrepresented myself
    - Did I think I was called to crusade evangelism?
      * Asked “Do you see yourself as an evangelist doing crusades?”
      * My response was . . .
    - Passionate – realized afterwards how at times I was very passionate and how my teaching became much more passionate after Baptism in the Holy Spirit.
* Daniel Kolenda was to make final decision on every candidate
* Told I would hear back by end of next week. About midweek of the next I woke up one morning convinced I would be called that day and that I would be turned down. I was led to read Job 13 and verse 15 was highlighted to me: “Though he slay me, I will hope in him; yet I will argue my ways to his face.”
  + This convinced me to trust in the Lord, but also that I should address the above under-representations to whoever called regardless of whether or not there was any chance of changing their minds.
  + I was called by Daniel Kolenda’s personal assistant. It turns out, he wanted to follow up on those very issues and because of Holy Spirit, I was ready to better represent myself.
* I WAS ACCEPTED. There were many other things that led up to me applying and that occurred afterward that can only be explained by God.

It seems every one that was accepted, at least everyone that I asked had equally amazing stories. The diversity of backgrounds and the depth of the commitment to the Lord of my fellow bootcampers continues to leave me in awe. Approximately half were from outside of the United States. Approximately half were women.

* Gabriel Garcia – a Hindu by faith who became dissatisfied with Hinduism and came to faith in Christ by reading the Bible
* Rebecca Wilcox – A college freshman with a volleyball scholarship who was transformed by faith in Christ.
* Philip Anderson – a very successful Plumbing Contractor (late 50’s) and a Southern Baptist who on two occasions in did not follow God’s call to missions.
* Zach Teasdale – a drug dealer with numerous arrests that was transformed by God
* Dennis Weins – led to Jesus by a 2020 bootcamp graduate months before bootcamp and immediately involved in outreach

Watch the video

This video was made mid-2020. Many of the projections made for both CfaN and The Send have been significantly impeded by covid. Seeing this has convinced me of the need to increase my prayers that the enemy’s plans to hinder the work of God will be thwarted.

When I first watched these videos, I thought that the men doing the outreaches in Kenya were bootcamp students and that in part determined my expectations for myself going into the bootcamp. It turns out that they were one of three groups of 5 evangelists that Daniel Kolenda picked and trained for a year before sending them out. So not only were these men more experienced than me to start with, but they had much more extensive training than I. I did not realize this until near the end of my training.

All but a few of the bootcampers that I trained with had way more experience than I. It did not take long for me to realize that I was not going to get to that point during training. Some how in God’s grace, I did not get discouraged, but instead He revealed to me that He could use the Bootcamp to jumpstart my ministry with as much power as He was using to launch others instantly into active ministry involvement with CfaN. Some of my colleagues stayed in Africa or have gone back. Some are putting together crusades in the US or their home country already.

About half-way through the bootcamp, we had a “Tribunal” where we were evaluated as to our fitness to finish the program. I shared with the leaders on my tribunal my conclusion that I would be at a different place coming out of the Bootcamp than my more experience colleagues and they completed supported me in that conclusion.

One lesson I continue to learn is that God is totally for us as the individuals that we are. He has a unique plan and approach for each of us!

The bootcamp materials are amazingly scalable to the experience of the student. I am amazed at the leading of the spirit and the God given wisdom that Daniel and others have manifested in putting the Bootcamp together.

Overcoming Fear in Outreach

* The gospel is the power of God unto salvation.
* Holy Spirit is the active agent in salvation

