

ADVENTURES IN FAITH

PERSISTENT FAITH

by Jerry Savelle

FAMINE OR
FLOURISH

by Carolyn Savelle

THE FAITHFUL
SHALL FLOURISH

by Jerry Savelle

FATHERHOOD AND THE
BLESSING OF ABRAHAM

by Carla Porter

THE VISION
WILL FLOURISH

by Joe McCroskey

JERRY SAVELLE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

APR - JUN 2017

2017

THE FAITHFUL SHALL FLOURISH

and it shall be like days of

Heaven on Earth

April - June
2017

2017

THE FAITHFUL SHALL FLOURISH

and it shall be like days of

Heaven on Earth

"There is a level of prosperity that you have never known, nor even hoped for... but, I am empowering all those who dare believe that it is available. And I will show them how to tap into it and it will begin to manifest in their lives in this coming New Year," saith the Lord.

"I will take them to a higher level of prosperity and success, which they didn't ever think was possible. For this is the time for My faithful ones to flourish and to thrive and to excel in every area of their lives. And it will indeed be a year unlike any other you have ever known. For special and unusual and extraordinary blessings are being released right now and will continue to be released throughout 2017. And it shall be glorious in your sight."

"Stay in faith," saith the Lord. "For these are the days that you have longed for. Determine that giving up is unacceptable and don't even give it another thought for I am honoring your patience. I am honoring your steadfastness. I am honoring your unwavering stand on My Word. And remember, I have declared that the faithful shall abound in My blessings and the time has come for you to experience this in its fullness. Rest assured that I am faithful to bring this to pass. So, rejoice and again I say rejoice!"

-Word from the Lord given to Dr. Savelle December 31st @ 9:10 PM

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You're Somebody Special to God

For those of you who don't know Jesus, would you like to know Him? All you need to do is pray the prayer below with a sincere and trusting heart, and you will be born again!

DEAR GOD IN HEAVEN, I COME TO YOU IN THE NAME OF JESUS TO RECEIVE SALVATION AND ETERNAL LIFE. I BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS YOUR SON. I BELIEVE THAT HE DIED ON THE CROSS FOR MY SINS AND THAT YOU RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD. I RECEIVE JESUS NOW INTO MY HEART AND MAKE HIM THE LORD OF MY LIFE. JESUS, COME INTO MY HEART. I WELCOME YOU AS MY LORD AND SAVIOR. FATHER, I BELIEVE YOUR WORD SAYS THAT I AM NOW SAVED. I CONFESS WITH MY MOUTH THAT I AM SAVED AND BORN AGAIN. I AM NOW A CHILD OF GOD.

If you prayed this prayer, please [tell us about it](#). We want to send you a free book, **You're Somebody Special To God**, to get you started winning in life.

CELEBRATING
48 YEARS
OF MINISTRY WORLDWIDE



PERSISTENT FAITH

by Jerry Savelle

For more than forty-seven years I've preached the Word of Faith all over this world. Faith is not something I merely know about; for me it's a way of life. Oftentimes when I'm teaching, someone will come and tell me about something they're believing for. They'll say, "Brother Jerry, I've been standing in faith but nothing has happened. How long do I have to do this?"

I like to answer this question the way Paul did: "Having done all to stand—stand!" (see Ephesians 6:13).

"But Brother Jerry, I've been standing for a year. When is this situation going to change?"

I stood for some things for twenty years, until my faith caused them to come to pass. But you know what? When the manifestation of my faith came, it didn't seem like it had taken twenty years. I

was determined to stand. I refused to give up—because of what Jesus did for me at Calvary. I wasn't going to give up to a devil that had already been defeated; I was going to be persistent in my faith!

Jesus talked with His disciples about being persistent in faith. *Then he spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart* (Luke 18:1). The Amplified Bible says *not to turn coward (faint, lose heart, and give up)*. Then Jesus told them this parable: *"There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' And he would not for a*

while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me'" (Luke 18:1–5).

The judge in this parable is nothing like God. We would never have to go to our heavenly Father and beg Him for what we want until we wear Him down. Although the judge was unjust, the widow apparently knew her rights. She wouldn't have had the courage to go to him if she hadn't known she had certain rights.

