MAY 2025

WHITE WING MESSENGER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY

DIGITAL EVANGELISM

Leveraging social media, podcasts, and video content to reach the world

THEREFORE, LOGIN AND UPLOAD THE GOSPEL INTO ALL THE WORLD

BISHOP DANIEL FELIPE

DIGITAL EVANGELISM: LEVERAGING TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY TO REACH THE WORLD

SUPRINA ROBINSON AND CAMILLE LYNNE

FISHING WITH A NEW NET: EMBRACING DIGITAL EVANGELISM TO REACH THE WORLD

BISHOP SHAUN MCKINLEY, PHD

CHURCH of GOD of PROPHECY
INTERNATIONAL OFFICES
Office of the Presiding Bishop

April 2025

To Our Global Church Family, Pastors, and Leaders,

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV).

With a heart full of gratitude, I want to thank you for your faithful participation in the International Assembly Expense Offering over the past several years. Because of your generous giving, we were able to stand before the Church at the last two International Assemblies and joyfully report that we concluded those gatherings debt free. What a testimony of God's provision through the obedience and generosity of his people!

We are now in the active season for collecting this year's International Assembly Expense Offering, which runs through May 31. I prayerfully encourage every local church, pastor, and member to join us in this important global initiative.

The International Assembly is one of the most diverse and unique gatherings in the life of our movement. It is a time of collective worship, Spirit-led decision-making, powerful preaching, and strategic vision casting. It is a global homecoming that strengthens our unity, renews our mission, and reminds us of our shared identity as a people called by God.

A vital part of this experience is the presence of our national and regional bishops from more than 130 nations. For many, attending would be impossible without the support this offering provides. The International Assembly Expense Offering helps cover their airfare, lodging, and meals—making their presence and voice possible at the table of global fellowship.

As you are aware, costs for travel and accommodations continue to rise, making your support more critical than ever before. Even with widespread participation, this offering has never covered the full cost of hosting the Assembly. The International Offices must often draw from funds that could otherwise be used to invest in leadership development, outreach, and church planting to offset Assembly expenses.

A robust response to the International Assembly Expense Offering ensures that our global church's resources remain focused on the harvest and advancing the kingdom.

Thank you for your cheerful, sacrificial giving and for valuing our global gathering. Your gift opens the door for a leader to come. Together, let us continue building a church that is united, Spirit-empowered, and mission-focused —reconciling the world to Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reconciling the World to Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit,

Tim Coalter
Presiding Bishop

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WHITE WING
MESSENGER
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY

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WE BELIEVE in the Holy Trinity—one God, eternally existing in Three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe in one God, the Father, creator of heaven and earth, of all things seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. All things were made through Him and for Him. He is true God and true man. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and was born of the virgin, Mary. He suffered, died, was buried, and on the third day He rose from the dead. He ascended to the right hand of the Father, and He will return to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who eternally proceeds from the Father. He is Teacher, Comforter, Helper, and Giver of spiritual gifts. Through Him the saving and sanctifying works of Jesus Christ are applied to the life of believers. He is the empowering presence of God in the life of the Christian and the church. The Father has sent His Son to baptize with the Holy Spirit. Speaking in tongues and bearing the fruit of the Spirit are New Testament signs of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

We believe that salvation is by grace through faith in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ on the cross and that He died in our place. The believer's sins are forgiven by the shedding of His blood. We believe that healing of mind, body, soul, and spirit is available to the believer through the blood of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. We believe in one baptism in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that the grace of God brings forgiveness and reconciliation to those who repent, as well as transformation in holiness, enabling them to live a Christ-like life. Sanctification is both a definite work of grace and a lifelong process of change in the believer brought by the blood of Jesus, the Word of God, and the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.

We believe in one holy, universal church, composed of all true believers in Jesus Christ, offering fellowship and calling for service to men and women of all races, nations, cultures, and languages. We believe in the spiritual and ultimate visible unity of the church.

We believe that the Bible—both Old and New Testaments—is the inspired Word of God. The Bible is God's revelation of Himself and His will to humankind, sufficient for instruction in salvation and daily Christian living. The Bible is the Christian's rule of faith and practice.

We believe that God will ultimately reconcile all things in heaven and earth in Christ. Therefore, we look forward to new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

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About the Church of God of Prophecy
The Church of God of Prophecy is a vibrant, worldwide body of believers, united in worship, working hand-in-hand to share God's love and a message of hope to the brokenhearted. The organization has more than a million members and more than 10,000 ministers, worshiping in more than 10,000 churches or missions in 135 nations of the world.

Church of God of Prophecy Core Values
- Prayer
- The Harvest
- Leadership Development
- Biblical Stewardship
- Service

Vision Statement
Reconciling the world to Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit

Mission Statement
The Church of God of Prophecy is a Christ-exalting, holiness, Spirit-filled, all-nations, disciple-making, church-planting movement with passion for Christian union.

General Presbytery:
Tim Coalter: Presiding Bishop
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Benjamin Feliz: Mexico/Central America/Spanish-Speaking Caribbean
Clayton Martin: Caribbean/Atlantic Ocean Islands
James Kolawole: Africa
Tim McCaleb: Asia/Australia/Oceania
Gabriel E. Vidal: South America

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BISHOP TIM COALTER | PRESIDING BISHOP

DIGITAL EVANGELISM

> **I am the Lord your God, who churns up the sea so that its waves roar.**
>
> ISAIAH 51:15 ISV

In the book, *The Purpose Driven Church*, Rick Warren reminds his readers that it is God's job to create waves. Our job, like experienced surfers, is to recognize a wave of God's Spirit and ride it.

One of the most magnificent waves of the 21st century is the wave of technology, or better yet, let's call it "sanctified technology"—i.e., technology that is set apart for the advancement of the mission of God. The rapid

"Digital evangelism is yet another wave that is forming and gaining momentum."

pace of technological innovation calls for a thoughtful and Spirit-led response from the church as we seek to utilize every available means in our mission to reconcile the world to Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The church's engagement in evangelism is a divine mandate. Jesus said, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19 NKJV). We have been commissioned to go into all the world and make disciples. The purpose of Holy Spirit baptism is so that we might share an empowered witness. According to Proverbs 11:30, "He who wins souls is wise."

Our call to evangelism is non-negotiable. It is a timeless truth that guided the early church and continues to provide the marching orders for 21st century ministry. However, new methods or "waves" of evangelism have continued to emerge. Some will remember when bus ministry was "the thing." At its height, one particular church operated 137 buses each Sunday. Mass evangelism was another wave that provided the opportunity for evangelists such as Billy Graham, Oral Roberts, Reinhard Bonnke, and others to preach the gospel to thousands who gathered in stadiums. Another wave emerged highlighting personal evangelism using models such as "evangelism explosion" or *You Can Be a Soul Winner! Here's How,* by Nate Krupp. Through the years, the church has embraced these, along with many other "waves" of evangelism without compromising the original mandate. In the words of the Apostle Paul, we have become all things to all people so that by all possible means, we might save some (1 Corinthians 9:22).

Digital evangelism is yet another wave that is forming and gaining momentum.

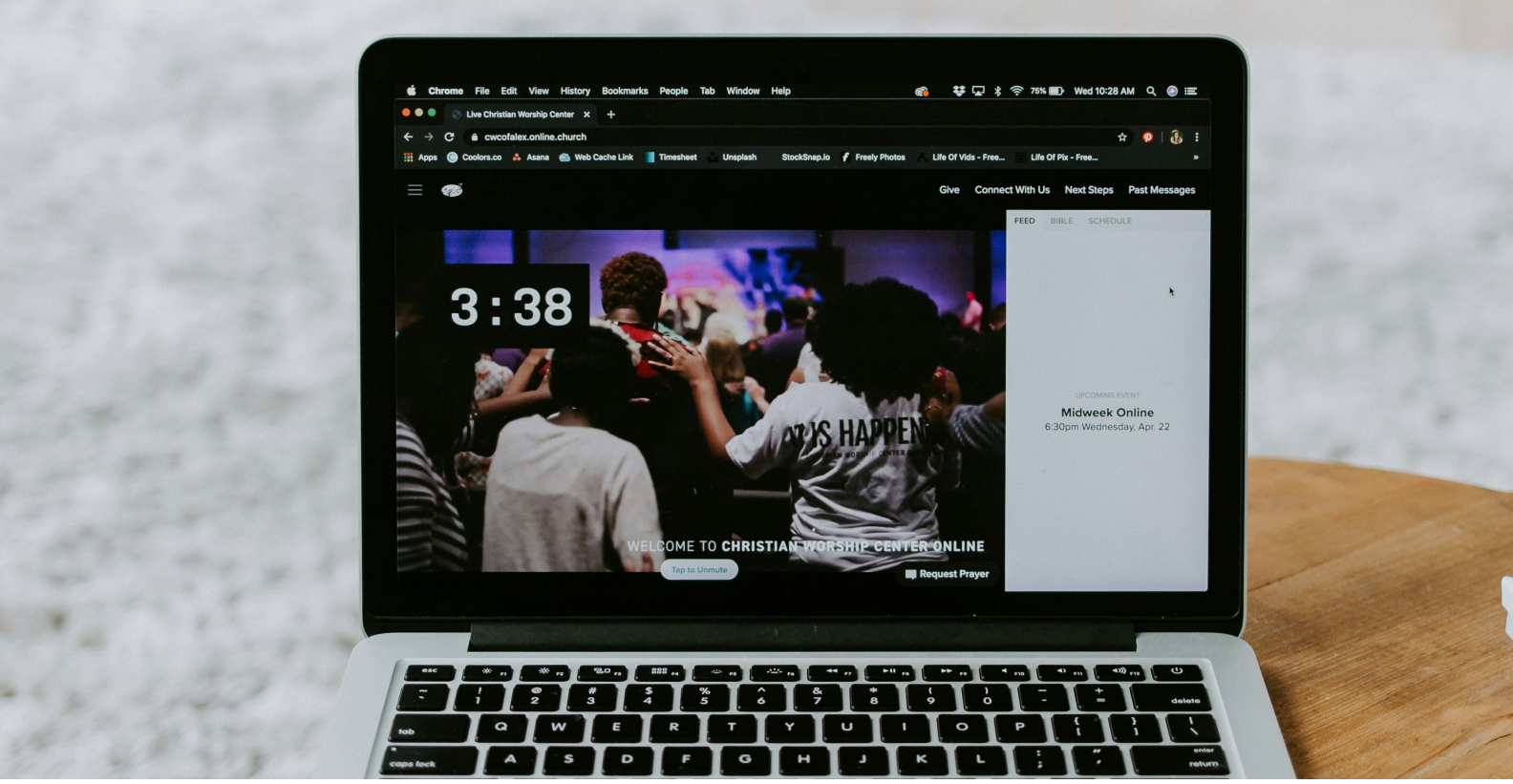
With the use of social media, websites, podcasts, and streaming services, a new generation—a generation that may not know much about bus ministry, mass evangelism, or door-to-door personal evangelism—is finding abundant life in Christ. This wave is growing exponentially and will prove to be an effective tool in reconciling this generation to Christ. As we consider the Great Commission with its mandate to "go and make disciples of all nations," perhaps we should expand our definition of *nations* to include digital communities.

More and more, I'm hearing of churches that are live streaming their services, forming online prayer groups, offering daily devotionals, and establishing digital discipleship communities. Online members are being added to churches who are engaging weekly and supporting the church with their tithes and offerings. These new waves are fulfilling the Great Commission in ways unimaginable to previous generations.

