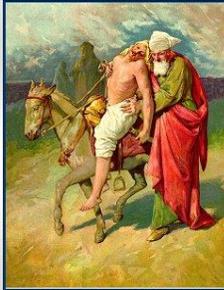

New Horizons Newsletter



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**Phone: 678.348.6442
Toll Free: 888.760.0445
Fax: 770.271.220
SKYPE: dr.pierrej.samaan**

**www.newhorizonscounseling.com
healing@newhorizonscounseling.com**

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*"May the Lord show you
His favor and give you
peace." (Nu. 6:26)*

[Read: Isaiah 11:1-10](#)

TELL THEM. . .

By Dr. Pierre J. Samaan

I had a great deal of trouble trying to write this Christmas article. I believe, it was because there are so many things to write about. What a whirlwind year this has been! There were wars and rumors of wars; Libya...Egypt...Syria...Israel...Iran...Afghanistan...Iraq...Pakistan...Central Africa...Indonesia.... Then, there is the extreme weather events. At first, the ice was reportedly melting and now they are saying the ice mass is growing back. There are reports of Meteors, Comets, UFO's (Could they be fallen angels and/or extra-terrestrial demonic entities?), Blood Moons, and more signs in the heavenlies. And then, of course, there was our big move from the Daytona Beach area to the Atlanta area. Oh, and I must not forget our new grandbaby, Colton.

I believe we are not alone in dealing with so much "stuff" this year. Most Christians that I know have had an extremely stressful year. Every year about this time I seem to say the same thing. "Next year will be a better year." It seems like I have been saying that at the end of every year. Each year has been even more challenging than its predecessor.

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SKYPE: dr.pierrej.samaan

Last year, as in most years, we needed help to end the year in the black. Because of the move this year, we had to ask for help from some of our friends, months earlier. Ministry is a very humbling experience because you have to depend on donations and offerings to pay the bills. But, ministry is also, very rewarding, as you see peoples' lives changing for the better.

Life in general, has become humbling for every Christian. The challenges as we enter the Latter Days are mounting. Christian families not only have the evil one and his dominions attacking them, but now, our own government is convoluting our lives. We also have the World Bankers, government leaders, and the U.N. striving for a New World Order in which I can assure you, will not be friendly to God's people.

Of course, the birth of Jesus Christ is the most important event, for what would this earth be like if He was not born. Jesus Christ is the reason for the season. There are still so many who do not know the peace that passes all understanding. With increased frequency, I am surprised when I talk with someone who has never set foot in a church of any kind.

I ask them, "Why?" The most spoken answers are, "Because my parents went to church and they abused us!" "Because my parents went to church and they were alcoholics...drug addicts..." "Because my Father went to church and he violated me and my mother knew it...because...because!"

There are so many who have been hurt by the authority figures in their lives. Some of the common characteristics are they came from a rigid/legalistic parent(s), they experienced a serious disappointment, they have a sense of low self-worth, and they were victims of abuse.¹

Tell them, Jesus loved them so much, He gave up His perfect family in Heaven, to come down here and suffer in our place, the worst of sufferings. And then, He laid down His life, so those who suffered after Him, would have hope in something far better than they could possibly imagine.

Tell them, this is no fable! Jesus' coming was prophesied hundreds, yes, and even, thousands of years before His birth that we are celebrating this Christmas.

Tell them, if they want proof of God, there is all the proof they need in the Bible. The Bible is the only book in the world, in which 100% of the promises written have come true, up to our day in time.

"Unique among all books ever written, the Bible accurately foretells specific events-in detail-many years, sometimes centuries, before they occur. Approximately 2500 prophecies appear in the pages of the Bible, about 2000 of which already have been fulfilled to the letter—no errors...the odds for all these prophecies having been fulfilled by chance, without error is less than one in 10²⁰⁰⁰ (that is 1 with 2000 zeros written after it)!"²

Tell them what Billy Graham said, "Long ago I decided to accept the Bible by faith. This should not be difficult for anyone to do. Most of us do not understand nuclear fission, but we accept it. I don't

¹ Arterburn, S. & Felton, J, *Faith That Hurts Faith That Heals*, pp 32-37, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Richmond, British Columbia, 1992.

² Retrieved 12/9/13, from <http://www.reasons.org/articles/articles/fulfilled-prophecy-evidence-for-the-reliability-of-the-bible>

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understand television, but I accept it...Why is it so easy to accept all these man-made miracles and so difficult to accept the miracles of the Bible?"³

Tell them, Jesus Christ died and was raised from the dead by God – over 500 witnesses. God demonstrated to all of us that He truly has power over death.

Tell them, the chasm between God and us has been bridged by Jesus (1 Timothy 2:5). Because of Jesus' birth and later crucifixion, everyone on the other side of the chasm has the opportunity to cross over from death to life eternal (John 5:24), by embracing/accepting Jesus Christ.

Tell them, when they receive Jesus Christ, they will be born into God's family, in which no one can separate you (Romans 8:39).

Tell them, to invite Jesus Christ to walk with them through their most hurtful memories, asking Him to give them an experience of healing, peace, and hope.

"Our present situation is rarely the true cause of our emotional pain. Our present circumstances stir up false beliefs we learned during past life events. When we receive truth in place of the lie-based thinking held in our memories, we can walk in peace... Lie-based pain can only be removed as lies are replaced with truth; whereas the only remedy for sin is the cross of Jesus Christ. Apart from the cross there is no remedy for sin."⁴

Tell them, Jesus Christ is God's greatest blessing (Ephesians 1:3). Because of God's unmerited favor, He gave us the Baby Jesus, so we could have peace with God. Because of the Birth of Christ, we can have all the benefits of knowing God. Christ has made it possible for us to be adopted into the Family of God. As in every loving family, we have been given the opportunity to form an intimate relationship with the Creator God. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Messiah, we have been given the Holy Spirit to teach, empower, and accompany us through life – we are never alone.

Tell them, because of Christ's Birth we can gratefully praise God by remembering all that God has done for us (Psalms 103). God has shown us mercy, forgiven us, adopted us, healed our spiritual and emotional damage, and lifted us out of corruption and into the eternal Royal Robe of righteousness of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Tell them to read it for themselves and have a *Very Blessed Christmas & New Year:*

"15 We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ² Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. ³ For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." ⁴ For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

³ *The Billy Graham Christian Workers Handbook*, p 61, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, NC, 2005.

⁴ Smith, E. & Panozza, A., *Theophostic Prayer Ministry Participants Workbook, 16 Week Comprehensive Study Guide for Payer Ministry Facilitator Training*, 2007.

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⁵ *May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶ so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

⁷ *Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed ⁹ and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:*

*"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles;
I will sing the praises of your name."*

¹⁰ *Again, it says,*

"Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people."

¹¹ *And again,*

*"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles;
let all the peoples extol him."*

¹² *And again, Isaiah says,*

*"The Root of Jesse will spring up,
one who will arise to rule over the nations;
in him the Gentiles will hope."*

¹³ *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:1-13 NIV)*



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