Effective but simple sermon presentations – Learning to step out in faith

* Two preaching styles covered, but one emphasized
  + Expansion on a biblical narrative (one example was presented in class, but this was not used by us.)
  + Pearls on a string – sermons based on stories (Emphasized)
* Training demonstrations (students demonstrating and getting feedback) consisted of
  + Reciting a Bible verse to practice projection and intonation
  + Telling a story (few minutes)
  + Preaching one of four prepared sermons
    - 8 minute limit
    - With a translator
  + I expected to do at least two more sermons as part of the training – so I prepared with the mindset that I could use the experience and feedback of the first sermon to inform my preparation for later sermons – but there was not to be any more practice until the field.
* As we began to be divided up into teams that would go to different cities in Tanzania and began to discuss the types of outreaches that would be done, I began to be concerned that I was not prepared.
* Basic outreaches:
  + “Kids Crusades” (a.k.a. school outreaches) – roles
    - 1 person would present a story-based gospel message and follow with alter call
    - Another would present an introduction to Holy Spirit and pray for Holy Spirit baptism for those that just believed
    - Another would lead in a celebration song (with dancing) – One way Jesus
    - The last would meet with teachers and encourage them to disciple students in general and those that made decisions.
    - Follow up booklets on a “now that you are saved” theme, were left behind for each student in the school.
    - Typically, much greater than 70% of students in the school would raise hand and join leader in prayer of salvation.
      * Small classes on rainy days let me watch student responses more carefully and convinced me that were many very serious in their response.
      * In some cases, students can be seen crying while praying!
      * John Darko – Nigerian crusade director for CfaN for decades came to Christ as a result of a brief gospel presentation in his school when he was just a young boy
  + Gospel Truck Crusades
    - Market place or street-side presentations
    - Rarely was a truck available – often carrying speakers into marketplace
    - Protocol
      * Local dancers did a couple of numbers to attract a crowd.
      * 1 person did a 30 minute gospel presentation with altar call and prayer for Holy Spirit baptism
      * 2nd person would invite people for healing prayer, pray, have people test healing and get audience testimonies (30 minutes)
* In Tanzania, my squad was assigned to the gospel truck outreaches. I had only practiced and presented (not too well at that) a school outreach sermon (8 minutes with translation). In a day or so, I would be called upon to present a sermon from a gospel truck to an adult audience. I am feeling unprepared.
  + Talked with my coaches: encouraged but given the option to set out a day
  + That night in meeting (all students, all coaches in our city), one of the coaches asks for prayer describing events that are making it hard for her to cope and opens the floor to others to share their concerns. I am the first to share my concerns. Then many, maybe a third of us, one after another share our uncertainties and we spend an hour or so praying for one another. Many who are much more experienced than I are sharing some of the same uncertainties.
  + Next morning, plans for two squads to go out together (only one gospel truck) with the other squad do gospel messages and ours praying for the sick. All fear was gone, I volunteered to pray for the sick on the first outreach.
* Over and over, in the next three weeks, circumstance would crop up that would make my doing my presentation seem beyond my capabilities and I would have to step out on faith
  + The next big one was when we set up on the edge of a large, busy traffic circle below the walls of a mark with the intention of doing two back to back outreaches. I was to do the prayer for healing in the first one and immediately do the gospel presentation for the second. Going from one presentation immediately into the other. I told the coach, “I don’t think I can do this.” He simply replied “Yes, you can.” I spent a few minutes repeating “Shaka Baba” a Swahili phrase that means “Hold me Daddy” and turning it over to God. My presentations went well.
  + On the last day, several things came up that distracted me in the presentation immediately before mine and on while we were driving to the sight where I would both present both the gospel message and pray for healing. As we drove up to the sight, my coach asked me how I felt. I honestly replied “distracted”. I was given the option to let someone else go and present later. My response was “I want the opportunity to trust this to Holy Spirit.” As we set up and the dancers began the program, additional distractions came up. Among them, a local official (who happened to be Muslim) was demanding that we stop. My coach and a local pastor that accompanied us was able to reason with him and the outreach went on. The speakers were set up in such a way that if I would try to move around, we would get feedback. None the less, I pushed through the presentation.
  + After one my earlier presentations, my coach very enthusiastically (demonstrating loudly (it felt like yelling) how I should have been preaching with authority rather than apologetically. It was a lesson that was hard to hear, it could have been paraphrased “Quist be a wimp, be the Son of God that Christ paid to transform you into.” But it was given in love, and it was all truth. After one of my last presentations, I asked the same coach if she would give me some specific critics when we had some time to talk. She said that there was not really much to critic, noting that I had preached with authority and reminding me of the exhortation that she had given (not that she had to). I remember that during the last few days in Tanzania, another coach encouraged me with the comment “You are a Holy Spirit Preacher.”
  + These lessons are being seen as we seek to restart CRTC ministry.

What now:

Even now, many of my peers are back on field in Tanzania, on location in other countries in Africa or in their home country.

I and the other bootcampers have had invitations to participate in evangelistic outreaches in locations in the U.S. and other places.

CfaN has opened the door for us to participate in a large Pre-Decapolis Crusade outreach in Dar Es Salaam in late September and early October.

Outreaches are ongoing in Orlando and I can participate whenever I am there. Many of the bootcampers are relocating to Africa.

So many doors are open to me through CfaN. But many doors are open to Gretchen and I elsewhere as well:

* Del Rio
* CRTC
* Mario Murillo crusade Aug. 5-11
* In a dream and in a plan that God unfolded during my training, I feel that God has called me to evangelism in northern New Mexico.
  + I believe preparation for this will involve some personal outreach and follow up in San Angelo
  + Classes available to the Garden on Storytelling as a Means to Preaching the Gospel

Prayer requests:

* I am still stepping into this call. Much to learn still.
* Wisdom in knowing what opportunities to take, when to take them and reliance on God’s wisdom as we step out.
* Guidance as I continue to unpack and review the lessons from the bootcamp
  + I have videos of almost all the bootcamp sessions and will be rewatching them
  + As stressed in Bootcamp, development and sustaining my personal walk with God and reliance on Holy Spirit is critical. Pray for guidance in this area.
* Practical: up until now I have been drawing on my retirement account to do what I have been doing. This would only be sustainable for 6-8 years.
  + I am beginning to do online tutoring
  + Sell or rent San Angelo home and relocate to house in Springer, NM
  + Seek God’s direction on additional means of support

Interesting Sidenote on Spiritual Legacies, Authorities and Mantles

Suggested Reading:

Living a Life of Fire by Reinhard Bonnke

Evangelism by Fire by Reinhard Bonnke

Healing the Sick by T. L. Osborn