When she asked the judge to avenge her, he wouldn't do it—for a while. A lot of people would have given up in that "for a while" period of time. The Bible doesn't say how long the widow persisted, but it was evidently long enough that her continual coming troubled the

"Faith is not something I merely know about; for me it's a way of life."

judge.

Jesus went on to say, *"Hear what the unjust judge said. And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"* (Luke 18: 6–8). What kind of faith is Jesus talking about? He's talking about faith that won't give up. He's talking about persistent faith!

Persistent Faith Produces Miracles

As Jesus and His disciples were leaving Jericho, they

encountered a blind man named Bartimaeus, who sat by the road begging. He'd obviously heard about the miracles Jesus performed, because when he learned it was Jesus walking by, he began to cry out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many people warned him to be quiet, but he continued to shout for Jesus.

The Bible says, *So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road (Mark 10:51–52).*

Three things come to my mind when I read this story: (1) persistence, (2) refusing to accept anything but God's best, and (3) the power of faith. Once Bartimaeus learned Jesus was near, he determined in his heart that his life would change—not some day—but that very day. Faith brings the things we are believing for into the *now*.

Bartimaeus would not be silenced; nothing would prevent him from receiving what he believed God wanted him to have. His persistent faith not only got the attention of Jesus, it also produced the miracle Bartimaeus longed for.

Notice Jesus didn't say, "I have made you whole." No! Jesus said, "*Your faith has made you whole.*" Jesus Himself attributed the miracle to the man's faith. Bartimaeus's persistent faith that Jesus could, and would, heal him produced a great miracle in his life.

Persistent faith should be the lifestyle of every Believer,

yet I know some Christians who'll give up the battle against something as small as a headache. Perhaps you're dealing with some sort of illness or disease, or maybe you're facing what appears to be an insurmountable need in your life. When the devil tells you to give up, that Jesus isn't going to meet your need, your attitude should be *no way!* Stand up and declare these words: "My faith has the ability to produce

**"I wasn't going to give
up to a devil that had
already been defeated;
I was going to be
persistent in my faith!"**

miracles!" Remember this: Jesus doesn't respond to our needs; Jesus responds to our faith.

On his way with Jairus to heal the man's dying daughter, Jesus was thronged by a multitude of people. When one woman who'd had an issue of blood for twelve years touched the hem of His garment, she was immediately healed.

And Jesus said, "*Who touched Me?*" When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "*Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched me?'*"

But Jesus said, "*Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me.*" Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was

healed immediately.

And He said to her, "*Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace*" (Luke 8:45–48).

Notice that faith stopped Jesus in His tracks. Persistent faith ALWAYS gets His attention. The Bible says, *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8).* When it comes to trusting God, you need to determine that you're not going to give up and you're not going to turn back. Having done all to stand, stand for however long you have to until you see the manifestation of your miracle.

When the apostle Paul was in prison, facing death and experiencing the worst of natural conditions, he said, *For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance (Philippians 1:19).* He wouldn't give up. Don't you know the devil just hated for Paul to wake up in the morning? Another time, when the Holy Spirit showed him that chains and tribulations awaited in every city, Paul said, *But none of these things move me (Acts 20:24).* Paul's faith was persistent.

One of the meanings of persistence is "*to continue without wavering.*" Another definition is "*a steady pursuit.*" Persistence is refusing to give up. God honors persistent faith.

Persistent Faith Always Pays Off

Now the question I have for you is this: How persistent is your faith?

The Bible says, *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not (Galatians 6:9 KJV).* If you're not

reaping, it could be that you're fainting, or giving up. God wouldn't insist that our faith be persistent if He didn't intend to honor it. Persistent faith always pays off! The Amplified Bible says it like this: *But without faith it is impossible to please and be satisfactory to Him. For whoever would come near to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who earnestly and diligently seek Him [out]* (Hebrews 11:6). To be earnest is to be serious minded; diligence demonstrates a willingness to persevere.

