

WATCH: 'Cyrus Trump and Korea! – prophetic update from Lance Wallnau

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In a video message released in Jerusalem, speaker, author and thought-leader Lance Wallnau, who prophesied in 2015 that God was raising Donald Trump like he did King Cyrus in Isaiah 45, offers some insights into the significance of the US president's historic meeting with North Korea's Kim Jong Un on Tuesday.

Watch the video message below and see notes and a transcript of part of the message.

Note the numbers 111 and 12 and 70 as they each have significance.

First off I believe the RONALD [Reagan] and the DONALD both have the same high-level angel assigned to them to put America on track and the global order in temporary alignment. Both Presidents shifted the nation and the world in ways that advanced the kingdom by opening up territory to the church.

Here's a Ronald and Donald similarity: the Singapore Summit took place on the 12th of June, the SAME day and month Ronald Reagan, on June 12th 1987. President Reagan broke down the wall between east and west Germany and Donald Trump is breaking down the wall between North and South Korea.

Those TWO 12's speak of GOVERNMENT in heavens advancing!

In the Hebrew calander June 12 corresponds to the 29th day of Sivan, when Moses sent 12 spies to explore the land of Israel's inheritance. Psalm 2:8 is the promise of Nations being given to Jesus. That is happening now as Cyrus Trump

fulfills Isa 45:1 to “subdue nations” and “loose the belts of Kong’s” or break the military threats aligned against him.

This month Sivan, is the Biblical month of alignment, direction and territorial/business expansion for the kingdom.

MASSIVE PRAYER and BREAKING OF CURSES!

Key Singapore leaders told me they had to really fight thru resistance by repenting for many prayer curses on Kim that authorized dark forces to create confusion. Once they broke thru they pleaded for Kim to be realigned with his great, great grandparents – who were Christians!

Many thousands joined in prayer right up to and thru the meeting. Anyone who has gone to Korea can attest to the unusual intensity of South Koreans on this subject. They pray with tangible tears and travail for the North, acting almost like siblings that are separated and longing to come together.

NORTH KOREA’S CAPITAL Pyongyang was the center for Asian REVIVAL in 1907! That was 111 years ago.

In fact it was called the JERUSALEM of the East! Hard to imagine Azusa Street being shut down by the Gestapo, but that’s what happened, with multitudes being sent to prison and death.

Now a window is opening. If things keep going right a MASSIVE revival will be spearheaded by BUSINESS willing to go in and share the gospel while building up the nation.

South Korea was founded shortly after Israel- Aug 15, 1948. That’s 70 years! Both Israel and South Korea were birthed at the same time! Jesus said, “behold the fig tree (Israel) and ALL THE TREES (New Gentile Nation-States), when they begin to bud the time is near.”

70... 111... 12 .. somehow it all adds up!

'We don't appreciate your stance on Israel' – Linda Gobodo



Vuka Africa founder and leader Apostle Linda Gobodo tells the SA government it is out of step with the nation's Christians and should not make the mistake of downgrading the SA embassy in Israel.

When the children of Israel sinned against God, He judged them and allowed them to be taken captive by the Chaldeans for 70 years so as to give the land rest from their sins and from their abominations (2 Chronicles 36:15-21).

When they were in Babylon, He instructed His prophet, Jeremiah, to write a letter to them telling them that they will be there for 70 years. But He made a promise to them, for thus says the Lord: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. For I know the thoughts

that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope (Jeremiah 29:10-11).

Seventy, is an important number. It is the number of deliverance – its meaning in Hebrew. The Lord delivers His people from bondage and oppression and He restores all they have lost. He restores their fortunes and He performs His good word toward them.

Seventy years ago, the Lord of grace and mercy restored the state of Israel to fulfil His promise to their forefathers, Isaac and Jacob. The amazing thing for me is that when the state of Israel gained their independence on May 14 1948 an amazing thing happened on the southern tip of Africa. Exactly 12 days later, on May 26 1948, the nationalist party instituted Apartheid.

When Israel was delivered, South Africa went into bondage. I do not believe this is just a coincidence at all. When Israel was celebrating 70 years of independence, President Donald Trump recognised Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Israel according to the scriptures and moved the American Embassy to Jerusalem *the city of the Great King (Psalm 48:2).*

In the month of May in 1948, the new government of South Africa recalled their ambassadors to Israel to make a statement that they are against Israel and are supporting Palestine. The statement is saying in essence Israel is not allowed to defend her borders and to protect her people from the brutality of Hamas and jihad.

There have been threats of downgrading the South African Embassy to Israel for some time now. At its conference in December the ANC passed a resolution to downgrade the embassy, and this week the matter will be debated in parliament.

It is high time that the ANC and the government of South Africa know that there are Christians in the country who do

not support or appreciate the attitude they have against Israel.

This nation has 80% Christians and as bible-believing Christians, we stand on the Word of God regarding Israel. On top of that South Africa must not think Israel will not respond or retaliate if they go ahead with the downgrading and closing of the embassy in Israel.