Before we get too carried away with all things digital, it is worth noting that digital tools alone cannot transform lives. The power of the Holy Spirit is essential in breaking through the noise of online content and capturing the soul of a new generation. As it has always been, it is still the Spirit that gives life.

Digital technology may be foreign to some, but we have a generation sitting in our churches who live in the digital world and speak the language fluently. Just as Paul equipped Timothy and released him for ministry, so must we equip a new generation of digital evangelists to faithfully steward these platforms.

The vision of the Church of God of Prophecy is bold but achievable through the power of the Holy Spirit. Digital evangelism is not merely a strategy; it is a divine calling to use every available means to bring the message of reconciliation to the lost. As 2 Corinthians 5:20 (NIV) reminds us, "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us."



Therefore, Login and Upload the Gospel into All the World

The mission of the church has never changed: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel" (Mark 16:15 NIV). What has changed is the world itself. As of 2025, over 5.35 billion people use the internet—more than 66 percent of the global population. On average, users spend nearly seven hours online daily, with social media alone consuming about 2.5 hours per day. Platforms like YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and Spotify are no longer just entertainment hubs; they have become the *global commons* where culture, conversation, and conviction intersect. While King David had to wait a few centuries for his soul-piercing Psalms 23 to claim "viral" status, today's platforms allow for the neighbor's frivolous cat to become famous overnight.

Barna's (2018) research indicated that nearly 58 percent of non-Christians have encountered faith-related content through platforms like Facebook. This research reflects the already astounding impact of social media seven years ago. However, in the last five years alone, global social media usage has increased from 3.96 to 5.24 billion, representing a 32 percent growth over five years.

This digital transformation presents the church with an unprecedented opportunity—and an urgent challenge. While the gospel once spread village by village, it can now cross continents in seconds through a single post, podcast, or video. But simply having a presence online is not enough. To reach this connected generation, the church must engage the digital world from a place of *authenticity, love for the hurting, and a burning passion for the unchanging truth of Christ*.

Digital evangelism is not a trend or a tech experiment. It is a frontline mission strategy. When used effectively, digital tools extend the reach of the local church, amplify voices of faith, and engage people far beyond the sanctuary, transforming the distracting glowing screens into powerful glowing pulpits in every pocket.

With the emergence of the virtual church and social media ministries, many churches find themselves trying to answer the question, How can we do church better so that people want to come back to in-person services? However, in today's technological crossroads, a better question would be, How can we discern God's will everywhere, including in digital platforms (Yang et al. 2024)? In other words, this is not an either-or approach but rather an intentional balance to reach people wherever they are.

From Streaming to Engaging

We all remember well—when the pandemic hit, churches around the globe scrambled to get online, setting up webcams, live streaming services, and uploading sermons to YouTube and Facebook. For a season, just being online felt like a win. We gauged success by viewer counts, livestream reach, and how quickly we could pivot to digital formats. Streaming became the new Sunday morning.

But now, several years later, the goalposts have moved. Digital ministry can no longer be evaluated by how many people watched but by how many people engaged. Engagement

is the new metric of health. While streaming is one-way communication, engagement is a conversation. Streaming fills the airwaves; engagement fills hearts.

Think about it: A live stream with 3,000 views but no comments, likes, or shares is less impactful than a 30-second testimony clip with 15 meaningful comments and five prayer requests in the thread. Why? Engagement is where discipleship begins. It is in the comments, the DMs [direct messages], the Live Q&A [real-time question-and-answer session], and the shared stories where people feel seen, heard, and cared for.

Measuring "reach" alone is no longer enough. Jesus did not just preach to the multitudes—he dined with individuals, responded to their needs, and called them by name. Digital ministry must mirror that intimacy.

Content Overload and Authenticity

Social media platforms are multiplying, algorithms are shifting, and trends are evolving faster than most ministries can keep up. In this noisy environment, many churches and Christian leaders feel the pressure to replicate what appears to be working for others—especially those with massive followings or "viral" content.

The temptation is understandable. When another church's worship clip gains 100,000 views or a pastor's 30-second sermon snippet gets picked up by a trending page, it is easy to feel behind, inadequate, or outdated. The result? A rush to imitate rather than a commitment to be faithful. Ministries start shaping their content around visibility, not vision. In the process, many lose what makes their voice unique.

But here is the truth: God does not bless imitation. He blesses authenticity that reflects his mission of reconciliation. Authenticity always outweighs trendiness in the long run. Real people are not looking for another flashy edit or cleverly worded caption. They are looking for real faith, real hope, and real connection.

So, the goal is not to become viral in the midst of the noise, but to remain faithful in spite of the noise. That means creating content that reflects your community's story, your calling, and your convictions. Whether your ministry has 20 followers or 20,000, your digital voice should be an extension of your spiritual identity, not a copy of someone else's *trendiness*.

As Paul reminded the Galatians, "Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ" (Galatians 1:10).

In an age of content overload, your authenticity is your greatest evangelistic asset. Don't trade it for trends.

A New Frontier for a New Generation

The digital age is not just a new tool for ministry; it is a new *invitation* for a new generation to step into it. While the customary models of church leadership often relied on pulpit presence in a set physical building, today's landscape is more decentralized, accessible, and collaborative. Young people, many of whom are digital natives, are not only consuming content—they are *creating* it. And in doing so, they are shaping the future of ministry.

Today's teens and young adults are fluent in video editing, podcast production, social storytelling, and live-stream hosting—skills that are no longer peripheral to ministry but central to it. What used to require expensive and elaborate equipment can now be done with a smartphone and a willing heart.

This shift has opened the door for a generation that might not see themselves behind a pulpit but who feel called to preach through a lens, reach through a screen, and inspire through a comment section. The church does not need to fear this virtual age, as this digital frontier is simply an expression of God's endless creativity. The church must lead in this virtual frontier—embracing, equipping, and releasing a new generation of creative ministers into this novel mission field.

Conclusion

Simply put, God's message cannot be stopped. From parchments to pulpits, from printing presses to podcasts, history has proven that it finds new platforms in every era. Today, these new platforms are overflowing with possibilities. So, why wait? Let's continue to carry on with the Great Commission; let us log in and upload the gospel into all the world.

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BISHOP DANIEL FELIPE
FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Bishop Daniel Felipe was born in the Dominican Republic to a missionary family. In his many ministry roles, he has served as youth pastor, camp director, pastor, district supervisor, and state bishop, along with serving on several national and international Church committees. He earned an MBA from Grand Canyon University and worked for 10 years in the financial industry before coming to the International Offices in 2023 to serve as the executive director of Finance and Administration. He and his wife, Laura, have been blessed with three children: Brandon, Dominic, and Estefania.

DIGITAL EVANGELISM: Leveraging Today's Technology to Reach the World

Defining Evangelism

We are all called to evangelize. To evangelize is to share the gospel with others. Some may also refer to evangelism as "witnessing." Many people search for their sole purpose in life, but there are two things that are most certain: (1) everyone is called to have a personal relationship with Christ, and (2) everyone is called to share the gospel with others. This is indicated by Jesus directly telling his disciples to preach the gospel. Matthew 28:19–20 states, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age" (NKJV). As my pastor, Shirley Vicks, used to say, "Do not sit, do not stay, but go, do." This scripture, Matthew 28:19–20, is known as the "Great Commission." Mark 16:15 gives an account of this commission as well: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Jesus commanded his disciples to share the good news over 2,000 years ago, and we should follow in this example even today. Evangelism is sharing the hope of redemption and the love of God with others.

God has promised to empower us to evangelize. Acts 1:8 states, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." If you are scared to share the gospel with others, pray for the Holy Spirit to empower you. If you do not know what to say, pray for the Holy Spirit to guide and teach you. We all have the responsibility to share Christ, and there are multiple methods for doing this. On the day of Pentecost, the Bible says that the Holy Spirit filled the disciples; while some people around were amazed, others mocked them (Acts 2:1–13). Peter took advantage of this moment to preach the gospel. He evangelized right there on the spot. First Peter 3:15 says, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear." Peter instructs us to be ready [to give an answer] any time the opportunity to witness presents itself.

Another example of evangelism can be found in Acts 10. Cornelius, a Roman soldier, was instructed in a vision to find Peter. Around the same time, Peter had a vision from Jesus that showed him that the gospel is for all people, not just the Jews. Peter preached to Cornelius and his family, and they were saved and baptized. Paul states in Romans 10:14–15,

> How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"

Peter fulfilled the responsibility of giving witness to the goodness of God to Cornelius which resulted in his whole household coming to know Christ. Paul emphasized that preaching is important. He even asked rhetorical questions like "How will they hear without a preacher?" Let us be encouraged by Peter, who shows us that witnessing to just one individual can make a huge impact. Let us also note that it is imperative for people to hear the gospel so they may have the opportunity to be saved.

Our daily devotion to Christ is evangelism. Some people have said it like this: "You may be the only Bible people read." Our lifestyles and everyday choices can and should be a witness to the world. Paul tells Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:12–16,

> Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself

> wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. (NIV)

People may watch your life more than they read God's Word, so let your life be an example to others, encouraging them to follow Christ. Paul also encouraged Timothy not to neglect his gift, and this goes for all of us as well. Whatever gift God has blessed us with, let us use that gift to point people to Jesus. Our personal worship and devotion to God is also an act of evangelism.

Digital Evangelism

As we pursue the mission of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ, it is important to pause and ask ourselves, "What is the most effective way to fulfill this calling?" In his Biennial Address at the 2024 International Assembly, Presiding Bishop Tim Coalter reminded us of the importance of using the most current methods of communication to share our faith. He reflected on how our church has done this for generations—building recording studios, operating printing presses, and even dropping gospel tracts from airplanes. In their time, these were the most effective tools for reaching people. Today, we have a vast network of global connections right at our fingertips. Social media has become the cultural "language" of our world.

Just as Jesus spoke in parables that connected with the culture of his day, we too are called to share the gospel in ways people can understand and relate to now. If we can accept social media as an incredible opportunity to connect with others and to share our faith, we set ourselves up for success. Our forefathers would be amazed at the opportunities we have right in front of us. Digital evangelism provides the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus Christ through online platforms and digital media. It extends our traditional methods of evangelism into the spaces where people spend significant portions of their daily lives.

Jesus himself modeled this approach in his parables. In the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1–23), Jesus used imagery familiar to his audience—seeds, soil types, and farming practices that were part of their everyday experience. He brought spiritual truth into their world through cultural references they already understood.

In today's interconnected world, digital spaces have become the modern equivalent of the ancient marketplace—places where people naturally gather. Consider this striking reality: 44 percent of people look at your social media page before meeting you in person. Your online presence is often your first testimony, creating impressions before you ever have the chance to speak face-to-face.

Social media transcends geographical boundaries, allowing us to share the gospel with people across the street or across the globe. It provides unprecedented opportunities to reach those who might not ever enter a church building but will engage with authentic faith content online.

Social media is a digital reflection of our values and our faith—think of it as a digital extension of one's self. Scripture reminds us, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

Interacting with others online helps us "carry each other's burdens" (Galatians 6:2) by alerting us when friends need support or have reasons to celebrate. A thoughtful comment or message of encouragement can demonstrate Christ's love in action.

The most effective digital evangelism looks like an authentic relationship. Be authentic by sharing both joys and challenges, demonstrating how faith sustains you through life's journey. Focus on connection by showing genuine interest in the lives of others through thoughtful engagement. This engagement can be as simple as taking an extra second to react to a post or prayerfully leaving a comment. Share your whole life because your faith shapes everything, creating diverse connection points, but keep your spiritual foundation at the center of your sharing.

