

The Standard



The Voice of Cross Power

May - June 2006

Go into all the world and preach the
Gospel to every Creature.

Under Siege

Defending The Watch Tower



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This Month At Cross Power

Dear Friends,

The Lord has given me an exciting and overwhelming opportunity to participate in a mission to the Amazon Jungle as a leader of a team of more than 20. This presents a true opportunity for me to pour into the lives of the team, and those whom we will be reaching. I would like to take this space to ask you to pray for my journey in three specific ways. Please pray for my personal, physical, and spiritual endurance on this trying trip. Please pray for wisdom in dealing with the members of the team, as we encounter together what may be the most intense month of our lives--that we will labor together in true Christ-like unity. Finally, pray for a harvest of souls that will bring Glory to the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am so glad to report that Cross Power has been broadcasting every Sunday for a year on KAML 990AM. This is perhaps a small milestone, but it is what I believe will be the start of a vast outreach that the Lord has placed in my heart. A trusted brother and friend of this ministry shared with me once the value of taking baby steps. I have committed my life to preaching the Gospel, and I am sure that the baby steps taken by Cross Power now are preparing the way for many who will come to know Christ through our faithful service to Him. Please pray about becoming a partner with Cross Power, so that together we can reach the next milestone, to the Glory of God.

In His Service

Isaac De Los Santos

Warning: The following article pulls no punches, and might anger some readers. Please continue to read until the end, you'll be glad you did.

The Prophet Ezekiel was given a stern warning in the third chapter of the book containing his message. The Lord advised the prophet of the impending judgment of a wicked and backslidden Israel. He said, "Son of Man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from my mouth, and give them warning from me." He then added, "If you do not warn them, their blood will be required at your hands."

The Watch Men

The Lord in his grace appointed his servants as watchmen over his people. God would be no less just, if he had judged His people without a warning. Yet, because he loved them, he warned them and gave them the opportunity to repent. The watchman then plays a key role in the demonstration of grace. Imagine that the city council in your city decided not to erect speed limit signs in the street. Every time you passed through town, an officer would pull you over and write you a ticket, for breaking the speed limit. You are justly penalized for breaking the law, but the sign is what gives the consciousness not to break the law. So, it is that the preacher is called to be the speed limit sign in the created world. His responsibility is to warn man that they have broken God's law and that God is justified to condemn them for the infraction, if they do not repent. If the watchman sleeps, the message sleeps with him. For it is through the foolishness of the message preached that God has seen fit to save man. The guilty are no less guilty, but the watchman assumes the guilt of keeping silent when a loud cry is necessary.

Undermining the Foundations

One cannot help but observe the fulfillment of Paul's words in 1 Timothy 4:1. "But the Spirit saith expressly, that in later times some shall fall away from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons."

The watchtower has been occupied by many who profess sound doctrine but are as far from it as east is from west. In days past, a simple knowledge of the scriptures was sufficient to dispel such false teachings, and thus eliminate the carriers of these seductive doctrines. However, the spiritual anemia of the congregation

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By Isaac De Los Santos

combined with the cleverly disguised poison of false teaching, has come together to form a lethal gas that lingers over much of the western church. Every doctrine has a supporting spirit, if it is sound doctrine it is supported by the Holy Spirit. If the Holy Spirit does not support it, then a demon spirit supports it.

What is the goal of such false doctrine?

The goal of all false doctrine is to take the eyes of the church off of Christ and the Cross. A careful survey of all the false doctrines that have entered the church will reveal this statement as true. The very first seductive doctrine to enter the church was that of returning to Judaism, in its practices and traditions. In that day, Paul called out Peter publicly, and demanded that he stop teaching law, and uphold the finality of the Cross. Shortly, after the turn of the first century we know that the Gnostics, who taught that Jesus was more "man" than God, and thus denied the effectiveness of his sacrifice, attacked the church.

It would seem that the enemy uses the same false message all through history. In our day the deceptive doctrine has taken the name, "Word of Faith." This movement holds to the teaching that we are little gods, with god power while undermining the person and function of Christ.