If this whole situation ends up with Israel closing down their embassy in South Africa, guess who will suffer the most? It is Christians in South Africa who make the pilgrimage to Israel, they will be the ones that will suffer greatly. There are tours out of South Africa to Israel almost every month. And I must add those Christians will not take this lightly.

Therefore, I would like to send a message to our government not to make this move because the consequences will be much greater than they imagined and to their detriment.

Remember, as the Church, we understand the significance of 70 years. We have received true liberty and deliverance from apartheid and we are not coming out empty-handed. We have evidence in the Bible that whenever God delivers His people from oppression, they never come out empty-handed and South Africa will not be an exception. The Lord will perform His good word toward South Africa and He will restore.

In 2019, we will have a righteous government of God by a righteous president (see the [prophetic words about South Africa](#)). *Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people* –Proverbs 14:14.

Celebrating the dads in our lives – Vivienne Solomons



A monthly column by Vivienne Solomons who is a legal consultant who passionately believes that God wants His people to make a difference right where they are and to stand up for what is true and just. She is also passionate about encouraging young women to walk victoriously with God and she is engaged in a challenging faith journey as a parent of a child with special needs.

Pappa, Pa, Father, Daddy, Dad ... He may be known by different names, each one heavy with emotion, memories, meaning and expectation ... both good and, dare I say it, sometimes not so good. I am aware, as you must be too, that much has been said in the media about there being a difference between being a 'dad' and being a 'father' and the fact that some fathers behave in such a way as to 'not deserve' the title 'Dad'. Although there may be some value in the distinction, that is not the focus of what I write here today and as a result, I use the two words interchangeably.



Father carrying his two daughters while his son runs ahead. (PHOTO: [Juliane Liebermann](#) on Unsplash)

Recently, we adopted a baby (who has very quickly grown into a talkative toddler) and as I have observed and experienced his being knitted into our family, I was reminded of something I had read a while ago:

Dads are most ordinary men turned by love into heroes, adventurers, story tellers, and singers of songs.

I noticed it when our first son was born as well. Something was stirred in my husband when he became a father for the first time, and now again. This does not mean he is perfect or without flaw. He is, after all, just an ordinary man. But it does allude to the fact that becoming a father (either biologically or through adoption) or assuming the role of 'Dad' in someone's life (perhaps through marriage or another relationship) necessarily results in a change in the heart of a man. Whether and to what extent he rises to the challenge (and fatherhood can of course be challenging, just as motherhood can be) makes all the difference in the life of his child.

Various scientific studies have demonstrated the important role a dad plays in the well-being and success of a child, which I briefly mention below:

- Children with fathers are less likely to live in poverty.
- Children with fathers do better in school.
- Children without fathers are more likely to serve time in prison.
- Children with fathers are less likely to abuse drugs and alcohol.
- Children without fathers are more likely to be sexually active as teenagers.
- Children without fathers are more likely to be obese.
- Children with fathers get more roughhousing (and roughhousing makes kids more resilient, smart, moral and socially adept).
- Children with fathers are more likely to have a larger vocabulary.
- Children with fathers are more likely to be encouraged to take healthy risks.
- Children with fathers gain many additional benefits to health and happiness (including less anxiety and fewer physical and mental symptoms under stress in young adulthood).

If you wish to read further in this regard, I refer you to <https://www.artofmanliness.com/articles/the-importance-of-fathers-according-to-science/>.



Father holding his daughter. (PHOTO: [Jonas Kakaroto](#) on Unsplash)

Traditionally, much emphasis has been placed on the role a mother plays in the life of her child but clearly, there can be no denying the very powerful and critical influence that a dad has, not only on the development of his child but also on his child's ability to navigate through life.

Unfortunately, whether by choice or by circumstance many children grow up without knowing their father and in these instances, the scientific findings highlighted above can be discouraging. To those of us who are so called single moms I would say, and indeed to us all, that we should not underestimate the importance of male mentors (for example, grandfathers, uncles, and brothers) in the lives of our children. For in the words of an African proverb, it takes a village (read: community) to raise a child.

This Father's Day let us pray for and celebrate the dads amongst us, not only our own fathers and those who lovingly help us raise our own children but also those who live and work alongside us. Let us be an encouragement and support to all the dads we know.

Happy Father's Day!

Shawn Bolz: North Korea is part of God's end-time plan



US President Donald Trump walks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at the Capella Hotel on Sentosa island in Singapore. (PHOTO: Reuters)

Originally published in [Charisma News](#)

Author, minister and leading prophetic voice, Shawn Bolz discloses how God supernaturally positioned him to advise South Korean presidents and leaders – and shares prophetic insight into His redemptive plans for Korea.



The meetings between Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un are historic and have taken dozens of years and millions of prayers to get this far. I have met with two South Korean presidents and dozens of political leaders both in America and in South Korea and given spiritual perspective to them. I even prophesied to one of them about Kim's father and confirmed he was battling a disease he was dying of when only intelligence agencies knew of it. This put me on their map, and we had hours of dialogues about what God wanted to do with Korea. Not just North Korea, but South Korea. I, as well as several of my teams and associated ministries, have been to North Korea to do assessments. I have seen Korea first hand and believe I have seen something in the Spirit as well that just might help your perspective and prayers.