Your digital presence speaks volumes, often without prompting direct conversations. This silent witness is powerful and should always reflect the truth of 1 Peter 3:15 (as noted earlier): "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

While in-person services and face-to-face interactions can never be replaced, embracing online spaces provides vast opportunities. You do not need to be "chronically online"—just intentional with the time you already spend there. When we approach digital spaces as mission fields rather than mere entertainment, everyday social media use becomes an opportunity to reflect Christ's love to a world in need of hope and connection.

Our daily devotion to Christ is evangelism. Some people have said it like this: "You may be the only Bible people read." Our lifestyles and everyday choices can and should be a witness to the world.

Conclusion

As previously stated, we are all called to evangelize. God will empower each of us to share the gospel because his word must be proclaimed. There are different methods of evangelism: preaching to a crowd, one-on-one evangelism, digital evangelism, and the list goes on. In this generation, social media is a common language being spoken around the world. If we want to effectively spread God's word, we must adapt our approach. Jesus related to those he taught within their cultural context, and we must be prepared to do the same. We are disciples of Christ, and we should be making more disciples of Christ using the most effective method we can to spread the good news! Building authentic relationships with people is one of the most effective methods of evangelism, whether this is done in person or online. Your lifestyle is another method of evangelism. Whether in person or online, let the light of Christ shine through you so that others can see and come to know Jesus Christ as well.

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Suprina Howard Robinson lives in Lake Charles, Louisiana. She graduated from Southeastern Louisiana University with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a Minor in Criminal Justice. She works for a nonprofit organization and is newly married to Hunter Robinson. She is active in church and campus ministry. Suprina enjoys attending COGOP events and working with children.

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TROUTVILLE, VIRGINIA

Based in Roanoke, Virginia, 21-year-old Camille Lynn serves in multiple roles at the Virginia Church of God of Prophecy state office while pursuing a degree in marketing. Having grown up as a pastor's daughter (and now a state bishop's daughter), she has deep roots in the COGOP family and brings this perspective to her work with youth camps and state work. Camille's insights come from this lifelong church family connection and the experiences gained in serving congregations across Virginia. She is excited to be getting married in August.

FISHING WITH A NEW NET:
Embracing Digital Evangelism to Reach the World

Throw your net on the right side of the boat . . . (John 21:6 NIV).

It was early morning. The disciples had returned to what they knew—fishing. Despite their efforts through the night, they had caught nothing. But when a voice from the shore called out and instructed them to cast their net on the other side of the boat, everything changed. The net filled with fish—too many to haul in, in fact. It was not a new sea, a different boat, or even a new crew. It was a shift in direction and obedience to the voice of Jesus.

This story in John 21 is not just about a miraculous catch. It is about a defining moment when the disciples, weary and empty-handed, had to trust Jesus' unconventional guidance to experience abundance. For today's church, this scene mirrors our challenge in a digitally driven world. Many congregations have "fished all night" using traditional methods—flyers, revivals, door-to-door visits—only to find dwindling response and engagement. But what if Jesus is now calling us to ***cast our nets into new waters***?

That new body of water is the digital world. Social media, podcasts, and video platforms are the modern-day "right side of the boat" teeming with people—souls waiting to encounter the gospel message.

The Digital Multitude: A Mission Field in Our Hands

The numbers are too significant to ignore. As of early 2024,

- 5.04 billion people—62% of the global population—are active social media users (DataReportal).
- YouTube is the second most visited website in the world, reaching more adults under 50 than any cable network in the United States.
- Spotify has over 602 million monthly users, and podcasting continues to grow, especially among Gen Z and millennials.
- The average person spends 2 hours and 24 minutes daily on social platforms.

Churches may not always have the funds to send missionaries to every nation, but a free Facebook Live, a five-minute podcast, or a YouTube testimony can cross borders instantly. If we believe the Great Commission is for all nations, then the internet—used wisely and prayerfully—becomes a powerful tool for reaching those nations.

Reframing the Mission: Digital Evangelism Is Not Optional

Digital evangelism is not a trend; it is a missional necessity. Churches often view social media or podcasts as promotional tools, meant only to advertise services or events. But this perspective severely limits their redemptive potential.

When we limit digital platforms to announcement boards, we miss the chance to turn them into altars. Instead of just asking, "How can we get more people to our service?" we should ask, "How can we bring the gospel to where people already are?"

Jesus walked dusty roads to meet people where they were. He told stories, sat at wells, and climbed into boats—not because they were sacred places, but because they were effective. Today's wells and boats are digital. Platforms like those previously mentioned are not inherently spiritual or secular. Like roads or boats, they are just methods. It is our message—the good news—that transforms them.

Three Primary Avenues: Social Media, Podcasts, and Videos

Let's explore how churches can leverage each platform to engage this vast digital mission field.

Social Media: The Digital Town Square

From Facebook to TikTok, social platforms are where communities gather. For churches, these platforms offer daily touchpoints to share faith.

Practical Ministry Ideas:

- Micro-devotionals (short text or video-based thoughts): These bite-sized reflections share spiritual insights or biblical truths in a quick, accessible format ideal for busy social media users.
- Testimony reels from members about what God is doing in their lives: These short videos allow individuals to share personal stories of faith, answered prayer, or transformation, helping others relate and see God at work.
- Behind-the-scenes glimpses of ministry, missions, or staff reflections: Offering a candid look into church life and leadership, these posts humanize your team and build trust with your digital audience.
- Interactive prompts, like "What's a Scripture that helped you this week?" to encourage engagement and spiritual reflection: These simple questions encourage followers to share their faith journeys, creating community and sparking meaningful dialogue online.

The goal? It is not just about views, but relationships. Responding to comments, praying over needs shared in DMs (Direct Messages), and creating an environment of authenticity can turn digital posts into discipleship moments.

Podcasts: Reaching the Listening Generation

Over 500 million people listen to podcasts globally. Unlike videos or posts that demand full attention, podcasts meet people during walks, commutes, and chores. They create space for deeper spiritual conversations.

Ideas for Churches:

- Record and share weekly sermon with follow-up discussions.
- Conduct interviews with church members sharing their faith stories.
- Share devotionals for specific audiences such as parents, youth, or new believers.
- Offer "Ask the Pastor" style episodes that address cultural or biblical questions.

You don't need expensive equipment to start. Many churches are recording straight from smartphones or using free tools like Anchor (Spotify for Podcasters) to reach thousands.

Video Content: The Power of Visual Storytelling

Video is the most consumed content on the internet. People remember 95% of a message when they watch it on video compared to only 10% when reading it in text.

Ideas to Try:

- Record one-minute videos that explain the gospel or a passage of Scripture.
- Record testimonies from members about healing, breakthrough, or salvation.
- Capture baptism stories and ministry recaps that highlight God's work.
- Post explainer videos for those new to the faith (such as "What is salvation?").

Livestreamed services are great—but don't stop there. Pre-recorded and tailored content can go further, reach different audiences, and stay relevant throughout the week.

Don't Compete—Be Consistent

Some churches shy away from digital ministry because they cannot compete with "megachurch" productions. But God does not bless slick editing; he blesses obedience.

Jesus used five loaves and two fish. He can use your smartphone and a ring light. The key is consistency. Posting regularly builds trust. Speaking from the heart builds connection. Praying before you post keeps your focus on transformation, not performance.

What Is Your Church's Digital Witness?

Before your church launches its next campaign, consider, "What does your online presence say about your faith? Does your content reflect the fruit of the Spirit? Does it bring light into dark feeds? Is your church's digital voice consistent with its pulpit voice?"

Digital evangelism is not just about what we say—it is about how we live, how we respond, and how we show the love of Christ to people who may never step foot in a sanctuary. This is not a new ministry. It is an extension of the church's witness. And it might just be the "right side of the boat" where Jesus is calling you to cast into next.

Free Tools to Launch or Strengthen Your Digital Mission

Here are a few free or low-cost tools to help churches get started or level up their digital evangelism efforts:

Canva – tool for designing social graphics, reels, and YouTube thumbnails with easy templates

www.canva.com

Anchor / Spotify for Podcasters – free podcast hosting and distribution to Spotify, Apple, and more

https://podcasters.spotify.com/

YouVersion Bible App Events – a place for creating church event plans and Bible reading plans tied to your content

www.bible.com/events

OpenLP (free) or ProPresenter (requires monthly fee) – presentation software used to project lyrics and scripture in church and to capture content for social media

www.openlp.org

OBS Studio – open-source software to livestream your church services or record videos

www.obsproject.com

Pexels / Unsplash – sources for free, high-quality stock photos and videos for content creation

www.pexels.com
www.unsplash.com

The net is ready. The waters are full. The voice from the shore is still calling. Will your church cast again—this time into the digital deep?

BISHOP SHAUN MCKINLEY, PHD
GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Bishop Dr. Shaun McKinley is the executive director of the Global Communications division of the International Offices of the Church of God of Prophecy. He is a graduate of the University of the Cumberlands, where he earned a PhD in Leadership Studies with a concentration in Ministry and Missions (2021). He also holds a Master of Business Administration in Marketing (Bryan College, 2014) and a Bachelor of Science in Public Relations (Montana State University, 2000). He serves as an adjunct undergraduate and graduate instructor with six major universities. In addition to his executive director responsibilities, Dr. McKinley serves the Church of God of Prophecy as a member of its Corporate Board of Directors, Spirit and Life Seminary Board of Directors, International Assembly Task Force, and the International Assembly Expense Committee. Shaun is married to Stephanie (Shroyer) McKinley and they have three daughters: Reagan, Madison, and Kennedy.

A WINDOW INTO YOUR CHURCH:
Strategies for Reaching a Digital World

Before our world became the technologically driven society that it is today, you may recall those fond memories of entering a church for the first time. For the most part, you did not know what to expect or who you may encounter. There was a mix of excitement and anxiousness about how the experience may go. You may have wondered, Is there children's church? What does this church believe? Or what is the pastor like? With the increased use of technology, the days of those experiences are fading quickly. People often make first-time visits to our churches digitally before they ever make a first-time visit in person.

The rapid advancements of digital platforms have created a unique experience unlike before. The world around us now can look into our churches through a digital window long before they ever visit in person. This is not exclusive to churches. This is how many people now decide whether to make a purchase, eat at a particular restaurant, visit a store, etc. Within a society of increasing distrust, we rely heavily on our own research through digital platforms to provide us with a sense of trust and comfort before investing ourselves somewhere. Most people want to see the pictures, look at the menu, and read the reviews before ever committing to frequent an establishment. This mode of thinking has, of course, affected how unbelievers engage with the church. They are looking through the digital window into your church "to check you out" first.

Church windows may have changed over the years—from beautiful stained-glass windows to short and stout, open-air windows—but the message of the gospel remains the same. Now we have the digital window through which the world is looking, and with this window comes an opportunity for the church to reach the world in unprecedented ways with the power of the gospel.

If this is true, then we must be increasingly mindful of the digital evangelism opportunities that are before us and leverage these platforms for the sake of the gospel. We can be certain that in our post-pandemic era, technology adaptation is growing exponentially. These platforms that once seemed intimidating to some have become more user-friendly and integrated into day-to-day life. Platforms like Zoom, Teams, and YouTube have become common vernacular globally. Churches may be skeptical of embracing digital evangelism opportunities because they are uncertain or uninformed about these emerging modes of ministry. However, we should not let this hinder our approach and, instead, do all we can to "make the most of every opportunity" (Ephesians 5:16 NIV).

