

Where there's a Will there's a Way

I. Slide#1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide#2 Baby dedication: 3rd service. *Tony & Mari*^(maadi) *Barreto*. Ava Loren Barreto.
- B. Slide#3 Christmas Eve Services: 7&9pm. Same Service. Both Candle-lighting. A few surprises.
 1. This Wed night: Myrrh.
- C. Slide#4 GFE: \$20 ornaments to translate 8 books of the bible for the *Jari people*, central Asia.
 1. The need is great: 4.5mill speak the language. 98.6mill r Muslims. Only 4% Evang.
 2. Last Sunday to purchase is next Sunday 21st.

II. Slide#5,6 **BURMA UPDATE:**

- A. This week FBR **graduated** 80 rangers from 12 new FBR relief teams.
 1. The teams began their training with a 2 week pre-Ranger course focused on **land navigation, swimming & spiritual growth**.
 2. **They then trained in the following subjects:** Ethnic Unity, Leadership Principles, Map Reading, Land Navigation, G.P.S. use, Swimming and Lifesaving, Solar Power and Battery Management, Human Rights Violations Recording and Reporting, Operation Order Writing, SALUTE format information Reporting, General Reporting, Counseling, Mule Packing, Medical Training, Poncho Raft, Rappelling, Five Field Training Exercises, Physical Training, Rope Bridge Building, Good Life Club Training, ICOM Radio, Interviewing, Law of War, Security, Video and Photography, and village outreach program.
 3. **The teams and instructors** of FBR are comprised of men and women from **13 different ethnic groups** and **different faiths** who *live and work as a family with a common goal of service*.
 4. Team members are **free to believe** as they like and during this training **2** of the new rangers decided to **follow Jesus** and ask to be **baptized**.
 5. They now go on relief missions and join the **75 other FBR teams** in different areas of need in Burma.
 - a) There have been many positive changes in Burma, **but** attacks, oppression & displacement continue.
 - b) **Last month 2 Free Burma Rangers were killed by the Burma army**. We pray for their families, and for the Burma Army, and our new teams as we all go forward to give **help, hope and love** and to put a light on the situation in Burma.
- B. Slide#7-12 **Dan & I got to...**teach at some of the morning devotions. We taught a Leadership class. We brought encouragement to the team we hiked in with, to the Eubank family, & to the leaders & new FBR Rangers we were able to speak to.

1. **Slide#13-27 Greg & Julie** had the pleasure of training for 6 weeks the Generals top bodyguards, *among other things like* (Greg) finances & decisions making, & (Julie) homeschooling.

C. **Pastor Simon**, A Karen Pastor, started a ministry of teaching/equipping in **Mae La camp** in 1990. *The DKBA* (Democratic Karen Buddhist Army) attacked the camp in 1996, killing 2 grandmothers. *Then A Flood* destroyed their kitchen & the Church the same year. *Then A Fire* torched to ashes all the Bible School buildings in 2012. Pastor Simon said, in all these things, God gave me no fear and no worry. As Ps.66:12 says, *We went through fire and through water; yet You have brought us out to a spacious place.*

1. **Our Living Testimony:**

They call us a **displaced** people, **But** praise God we are not **misplaced**.

They say they see **no hope for our future**, **But** praise God **our future is as bright as the promises of God**.

They say they see the life of our people is a **misery**, **But** praise God our life is a **mystery**.

For what they **say** is what they **see**, And what they see is **temporal**, **But** ours is the **eternal**.

All because we put ourselves, In the hands of God we trust.

2. **Our Living Testimony 2:** (after the fire)

We lost everything with the fire that caught our Bible College on April 28, 2012, **but we still have everything**, **because God is our Everything**.

Gone with the fire are our sins and transgressions, **not** His Mercy and Grace.

Gone with the fire are the buildings and material things that can be replaced even with the better ones, **but** praise God no life was lost.

Gone with the fire are the visitors' notes that contained best wishes, prayers, encouragements and promises by friends around the world, **but** not their continuing love, care and concern for us expressed in their words and deeds.

Gone with the fire are our fears & doubts, **not** our faith in the almighty & living God.