Where is your faith? Do you possess a persistent, unwavering kind of faith? If not, you can. The Bible says, *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God* (Romans 10:17). Continually feed your spirit on the Word of God. Every person, from Bible times to the present, who has possessed strong faith does so as a result of hearing and hearing and hearing the Word of God. I've been living by faith for many years, yet I'm still *hearing* the Word of God today.

The devil is persistent in his efforts to steal, kill, and destroy; therefore, you need to be persistent in your faith. If you're constantly giving up, do

you think you qualify for a flourishing life, one of increase, growth, prosperity, and progress? The answer is no, but it doesn't have to be the final answer. All you have to do is make a quality decision to get into the Word like never before.

The Bible says, *For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise* (Hebrews 10:36). Another translation says you have need of *perseverance*. After you have stood on the Word, you *will* receive the promise.

How important is it that God's promises to you are fulfilled? How important is your health? How important is prospering so that you can do more for the kingdom of God? Don't miss out on any of God's promises. Make the decision now to be persistent in your faith, to persevere, and then refuse to give up. What is important to you is important to God; therefore, there's no turning back.

Be persistent in your faith—it's the very substance of the things you hope for, and the evidence of those things you don't yet see! ■



Near the end of 2016, Dr. Jerry Savelle received a Prophetic Word from the Lord concerning the year 2017. In this 3 CD series he teaches what the Lord showed him, that this year “The Faithful shall Flourish and it shall be like the days of Heaven on earth”.

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Curriculum

Additional Study Guides and Books are available separately for groups!

This resource from Jerry Savelle contains over four decades of insight and revelation and is for anyone who wants to experience God's supernatural favor at a higher level.

Curriculum Includes:

The Favor of God - Hardback Book

Comprehensive Study Guide...for personal application

10 teaching sessions available on both DVD and CD.



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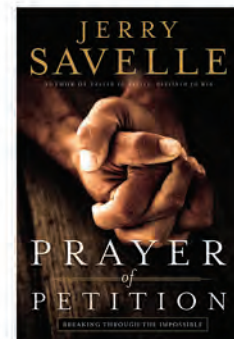
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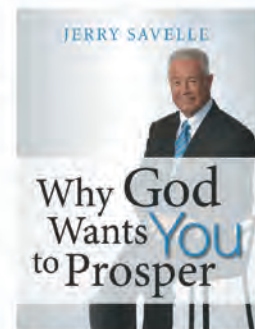
In this material, Jerry Savelle establishes a biblical foundation for understanding the principles of divine prosperity, with a special focus on the reasons why so many of God's people are in financial bondage.

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FAMINE OR FLOURISH: THE CHOICE IS YOURS

by Carolyn Savelle

The Bible describes a time of famine in which the Lord appeared to Isaac and gave him specific instructions and a promise: *“Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you. Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you”* (Genesis 26:2–3).

This famine was as bad as the one Isaac’s father, Abraham, had experienced. The NIV Bible says the famine was severe, The Message says it was a hard famine, and the Amplified Bible says it was oppressive, intense, and grievous.

I want us to look at the definition of the word *famine*: “severe shortage of everything; extreme scarcity; serious economic downturn; to be left wanting; to fall short.” In the midst of a famine, Isaac chose to believe and obey the word the Lord had spoken to him. As a result of his choice, the Bible says, *The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous; for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants. So the Philistines envied him* (Genesis 26:13–14).

Isaac is the picture of a

man who flourished during a serious economic depression, or downturn. Famine may have been in the land, but Isaac remained untouched by what was going on around him.

This story is such an encouragement to me, and an example of how we should thrive and flourish in the kingdom of God in spite of the economy. The Lord spoke through the prophet Jeremiah about the difference between those who choose to lean on the arm of the flesh and those who choose to trust Him:

Thus says the LORD: *“Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the LORD. For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when good comes, but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land which is not inhabited.”*

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in

the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit” (Jeremiah 17:5–8).

Even during an economic downturn, those who trust in the Lord are like trees planted along the riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. These trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green and they never stop producing fruit.

The definition of the word *green* is “to flourish, prosper, and thrive.” What does this sound like? It sounds like the word the Lord gave Jerry for 2017: “The faithful shall flourish, and it shall be like days of heaven on earth.”