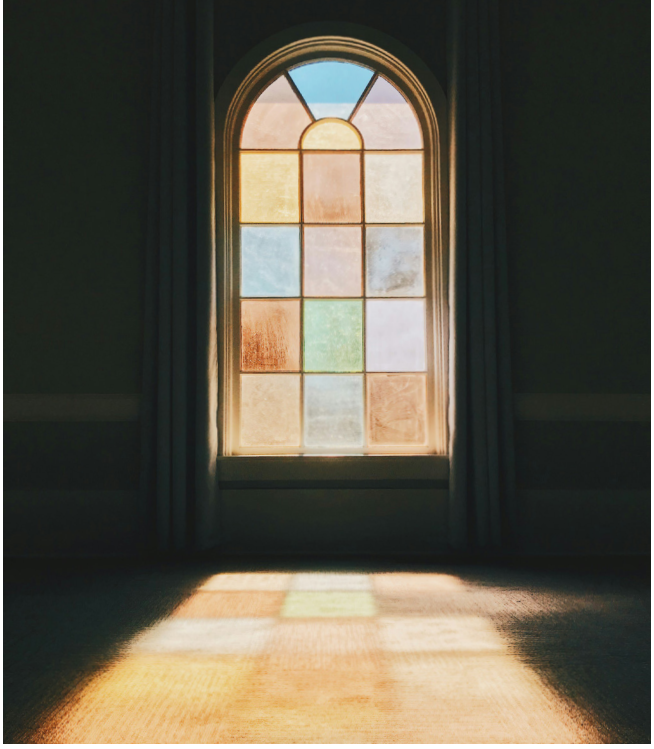
Strategies for Digital Evangelism Opportunities

In most missionary training programs, missionaries learn a term that identifies a key skill of gospel proclamation in new fields—*contextualization*. Gospel contextualization is the proclamation of the steadfast, unchanging gospel message through culturally appropriate and culturally understood means. However, in all contextualization, the danger of *syncretism* must be recognized and cautioned. Syncretism is when the message of the gospel is mixed with cultural worldviews that are incompatible with Scripture.[1] These terms—contextualization and syncretism—are relevant to digital evangelism since some digital platforms utilize strategies where the gospel is appropriately contextualized, but other emerging strategies are more syncretistic in nature and do not reflect biblical values.

Below are some strategies for reaching our communities through various digital platforms.

In-Person Connections Are Priority

Although our world is more tech-savvy than ever before, the church is made up of people, not "clicks" or "likes." Loving and reaching people is our priority. Digital platforms should serve as a bridge, but they should not be a substitute for in-person experience. The church is not something to behold from a distance; the church is made up of people who are all contributing together as a community. As comfortable as it may be to watch a church service from the recliner, this is contrary to the biblical picture of the believers assembling together, and it negates the gifts that God has given each believer to edify the body of Christ.



Ironically, recent research has suggested that Gen Z, fluent in "all things technology," is longing and looking for meaningful connections in the church.[2] It is imperative that we understand digital outreach as a bridge into the life of the church where relationships are nurtured, and discipleship can take place. Desmond Henry and Nick Parker of the Lausanne Movement (a multi-ecumenical movement dedicated to helping the Church advance the mission of Christ) have noted some of the current realities and tasks of the church in these digital spaces. They highlight that "ministries must bridge the gap between online engagement and real-world Christian community."[3] The local church must find contextually appropriate ways to integrate their online community into real relationships within the church.

Henry and Parker further add, "Social media and online platforms are effective for initiating conversations but often struggle to sustain meaningful relationships that lead to long-term spiritual growth."[4] We must acknowledge that technology, like any tool, has its limits in reaching people. Digital platforms may be a connecting point or a window into the church, but relationships are best established through in-person encounters. A good guiding principle is that we should not live on digital platforms. Leverage it as a tool but live in the relationships that God has entrusted to us.

Be Authentic

There is a temptation in the world of digital platforms to be something that we are not. It is easy to share or manipulate content that does not truly reflect our local church. Likewise, there is a temptation to mimic another church's digital evangelism strategy because it may look like it is working for them. This is where being in touch with our own communities is of utmost importance. To contextualize the gospel, we must understand the culture around us. The digital evangelism strategy that our church uses may be different than the strategy of the church down the road. We need to ask, "Who am I trying to reach, and what is the best way to reach them digitally?" This is why we must be authentic to whom God has called us to be.

A very simple and practical way to be authentic is to share updated pictures of our congregations. If people are investigating our churches before ever visiting, let them have a look at those wonderful moments we have together. This may entail posting pictures of a worship service, a youth gathering, an outreach, or a special fellowship event. And don't forget, you can never go wrong with sharing pictures of smiling faces. Hospitality breeds relationships. These snapshots into the life of your congregation may give someone the sense of trust they need to engage with your church for the first time.

Maintain the Right Motives

Henry, Pak, and Parker, in their article "Proclamation Evangelism in a Digital Age," point out that one of the major challenges facing the local church in digital spaces is that of perceived success:

> The biggest challenge that ministries face in this digital age is that of perceived success. With the nature of social media and the aggressive algorithms that promote content at all cost, it is very easy to 'share' the good news with millions of people at a time and think that it's making a difference, when in reality these numbers don't reflect true gospel engagement. This in part is due to how social platforms report data and the metrics they use. For instance, the number of people 'reached' doesn't mean the number of people who have viewed and engaged with the content. . . .

> Anything done in an online environment is seen to have a shelf life. Therefore, ministries can often find themselves consumed by the drive to produce more content that is bigger and better than before. And while the spirit of excellence is applauded, this desire to become bigger, better, and more 'viral' often leads to ministries negating the message of the gospel in pursuit of clicks, likes, and views. Proclamation evangelism, however, regardless of the medium, is about proclaiming the good news without compromising the message.[5]

In digital evangelism, we must resolve to maintain the right motives. Success in this area is not about gaining a following, becoming "viral," or making our church the desired destination. Success in digital evangelism is faithfully proclaiming the gospel and pointing people to Jesus. An unknown preacher once said, "You can't come across clever and have Jesus wonderful too." If our motives are misaligned and we want to make a name for ourselves (the tragedy of the Tower of Babel), God will not bless. However, he will bless the church that wants to make the name of Jesus great in all the earth.

Social platform metrics can be misleading. These metrics can also be a tireless pursuit to try and gain a greater following or a greater number of clicks, subscribes, or likes. However, ministry is not about these numbers. People are more than just a number. Ministry is about knowing the name, not the number. Instead of obsessing over digital metrics, spend time trying to learn the names of the people you are digitally engaging with.

Make It Easy

One of the major benefits of using digital platforms is accessibility. Digital platforms give us the opportunity to make easy and accessible paths into the life of our local church. However, we have to ensure we make these digital platforms easy to navigate. People are drawn to professionalism, hospitality, relevant content, user friendliness, and sites that are aesthetically pleasing. More people are apt to dismiss something lacking these components as not being reliable or trustworthy. If we want to reach our world digitally, then we have to make it as easy as possible. Less is more. It is better to have fewer platforms that are maintained well than a plethora of platforms that are out of date and difficult to use. There are many tools available now, but it takes time to find the ones that work well for our specific contexts.

Let's ask God for wisdom and direction to use these digital tools to reach the world. It is our prayer that this digital window into our churches would show the world how wonderful Jesus is and would be a catalyst for compelling the nations to Christ.

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1 Ralph D. Winter and Stephen C. Hawthorne, eds., Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A Reader, 4th ed. (Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2009), Kindle Loc 12753.

2 Barna Group, "How to Help Gen Z Connect Spiritually Online and at Church," Barna, February 28, 2023, https://www.barna.com/trends/how-to-help-gen-z-connect-spiritually-online-and-at-church/.

3 Desmond Henry and Nick Parker, "Evangelism in a Digital Age: Collaborate Gap Summary," Lausanne Movement, accessed April 10, 2025, https://lausanne.org/statement/evangelism-in-a-digital-age-collaborate-gap-summary.

4 Henry and Parker, "Evangelism in a Digital Age."

5 Desmond Henry, Lisa Pak, and Nick Parker, "Proclamation Evangelism in a Digital Age," Lausanne Movement, accessed April 10, 2025, https://lausanne.org/report/digital-ministry/proclamation-evangelism.

CHARLIE SCRUGGS
NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA

Charlie Scruggs serves as the senior pastor of All Nations Church in Newport News, Virginia, and serves as a freelance graphic designer. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Religion: Intercultural Studies from Liberty University and a Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary. Charlie and his wife, Amáris, and their daughter, Eliana, reside in Newport News, Virginia.

FROM EIGHT-TRACKS TO TIKTOK:

Embracing Today's Tools to Reach the World for Christ

I can still see it like it was yesterday—the black Buick my parents drove, cruising through the Tennessee hills with the windows cracked just enough to let in the breeze. In the dashboard was an eight-track player that delivered the rich harmonies of the Speer Family, Naomi and the Segos, and the soul-stirring voice of Andraé Crouch. Gospel music filled that car with hope and conviction. It was my first taste of how faith could travel—on tape, through speakers, and straight into the heart.

Back then, we did not have internet or smart devices. "Streaming" was something that happened in a creek, not your living room. But even in those simpler times, the message of Jesus found a way to reach people. That same message still needs to go out today—only now, the tools are faster, broader, and at the touch of a button.

The world has changed. Technology has changed. But the Great Commission has not. And today, God is giving us new and powerful ways to reach across the street and around the world. Social media, podcasts, and video content are not just entertainment; they are open doors—tools for evangelism and discipleship.

Yesterday's Roots, Today's Reach

It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the pace of modern communication. Every few months, a new app or platform seems to rise in popularity, and for many of us, the idea of creating content or engaging online feels a little intimidating. But we are not the first generation to face this kind of shift.

The early church relied on handwritten letters and parchment scrolls delivered by foot. In time, the printing press revolutionized the spread of Scripture. Radio and television brought the gospel into homes around the world. And now, mobile phones and social media allow us to reach people we will never meet in person—instantly.

The method may change, but the mission does not. God has always used the communication tools of the day to spread the gospel.

Social Media: Our Global Pulpit

Social media is one of the most powerful communication tools the church has ever had. It is not just for photos, family updates, or funny videos—it is a mission field with no borders.

Tip: *Be present, be genuine, and be intentional.*

You do not need a professional studio or a media team to share the gospel. Just start with your story—a scripture that encouraged you, a word of hope for someone struggling, or a photo of your church family worshipping together. These small moments, shared with sincerity, carry great impact.

Engaging with social media through likes, shares, and comments may seem simple, but it plays a powerful role in spreading the gospel. Every time you interact with a post, video, or reel, you help amplify the message, increasing its reach and impact beyond your immediate circle. Your engagement is not just digital activity; it is digital ministry.

For leaders: Encourage your congregation to engage with purpose. Create shareable content from sermons. Post prayer points and testimonies. Use social platforms to invite, encourage, and equip.

For every believer: Your voice matters. A post that shares your faith could be the first step in someone's spiritual journey.

Podcasts: Everyday Conversations, Eternal Truths

Podcasts are today's version of the old kitchen-table conversations—real, relatable, and easily shared. People listen to them while driving, walking, or folding laundry. In a world that often feels rushed and disconnected, podcasts offer something surprisingly rare: time to reflect and listen.