When God created this amazing race of people, it wasn't divided as it is now. In just one generation, we have seen South Korea become a superpower and world contributor to computer science, agricultural science, medical science and so many more fields. In the spiritual realm, South Korea has sent more missionaries than any other country except America, and they will risk it all to go to the most unusual places.

I remember asking one of the professors of science and engineering at Seoul University what would have happened if South Korea had never been developed and was still a developing nation. He looked at my smartphone in my hand and said, "I predict that smartphones would be behind by five generations, water agriculture for food would be behind a decade, automobile emissions would be behind worldwide by at least a decade. ... South Korea has offered so much in its short time of being developed that we have either contributed or revolutionised several major industries that affect the world every day."

God's dream for Korea is at stake

I began to get a picture right then that the divided people in the North, the other half of Korea, were stuck in an

oppression, and it's not just that their lives are at stake. Their lives are very important! But God's dream for who Korea is supposed to be and what these people will bring to the worldwide scenario is at stake. When a country gets this oppressed, what is the enemy trying to hold back? What is the redemptive future of North Korea? I can see that it is huge, because it is one of the most resisted in the world. But I also started this journey from a vision I had over a decade ago.

An angel of Korea appeared to me and said, "Behold, I am strong, and I shall do a mighty work, even in preparing Israel for the return of Jesus."

Korea was never on the map of my heart or mind. Then one day, very randomly, an angel appeared in my room in a physical form. He said "Behold, I am from Korea."

I asked him "From North or South?" and he almost yelled at me "I am from Korea." And I realised there is no North or South Korea in God's heart. He never designed it to be separated. I didn't dare speak again.

Re-establish unity between North and South Korea

"I am strong, and God shall do a mighty work through the intercession nations of the world to re-establish unity between North and South Korea," the angels said. I knew he was saying he was strong because the purpose was ready to be fought for and won.

"God is sending you to Korea," the angel said to me. I had never considered it or had it on my radar. "You will help give the people faith to elect a president who will prepare the way for South Korea to be open to the Western world, even America again. There are communist sympathisers who have brought in an agenda to separate South Korea from relationship with Christian nations, but God is preparing a president who will keep the doors open to relationships with America and the

world. There will be a day in your lifetime when our president will help open the North, and the North and South will have a unification.”

Now, I will say all of this is documented from 2004 and 2005, and then my trips to Korea began. I met with the soon-to-be president, President Lee, in 2007. No one I met thought he would win, but I knew he was going to be president, and I shared all of this and explained that God was raising him up to help all of Korea.

I prophesied all of this, and he believed me, and he was the first president in many years to visit America and re-establish relationship with the West even in trading, agriculture and some strategic relationship agreements. His office contacted me to help him visit America. He visited Bush in the White House, and it was a big deal and a prophetic act. No one believed this kind of relationship would rekindle then, but God prophesied it through me and through a prophet named Cindy Jacobs, who was giving almost the same words at the same time, although we weren't in communication. We were not coordinating, we were just hitting the same thing from different angles.

Uniting of hearts and purpose

The final thing that the angel said was “In the unification will come a uniting of hearts and purpose from the Korean people who have been given a boldness to stand with Israel, give their lives as missionaries and have been given the gift of technology, engineering and science. They are going to be used in great significance in the future before the return of Jesus. The children in North Korea are a seedbed of greatness, and they are filled with technologies that don't exist yet in the computer science world.”

Think about that: There are benefits that the whole world will experience through the development of His plan over this country. South Korea will benefit in a major way as well;

there is a fear that if there is a unification, it will destroy the economy of South Korea. I prophesy now that the economy will become one of the largest in the world when the unification happens, because the technologies and resources that God wants to entrust to Koreans are some of the most valuable in the world markets because He knows what they will do with them.

I am sure that as we pray for what God is doing between Trump and Kim that it is the beginning of a great dismantling of warfare and that God is moving the nations toward unification. This unification will affect the entire world, just as South Korea's development has happened when the unification happened. This will not only add to South Korea's impact on the spiritual and natural side of our world, but it will multiply it.

Let's pray that this small step forward would itself be multiplied, because the angels over Korea are strong, and they are winning the battle. Let's also pray for those suffering right now until God's breakthrough happens are comforted and helped in this incredible time that could be just the start of their deliverance.

**Join the conversation,
Christians! (Part 1) – Craig
Baillie**



CALL TO ACTION (PHOTO:
Sophie Smith
Photography),

Craig Bailie questions whether the Church in South Africa is appropriately engaged in the necessary conversations surrounding issues of social justice. In the first of a 3-part series he calls on Christians to become 'sacred spaces' of conversation.

Three recent, provocative and reinforcing events helped motivate the writing of this article. In a sense, this article is a continuation of the same dialogue initiated at these three separate events. This is a dialogue, which, I believe Jesus calls all South African Christians to enter into, in this space and time, but which I believe many of us have and continue to deny the opportunity.