When we trust in Him, we are not subject to the economy or even those who rule our nation. We flourish because of the kingdom of God and the blessing of God. Prosperity is ours according to the Word of God, which makes this promise: *The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree* (Psalm 92:12). The choice to receive the promise is yours! ■

I'd like to thank everyone who has sown into our Aviation Department and to express to you what a great blessing you are to our ministry.

I learned over 48 years ago that the quickest way to have a need met in my life was to plant seed. It's a Biblical principle and, furthermore, IT WORKS!

I also learned that every seed produces after its own kind - that's the Law of Genesis. If I needed clothes, I sowed into someone else who was believing for clothes. If I need a car or a house, I found someone else who was believing for a car or a house and I sowed seed into their need.

And I can testify to this fact: God has never let me down! He's always honored His Word and He saw to it that my harvest always came.

We believe in excellence and that's what I insist on - that our equipment, including our aircraft, is always well-maintained. Obviously to do this we are always sowing into other ministries who own airplanes so that our seed ensures us that we have what we need when it's time to upgrade our equipment or perform required inspections.

If you're believing for any form of transportation - a car, a truck, even an airplane or it's time to upgrade - prayerfully consider sowing into our Aviation Department.

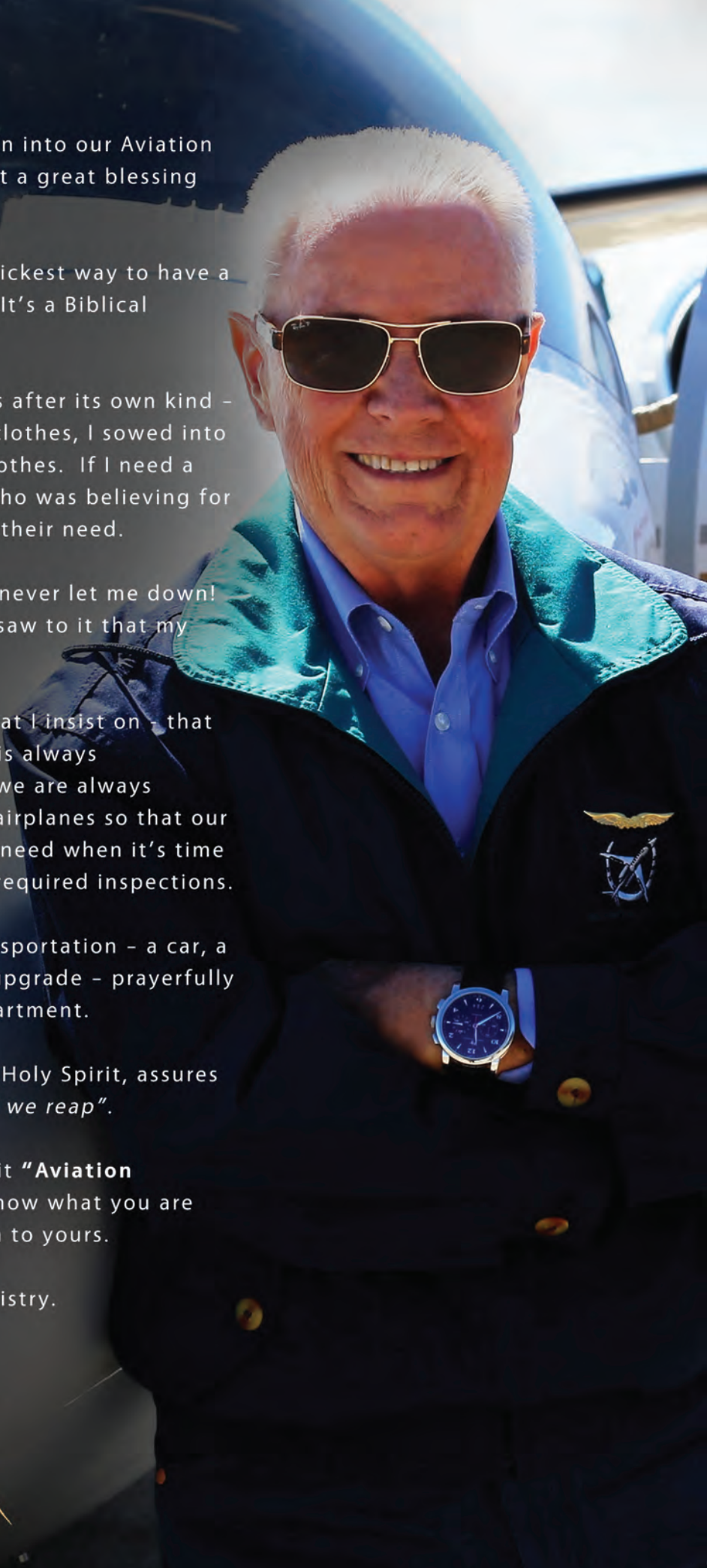
The Apostle Paul, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, assures us that *"whatsoever we sow, that shall we reap"*.