In the past fifty years, a doctrine has arisen to great prominence, among the Charismatics in America that is known as

the Word of Faith. This movement has affected the Pentecostal church in more ways than can be enumerated, and has at its root a dangerous doctrine that denies the essence of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. These teachings are derived from the writings of E.W. Kenyon, who promoted the concept that "Jesus Died Spiritually." In His book Kenyon states:

"You remember that He uttered the sentence, "It is finished." You can now understand that He did not mean that He had finished His Substitutionary work, but that He had finished the work the Father gave Him to do first. . . If Jesus paid the penalty for Sin on the cross, then Sin is but a physical act. If His death paid it, then every man could die for himself. Sin is in the spirit realm. His death was but a means to an end. . . When Jesus died, His spirit was taken by the Adversary, and carried to the place where the sinner's spirit goes when he dies."

In case it has become necessary to explain why such a teaching is dangerous, I will attempt to say diplomatically what can only be characterized as a blatant repudiation of the Atoning work of Jesus Christ. Jesus, when he cried "It is finished" was not mistaken, His substitutionary work was completely finished. The Cross was not merely a means to an end. The Cross was the plan of the ages, for the redemption of Adam's fallen race. Perhaps most erroneous is the suggestion that "every man could die for Himself." Kenyon would go on to refer to our Lord as the "worm" who suffered in Hell for three days and nights. For anyone to refer to the redeemer whose perfect life and spotless sacrifice is our only hope of salvation, as a "worm," is proof of a delinquent misunderstanding of the sacred writ, and blasphemes the Person of Jesus Christ. Further, Jesus did not suffer punishment in Hell, His Spirit was not born to the dark regions of hell, nor was He ever under the power of Satan. Jesus descended into the earth to preach, and thus vanquished the power of Satan forever. What the Bible does teach is that Jesus triumphantly overcame the power of death, hell, and sin. And he accomplished that in becoming our sin bearer, on our behalf.

1 Kenyon, E.W. *What Happened From the Cross to the Throne*, seventh edition, pg. 20

The greatest problem with the doctrine that Jesus became spiritually dead and had to suffer in hell is that it diminishes the Deity of Christ, and makes Him more human and less God. Further, if drawn to its logical conclusion, the teaching suggests that fallen man can become deity, and thus trivializes the Sacrifice of our Lord. This heresy though not widely known, is at its core a vile misrepresentation of the Person and Function of Jesus Christ.

"He is spiritually dead. The worm. He has become what John's Gospel, 3:14, said, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so much the Son of Man be lifted up. He had been lifted up as a serpent, Serpent is Satan. Jesus Knew He was going to be lifted up, united with the Adversary."¹

Paul said in Ephesians 2:1 that mankind is "dead in trespasses and in sin." In the Garden of Eden man died spiritually, and only through Christ can we live spiritually. Kenyon claims that Jesus on the Cross became spiritually dead just as lost mankind. Nothing could be further from the truth. Paul wrote in Romans 5:19 "as through the disobedience of one man many were made sinners, even through the obedience of the One the many would be made righteous. Further, he wrote in 1 Corinthians 15 that Jesus was the Last Adam, and the Second Man, referring to the fact that Jesus was a life giving spirit. Jesus did not become a sinner on the Cross, he became a sin offering, our sin bearer, and our sin was imputed unto him but he knew no sin.

The suggestion that Jesus was united with Satan on the Cross is a fundamental error, and should be pointed out as such. It is as if Kenyon believed that Satan possessed as much power as Christ. Jesus Christ was at no point united with Satan. This teaching is a lie from the think tank of hell aimed at deceiving our generation. Jesus is the spotless Lamb of God, slain from the foundations of the world, he became our sin bearer, but only because he was never a sinner himself.