Tip: *Think connection, not perfection.*

You do not need fancy equipment; a phone and a quiet room are enough. Record a devotional thought, talk through a Bible passage with a friend, share your testimony, or invite someone to share theirs.

For pastors and church leaders: Consider creating a short weekly encouragement or diving deeper into Sunday's message.

For every believer: Your personal story—your journey with God—can speak volumes to someone searching for hope.

One of the greatest benefits of podcasting is how far and how quickly it can spread. What you record in your living room today could touch a heart on the other side of the world tomorrow.

Video Content: Let Them See the Gospel

There is something powerful about seeing faith in action. Video allows us to not just *tell* the good news, but to *show* it—a baptism, a child lifting their hands in worship, a missionary walking through a village, or a prayer meeting with hands joined across generations. These moments do not just move us—they invite others in.

Tip: *Let people see what God is doing in and through you.*

Whether it is a short clip for Instagram or a full message posted to YouTube, video builds connection. It is emotional. It is engaging. And most importantly, it is shareable.

You do not need a studio. Use what you have: a phone, natural light, and an open heart. Keep it simple. Focus on what God is doing.

For Leaders: Consider capturing testimonies, service highlights, and behind-the-scenes moments that show the heart of your ministry.

For believers: Do not underestimate the power or impact of a 60-second encouragement filmed from your front porch.

For Every Generation

This is not just for the twentysomethings with three phones and a ring light. Nor is it only for the silver-haired saints who still know the power of a handwritten note. This is for *all* of us. We each have a role in this digital harvest.

To the 20-year-old: You were born into this digital age. Use your voice. Share your journey. Start a Bible study on Discord. Make a YouTube devotional series. Don't wait for a platform; *you are the platform.*

To the 90-year-old: Your wisdom, your faith, your endurance—they matter. The younger generations need to hear your voice. Record a story from your life. Write a prayer and share it. Let your legacy speak into the future.

The tools may look different, but the call is the same: *Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation* (Mark 16:15).

We now have the tools to go farther and faster than ever before. So, let's not be afraid of the unfamiliar. Let's not waste time waiting for the perfect moment. The podcast, video content, or social media post could start the conversation that leads to conversion.

I will always be grateful for those days in the Buick with gospel music riding on the wind. It is where my heart was first stirred for the things of God. But today, I marvel at how many more hearts can be reached with a single click.

If Jesus could speak to crowds from fishing boats and mountaintops, I am pretty sure he would have no problem with a livestream or a podcast. The gospel is not limited by format. It is empowered by faith, creativity, and willingness to share it.

The call to "go into all the world and preach the gospel" has never been more possible—and never more urgent. So, let's embrace the moment. Let's open the doors. Let's fill the digital spaces with light and truth and the love of Jesus.

Whether you are sharing a scripture on Facebook, recording a podcast at your kitchen table, or filming a testimony in the church hallway, know this: Your story matters. Your voice matters. And someone, somewhere, is just a click away from hearing the gospel because of it.

MICHELLE BROOKS-YOUNG
MURFREESBORO, TN

Michelle Brooks-Young serves on the Tennessee State staff as Tennessee Missions Connection coordinator, connecting vision needs with funds and supporting the value of missions, both stateside and worldwide. She has traveled internationally for over 20 years spreading the gospel in various avenues. Michelle attends the Restoration Fellowship COGOP in Murfreesboro, TN.

Transforming the Digital World:
The Call to Be Online Missionaries

We live in a different world!
The world around us has changed drastically. The internet and modern technology have opened new horizons across the globe. People today can now talk about a world "before the internet" and a world "after the internet." This new era of hyperconnectivity presents many challenges and opportunities for the church today.

This new digital world offers us opportunities we must seize. Our online interactions have immense power—every comment, every post, and every private message can be an opportunity to share the love and hope we find in our faith. Given this opportunity, the question we must ponder is, how can we, as believers, become digital missionaries in our daily online interactions?

1. Live your faith openly.
Let's not be afraid to share our faith on our social media profiles. Post Bible verses, spiritual reflections, and personal testimonies. By doing so, you not only strengthen your own faith, but also inspire others to seek a deeper relationship with God. As Matthew 5:16 says, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

2. Be an example of love and respect.
The online world can be a place of conflict and negativity. As believers, we are called to be a light in the darkness. Respond with love and respect, even in heated debates. Your behavior can be a powerful witness to the peace and grace that come from a Christ-centered life. Ephesians 4:29 reminds us, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

3. Share spiritual resources.
Use your online platforms to share resources that can help others in their spiritual journey. This can include links to sermons, inspirational articles, and other resources for the edification of people. Before sharing, verify that the information is truly edifying, as there is a lot of misinformation on the internet, including erroneous doctrines disguised as truth. By providing edifying resources, you are equipping others to grow in their faith and encouraging them to do the same. Proverbs 27:17 says, "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."

4. Pray for your online interactions.
Before posting or responding to a comment, take a moment to pray. Ask God for wisdom and discernment so that your words are uplifting and reflect his love. Prayer can transform your interactions into divine opportunities to impact lives. James 1:5 encourages us, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

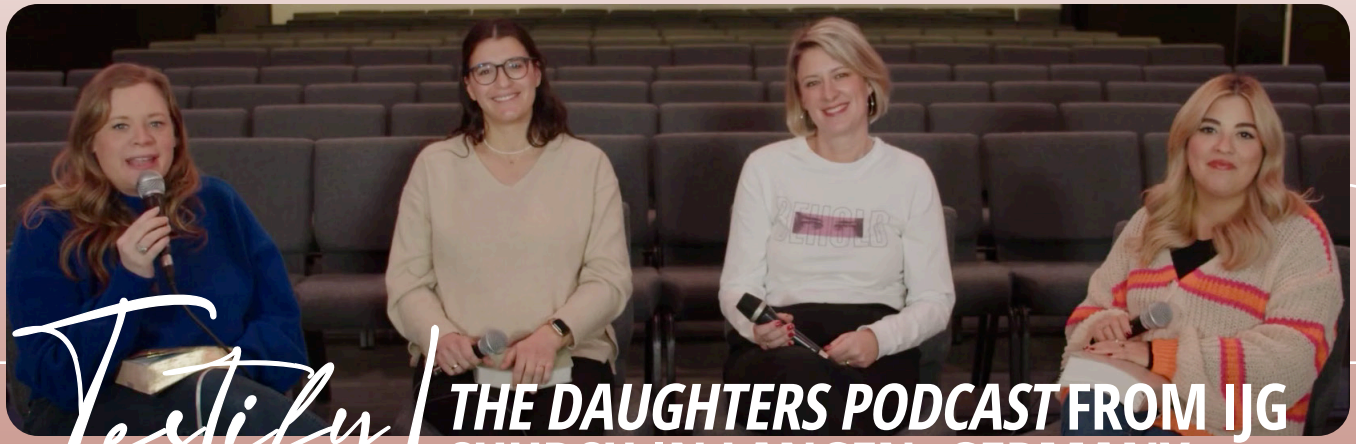
5. Connect with other believers.
Seek out and join online communities of other believers. These groups can offer support, encouragement, and opportunities to collaborate on digital mission projects. Together, you can have an even greater impact in the digital world. Hebrews 10:24–25 exhorts us, "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

6. Be authentic and transparent.
Authenticity is key in the digital world. Don't be afraid to share your struggles and how God has helped you overcome them. Your vulnerability can resonate with others who are going through similar situations and can be a source of hope and strength. Second Corinthians 12:9 reminds us, "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

Conclusion
Being a digital missionary does not require a special title or a massive platform. Every believer has the potential to impact the digital world in a meaningful way. By living our faith openly, responding with love, sharing resources, praying for our interactions, connecting with other believers, and being authentic, we can transform our daily online interactions into opportunities to share God's love. Accept the call and be a digital missionary today!

BISHOP RICARDO HINSBIS ESPINOZA
PARAGUAY NATIONAL BISHOP

Ricardo Hinsbis Espinoza was born in 1979 in Talara, Peru. He studied Theology at the Unversidad Seminario Bíblico Andino and is currently pursuing a master's degree at the Pentecostal Theological Seminary. He, his wife Estela, and daughters reside in Paraguay, where he serves as the national bishop for the Church of God of Prophecy.



Testify! THE DAUGHTERS PODCAST FROM IJG CHURCH IN LANGEN, GERMANY

In January 2021, something powerful began stirring in the hearts of the women at IJG (*Internationale Jesus Gemeinde*) Church in Langen, Germany. Following an extraordinary move of God—marked by healings, miracles, deliverances, and an undeniable outpouring of the Holy Spirit—the women's ministry sensed a divine prompting: *Do not keep this to yourselves. Testify! Move out from behind your church walls and tell everyone!*

In January 2022, that prompting became *The Daughters Podcast*, a Spirit-led platform birthed to share real testimonies of what Jesus Christ has done in the lives of women in our local church and beyond.

Now in Season 6 as of February 2025, we are still in awe of what God has done. What began as a local ministry effort has become an international source of encouragement. One of our episodes, which focused on the joys and challenges of living as a single Christian woman, has reached nearly 60,000 listeners. We could never have imagined such an impact.

The heart of *The Daughters Podcast* is simple: to strengthen the body of Christ through open, honest, and Spirit-filled conversations. Our topics range from prayer, church fellowship, and walking in step with the Holy Spirit, to studying and living out God's Word. Most episodes feature women from our own church community who share powerful, personal testimonies of transformation, breakthrough, and hope.

The fruit of this work has been overwhelming. We have heard from listeners around the world who have been touched, challenged, and renewed in their faith. Even more humbling, some have shown up at our Sunday services, drawn by the testimonies they heard on the podcast, asking for prayer and believing for a miracle of their own.

Through this podcast, we have seen that the gospel still reaches people right where they are—whether in their homes, their cars, or across continents. Every story, every episode, is an offering of hope, a declaration of God's faithfulness, and a continual giving of glory to Jesus Christ.

We are incredibly thankful for the dedicated and Spirit-filled team behind *The Daughters Podcast*. This team includes Laurie Prentice, Daniela Esau, Ornella Pfaff, and Leena Loop, along with our invaluable tech team, Mathias Esau and Julian Pfaff, who handle cameras, lighting, sound, editing, and post-production—*all on a volunteer basis*.

Each episode is recorded with open hearts surrendered to the Holy Spirit. We do not work from scripts, but trust in a free-flowing conversation, knowing that the Lord always breathes life into what is spoken. It is a holy partnership, and he always shows up.

We are honored to serve in this way, and we give all the glory to Jesus Christ. May this testimony encourage others to step out, share boldly, and trust God to take their "yes" and reach multitudes. To him be all the glory!

Rebecca Gilliland and *The Daughters Podcast* Team

DAUGHTERS *Podcast*

YouTube | youtube.com/@daughterspodcast3084
Instagram | instagram.com/ijg_daughters
Apple Podcasts | https://bit.ly/daughterspodcast
Spotify | https://spoti.fi/4jF6AYX
IJG Langen | youtube.com/@ijglangen

CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY Global Communications

Spirit & Life SEMINARY

▲ Dr. Michael Hernandez, Seminary President

Spirit and Life Seminary Achieves Accreditation by TRACS

CLEVELAND, TN — Spirit and Life Seminary, the official seminary of the Church of God of Prophecy, has reached a historic milestone by achieving accreditation through the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS). This significant achievement affirms the seminary's commitment to academic excellence, spiritual formation, and the equipping of leaders for Spirit-empowered ministry.