By “reinforcing”, I mean these events encouraged and reaffirmed in me, an already-existing and developing sense of the need for action, in and by the Christian Church in South Africa. This piece exists as a general call for action, but even before this, it serves as a plea for South Africa’s local church congregations to engage in a particular kind of action,

to become increasingly sacred spaces of conversation.

Siyakhula: 'Embracing a New Normal'

In May, I attended a three-day workshop with the above title. The Siyakhula workshop was organised and hosted by Stellenbosch University's Transformation Office in partnership with the university's Equality Unit, the Disability Unit, and Human Resources. The workshop, still on offer, is aimed at university staff with the purpose of encouraging change in, and understanding of, aspects of the university's institutional culture.

Themes and concepts that were uncovered and discussed included "modern racism", "internalised oppression", "ableism", "rape culture", "decolonisation" and "gender identity", among others. These themes, chosen in and for the Stellenbosch University context, are reflective of realities elsewhere in the country and in the world.

For the Christian, this commonality between a South African university campus and spaces found elsewhere in the world has its origin in a common human nature. Beyond this faith-based explanation and from a socio-politico-economic perspective, globalisation also explains the common realities that have come to characterise different parts of the world.

I cannot claim to have been in support of all that was said or the tacit "agreements" that were, on occasion made between members of the audience and the facilitators at the Siyakhula workshop. I can say, however, that I was and remain thankful for the opportunity to have been involved in the discussion.

Refined thinking, strengthened faith

Ultimately, the workshop refined my thinking and strengthened my faith. Gaps in my own knowledge on social justice issues together with my inability to articulate some of my religious beliefs in relation to these issues were exposed. In short, the experience was one of growth and served as a catalyst for

further reflective thought, study and conversation.

While the type of conversations held during the workshop will inevitably continue on the Stellenbosch University campus, in other spaces of South African higher education and beyond the academe, I am of the belief that these discussions have yet to commence in many parts of the Christian Church and certainly the Church in South Africa.

As Christians, we often fail to allow sacredness in the spaces that we occupy. This is because we ourselves are not living and behaving sacredly. We are not living according to the intended purpose for which God created us, and for which Christ died. We often fail, for a number of possible reasons, to allow the presence of the Holy Spirit to abide in us. We fail to allow the sanctification that comes with abiding in Christ.

On the other hand, sacredness also fails to manifest in spaces, precisely because Christians fail to occupy those spaces; choosing instead to keep a safe distance; choosing instead to maintain an inward as opposed to an outward focus.

Learning opportunities

I would argue therefore, that the entry of Christians into spaces like the Siyakhula workshop should be a biblical, and by implication, a standard practice for the Christian. These spaces provide an opportunity to learn from and share with those who, although perhaps holding a different worldview, also carry a desire to see justice done. Conversely and more importantly, Christians must create these same spaces within and across local congregations, inviting inside those who remain outside of the Church.

Two things inform my concern over what I perceive to be inaction, or more specifically, an absence of healthy conversation within the South African Church on issues of social justice.

The first of these is my personal and more recent experience of local church. This is not only the local church as it meets on Sundays, but also the local church that moves beyond the traditional Sunday service and into the broader public space. This broader public space includes social media. It is here that I see on display the denial, arrogance and ignorance of professing Christians in South Africa, in relation to issues of social justice, but particularly issues of race.

At the commencement of the Siyakhula workshop, the chief facilitator called upon participants to view the workshop as a sacred space. I interpreted this as a call for a space in which we share our experiences and views openly, honestly and respectfully; where we seek to understand before being understood; where we expect to be confronted with awkwardness, emotion and hurt; and above all, where we grow in concern for the well-being of the other. Based on my limited experience, and in the context of social justice issues, this sacred space is often absent within the Church.

Thoughts on the compulsory teaching of history – Tendai Chitsike

THE WHOLE CHICKEN
by: Tendai Chitsike

A monthly column that reflects on living in the Kingdom of God.

With the announcement by South Africa's Education Minister that the teaching of history will become a compulsory subject up to and including Matriculants, history is in the news again.

This move has been on the cards for some time. In a 2014 article in the *Saturday Star*, the paper records that the South African Democratic Teachers Union (SADTU) intensified the call for history to be made a compulsory subject in the school curriculum, "the goal of which is to produce patriotic young South Africans, who can appreciate the 'road we've travelled as a nation' and who are willing to contribute to building the 'developmental state we envisage'."

Informed by Biblical worldview, we should ask: should such teaching history be made compulsory and Afro-centric? What could the motive behind this initiative be, and why should history matter at all in the first place?

Before we delve into the content issue, we should ask: What is our primary identity? The way we answer this will have radical implications on what follows. If we are primarily defined by our ethnicity and nationality, then we will ultimately be seen as a tool of a particular state, ethnicity or continent.

From this standpoint, it is not difficult to see how the teaching of history will be used to promote these narrow interests, showing a particular group in a good light and those not from that group in a bad light.

This is my first red flag, before any content is even debated. It is a red light because I have seen how history has been manipulated by governments to dehumanise individuals into tools of the state.