This is not an isolated case of undermining by watchman. A careful exam of many prominent religious personalities reveals that the watchtower is truly under siege. The leader of the Believers Voice of Victory

stated in one teaching, "You're all God. You don't have a God living in you; you *are* one! ... When I read in the Bible where God tells Moses, 'I AM,' I say, 'Yah, I am too!'" ("The Force of Love," Tape BBC-56). This happens to be the same cardinal error upon which Mormonism is built. There remains no doubt that the Jesus of Mormonism, and the Jesus of the word of faith movement are

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not the Biblical, are not by any means the same Jesus. Jesus alone is one with the Father, He alone is God, and He is the creator, and we are His creation. Mr. Copeland's dangerous teachings that follow E.W. Kenyon to the letter are proof of the high level to which false doctrine can rise in our generation. This teaching is not only dangerous but it is blasphemy.

Unfaithful Watchman

It is clear in a plain reading of Scripture that God will judge those in my profession who are unfaithful in our task. The prophet Isaiah spoke of five characteristics of unfaithful watchman. The first indictment was that they were blind. Common sense informs us that blind men are poor watchman. Making a blind man the crossing guard of your child's school would be wreck less in many ways. One means no disrespect to those who have lost their physical vision, but wisdom dictates that a person who sees ought to be the person who is on watch. Thus, the Lord's observation that the watchmen are blind ought to be read as a contradiction in terms. Yet, this was and is the state of many watchmen: blind and unable to see the harm that is coming. Perhaps the one thing worse than a blind watchman is a seeing watchman who refuses to see. In other words, a spiritually blind spiritual leader. No doubt most of the church knows of one such preacher, who in recent days was heard on Larry King Live, refusing to answer the questions as to whether or not Jesus was the only way to

God. This seems to this writer to be a blind watchman, one who sees, yet refuses to tell what he sees. If I see a child crossing a busy street, where injury is imminent, I have an obligation to act. To say, "No that's not my child, maybe his parents believe a different way about crossing the street," would be criminally negligent. How then can anyone, let alone a watchman, see the imminent return of Christ, and the coming judgment of God, and say nothing to warn those it will affect? This blindness is intolerable in God's eyes.

This led to Isaiah's second point, the watchman were ignorant. This bold accusation seems to imply that their unwillingness to see produced ignorance about the truth. It's interesting that our generation of believers have more "Christian Book Shops" than ever existed in History, yet knows less about victory over sin than any previous generation. There are miles of "so called" Christian books being written today, every thing from self-help to self-promotion. Men teaching men how to train the flesh. Never mind that man cannot train this sinful flesh. The only remedy is death to the flesh through the Cross of Jesus Christ. Oh, but that does not sell books or tapes.

The tragedy of our hour is that we know more about nothing, and less about what really counts. The tragedy of our generation is that we have never been closer to judgment day, and have never been more spiritually unprepared.

The third characteristic of the unfaithful watchman is that they are dumb dogs, unable to bark. Much like the irony of a 'blind watchman' the scripture points to a quiet guard dog. If your dog refuses to bark at an intruder, what use is he? At least a chihuahua barks, even if having no bite. But a silent watchdog is useless. Thus, the prophet points out the uselessness of watchman, who sees nothing, knows nothing, and can say nothing.

Fourthly, he adds that the unfaithful watchman, "sleeps, loving so slumber." Jesus told a parable in the book of Matthew in which he said that the farmer planted good seed, but while the

¹ Ibid. pgs. 44-45

men slept, the enemy came and sowed tears among the wheat. Notice that he did not come as the men were sowing nor as they irrigated. Rather he came as they slept. No wisdom is required to know that a sleeping watchman is vulnerable. If the watchman is vulnerable, then those he watches are vulnerable. It is this vulnerability that has brought the church to its current state of affairs. Our hour is late, our moment is now, and we cannot afford to sleep while 6000 souls die daily, and many without Christ.