III. Slide#28 **INTRO**

A. The public is interested in hearing Celeb's **wills** read, as Joan Rivers was revealed this week.

1. **What did she do w/her \$150mil fortune?** Maybe because it speaks to what was of interest to her. **She seemed to have a pretty generous heart.** She designated a portion of the funds to go to several nonprof's & ngo's: *Guide Dogs for the Blind, God's Love We Deliver, the Jewish Guild for the Blind, the Simon Wiesenthal Center, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation & the Jewish Home & Hospital Foundation.* [as she was the daughter of **Russian/Jewish Immigrants**]

B. **Slide#29** In John Grisham's 1999 legal thriller, *The Testament*, **Troy Phelan**, an eccentric elderly **billionaire**, had written many wills during his life, but right before he dies by suicide, he

leaves one final will, *a holographic will*, as a last surprise. He then leaps from a balcony to his death. He leaves his vast fortune to an illegitimate daughter, Rachel Lane, instead of his 6 children by 3 marriages. Her existence comes as a total surprise to everyone. She was a missionary down in Brazil.

1. Slide#30 A *Holographic Will*, is a will entirely *handwritten*, dated and signed by the testator (the person making the will), but not signed by required witnesses.
2. Under those conditions it's valid in about 1/2 the states despite the lack of witnesses. A letter which has all the elements of a will can be a holographic will, as can a will scratched in the dust of an automobile hood of a person dying while lost in the desert.
 - a) Here, Jesus writes a *holographic will* for us, not in the dust, but with His own blood!
 - b) Jesus writes in bold crimson letters across our lives...***FORGIVEN.***

IV. Slide#31 SIN'S VALUE SHOWS MAN'S VALUE (16-22)

A. Slide#32 **THE MEDIATOR** (back to vs.15)

- B. The job of a **mediator** is to **arbitrate** in order to bring 2 parties together. Here in this case...the Holy God & sinful humanity.
 1. Job cried out for a mediator, For He (God) is not a man, as I am, That I may answer Him, And that we should go to court together. Nor is there any mediator between us, Who may lay his hand on us both.
 2. Jesus sacrifice became that medium of arbitration.

C. Slide#33 **THE TESTATOR** (16,17)

D. *Last Will & Testament Stories:*

1. A New York writer, wanting to will his body to science, selected **Harvard** as the recipient, because, I quote...“my parents wanted me to go there & this is the only way I could get in.”
 2. One woman in Philadelphia in her will instructed her executor to take \$1 from her estate, invest it & pay the interest on the investment to her husband, “as evidence of my estimate of his worth”.
 3. A wealthy French Industrialist (capitaine Furrer) being disturbed by the impatience & greed of his heirs adopted a blood-sucking leech & bequeathed his fortune to it.
- E. True in every culture, a will is activated by the death of the one who made the will, the testator.
1. Otherwise sacrifices would have been **bled**...rather than **killed**.
- F. What is the benefits we enjoy because of Christ's death? Forgiveness, a clear conscience, peace/shalom, purpose, eternal life in heaven.

G. Slide#34 **THE ACTIVATOR** (18-22)

H. So Jesus was both the **testator & mediator** of His will. He **died** leaving the greatest inheritance ever; **but** he also **lives** to mediate his will.

1. **e.g.** Before you can use your new Visa Card, when it comes in the mail, you must call a 1-800 # to have it **activated**.

a) What **activated** the last will & testament was...**His Blood**. (6x's in vs.18-22)

I. **Slide#35** (re-read 22) Here's an Eternal principle: **Forgiveness is a costly thing**.

1. **Human forgiveness is costly**: Maybe you've experienced that with your children. When they stray or do foolish things, you may forgive them, **but** that forgiveness brings tears, grey hairs, lines to the face, a cutting anguish, & an ache in the heart.

2. **Divine forgiveness is costly**: It's not God saying, *It's all right or it doesn't matter*. It involves the most costly thing in the world. **It costs blood**.

a) Some become squeamish at the sight of blood, which is the point. It is to point out the terrible nature of sin.

b) Think of the days of sacrifice at the temple: **How would you have described it in that day? Like a bad episode of Criminal Minds? A bloody/gory scene indeed.**

c) [Kent Hughes] *"During the 1000 + years of the Old cov, there were more than a million animal sacrifices. So considering that each bull's sacrifice spilled a gallon or 2 of blood, & each goat a quart, the Old cov truly rested on a sea of blood.*

During the Passover, a trough was constructed from the Temple down the Kidron Valley for the disposal of blood...a sacrificial plumbing system."