This has sadly occurred regardless of whether the governments were Communist, Fascist or simply nationalist. It all began with devaluing the individual and exchanging their primary identity from being a unique creation made in the image of God, to a tool for the state.

The Biblical truth concerning identity is radically different and radically freeing for the learning of history and learning as a whole. Being made in the image of God, and given the world in which to bring the Kingdom of God, we are not limited by, or tools, of any ethnicity, nation or even continent.

Now onto content. I am all for being relevant to South Africa and Africa. Nevertheless, to be centred on any ethnicity or continent will be impoverishing at best, and disastrous at worst.

Why? Because to study history we must embark on a study of truth and human flourishing wherever it leads us. If a particular product exists exclusively in a remote corner of Canada, and it could be used here in South Africa to save lives, would we reject it because it is not African in origin? Of course not!

Why? Because the use of the product will result in greater human flourishing, regardless of its origin. The life-saving lessons of history should be no different. As the saying goes: those who forget the lessons of history are doomed to repeat them.

Our quest, therefore, should be to discover truths from history that are of cardinal importance for human flourishing, regardless of where they come from. If they come from South Africa and Africa, great, but what if they don't?

If we sacrifice precious truths at the altar of ethnic or nationalistic insecurity, current and future generations will suffer. By all means, let's contextualise. But let us never abandon timeless lessons because they did not happen on our

battlefields or in our parliaments.

Which lens should we use?

It seems clear from the comments of government sources that the new proposed direction of the curriculum is an attempt to depose Eurocentrism with Afrocentrism. Such an attempt is reminiscent of *Animal Farm's* revolution that maintained domination of the animals while simply exchanging one form of authoritarian leader with another.

As Claire Lehmann, editor of *Quiette* magazine recently tweeted: When people talk about "neo-Marxist post-modernism" they mean this: the inability to see anything except through the lens of one group oppressing another. Marxist superstructures applied to gender/race/sexuality/etc.

This is the current zeitgeist form of seeing the world, and it may well be the lens used in reshaping the curriculum. But what if we used a different lens – that of pursuing truth and ideas that lead to human flourishing?

What if human nature is not defined on the basis of class, ethnicity or gender? In Jesus' day, the established norm was that Jews were the good guys and everyone else were the bad guys. Yet Jesus taught us something radically different.

Notice how He often gave the most inconvenient heroes the lead role despite them not being Jewish, from the good Samaritan to the Roman centurion who had more faith than everyone else in Israel.

Jesus was teaching us through these examples that the lens of truth transcends class, ethnicity and gender. This is so messy, yet so necessary.

Messy because it messed with the good guys/ bad guys narrative of His day, and necessary because it points everyone to a new world: a world that is not what we thought, a world where some bad guys look like us and some good guys don't: pointing us to

another underlying rationale for how to determine who is good or bad, and what is good or bad, that transcends the human constructs we have built our lives on.

This lens is so desperately needed in our day because these constructs are defining society, and therefore the study of history. Yet Jesus teaches us that they are at best incomplete, and at worst deceptive and destructive.

Applying a different lens to the slave trade

Let's look at the slave trade. I spoke more about this in a previous article that [you can read here](#). On my last search, the Trans-Atlantic slave trade was an important feature on the South African school curriculum. Good, and there are many lessons that can be learned from this.

But what we don't see at all, is the East African and Arab-Islamic slave trade, which occurred for longer, took more slaves and was in many ways even more dehumanising. When we take this approach we miss out on many inconvenient but necessary truths: that this open sore of the world was highlighted by a white missionary by the name of David Livingstone, meaning that but for his intervention and giving it worldwide attention, this evil practice would have continued.

We miss out on the fact that this was (and in some cases still is) a practice that saw North Africans, Middle East Arabs and even southern Africans benefit at the expense of fellow Africans. Lessons like this are absolutely vital. They reveal the truth of human nature, and they point us away from the erroneous narrative that human flourishing is ethnocentrically derived.

A Moore wrote the following in a 2014 publication of the *Atlanta Black Star*: "Some historians estimate that between AD 650 and 1900, 10 to 20 million people were enslaved by Arab slave traders.

"Others believe over 20 million enslaved Africans alone had been delivered through the trans-Saharan route alone to the Islamic world...Dr John Alembellah Azumah in his 2001 book, *The Legacy of Arab-Islam in Africa* estimates that over 80 million black people died en route..."The Arab slave trade typically dealt in the sale of castrated male slaves...to prevent them from reproducing. About six of every 10 boys bled to death during the procedure, according to some sources, but the high price brought by eunuchs on the market made the practice profitable...The Arab slave trade was the longest yet least discussed of the two major slave trades. It began in seventh century as Arabs and other Asians poured into northern and eastern Africa under the banner of Islam."The Arab trade of blacks in Southeast Africa predates the European transatlantic slave trade by 700 years. Some scholars say the Arab slave trade continued in one form or another up until the 1960s, however, slavery in Mauritania was criminalised as recently as August 2007."