Celebrating the announcement, Church of God of Prophecy Presiding Bishop Tim Coalter shared, "The accreditation of Spirit and Life Seminary is a significant milestone for the Church of God of Prophecy. It affirms the quality and credibility of the theological education being offered by our movement and reflects our renewed commitment to equipping men and women for Spirit-empowered ministry." He continued, "Around the globe, I anticipate a sense of celebration and pride from our people, knowing that this step further aligns us with our call to make mature disciples and develop leaders who will reconcile the world for Christ. Congratulations to Seminary President Dr. Michael Hernandez, along with the dedicated staff and faculty of Spirit and Life Seminary, on achieving accreditation."

The journey toward Spirit and Life Seminary's establishment and accreditation began with the Church's identification of leadership development and discipleship as a core value. Recognizing the growing need for formal theological education across its global constituency, Church leadership initiated plans in 2016 to establish an institution of higher learning. The first class offering began in the fall of 2017, and the Seminary quickly moved toward securing state authorization.

In November 2019, after a year of intensive preparation, Spirit and Life Seminary received authorization from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) to operate as a recognized institution of higher education. Following this milestone, the Seminary developed a

strategic plan for growth and academic development. In 2022, Spirit and Life Seminary achieved certification from the Association for Hispanic Theological Education (AETH), enabling its Ministry and Theological Studies Certificate to be recognized by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) for graduate admission.

Recognition of accreditation was awarded on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, following a meeting of the TRACS Accreditation Commission.

Accreditation through TRACS, a national accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), enhances Spirit and Life Seminary's position among Christian higher education institutions. It also connects the Seminary to global networks of quality assurance through membership in the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) and the American Council on Education (ACE).

The Seminary's year-end summary for 2024 highlighted strong progress in strategic goals and a significant surge in student growth. By December 2024, Spirit and Life Seminary had enrolled 265 students, marking a 52 percent increase over its 2022 enrollment of 174 students. Growth within the Spanish program was especially remarkable, with enrollment rising from 29 students in 2022 to 122 students in 2024—a 320 percent increase.

The Seminary's global reach also expanded notably. Enrollment in Africa, Central America, and South America grew exponentially from 2023 to 2024, indicating great interest and appreciation for the global access for the programs offered by the Seminary.

Albert Murza, academic dean, noted, "Achieving accreditation from TRACS strengthens our ability to serve students with excellence, but also allows us to expand our academic offerings and support continued growth in Christ-centered education."

To support this continued expansion, Spirit and Life Seminary strengthened its faculty by hiring a second full-time Spanish-language instructor in January 2024 and a part-time English-language instructor in October 2024. Additionally, six regional coordinators were recruited to assist in developing Spanish-speaking cohorts in the Southeast United States and the Dominican Republic. In 2024, strategic efforts also began to secure additional funding for faculty professional development initiatives.

Following notification of the granting of accreditation to the seminary, Bishop Jeffery Davis, executive director of Leadership Development and Discipleship Ministries, shared, "God always knew that he was going to raise Spirit and Life Seminary; we didn't. He is the Resurrection and the Life. Believing in him and responding to what he said has given us a new opportunity to train and develop the leaders of tomorrow."

An important part of this milestone included hosting a TRACS Evaluation Team visit in January 2024, culminating in the Seminary being awarded candidate status in April 2024 and now full accreditation in 2025.

Seminary President Dr. Michael Hernandez reflected on the Seminary's journey saying, "Accreditation for Spirit and Life Seminary means that our students can have full confidence that the program they have enrolled in meets or exceeds standards for institutional integrity, continuous improvement, and academic excellence."

Spirit and Life Seminary offers fully online programs—including a Bachelor of Ministry and Theological Studies and the Certificate in Ministry and Theological Studies—making Spirit-empowered, biblically rooted education accessible worldwide.

For more information about Spirit and Life Seminary, its programs, or how to enroll, visit www.slsem.org.www.spiritandlifeseminary.org.

About Spirit and Life Seminary

Spirit and Life Seminary, the denominational seminary of the Church of God of Prophecy, is committed to providing educational opportunities that will equip the Church of God of Prophecy leadership, ministry, and laity with the knowledge base, evangelism skills, and spiritual dispositions to fulfill Christ's mission by impacting their world. Located in Cleveland, Tennessee, the seminary offers fully online programs designed to be accessible to a global community of learners. Spirit and Life Seminary is authorized by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, certified by AETH, and accredited by TRACS.

SOCIAL MEDIA EVANGELISM: TURNING POSTS INTO MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

With over 5.04 billion people—more than 62 percent of the global population—active on social media platforms as of early 2024, the digital world is no longer a separate space from real life; it is where life happens. Whether we are connecting with friends, learning new skills, or scrolling through short videos, social media has become a gathering place for people of all nations, backgrounds, and beliefs. For the church, this presents not only a challenge but a profound opportunity.

One study by Pew Research Center found that 47 percent of U.S. adults say they have seen people share their faith or religious beliefs online, while 20 percent report posting about their own religious beliefs on social platforms. In regions where physical churches are restricted or religious expression is monitored, digital content becomes a lifeline to the gospel. In fact, according to a 2023 Lifeway Research study, 77 percent of churchgoers say they have watched a church service online, and 38 percent have shared a sermon or spiritual message on social media.

So, how can we turn our posts into ministry opportunities?

Start with Purpose, Not Popularity

Before posting, ask, “Is what I am sharing pointing people to Jesus? Is it offering hope, truth, or grace?” Evangelism does not require polished graphics or influencer status. It simply requires a heart tuned to the Spirit and a willingness to share authentically.

Think of your feed as an altar and your posts as offerings. Every encouraging Scripture, testimony, worship clip, or story of God’s faithfulness has the potential to plant seeds of faith. A vulnerable, honest post about your struggle followed by a declaration of God’s goodness might speak louder than a thousand sermons.

Content Ideas that Invite Engagement

Here are a few types of content that naturally create ministry opportunities:

- Scripture Reflections: Share verses that have impacted you, along with a short personal insight. Use tools like YouVersion’s Verse of the Day or Canva to make Scripture visually compelling.

- Testimonies: A brief post or video sharing how God answered prayer, provided peace, or worked in your life can draw others into spiritual conversation.
- Worship Moments: Clips from a worship service or your personal worship time can help others encounter God's presence.
- Prayer Invitations: Offering to pray for others—even through Instagram stories or Facebook posts—can be powerful. Create a weekly rhythm of asking, "How can I pray for you today?"
- Faith Conversations: React to trending topics with kingdom perspectives. How can we model grace in conflict, forgiveness in tension, or hope in crisis?

Evangelism Is in the Comments

It is not just about what you post—it is how you respond. Social media becomes a ministry when you move from broadcasting to relationship. Reply to comments with encouragement. Send a private message to someone hurting. Ask follow-up questions when someone shares a need.

Jesus ministered through *presence* and *conversation*. Digital platforms give us the chance to do both—even with people we may never meet in person.

Reflecting Christ in Every Scroll

Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 5:20 that "we are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us" (NIV). This identity extends into our online presence. What we post, like, share, and comment on reflects the kingdom we represent.

Before hitting "post," ask yourself:

- Does this reflect love, joy, peace, patience, kindness . . . (Galatians 5:22–23)?
- Am I contributing to unity or division?
- Would I say this in person to someone I am trying to reach for Christ?

We are not just content creators—we are Christ's representatives.

A Tool, Not a Substitute

Digital evangelism may never replace real-life discipleship, prayer, or community. But it can be a spark that leads to spiritual transformation. Your post might be the reason someone walks through the doors of a church, picks up a Bible again, or asks a question about faith.

In a world saturated with noise, the gospel will always find a way to cut through. And you—yes, you—have been given a platform, however big or small, to declare the wonderful works of God (Psalm 96:3).

Let us use every story, every caption, every comment to say, "Come and see what the Lord has done."

BISHOP SHAUN MCKINLEY, PHD | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to The Pastor's Table, a place where ministry leaders gather for wisdom, encouragement, and practical insights. Just as a table is where meals are shared and meaningful conversations unfold, this column serves as a space for pastors to reflect, learn, and be strengthened in their calling. Each month, we'll explore topics that matter—practical advice, counseling, family, leadership, and more—offering tools to equip and sustain those who shepherd God's people. Pull up a chair, and let's journey together in ministry.

PRIORITIZING PASTORAL MENTAL HEALTH: A CALL FOR SELF-CARE AND SUPPORT

Navigating Mental Health Challenges in Ministry (Part 2)

BISHOP ROGER BALL, LCSW, PHD | NEW YORK, NY

On a recent flight, I came across an article titled "Some Key Differences Between a Happy Life and a Meaningful Life." The authors argued that happiness and meaning are often incongruent. Those who pursue happiness at all costs might find themselves unfulfilled and lacking purpose, while those focused on their calling may find happiness elusive. This dichotomy resonates deeply with pastors who often sacrifice their own mental health for the sake of ministry.

Recent studies reveal that 23.08 percent of adults in the United States experience mental illness annually (approximately 60 million Americans). Similarly, the World Health Organization reported that, in 2019, one in eight people worldwide struggled with mental health issues. Pastors, while guiding others through spiritual crises, often find themselves in a mental and emotional struggle that remains hidden. Barna Group's 2021 research found that 50 percent of pastors reported feeling isolated, and 38 percent had considered leaving the ministry due to burnout.

In many church cultures, pastors are expected to be invulnerable, embodying strength and leadership without acknowledging their own weaknesses. This unspoken model can foster a cycle of denial, preventing pastors from confronting their human limitations. As leaders of their congregations, pastors are often seen as pillars of strength. However, the pressure to maintain this image can lead to exhaustion, both physically and emotionally.

The Weight of Isolation and Expectations

Pastoral leadership often means sacrificing personal health and well-being for the sake of the flock. The church's expectations can make it difficult for pastors to embrace their own humanity. In fact, Barna's research indicates that while pastors may be surrounded by people, they often feel alone. This isolation can erode their emotional well-being over time. Without deep, supportive relationships with peers, they struggle to find the encouragement and care they need.

Many pastors spend so much time serving others that they neglect their own mental health, emotional needs, and personal relationships. A study from Barna found that 23 percent of pastors have no close friends, and 29 percent say they have no one to confide in about personal struggles. This lack of social connection can lead to feelings of loneliness and isolation.

Humanizing the Pastor's Role

A significant shift needs to take place in how the church views its pastors. Congregations must see pastors as human beings who face the same struggles, doubts, and mental health challenges as everyone else. This view would cultivate a culture of openness and empathy, where it is okay to admit that everyone, even spiritual leaders, need help.

When pastors share struggles—whether family crises, navigating mental health challenges, or managing the stress of their role—they offer a powerful message: It is okay to not be okay. Understanding this could help break the mental health stigma in churches and create an environment where healing is possible for all.

This would also allow for deeper connection to leaders, reminding all that faith is not about perfection but about walking alongside one another through the ups and downs of life. In sharing their humanity, pastors provide a model for how to navigate life's difficulties with grace and authenticity.

Recommendations for Prioritizing Pastoral Mental Health

Given the challenges that pastors face, it is critical for them to prioritize their mental, emotional, and social well-being. Here are a few practical strategies for pastors to care for themselves while continuing to lead their communities effectively.

1. Build Relationships with Other Pastors

Develop a support network. Building relationships with other pastors—through peer support groups, mentoring, or regular check-ins—can provide an outlet for sharing the stresses and joys of ministry. Regular, open conversations with colleagues can provide mutual support and foster a sense of camaraderie.