Sow a seed today and be sure to mark it **"Aviation Department"**. And be sure to let me know what you are believing for so that I can add my faith to yours.

Thanks for being a blessing to this ministry.



Bob Jones



THE FAITHFUL SHALL *Flourish*

by Jerry Savelle

As I was reading and studying the Word on October 4, 2016, the Lord spoke these words to me about the year 2017: *"The faithful shall flourish, and it shall be like days of heaven on earth."*

Perhaps you've experienced some tough times recently. Don't give up! God is the God of restoration. I discovered in my Bible that minimum restoration with God is twofold, twice everything you lost, and it's even possible you could gain seven times what you lost (see Proverbs 6:31).

To those who obey God's Word, the Bible promises this: *that your days and those of your descendants may be extended in the land which the LORD promised to give to your ancestors, like the days of heaven itself* (Deuteronomy 11:21 NET). I am living proof of this promise. I had open-heart surgery in 2015, and then, last year, while having the plaque removed from the main artery in my neck, I suffered a stroke. Yet today I am totally restored, traveling all over the world with no residual effects. The doctors tell me I've got at least twenty more years, which would make me ninety.

However, if I'm not satisfied with ninety years I'm going to keep going because that's what the Bible says I can do. Can you see the miracle that God has done for me?

Moses reminded God's people, Israel, when He delivered them from slavery in Egypt: *"His signs and His acts which He did in the midst of Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, and to all his land; what He did to the army of Egypt, to their horses and their chariots; how He made the waters of the Red Sea flow over them as they pursued you, and how the LORD has destroyed them to this day"* (Deuteronomy 11:3–4). But God wasn't done.

Moses went on to inform the people of the tremendous prosperity God had planned for those

who were obedient and willing to follow Him: *"Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the River Euphrates, even to the Western Sea, shall be your territory. No man shall be able to stand against you; the LORD your God will put the dread of you and the fear of you upon all the land where you tread, just as He has said to you. Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you today"* (Deuteronomy 11:24–27).

Obedience to God's Word

Just as God's blessings were contingent on Israel's obedience to His Word, we too must be obedient to God's Word. We do this by letting our hearts be filled with His Word, letting our eyes be fixed on His Word, and letting our mouths continually speak His Word. When we are faithful do these three things, our days and those of our children will be multiplied in the land. Are you one of the faithful? If so, you are going to flourish and your days will be as the days of heaven upon earth!

Jesus said that whoever *"...believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says"* (Mark 11:23). I want to challenge you to stand on the word the Lord spoke for 2017 and make this declaration every morning: *"This is my season for flourishing, and if I'm to be flourishing then I can expect this!"*

To flourish means (1) to thrive, (2) to increase, (3) to enlarge, (4) to grow, (5) to prosper, (6) to abound, (7) to spread out, (8) to expand, (9) to make steady progress, and (10) to be at a high point in your life.



I realize the idea of the faithful flourishing in 2017 doesn't line up with what the news media says, but then God and the world seldom agree on anything.

I made my mind up long ago that I'm going to believe God's Word



Don't declare that you'll flourish in 2017 just because you're excited about what you're reading right now. Don't confess it three or four times and then forget about it. Read these ten definitions of *flourish* again and again; be faithful to declare them out loud on a daily basis. Be faithful, for it's the faithful who will flourish.