J. **Jesus' blood** should arrest our attention. We should be cut to the heart & say, *"It costs THAT to forgive my sin."*

1. Where there is **forgiveness** someone must be **crucified**.

a) *This is the centerpiece of our salvation.*

V. **Slide#36 A DATE WITH DEITY (23-28)**

A. **Slide#37 THE PURIFIER & REPRESENTER** (23-26)

B. Jesus' blood grants us **a better representation** before the Father than the Old Cov.

1. As soon as He sat down at the Father's right hand He became our **constant & consistent attorney**. **On the clock 24/7 for you & its all pro bono!**

C. **Slide#38 THE TERMINATOR** (27)

D. **Man dying & coming to judgment???** that in itself was a **shock**, for the Greek believed that death was final. We have an **appointment** w/God.

1. This is both **a basic assumption** (man will rise again) **& a basic warning** (he rises to judgment).

2. Man is often so careful to keep his **business & social** appointments **yet** ignores **the supreme date** on his calendar.
 - a) God has **set a day &** has **ordained a Judge**, Christ Jesus.
- E. **You and I will die...**so we might as well get on with the only really pressing business there is... **figuring out how to die well.**
- F. Men/women/children need to be reminded of their **appointment** w/God...their date w/Deity.
 1. Put it on your calendar...**IT IS ON GOD'S.**
 - a) **“He is the Great Divider & He does not divide men horizontally** [high class, middle class, low class] **but vertically, to the right & to the left.”** (Vance Havner)
 - b) So God doesn't separate us out like Dan & I felt traveling on *Cathay Pacific*...they walk you past 1st class, then Business, then coach. **But** it's like getting on the **right** or **wrong** plane...which always determines your destination. (kid on Cap-Haitien plane)
- G. **Slide#39 THE RETURNER (28)**
- H. (28a) The **heart** of Christ became like a **reservoir** in the midst of the mountains. All the tributary streams of iniquity, and every drop of the sins of his people, ran down and gathered into one vast lake, deep as hell and shoreless as eternity. All these met, as it were, in Christ's **heart**, and he **endured them all**. CH Spurgeon, Christian History, no. 29.
- I. (28b) In this section we have 3 *appearances* of Jesus:
 1. **A Past** appearing for our Salvation
 - a) (26b) **He has appeared** to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.
 2. **A Present** appearing for our Sanctification
 - a) (24b) **now to appear** in the presence of God for us.
 3. **A Future** appearing for our Glorification
 - a) (28b) **To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear** a 2nd time, apart from sin, for salvation
- J. Here we have a **different perspective on the return of Christ.**
 1. Let's remember back the sequence of events on the Day of Atonement:
 - a) The people watched the high priest enter the sanctuary w/a basin of sacrificial blood; **then** waited w/bated breath until he emerged; **then** a corporate sigh of relief as the offering was accepted by God. A sense of festive excitement greeted the high priest's **reappearance**.
 2. **Slide#40** Here's is what was said, of *Simon II the Just*, a **priest** in 219-196bc. **“How glorious he was, surrounded by the people, as he came out of the house of the curtain. Like the morning star among the clouds, like the full moon at the festal season; like the sun shining on the temple of the Most High, like the rainbow gleaming in splendid clouds; like roses in the days of first fruits, like lilies by a spring of water, like a green shoot on Lebanon on a summer day; like fire and incense in the censer, like a vessel of hammered gold studded with all kinds of precious**

stones; like an olive tree laden with fruit, and like a cypress towering in the clouds.” (Sirach 50:5-10 apocrypha)

- a) Oh, how they **eagerly** awaited for their high priest to emerge.
- b) Slide#41-44 **Jesus is coming again!** Are you of those who are **eagerly** waiting for him to emerge through the clouds?

(1) Martha Butler wrote/sang...

One day I'll look up and I'm gonna see my Lord a comin'
 Yes, I'll look up and I'm gonna see my Lord a comin' - In the clouds
 Hallelujah, He is coming - Hallelujah, He is here
 Hallelujah, He is coming - Hallelujah, He is here

- K. **Story:** In a rural village lived **a doctor** who was noted both for his **professional skill & his devotion to Christ**. After his death, his books were examined. Several entries had written across them in red ink: *“Forgiven – too poor to pay!”*. Unfortunately, **his wife** was of a different disposition. Insisting that these debts be settled, she filed a suit before the proper court. When the case was being heard, the judge asked her, “Is this your husband’s handwriting in red?” She replied that it was. “Then”, said the judge, “Not a court in the land can touch those whom he has forgiven.”

L. **Communion:**

1. Bread -
2. Cup -