

Dear Friend,

I have just returned from pastors' conferences and outreaches in Kenya and Tanzania where the presence of the Lord was incredible. One of our ushers at Times Square Church was contacted by her former pastor in Tanzania who stated, "I'll never be the same! I returned home a changed man!"

We had the privilege of visiting the Maasai girls who were staying just outside of Nairobi for the conference. These girls have had to flee their villages to escape forced childhood marriages and genital mutilation. We have secured assurance of visas for at least three per year who will be sponsored to attend our Bible school in Pennsylvania. The village elders assume that the girls who escaped have gone into prostitution to survive. Yet when these young women return home, cultured and educated, they are actually received into their villages with a hero's welcome. They are allowed to tell their stories, become village elders, and plant churches in their communities.

One Maasai girl who returned home already has won her entire village to Christ! Pastor Teresa and I plan to return to Kenya soon to participate in ceremonies as some of the girls are received again into their communities. As the psalmist said in Psalm 118:23, "The Lord has done this and it is marvelous in our eyes."

Yours, in Christ,
Pastor Carter Conlon

THE LORD YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU

by Carter Conlon

I would like to share a story, and although it is very personal to me, it also applies to you. You see, certain patterns of God's dealing with humanity do not change nor are they exclusive to just one or two people. Rather, they are for the whole Body of Christ—through whom the divine purpose of God is accomplished in the earth.

It was early 1994 and I was a pastor in Canada. I had just entered my office when suddenly I felt an incredible presence of God's Holy Spirit come upon me. In that moment, it was as if everything was heightened. I started noticing things around me that I had not noticed before. I knew it was the Holy Spirit, and I knew God wanted to speak to me. I told my assistant, "Please, no phone calls, no interruptions. I am going to lock myself in my office. I feel the presence of the Lord has come on me for a reason, but I don't know why."

Sitting down at my desk, I felt the Lord say, "Go to where you are presently in the Old Testament and begin to read." At that time, I was in 1 Chronicles, chapter 28. I began to read, and at about verse 10, it was as if the words of God began to just jump off the page.

"Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a house for

the sanctuary; be strong, and do it.' Then David gave his son Solomon... the plans for all that he had by the Spirit... 'All this,' said David, 'the Lord made me understand in writing, by His hand upon me, all the works of these plans.' And David said to his son Solomon, 'Be strong and of good courage, and do it; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord God—my God—will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord'" (1 Chronicles 28:10–12, 19–20).

Afterwards, the Lord told me, "Now go to the book of Joshua and read chapter one, verses one to nine." "After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: 'Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses... No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you... Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go'" (Joshua 1:1–3, 5, 9).

The Lord then spoke to my heart again, “I am sending you somewhere to help further a work that another man has begun—to help him bring it to completion.” I did not know exactly where I was going, but I was confident God had spoken to me. I was so convinced it was God’s Holy Spirit speaking that I told my associate pastor, “Start preparing your heart to take over this church. I will be leaving soon.”

Do not be afraid that what I am setting before you is something that cannot be accomplished.

On May 19, 1994, Pastor David Wilkerson called me at home in Canada, and asked if I would be willing to come to New York City the following Tuesday to speak in a service. Shortly after I arrived in New York, I remember sitting in an apartment that belonged to World Challenge at the time. I looked out the window, and again the Lord said, “Do not be afraid that what I am setting before you is something that cannot be accomplished. And do not look within yourself and conclude that there is not enough resource to do what I am asking of you. I have sent you, and that is all you need to know.”

After He spoke to my heart, there was a knock at the door. It was Pastor David, and he and I went for a walk together. “The Lord has used me to start this work,” he said, “but it has grown very, very quickly and I need help. That is all I can tell you. Would you be willing to pray about coming to help me?” I suddenly remembered the words God had spoken to me just months before in my office—that

He was going to send me somewhere to help a man bring to completion a work that he had started.

It is the hungry heart that gets the victory:

I looked at Pastor David and asked, “Don’t you think you should hear me preach first?”

“Oh, yeah. Of course.” But he already knew. The Holy Spirit had spoken to his heart, and he knew that God had spoken to mine.

Over the course of the next seven years, just as the Lord said, Pastor David poured into my life the pattern for God’s church as had been revealed to him—helping me understand all that the Lord had been doing and was willing to do in His house. I remember on one of the last occasions I saw him we were just sitting and talking about the future. He said words to the effect of, “I have brought the people this far. Now you will take them into the place of promise.” It was exactly what the Lord had spoken to me in Joshua chapter one.

■ GOD’S CHOICE

The words of God applied directly to my life, and now I want to share how they apply to yours. In Joshua chapter one, we read: “*After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses’ assistant*” (Joshua 1:1). Interestingly, the meaning of the name of this man, Nun, is fish—making Joshua “the son of fish.” This signifies to me that God’s selection of whom He uses to impact another generation is not based on education or lineage. Just as the Bible says, God does not choose the wise or the noble or the naturally strong

(see 1 Corinthians 1:26–27). Rather, it is the hungry heart that gets the victory. It is the person who says, “Yes, Lord, I want You. I do not want to be sold short of Your calling on my life.”

If we live a casual Christianity, we are going to be of casual effect in our generation.

Now remember that at the time Joshua was born, the people of God were slaves in Egypt. Although Joshua was the son of a slave, something in his heart said, “God, I feel called to be more than I am at present. I believe You can do something significant in my life.” Joshua understood that it was only through consecration and prayer that these things could happen. The Bible tells us that he would go with Moses into the place of prayer, yet when Moses returned to the camp, Joshua stayed and prayed (see Exodus 24:13, 33:11). This serves as a reminder for us that if we live a casual Christianity, we are going to be of casual effect in our generation. To be used of God requires dedication, separation, sanctification.