I realize the idea of the faithful flourishing in 2017 doesn't line up with what the news media says, but then God and the world seldom agree on anything. I made my mind up long ago that I'm going to believe God's Word, which says, *The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing* (Psalm 92:12–14). The Amplified Bible says they shall be full of sap, of spiritual vitality.

Grow Where You're Planted

God promises growth like a cedar in Lebanon. The Clarke's commentary says, "As these trees flourish in their respective soils and climates, so shall the righteous." One of the meanings of soil is "a geographical area." For example, when American troops are stationed in a specific region of the world, they are said to be on "foreign soil."

Many years ago, while I was preaching in southern California,

three businessmen invited me to lunch in Newport Beach. It was the early seventies, and Word of Faith churches were just starting to spring up. One of the men said, "Brother Jerry, if you'll come to Newport Beach, we'll buy you a piece of property and build a church. We'll pay cash for it, and when it's finished we'll hand you the keys—if you'll come be our pastor." I told them I'd pray about it.

When I got back home I said, "Lord, what about that offer?" He said, "Think about how you would like to be controlled by three wealthy businessmen; the first time you do something they don't agree with, they may take back the building. So, if that's okay with you, then go ahead and move."

"It's not okay with me," I said. God's people are described as "trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD" (see Isaiah 61:3). If I'd been planting myself, I would have chosen Newport Beach or maybe Hawaii. But God chose to plant me in Crowley, Texas, so that's where I am. If you are where God plants you, then you will flourish. If you're not where God intends that you be, He's under no obligation to cause you to flourish. Where God plants you is where your vineyard is—where you'll reap your harvest. Carolyn and I knew we were to be in Texas.

The psalmist said those who are planted in the house of the Lord

shall flourish. The house of the Lord is symbolic of the universal New Testament Church. Because the Church is all over the world, you need to find out where you belong. Don't ever get the idea that God doesn't have a local church for you, that you can make it by yourself—this isn't God's plan. Jesus shed His blood for your redemption; He established the Church. You need to find out which local body of believers God wants to plant you in (note: the keyword is *plant*). To be planted implies being deeply rooted, firmly fixed, and immovable.

Carolyn used to ask me to go out to her flowerbeds and dig up the weeds. Of course, I'd always believe God for something else to do at those times—especially if there was a football game I wanted to watch on TV. Sometimes, when I'd grab the mower and cut the weeds down instead of pulling them up, she'd say, "You didn't get the weeds out, they'll be back up!" My point is this: it's hard to pull up something that's been planted; therefore, if you're not planted you'll be easily moved.

Wrong Place, Wrong Time

I personally believe that one of the reasons many believers aren't flourishing is because they aren't where God wants them to be. Being in the wrong place can be costly. If you don't believe it, ask Jonah. If you're still not convinced, ask Lot.

So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren. Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left."

And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar. Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom. But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD (Genesis 3:8–14, italics added).

We know how this story ended: Abraham became known as the wealthiest man in the East; Lot chose for himself where to live and is remembered as a man who yielded to sin. Being where God wants you to be is vital; don't treat this lightly. Don't make hasty decisions. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. Jesus said, "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13). The Word of God tells us to, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not to your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5–6).

If you truly want God's best in 2017, then make sure you're planted where He wants you. Being planted is not an option, so ask the Lord where you're to be—and then be faithful there. If you aren't where God wants you and you're not being faithful, you could miss out on some major blessings.

The Blessing of God's Favor

The Bible says, *And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise* (Galatians 3:29). Don't ever forget that you are the seed of Abraham; as such, you're entitled to the same blessings God bestowed upon him.

One of those blessings is increased favor. To flourish involves an increase in the favor of God, and preferential treatment is one of the characteristics of God's favor. Begin to expect God's favor to manifest in greater ways than ever before.

No matter what's happening to everyone else around you, you can expect the favor of God to manifest in your life. Get up every morning and declare Psalm 5:12: *For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous; with favor You will surround him as with a shield*. This means that everywhere you go, the favor of God will show up. An outpouring of God's favor would surely be like days of heaven on earth.