It doesn't end there. Black Africans also played a role. Benin's President Kerekou, who in recent years had made his own commitment to Christ, invited political and church leaders to his nation so his tribal leaders could seek reconciliation with African Americans.

Brian Johnson, an African-American organizer, said the realisation that Blacks sold other Blacks into slavery has been difficult for many African Americans to handle. "This made it difficult to hold the White man responsible," he explained as we spoke.

"This creates some problems in our own psyche. We have to deal with another angle to this... It's not merely a Black-White thing." The problem is in human hearts, Johnson believes. "All have sinned," he claims, quoting the *New Testament*. "All of us need to confess our wrong and appeal to [God] for forgiveness."

The example of colonial and post-colonial Africa

Or how about a more recent example. No doubt there will be studies on those who played a role in ending apartheid and other evils perpetrated in the colonial era. Good. But will the curriculum delve into the unsavoury aspects of Africa's post-colonial experience as well?

As historian Paul Johnson points out: "By January 1968 Africa had experienced sixty-four military coups, attempted coups and mutinies, and by 1975 twenty of the forty-one states were ruled by military or military-civil juntas. Out of forty-five African countries only four leaders were democratically chosen and only six out of 150 had ever voluntarily relinquished power, by 1991." Messy indeed.

What this lens teaches about history and life

Where would all of this lead us? Hopefully to a greater search for truth and ideas that lead to human flourishing, wherever in the world they come from.

Hopefully to a study of how Jesus Christ has been the most profound and positive influence on virtually every area of human endeavour in history.

Hopefully to the truth conveyed by CS Lewis that "All that we call human history—money, poverty, ambition, war, prostitution, classes, empires, slavery – [is] the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy."

Hopefully to the truth conveyed by Soviet prison camp survivor Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn that the battle line between good and evil runs through the heart of every man.

If you are thinking: who then can stand, then you are on the road to seeing the value of a Biblical view of history. Here, God affirms the value of people from every tribe and tongue.

Secondly, the Bible and therefore Christianity is unique in

that it gives a record not only of the successes of its heroes and heroines, but also the failures.

It is self-critiquing and can display the failings of its adherents because its security is not in what people have done; but in God's redemption. Without this, we are hopelessly insecure, and we will use history to justify all our actions and vilify all those of the "other".

In doing so, we are bound to never learn from history, regardless of whether we approach the subject from Eurocentrism, Afrocentrism, or any other such lens.

As an aside, can someone please do a sociological study of the correlation between the eventual suppression of thought and countries that insist on compulsory teaching of history/and or politics? I may be wrong, but I have a hunch that it may bring up some interesting results.

God has a sweet tooth – Hannah Viviers



I can see you cringe at

my heading – or maybe you’re chuckling – either way it’s going to be a fun article ... I hope.

A while ago I asked our editor here at Gateway News, Andre Viljoen, if I could write articles around the nutrition/health connection.

So here goes...

Healthy eating ‘research’ confusing

Working in the health arena I come across tons of information regarding health. There’s a lot of contradiction from various sources which can make healthy eating confusing.

There are plenty ‘research papers’ and ‘studies’ on nutrition so it’s hard to know what to follow.

I put research in inverted commas because we now know that a lot of what is called ‘research’ is paid-for propaganda by various interests. Meaning, the ‘findings’ of many ‘research’ papers are not real results but rather what the funders of those ‘studies’ want us to believe.

I shared this with Andre who said: “Research keeps changing. But the Word of God never changes.”

This was liberating.

Since then whenever I had a question about information on nutrition I would refer to Scripture to find out what God has said.

Which brings me to my heading about God having a sweet tooth.



Is it in our DNA?

The primary way many folks satisfy their sweet tooth is with sugary foods and drinks.

We know sugar is one of the leading triggers for weight gain, disease, sleeping disorders and all sorts of other dysfunctions in our body.

Many of us have heard of the highly addictive nature of sugar. We're told sugar is even more addictive than cocaine.

Why is it that many people, (yes, even Christians), are addicted to sugar?

Why does this one taste have such a pull on us?

This question led me to wondering if perhaps our draw to sweet tastes was part of our design.

What the Bible says

I remembered Andre's advice and started combing my mind for

what I could remember in the Bible about 'sweet' tastes.

I giggled as the many references to 'sweet' in the Bible came to me.

Tickled by the many references, I came to the conclusion that surely God must have a sweet tooth!

Being created in His image, was it possible that our seemingly irresistible connection with sweet tastes had been downloaded to us from our Dad in Heaven?



We know from Genesis 1:29 that fruit was one of the primary foods God gave Adam and Eve to eat in the garden.

Most fruit as we know it is incredibly sweet.

When God described the Promised Land He had purposed to give the Children of Israel, He spoke of a land flowing with *milk and honey* – honey, there's that sweet element again.

While they were in the wilderness, God fed His people manna from Heaven, which the Bible tells us: *...was like coriander seed, white; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey* – Exodus 16:31.

Talk about sweet!

There are many other mentions of sweet in the Bible, but I'll leave it there.

We can all relate

I don't believe God would've given us so many naturally sweet foods if He Himself didn't have a sweet tooth.