When I first came to New York, Pastor David instructed me, “I want you to shut away two days every week and pray.” It was hard; it took discipline and dedication, and Pastor David knew that. If you are going to amount to anything, you must learn how to pray—to press in and seek God.

■ CROSSING THE JORDAN

“*After the death of Moses...it came to pass that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun*” (Joshua 1:1). You

and I are here today because other generations passed the torch to us. Some had to go to jail, some were burned at the stake, and still others paid with blood. Yet they got the torch to us, and it is in our hands. You and I are now the ones to whom God is speaking.

“Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel” (Joshua 1:2). The Jordan River represents the boundary between the old way of living and the new life promised in Christ. It is where we die to ourselves and rise in newness of life—choosing to live according to the will of God and believing that He will supply the power to fulfill it. The children of Israel had to pass through the Jordan before they could see Jericho come down and the land conquered. While the Promised Land was a physical place for the children of Israel, for us today, the Promised Land is Christ. It is a spiritual place of redemption and regeneration—a place where the kingdom of God begins to advance through our lives!

Rest assured, the plan of God for your life is certain.

■ A PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE

“Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses...No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you” (Joshua 1:3, 5). Rest assured, the plan of God for your life is certain. People may criticize and threaten

you, but no one can stop the plan of God if you have a pure heart and want to see Christ honored in your generation. The beauty of it all is that in order to stop God’s plan for your life, those who oppose you must be able to stop God Himself, for it is not you but Christ in you! The only thing that can hinder the Lord’s work is unbelief or the refusal to make the choice to live for God.

You might be the only one in your family who is a believer in Christ today, but continue to live for Him with all your heart, and watch what God will do in your home!

“Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them” (Joshua 1:6). When you are set apart for God, it will affect those around you as well. You will have an inheritance to give. You might be the only one in your family who is a believer in Christ today, but continue to live for Him with all your heart, and watch what God will do in your home! You will bring people into victory who were not even searching for God.

“Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your

mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success” (Joshua 1:7–8). We are to prayerfully read it and ask God to speak to us through it. You may not have a lot of time in the morning, but you can still pray, “Lord, establish my thinking for the day. What is a good verse for me today?” Perhaps you can read that verse five times and meditate on it all day. It is life; it is light and direction. It is God speaking to you.

Lastly, the Lord tells Joshua, *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go”* (Joshua 1:9). If you are going to live for Christ, you will be opposed from without and within. Fear comes when we see the magnitude of the opposition we are facing; dismay comes when we look inside ourselves and do not see adequate strength to be able to stand. However, the error of it all is forgetting that the battle is not ours—it is the Lord’s. In fact, I believe the basis of having faith to finish the journey is the simple truth at the end of verse nine: *“For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”* Never forget that it is God who has commissioned you, and He is going to be with you until the end—until the fullness of His plan in and through your life is accomplished! Hallelujah!

Carter Conlon
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GRADUATING SUMMIT

by Mikaela Olvera

Hello, my name is Mikaela Olvera. I am 20 years old, and I am a senior at Summit. It is hard to believe that I will be graduating on April 28th. Over the last two years, God has been doing some mind-blowing things in my world. He has shown me how faithful He is in every aspect of life, restored relationships I never thought could be repaired, and given me a purpose and reason for joy.

Music is a huge passion of mine, so when I heard about Summit’s music program, I was super stoked. I had the chance to take Music Production 101 and learn what it looks like to have music as a career. I quickly discovered that there was much more to music than I realized! In the class, I learned how to record and edit music in a unique setting at Summit Sounds—the recording studio right on campus. One of the biggest opportunities God gave me during my time here was being able to record a 5-song EP called “Heart Beating” at the recording studio. It was an amazing experience that I will never forget as well as an answer to prayers I have prayed since I was little.

Through Summit’s post-graduate Ministry and Career Program, I will be doing a 3-month internship in Israel—a place God has been calling me to since I was 15 years old. He has given me such a burden for this nation that I often find myself on my knees in prayer. I do not know exactly what the future holds, but I do know that God has proven Himself to be faithful, and He is never going to let me down.



If you have even the slightest curiosity about Summit, I encourage you to check it out. There are so many opportunities for you to grow in your walk with God, to know His voice, and to find what His will for your life is. You will never regret your time here!

It seems to me that at present, many believers in Christ are finding their voices again. Young people like Mikaela are standing up against the systemic ridicule of the Christian faith that threatens to become an accepted part of mainstream American society. As Paul once exhorted his younger disciple Timothy, “Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

I encourage you to invest in those who are taking the time to be set aside for this purpose. Visit summitpa.org and click on “Support Summit.” God Bless! — **Pastor Carter Conlon**



CARTER CONLON

Carter Conlon is senior pastor of Times Square Church, where he has been on the pastoral staff since 1994.

TIMES SQUARE CHURCH

Times Square Church was founded in 1987 by Pastor David Wilkerson, author of “The Cross and the Switchblade.” It is an interdenominational church located in the heart of New York City.

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WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday 10AM | 1PM | 3PM | 6PM

Tuesday 7PM | Worldwide Prayer Meeting

Friday 7:30PM | The Gate
2nd & 4th Fridays (ages 18–29)

Live Webcast:

All our Sunday and Tuesday services can be watched live and replayed for seven days on our website.

tsc.nyc