I encourage you not to get caught up in what's happening in the world. Instead, stay in faith, stay focused, and refuse to become negative. Watch for and expect God's favor. Hold on to these promises in God's Word: *He will ever be mindful of His covenant* (Psalm 111:5) and *The LORD has been mindful of us; He will bless us; He will bless the house of Israel; He will bless the house of Aaron. He will bless those who fear the LORD, both small and great. May the LORD give you increase more and more, you and your children. May you be blessed by the LORD, who made heaven and earth* (Psalm 115:12–15).

And remember this in 2017: **The faithful shall flourish, and it shall be like days of heaven on earth!■**

Decree this every day
according to Job 22:28

*"You will decree a thing and it
will be established for you..."*

And according to Romans 4:17

*"... calleth those things which be
not as though they were"*

TO FLOURISH

MEANS

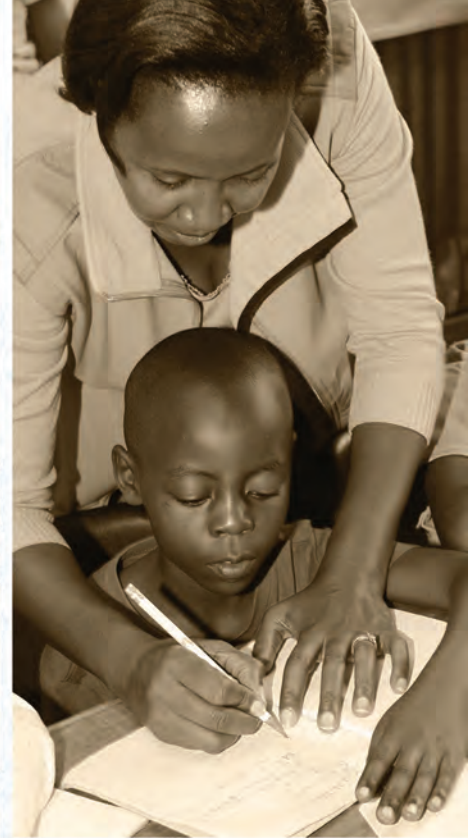
- 1) To Thrive
- 2) To Increase
- 3) To Enlarge
- 4) To Grow
- 5) To be Prosperous
- 6) To Abound
- 7) To Spread Out
- 8) To Expand
- 9) To Make Steady Progress
- 10) To Be at a High Point in
One's Life

As you decree these things daily
expect them to come to pass in
your life in 2017.

Remember Jesus said:

*"According to your faith
be it unto you"*

– Matthew 9:29 –



by Carla Porter

FATHERHOOD AND THE BLESSING OF ABRAHAM



CARLA PORTER IS THE PASTOR OF VICTORY FAITH CHURCH IN KENYA AND IS IN THE PROCESS OF BUILDING HERITAGE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Fatherhood - a word that everyone is familiar with, but perhaps many have never thought about its importance in the context of the blessing.

As believers, most of us have heard marvelous teaching from Genesis 12:1-3. It reads, *"Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you and I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the FAMILIES of the earth shall be blessed.'"*

Notice the word, FAMILIES. This is very important because the authority of the covenant functions through the structure of family. Every weapon the enemy forms against us is because he wants to prevent the covenant from being fulfilled in our lives. Every weapon he forms against the family is, in reality, a weapon formed against the covenant blessing. Satan's strategy is to destroy the family and prevent all the goodness of God contained in His blessing from being poured out upon each successive generation.

As the Father continued unfolding the covenant to Abram, He spoke a very essential element in Genesis 17:5, *"No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the FATHER of a multitude of nations."*

Notice the emphasis put upon Abraham's call to fatherhood—not just a physical line of descendants, but of a multitude beyond our ability to number. This must mean that being a *father* has a greater meaning than is normally understood. *Father* means *a male parent, an ancestor, and, the founder of a line*. Thus, Abraham is the founder of the line of those who believe in God and place their trust in Him.

But there is another meaning for the word *father* that I only came to understand after my late husband, Wade, and I began living in Kenya, Africa, thirty years ago. When we first arrived in Kenya, our assignment was to prepare a clinic on behalf of Dr. Savelle for Dr. Oral Roberts to begin putting healing teams in the nations from his medical school. This meant my husband had to put together a construction crew.