I believe that the "sweet-tooth" most of us have is a direct gene from our Father.

When we look at the various diets, Ketogenic, Paleo, Vegan, GAPS, Raw etc what they all have in common is the obvious love for sweet tastes.



We may disagree on different tastes but when it comes to sweet many of us can absolutely correlate the taste of sweet with a sense of good and pleasure.

What better way for God to describe some wonderfully pleasurable concepts in His Word than tapping into a sense most of us can fully relate to?

So what's the problem?

The problem we have with having a sweet tooth comes when we consume unnatural or heavily processed sugars.

These are sugars that are either extracts from the real thing, (like sugar from sugar cane), or various other toxic

sweeteners (like Aspartame) that are a far cry from what God intended for our bodies to consume.



It's no wonder our bodies react negatively to these sugars.

For some people the negative reactions become so severe all kinds of disease are triggered – because these are sugars our bodies were not designed to process.

Through my work as a Health and Body Detox Coach, I repeatedly see people's health significantly improve by cutting out nasty sugars, and replacing them with highly beneficial, naturally sweet foods such as raw organic honey, sweet potato (which is amazing for our good gut bacteria), apples which are a powerful detoxifier and so many other naturally sweet foods.

Sweet is good. But it has to be the right kind of sweet, in the right amounts.

Can South Africa really afford to meddle in the Israel – Palestine Conflict? – Tshego Motaung



The South African ambassador to Israel, Sisa Ngombane, with then-president Shimon Peres in Jerusalem, in February 2013. (PHOTO: Issac Harari/Flash90 via Times of Israel)

Last year the *Mail & Guardian* hosted a number of dialogues with the ANC presidential hopefuls before the Nasrec conference.

This to me was a rare opportunity to engage ANC leaders on policies that affect all of us as South Africans. I had observed, with concern (as we all have), how the line between party and state has been blurring over the years. Party factional problems have become national problems, and party positions are often confused as government positions.

One of the issues I asked Dr Zweli Mkhize, who was also campaigning for leadership of the party, was the ANC position on the Israel-Palestine conflict. I wanted to understand if the ANC believed that South Africa, with all its problems, could afford to take sides in the matter. The ANC policy conference had recommended to downgrade diplomatic relations with Israel, however this still needed to be adopted by the ANC conference in Nasrec. Once adopted by the conference, the diplomatic downgrading could easily become government policy.

Dr Mkhize left my question till the end, and when he answered he just stated the party position, without engaging on the reasons behind that posture.

Why so personal?

From the time the ANC policy conference made this recommendation I couldn't help but wonder why the Palestine conflict was so much more important to the ANC than all the other conflicts in the world. Why was it so personal to the ANC?

This is the same ANC that ignored the crisis just next door in Zimbabwe. Since ZANU-PF rigged elections in 2008 we have all witnessed the suffering of the people of Zimbabwe, and South Africa bore the brunt of the problems in Zimbabwe. Yet the ANC maintained that Zimbabweans needed to find solutions internally and one would remember how ANC leaders insisted that there was no crisis in Zimbabwe. My heart broke when Morgan Tsvangirai passed away in February this year before he could enjoy the freedom he had paid dearly for.

On a recent trip back from Ethiopia I sat next to a young woman from Cameroon who said she was coming to explore study opportunities because "the situation at home was no longer bearable". There's been a silent conflict in Cameroon for years now, a legacy of colonialism – where English-speaking citizens have been crying for independence.

The deteriorating situation in Cameroon, she explained, had reached levels they had never seen before, leading to a decision by her family to send her away to study – a first in her family. This was shortly after the AU Summit – and I don't remember the ANC making a big issue about this compared with the level that I have heard them on Palestine.

One cannot help but ask: why is Palestine so much closer to the ANC than what Zimbabweans went through over the past 10 years, and to what is currently happening in Cameroon? In both these nations there were major human rights violations and atrocities that devastated many families.

I will not even go into conflicts in other African countries like Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Central African Republic and Somalia, where many people continue to lose their lives, and South Africa's position has mostly been that of a mediator that allows internal peace processes to resolve these conflicts, instead of taking sides with a faction.

Shared struggle history

Some ANC members cite having been in the trenches with the Palestinians during the struggle days as a reason for taking sides today. I suppose this explains their support for Mugabe – their shared struggle history.

We now have the benefit of hindsight and we know that our freedom as South Africans was delayed because we got caught up in the Cold War. The decision by the ANC to align with the Soviet Union caused our genuine and desperate need for liberation to be mixed up with global politics. While everyone sympathised with the suffering of the South African people, fears of handing over a country with such a developed economy and military prowess to leaders aligned to the Soviet Union was a concern to global powers and sadly we became pawns in the global chess game.

Our country has gone through a painful period caused by oppression but somehow the formerly oppressed and former oppressors are able to coexist within the same borders. There is a lot of work to be done to heal the divisions of the past, but we have demonstrated that reconciliation is possible. I believe that that's what we need to be championing in the world – peace and reconciliation, and not to be taking sides in conflicts.