5 Finally, the prophet adds, "They are greedy, never getting enough." This point is hard to miss, since the modern "name it, claim it gospel" has made many preacher personalities rich. While it is true the God blesses and prospers his people, the measuring line for such prosperity is not merely financial, as most who preach this doctrine would claim. The definition of blessing in our generation has unfortunately taken a greedy twist. If one is rich he is blessed, if one is poor then he is not blessed. Try telling that to the greater half of the invisible church in third world nations where spiritual fervor is high, while still sleeping on dirt floors. It seems clear that the "greed gospel" has mangled the definition of prosperity, and brought great deception to the western church. It would seem that any thinking watchman, would warn his people against such deception, but at times the opportunity to profit is greater than many are willing to pass. In a conversation with a pastor in a third world nation, I saw the great harm this doctrine has done. He said to me, "Isaac we hear American TV preachers telling us how to get rich, but we don't need to get riches, we need Christ." Our generation has the greatest potential to preach the gospel to the nations, but when was the last time you heard an alter call on "worldwide Christian TV." Isaiah said, "They are greedy, never getting enough." I will not stand in judgment of our brothers on this matter, because I do not know their motives. I will however stand to warn them who wish to profit from this sacred Gospel, or waste the resources God has given. There is a far greater price to pay for the souls lost to Christ than any of us ought to dare to pay. There is a Master

accountant in Heaven, and he is going to demand of us an accounting someday.

The Old Testament priest, Eli, was one of these blind sleeping watchmen. He is said to have been losing his sight, and the lamp of the tabernacle was almost out. What a description of the spiritual state of Israel. The lamp, the presence of God was leaving, and the priest was blind and sleeping. Oh, that this were not the state of the western church, blind and sleeping. Yet, it can scarcely be described in any other way. One must not leave the issue at that. For the old principle of supply and demand teaches us that this is a two-part problem. If the watchman is irresponsible, he is guilty. However, Paul also told Timothy that in our day the "people" would allow their itching ears to dictate the message they would hear. He warned that they would seek the smooth sayings of soft-spoken preachers rather than the pure meat of the word. Where the watchtower is under siege today, it is because there is a market in the pew that is demanding candy and not meat.

To be sure the great and terrible day of the Lord is coming. A dark day of judgment for all men. A day in which everyone will give an answer for his own deeds. Each will look into the perfect light of the God of heaven, and declare their works to He who knows them well.

This writer is grateful that even today in remnant churches around the nation, there are still watchmen who tell of coming judgment and there-by snatch souls from the mouth of hell. May the Holy Spirit fill their mouths with power and declare truth through their lips.

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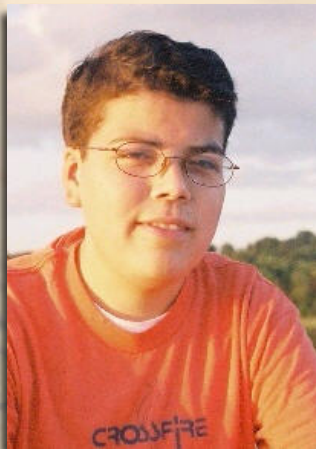
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Mission: Amazon

June 8 - July 9, 2005

Be Part of The Prayer Force:



Isaac De Los Santos



Amazon Jungle,
Northern Peru



On June 8th I will be joining a team of young men and women, on a trip to the Amazon River, in northern Peru. I will be serving as a leader on Adventures In Missions' Ambassador team, and look forward to serving in this capacity. The Lord has blessed me to fulfill this role, because it represents an opportunity to take the Gospel to those in hard to reach areas of the world.

Our team, will have the opportunity to partner with a local pastor whose heart is to reach these nearly unreachable villages with the hope of Christ. This pastor is a passionate man who is passionate about the people of the Amazon! On this trip, we will be immersed in the communities of the local tribes, spending time daily getting to know the families in each hut. We will reach out to the community through hut-to-hut evangelism, sports evangelism, children's ministry, and open-air meetings. In some of these remote villages, we may encounter Christians who are in great need of encouragement, while in other villages, we may be sharing Christ with an entire village for the first time.

This opportunity represents the fulfillment of a burden which I have felt since the Lord gave me a burden for the nations. To go and fulfill the words of Paul who said, "I do not aspire to preach the Gospel, not where Christ was already named, but as it is written 'they who had no news of Him shall see, and they who have not heard shall understand.'"

Become a part of this trip, by standing in the gap for those who will "inherit the Kingdom of Christ."

"Go into all the world, and preach the Gospel."

The Word of the Cross

For the word of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved is the power of God.
1 Corinthians 1:18

[Below are selected excerpts from A. W. Tozer, *The Best of A.W. Tozer – Book one*. Compiled by Warren W. Wiersbe.]