2. Schedule Regular Family Time

Ministry leaves little room for personal relationships. However, pastors should regularly prioritize time with their families. This would serve as an anchor and help maintain a balance between work and personal life. Barna's research indicates that pastors who have healthy relationships with their families tend to experience better mental health outcomes.

3. Invest in Training and Development

Pastors should invest in their own ongoing training and development—in leadership, emotional resilience, and mental health awareness. This can help them manage stress, set healthy boundaries, and learn strategies for maintaining long-term well-being.

4. Take Sabbaticals and Vacation Time

Taking regular vacation time and sabbaticals allow pastors to step away from the demands of ministry and focus on self-care, spiritual renewal, and reflection. Sabbaticals, in particular, offer a more extended period of rest, giving pastors the opportunity to reflect on their calling, recharge spiritually, and return to their ministry with a renewed sense of purpose. Barna's data highlights that pastors who take time off are less likely to experience burnout and depression.

5. Practice Spiritual Disciplines like Prayer and Meditation

Prayer, meditation, and mindfulness are essential for maintaining emotional and mental health. These practices allow pastors to center themselves, connect with God, and process their emotions. Barna's findings show that pastors who engage in spiritual disciplines are better equipped to manage stress and maintain emotional stability.

6. Seek Professional Mental Health Support

Finally, pastors should not hesitate to seek professional mental health support when needed. Therapy, counseling, and coaching are invaluable resources for managing mental health struggles like anxiety, depression, and burnout. Barna's research indicates that a significant percentage of pastors struggle with mental health issues, and seeking professional help is a crucial step in overcoming these challenges. Normalizing therapy and counseling within the pastoral community is key to breaking down the stigma associated with mental health care.

Conclusion

Pastoral ministry is a calling that comes with immense responsibilities, but it is equally important for pastors to prioritize their own mental, emotional, and spiritual health. By investing in self-care, building strong support networks, taking time for rest, and seeking professional help when needed, pastors can maintain the vitality necessary to serve their congregations effectively. The church must recognize the humanity of its pastors, supporting them in their own healing journey so that they can continue to guide others on their path.

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The Economy of Time

It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of everyone; the living should take this to heart. (Ecclesiastes 7:2 NIV)

Stewardship denotes one's role as caretaker. Under the purview of what we steward is, of course, finances. However, stewardship also includes a broader application to all material and immaterial possessions over which we have any degree of influence: talents and relationships, creation and the environment, and even wider concepts such as our time. Each person is allocated twenty-four hours for each day. This is independent of one's social status, position of power, or degree of holiness. Nevertheless, while the length of each day is fixed, the total number of days a person will be afforded is not.

With this in mind, we can affirm that while time itself may be constant and boundless, there is a quantifiably finite amount of time that will be possessed by a person in his/her lifetime. Because of this, we can rationalize that time is a limited resource for each person, and any resource that has scarcity has an economy. This economy of time results from a limited supply of a highly demanded resource.

Imagine you are a governmental financial institution responsible for issuing currency, and you decide that you will print an absurd amount of that currency and flood your free-market system all at once. Everyone in this society will have unlimited access to as much of this "money" as they desire. Suddenly, prices would skyrocket, and the overall value of that currency relative to what it could purchase would decline drastically. The economy would crash.

Within this economic concept, I propose that God's mercy—yes, his mercy—may be seen, even within the sorrow of death. How? Because death (i.e., that which places a ceiling on our resource of time) creates an economy. It creates scarcity, and from this scarcity, there is an increased perceived value on time. Our time is more meaningful and requires that we become more intentional on account of the finite allotment of this resource. In turn, there is greater motivation and incentive to "redeem the time" as Ephesians 5:16 states.

At the beginning of this article, you read Ecclesiastes 7:2. Why is it better to be in a house of mourning than in a house of feasts? Because "death is the destiny of everyone; [and] the living should take this to heart." When we consider the reality that tomorrow is not promised, and we contemplate the brevity of life, we are reminded of time's economy. We are reminded of the necessity of stewarding this finite resource which we have been gifted.

Often, we are quick to dismiss or ignore the reality of our eventual death. Culturally, it is a topic we tend to reserve for funerals, and we typically do not reference it beyond such an occasion. However, it is important to be uncomfortable at times and to speak about things that make us squirm. The economy of our time and the reality of death are certainly uncomfortable topics, but if we are going to steward our time well, we must be cognizant of their reality.

It may sound as though I am glorifying death; far from it, though. Death was not a part of God's perfect design in creation. Nevertheless, with the introduction of sin into the world and the chasm that formed between us and God, I assert that God has repurposed what the enemy meant for evil and uses even death itself for good. Because of death and the finite resource of time, we are confronted with the reality that we must address this chasm between us and God before our time expires. It is through time's economy that God has repurposed even death to be a catalyst for our spiritual restoration.

Further, it is because of death that each person is more aware not only of his/her need to be reconciled to God, but also of the urgency to reconcile others as a witness of the hope that may be found in Christ. There is a heightened awareness of the temporality of our lives here in the flesh whereby we must minister, preach, and teach to the fullest extent while breath still be in our lungs and life be in our flesh.

Therefore, my admonition today is that you would be reminded of time's economy that is generated by death and that you would steward your days well.

HUNTER ROBERTS | EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

TRANSPORTATION APPEAL

Providing Vehicles for Mission Nations

As I have traveled into nations as part of my work at the International Offices, I have witnessed personally the transportation challenges faced by our national leadership. Every plan of ministry or leadership training within a nation involves the necessity of secure and reliable transportation. Often, the lack of dependable and appropriate transportation becomes one of the primary difficulties for sustaining a national ministry vision.

I remember one national journey where every time we made a stop in the national vehicle, the hood had to be lifted to get it restarted. The vehicle was so well-used that turning a key no longer made the necessary connections to start it up.

Secure and reliable transportation is a necessity for national leaders to fulfill their responsibility of overseeing and leading one or more nations, regions, and/or congregations. In some nations where it is necessary to travel many miles, various forms of transportation can be perceived as a luxury and can cost as much as two or three times more than what you could find if purchased in the United States. With additional taxes and import charges, obtaining an appropriate vehicle becomes almost cost prohibitive for mission nations to underwrite.

The nature of true Christian love is not only to hear about and feel concern for our brothers in their need, but to respond in practical ways that will support ministry efforts. Assisting national ministries helps to provide resources to serve more effectively, supply provisions for the family, provide transportation toward the progress of the work, and is a source of encouragement for our entire global family.

A variety of transportational resources are currently needed. National offices need reliable vehicles that can transport people and supplies under a variety of conditions. Pastors and church planters need bicycles, motorized bikes, motorcycles, horses, mules, boats, cars, all-terrain vehicles, four-

◀ **Malawi**

wheel drive trucks, etc. Through your giving, you can become a partner in the many souls a mission worker can reach when they have the appropriate means of transportation. When you become an investor in the ministry of these nations, you have not only become a partner in ministry, but you become a rich blessing to the very lives of those who serve.

The cost of a reliable vehicle is conditioned upon the nation and the type of transportation to be purchased. Costs can be as little as $100 for a bicycle or as much as $30,000 for good, pre-owned all-terrain vehicles that can transport evangelistic equipment into the most difficult regions.

Throughout the New Testament, we read of the early church and their willingness to give. Strong churches helped weaker churches. More established churches sponsored new church plants. Poverty stricken areas were helped by churches with more abundance. A system of brotherhood existed. Note Paul's prayer, "I . . . received the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well-pleasing to God. But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:18-19).

Missionaries could not have planted ministries and national works in the past unless people like you and me supplied assistance for their needs. They will not be able to maintain the work they have established or reach out to others today unless you and I continue to be committed to the work. Together, we are all important contributors to missions. We become the hands that extend to support and bless those ministries today.

I remember a few years ago when the local church in Riverside, California, responded a national transportation need in Malawi by raising funds in the March Mission Drive to supply all the pastors in the nation with a new bicycle. I was the representative for the International Offices at that National Convention that year. The offering was sent to the national office prior to the convention, and the provision was so generous that every pastor and minister in the nation received a bicycle in the concluding service on Sunday morning. I will NEVER forget the pure joy of that morning when the hands of Riverside, multiplied by the work of the Holy Spirit, extended to the ministries in Malawi.

Listed below are a few of the top requests that we currently have on file for the nations. The entire list is quite long. We have insufficient funding to provide all that is needed at this moment, but we continue to collect and believe so that all of our brethren will be recipients of similar blessings.

Note: Included at the end of this report are photos of "answers" to previous requests that our generous donors have helped supply.

Transportation Needs

These nations are at the top of the transportation list waiting for a national vehicle. Please remember them in prayer.

Nepal	$45,000
Haiti	$15,000 (bus for orphanage)
Belize	$9,000 (for 6 motorcycles)
Tanzania	$20,000
Fiji	$25,000 for national vehicle
Argentina	$25,000 for national vehicle
Indonesia	$25,000 for national vehicle*

*Indonesia has acquired the van pictured below but needs assistance to cover the cost of the loan.

Other Transportation Needs Beyond the National Offices:

Curaçao	$16,000 for children's ministry van
Zambia	50 bicycles at $100 each
Nepal	20 bicycles at $100 each
Cuba	2 electric motorcycles at $4,000 each

The nations of Burundi, Cameroon, Congo-Brazzaville, Ivory Coast, The Gambia, Niger, India, Indonesia, and Nepal are each in need of motorcycles—an estimate of $500–$1,500 each.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the miraculous provision toward this effort, individuals may give through the ***Helping Hand Ministry***, and local churches may give through ***Harvest Partners*** **Project Giving** (HPL2). Through these COGOP sponsored opportunities, 100% of funding is sent directly to the designated mission nations for their specified purposes. You may send your offerings to the address below, directed to **Transportation Appeal 2025**, or you may call or email for more options. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Global Missions Ministries
Church of God of Prophecy
P.O. Box 2910
Cleveland, TN 373202910

Phone: 423-559-5207 or 423-559-5209
Email: global@cogop.org

▲ **Philippines**

Expressions of Gratitude

Philippines

I just want to officially thank you and those who helped in funding the vehicle that we acquired for the ministry here in the Philippines. Traveling in a reliable vehicle will certainly give us peace of mind. We appreciate this very much.

Bishop Rogelio D. Justiniano, MDiv, DD,
National Bishop

Gratitude from Venezuela

I am pleased to express our deepest gratitude on behalf of our church for the commendable effort to raise funds to buy a vehicle for the national office. I want to thank every donor of Helping Hands and Harvest Partners. From the heart of a pastor trying to serve God and this church in the best way, I offer my deepest thanks.

Respectfully,
Luis Gomez, National Bishop

▼ **Indonesia**

▼ **Venezuela**

▲ Guyana (Top left) | ▲ Ukraine (Top right)
◀ Benin (Bottom left) | ▲ Cuba (Bottom right)

Guyana

On behalf of our churches in Guyana and Suriname, we say a hearty THANK YOU to the donors of the Helping Hand Ministry for this generous donation. This FUSO Canter will be used in street evangelism efforts. I am already excited about the forthcoming reports. To God be all the glory!

Bishop Earl Higgins, Former National Bishop

Benin

Thank you so much for your faithfulness. You are working with the Holy Spirit of God. I thank the LORD for this blessing. May the LORD continue to keep you strong.