The ANC cannot afford to have eternal allies and perpetual enemies; but must rather be guided by the interests of our new democratic society. They have been given a mandate of leadership not only by ANC members but by many other South Africans who are ANC members but voted for them. Therefore, the interests of South Africa must be above those of the party.

Not anybody's private property

South Africa is not the private property of the ANC, or any political party for that matter. By winning elections, the ANC was just given a mandate by the people of South Africa to steward the affairs of the nation for the benefit of all its citizens for five years. They must therefore not use the resources of the nation to repay political favours to their struggle allies.

I don't believe it is in South Africa's interest to take sides in this conflict. Israel has America as its ally, and the economies of these two countries are too advanced; their youth are educated, employed and pioneering major developments in the world; and their combined military might is too strong for us to want to challenge. What is worse for us is that many other African countries are currently strengthening relations with Israel – including Zambia, the former exile headquarters of the ANC.

I do believe the situation of Palestine and Israel must be resolved – but I don't believe we want to bring yet another

global conflict to our doorstep; and use our country, its resources and people as pawns in another global chess game.

The greatness of gratitude – Michael Cassidy



A monthly column by Michael Cassidy, evangelist, author, Christian leader and founder of African Enterprise whose ministry in Africa and the world has spanned more than 50 years.

The words “thank you” are so simple, yet without them life would be immediately saddened and impoverished. For to receive favours, blessings, or kindnesses and not to say “thank you” is to reveal that we are totally introverted, and selfish. It also shows that we place all other people as under some sort of special obligation to us, while we are excused of any obligation to them.

Actually the word of thanks is so simple, so easy to accord and so positively beneficial in effect that it is astounding that we are so slow and negligent to extend it.

The opportunities to generate in others the blessings of our expressed gratitude come at every turn in life.

On the way to work you stop to have your car filled with

petrol. The attendant has a tedious, monotonous and largely unappreciated task. Yet his own dignity and value cannot but be lifted in his own heart as you say a genuine 'thank you' for the service rendered. The same principle can apply to the waiter who serves you in a restaurant, the domestic who cooks for you, the attendant who serves you in a shop.

How about in your office? When did you last really thank a colleague or secretary or partner for what they mean to you in the accomplishment of your daily business?

Perhaps the home is where most sacrificial services are taken most easily for granted. Thus, many a husband has the impression his wife spends all day twiddling thumbs, and he takes her meals, tidying of the house and garden and care of the children entirely for granted. Likewise wives can become matter of fact about what it costs the husband in more ways than one to keep the bills paid and the family fed and clothed. How wonderfully the wheels of many a marriage would be oiled by regular expressions of gratitude for services rendered, both small and large, and blessings received thereby.

Likewise there is many a young person who has never paused to express gratitude to a mother and father for all they have done. I heard recently of an entire family relationship transformed by a daughter writing to her father and saying how much she loved him and appreciated his sacrifices on her behalf.

Perhaps more ingratitude is manifested in our relationship to God than anywhere else. Food, clothing, shelter, health and life itself are grabbed as rights without any reference to Him. The beauties of nature are overlooked or assumed. Eyes are turned away from the wonders of scripture. Ears remain deaf to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Hearts are hardened to resist the redemptive call of Calvary. In short we are utterly ungrateful.

Yet if we do in fact pause to say 'thank you' to God, fresh blessings become ours. Says Paul: "In nothing be anxious. But in everything by prayer and supplication WITH THANKSGIVING let your requests be made known unto God. And the PEACE of God which passeth all understanding will keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus our Lord" (Philippians 4:6-7).

The Psalmist exhorts this way: "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness and come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves: we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise: be thankful until Him and bless His name. For the Lord is good: His mercy is everlasting: and His truth endureth to all generations" (Psalm 100).

I am sure that if you find the greatness of gratitude you will be eternally grateful.

Important message to South Africa – Dr Arno van Niekerk



Friends, Tuesday (26 May 2018) marked the end of 70 years since apartheid was instituted in South Africa on May 26 1948. It is the end of a generation and an era.

Yet our country is grappling with renewed racial tensions and feelings of injustice (on all sides). This has the potential to destroy us if we allow the past to rule our future. Today we have entered into a new dispensation in our history if we apply Biblical insight.

We have a choice before us: life or death. The more we get divided and polarised over issues, the closer we move to death. The enemy's age-old tactic is 'divide and rule' to kill, steal and destroy. If we don't see through what's going on we will gradually succumb to hatred.

The time for all of us to stand together and love each other has never been greater. Choose today to become an instrument of mass restoration.

On this day, 27 May 2018, step into a NEW DAY and a new future for South Africa. The Lord says, *"See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a new way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland"* – Isaiah 43:19.

Rise above the noise and BE Good News to our beloved country !

More than ever our nation needs healing. BE that balm of healing in the Lord's hands. This is step one, don't skip it. Then what we grapple with will be naturally solved.

South Africa: *"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain"* – Psalm 127:1 . Start with the Cornerstone. BE the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. Deep inside, this is what our nation is crying out for. Let us answer this cry with Good News.