All unannounced and mostly undetected there has come in modern times a new cross into popular evangelical circles. It is like the old cross, but different: the likenesses are superficial; the differences, fundamental.

From this new cross has sprung a new philosophy of Christian life, and from that new philosophy has come a new evangelical technique—a new type of meeting and a new kind of preaching. This new evangelism employs the same language as the old, but its content is not the same and its emphasis not as before.

The old cross would have no truck with the world. For Adam's proud flesh it meant the end of the journey. It carried into effect the sentence imposed by the law of Sinai. The new cross is not opposed to the human race; rather, it is a friendly pal and, if understood aright, it is the source of oceans of good clean fun and innocent enjoyment. It lets Adam live without interference. His life motivation is unchanged; he still lives for his own pleasure, only now he takes delight in singing choruses and watching religious movies instead of singing bawdy songs and drinking hard liquor. The accent is still on enjoyment, though the fun is now on a higher plane morally if not intellectually.

The new cross encourages a new and entirely different evangelistic approach. The evangelist does not demand abnegation of the old life before a new life can be received. He preaches not contrasts but similarities. He seeks to key in to public interest by showing that Christianity makes no unpleasant demands; rather, it offers the same thing the world does, only on a higher level. Whatever the sin-mad world happens to be clamoring after at the moment is cleverly shown to be the very thing the gospel offers, only the religious product is better.

The new cross does not slay the sinner, it redirects him. It gears him into a cleaner and jollier way of living and saves his self-respect. To the self-assertive it says, "Come and assert yourself for Christ." To the egotist it says, "Come and do your boasting in the Lord." To the thrill-seeker it says, "Come and enjoy the thrill of Christian fellowship." The Christian message is slanted in the direction of the current vogue in order to make it acceptable to the public.

The philosophy back of this kind of thing may be sincere but its sincerity does not save it from being false. It is false because it is blind. It misses completely the whole meaning of the cross.

The old cross is a symbol of death. It stands for the abrupt, violent end of a human being. The man in Roman times who took up his cross and started down the road had already said good-bye to his friends. He was not coming back. He was going out to have it ended. The cross made no compromise, modified nothing, spared nothing; it slew all of man, completely and for good. It did not try to keep on good terms with its victim. It struck cruel and hard, and when it had finished its work, the man was no more.

The race of Adam is under death sentence. There is no commutation and no escape. God cannot approve any of the fruits of sin, however innocent they may appear or beautiful to the eyes of men. God salvages the individual by liquidating him and then raising him again to newness of life.

That evangelism which draws friendly parallels between the ways of God and the ways of men is false to the Bible and cruel to the souls of its hearers. The faith of Christ does not parallel the world, it intersects it. In coming to Christ we do not bring our old life up to a higher plane; we leave it on the cross. The corn of wheat must fall into the ground and die.

We who preach the gospel must not think of ourselves as public relations agents sent to establish good will between Christ and the world. We must not imagine ourselves commissioned to make Christ acceptable to big business, the press, the world of sports or modern education. We are not diplomats but prophets, and our message is not a compromise but an ultimatum. God offers life, but not an improved old life.

The life He offers is a life of death. It stands always on the far side of the cross. Whoever would possess it must pass under the rod. He must repudiate himself and concur in God's just sentence against him.

What does this mean to the individual, the condemned man who would find life in Christ Jesus? How can this theology be translated into life? Simply, he must repent and believe. He must forsake his sins and then go on to forsake himself. Let him cover nothing, defend nothing, excuse nothing. Let him not seek to make terms with God, but let him bow his head before the stroke of God's stern displeasure and acknowledge himself worthy to die.

Having done this let him gaze with simple trust upon the risen Saviour, and from Him will come life and rebirth and cleansing power. The cross that ended the earthly life of Jesus now puts an end to the sinner; and the power that raised Christ from the dead now raises him to a new life along with Christ.

To any who may object to this or count it merely a narrow and private view of truth, let me say God has set His hallmark of approval upon the message from Paul's day to the present. Whether



The Old Cross & The New Cross

By A.W. Tozer

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