Thank you for all,
Richard Kadato, National Bishop

Cuba

Our work in Cuba has been limited in providing transportation for church groups to conventions and camps, so their request for a bus had been on the transportation list for several years. We witnessed the miraculous provision in the supply of a bus and the funding to purchase it for this nation.

Ukraine

During the early part of the Ukrainian conflict from Russia, there was a need for reliable transportation to transport food and clean water for our people who were caught between towns with limited supplies. This vehicle was provided and purchased for our lead pastors to transport people to the border for evacuation as well as to transport supplies from our works in surrounding nations back to our churches still operating and supplying for those in need. This vehicle continues to be a blessing to the work in Ukraine.

GLOBAL MISSIONS MINISTRIES
CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY

KiD serve

Curaçao VAN PROJECT

The children's ministry in Souax, Curaço, is in desperate need of a bus to transport children in the community to church. This ministry is growing due to the great impact of the church on their community. Global Missions Ministries and KidServe are partnering together to raise **$16,000** for this need. Visit cogop.org/give to donate, and be sure to select "KidServe Curaço Van Project."

Please give online at:

COGOP.ORG/GIVE
FUND: KIDSERVE
CURACAO VAN PROJECT

FUNDRAISING IDEAS FOR KIDS

Bishop Leonard shared, "The local church in Curacao is in desperate need of a bus to transport children in the community to church. The children's ministry is having a great impact in the community." Below are some creative fundraising ideas children can participate in, making the process fun and allowing discipleship opportunities while teaching children the value of giving and serving.

COIN DRIVE CHALLENGE

Organize a coin drive where children collect coins over a set period of time. To take it a step further, you can give each family unit a jar or container to collect coins together allowing the family to serve as one. This activity teaches children about teamwork and the impact of small contributions.

BAKE SALE

Encourage children to get involved in baking delicious treats at home with their families or at a children's ministry event. Organize a bake sale after church services or through community events where they can sell cookies, cupcakes, and other goodies. While selling have the children promote the Curaçao Van Project through posters or word of mouth. This not only raises funds but provides children the opportunity to share the mission.

CAR WASH FUNDRAISER

Set up a car wash day where children can wash cars or vehicles in the church parking lot or at a local business for donations. Allow children to create fun signs to show where the donations will be going. This allows children to serve their church as well as the community.

SERVICE AUCTION

Organize a service auction where children can offer their skills for a donation. For example, they might offer to do yard work, babysitting, or run errands for members of the church community. This helps children think about how they can serve others while also contributing to the fundraising goal.

TALENT SHOW

Host a talent show where children can showcase their unique God-given talents, such as singing, telling jokes, and performing musical numbers or skits. Allow time at the beginning or end of the talent show to explain where all the money will go. You could charge an entry fee for participants and sell tickets for attendees. This allows children to showcase their talents and encourages children to support each other while raising funds.

These are just a few examples of fundraising opportunities. By engaging children in these activities, they not only contribute to a meaningful cause but also are provided with opportunities to serve. The van for the church in Curaçao will help to grow the kingdom. Together, we can empower the next generation to make a difference in the lives of others through these types of mission projects. Fostering a sense of community and service is essential, especially when discipling children.

For more information about **KidServe** visit **cogop.org/children/Kid-Serve**.

DIGITAL EVANGELISM: SHARING AND GROWING IN ONLINE COMMUNITIES

We are all called to share the Word of God, as emphasized in Matthew 28:19–20: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (NIV). As Christians, we have a divine duty to preach the gospel to those who have yet to encounter Jesus.

When I was younger, traditional evangelism often involved street preaching. Every Thursday, my church would host a street service that included prayer, worship, preaching, and altar calls. The entire church would come together to move instruments and chairs to the location of the service. Sometimes, we would set up down the road from the church, while other times, we would hold a house service and invite our neighbors to join us.

We also distributed flyers to people on busy roads, inviting them to learn more about Jesus. This grassroots approach allowed us to bring the message of Christ directly to our communities, creating opportunities for connection and conversation.

While these methods still exist and hold significant value, we have now embraced the digital age that is transforming the landscape of evangelism. Today, we can reach people through various forms of media, such as radio, television, social media, and podcasts. Platforms like Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and various Bible apps allow us to fulfill the Great Commission in innovative and impactful ways.

Digital evangelism offers a unique opportunity to spread the Word beyond geographical limitations. For many, it provides an accessible entry point to explore faith and find community. I can personally attest to the tremendous benefits that digital evangelism has brought to my spiritual journey. Through online sermons, worship sessions, and Bible studies, I have gained valuable resources that have significantly aided my development as a young Christian navigating the challenges of college, ministry, and full-time work.

Observing how others my age face the same challenges I do has given me a new perspective on how to manage these challenges more effectively. This experience has equipped me to help those around me by sharing what I have learned and encouraging them in their own journeys. With this online space, believers worldwide can connect, share testimonies, and encourage one another in their walk with God. The ability to engage with content that resonates with our everyday lives has made spiritual growth more attainable than ever.

Moreover, digital evangelism is not just about broadcasting messages; it is about building authentic relationships. Through comments, shares, and direct messages, social media fosters community and dialogue, enabling deeper connections and discussions about faith. This engaging approach can lead to meaningful conversations and valuable opportunities to guide others toward Christ.

As a youth leader at my local church, I have heard many testimonies from our kids who express how they learn something new from individuals around the world who share about the Christian faith. I find this connection beautiful; we can impact many lives simply by sharing our experiences with God.

As we continue to embrace digital evangelism, let us remain committed to sharing the transformative message of Jesus. Just as the apostles spread the gospel in their time, we now have the tools and technology to reach a global audience. Let us harness these platforms to fulfill our calling, bringing hope and salvation to those who seek it.

I encourage each of you to share what God has done in your life, whether it is with a friend, your youth group, your family, or your online community. Take advantage of the resources we have available. Social media is a powerful tool, and we must ensure that we use it wisely. Together, we can make a difference and help bring others closer to Christ.

CARIMET SIDNEY
ACCREDITED MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT AND SPIRIT & LIFE SEMINARY
ADMISSIONS AND MARKETING MANAGER

HERITAGE MINISTRIES

IN HIS PRESENCE

DECEASED MINISTERS | REPORTED AS OF APRIL 1, 2025

GANUS C. PATE
Alabama
March 29, 2025
Licensed minister for 52 years

JAMES A. BEASLEY JR.
South Carolina
March 20, 2025
Licensed minister for 41 years

MARVIN R. SLAGLE
Tennessee
March 22, 2025
Licensed minister for 54 years

WILLIAM E. MUSGROVE
Georgia
March 12, 2025
Licensed minister for 49 years

DEXTER L. MATTHEWS
South Carolina
March 9, 2025
Licensed minister for 52 years

HALLIE L. TUCKER
Tennessee
February 4, 2025
Licensed minister for 35 years

EARL L. JAMES
Kentucky
July 23, 2024
Licensed minister for 43 years

ROY T. PEARSON
South Carolina
March 8, 2025
Licensed minister for 34 years

GERALD VICKERS
Arkansas
March 15, 2025
Licensed minister for 50 years

JOSEPH W. GREEN
Oklahoma
February 15, 2025
Licensed minister for 48 years

CHARLIE H. RABON
South Carolina
March 13, 2025
Licensed minister for 45 years

FIRE DAMAGE REPORT

DONATE ANY AMOUNT

The fire at our maintenance shop caused significant structural and loss of equipment. The total loss is estimated at $512,000. After insurance payment, we are left with a loss of $235,739.

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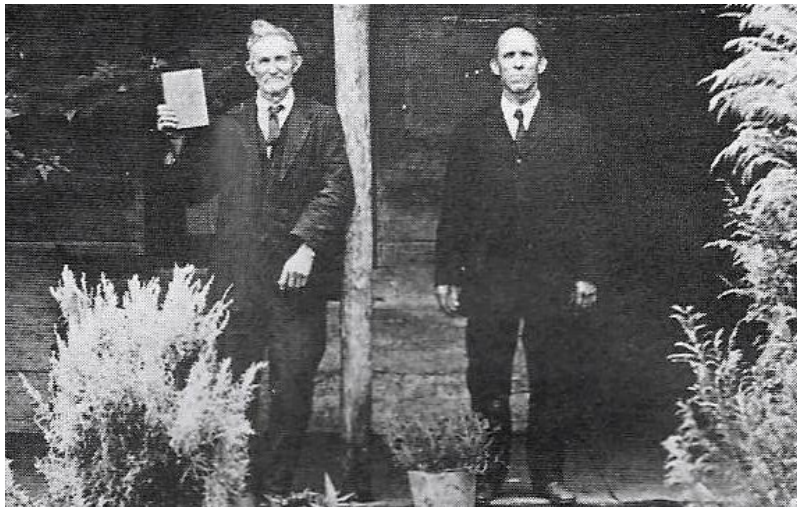
Embracing Our Rich Heritage

SEARCH FOR TRUTH



A search for truth is the anthem of our heritage. Above all plans, programs, perceptions, and personalities, the driving force of the Church of God is to **know and live in truth**. For our movement and those that sprang from the same existence, it was this **unwavering desire for truth** that led the early church founders to seek the Lord.

"In Monroe County, Tennessee, in 1884, a Missionary Baptist licensed minister—Richard G. Spurling Sr.—was seized with a spirit of unrest and dissatisfaction over certain traditions and creeds that were burdensome and binding on the members." This unrest and dissatisfaction led him to spend much time in fasting, prayer, and the study of the Word of God to **discern the truth**.

This search through fasting, prayer, and the study of the Bible continued for roughly the next two years. This was no light task and no quick solution for Pastor Spurling. His desire was to **truly seek the Lord for a revelation of what it means to live in truth**.

Many hours of fasting became his routine. He saw this as a season of consecrating and separating himself from all distractions. He was intent on setting his heart and mind on the Lord to **learn the truth of what it means to be the Church of the Bible, the Church of God**.

Those seasons of fasting were filled with prayer. His petition to God was for a continual revelation of God's Word and how it applies to the church of his day. He did not want to be caught up in man's wisdom and understanding. Rather, he wanted to **hear from the God of truth and receive enlightenment from the Word of Truth**.

Thus, he spent hours upon hours searching the Bible, continually asking the question, "What does God's Church look like? How is God's Church supposed to function? What are the precepts that God's Church must hold dear? What caused the early church to erupt in reaching the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ?" His study proved to him that some reformation was needed within the church.

"As an alternative he called a special meeting at the Barney Creek Meeting House . . . to give further study and consideration to pressing religious matters . . . Spurling moderated the meeting, and addressed them on the pressing and important needs of reformation."

This small group of believers would be the same ones that A.J. Tomlinson would later join, birthing the Church of God movements. The continued desire of the Church of God of Prophecy today is to be people of God who commit themselves to fasting, prayer, and study of the Bible. Through such consecration, we will **truly be the Church of God of the Bible**.

In a day of modern technology and connections, let us move forward in this same intentionality as we seek to hear from God and continually follow in His truth. **Let us speak the truth, share the truth and live the truth**. Our world fills the minds of everyone with all sorts of information, some of it truthful, but the vast majority are suspicious.

Let us pray as the Psalmist and say, "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer" (Psalm 19:14, NLT). Then let our speech be filled with truth as we please the Lord.

[1] C. T. Davidson, Upon This Rock, Volume 1 (Cleveland, TN: White Wing Publishing House), 292.
[2] Ibid., 292

BISHOP TODD D. BAGLEY
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION
HERITAGE MINISTRIES COORDINATOR

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