Some weeks after construction began, one of the crew came to Wade and told him that his mother had died. Wade gave him money toward the funeral expenses, he went, and then returned to work. Then a few months later, he came to Wade again and told him that his mother had died. We thought it could be a stepmother, so we gave him money again to go bury his mother. But then several months later, he told Wade again that his mother had died, and Wade told him, "No one could have that many mothers!" The

man responded by saying, "Oh, no, this woman did not give birth to me. But she lived next to us, and she helped feed me as a child, and supported me to get a start in life. So she is a mother to me."

We learned a very valuable principle that is widely understood in the East. A father or a mother is "one who takes responsibility for the care and well-being of another". That really broadens our understanding of Genesis 12:3 and Genesis 17:5. It means that Abraham, the Father of Faith, was not only responsible for the welfare of his immediate family, but his faith encompasses the life of every believer down through all the generations since then. Abraham is undoubtedly one of the most influential men that has ever lived. Today, there are 80 Christian nations that call him "Father", 56 Islamic nations that claim him as their "Father", and there is one Jewish nation that calls him "Father Abraham".

Why did God choose Abraham to initiate this line of believers who are committed to blessing the nations? Genesis 18:19 says, *"For I have chosen him, that he may COMMAND his children and his household after him, to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has promised to him."*

Teaching and training our children in God's ways of righteousness and justice are a key element of the blessing being poured out in the nations. By the way, one of the meanings of the word *command* is to *train the tongue*. Fathers and mothers take responsibility for training their children to AGREE with God in thought, word, and deed.

Abraham's call as the "Father of a multitude of nations" continues in our generation. The blessing of Abraham is intended to be transmitted from one generation to the next, from fathers and mothers to sons and daughters.

But we have a tremendous problem in our generation; there are multitudes of orphans and vulnerable children who have no father or mother to care for them and teach them about God. Or they may have a single parent who is so ill or poor that they cannot feed, nourish, clothe, and educate their children. UNICEF says that there are at least 153,000,000 million orphans and vulnerable children in the world today. They know that there are more than this, but they say it is impossible for them to calculate how many children live on the streets of the nations of the world.

Sub-Saharan Africa, where I live, has 58,000,000 million orphans. They have no family structure to rely on in life and become prey for sex traffickers, drug dealers, and all types of criminals. They have no one to love them and teach them about God. Unless someone intervenes, this means they are lost to the kingdom of God, and God's will for their lives is never realized.

The fundamental issue for orphans and vulnerable children is that they LACK CONNECTION. They have no connection to a functioning family that is able to meet their basic needs. They usually have no connection to a community and, in fact, often experience deep rejection. They have no connection to God and His people.

Without connection, these children have no one to teach them the ways of the Lord that lead to His blessing. For so many millions of orphans and vulnerable children, there is no one who cares about their issues and takes up their cause—unless the Body of Christ steps into the gap and begins to provide this connection.

In 2000, my husband came into contact with a number of orphans in Budalangi, Kenya. Wade literally saw children rising up out the dust of the ground. He thought he was seeing a plowed field, but it was actually naked, starving children who had burrowed themselves into the ground. From that time on, we began to be involved with those children. We began to care about their issues such as the death of their family members through HIV/AIDS, the abject poverty they lived in, the extremely hurtful rejection they had experienced, the diseases that were in their bodies, and the lack of educational opportunities available to them.

Out of that initial meeting Wade had with them, we began to feed and clothe them, meet their medical needs, and, of course, we introduced them to Jesus Christ as their Savior. Thus began a journey of faith that continues to this day. I now have one son from among them who is in medical school, training to be a pediatrician. I have one daughter from among them

who is in nurse's training. We have several in various colleges and universities as well as a number of children in secondary and primary schools.

It is such a joy to teach the children, "God loves you. We love you. God has a good plan for your life. He will bless you and help you fulfill your destiny and cause you to be a blessing." Years ago, the Lord told us, "Don't just keep them alive; give them a life!" Those words caused a shift in Wade's and my heart. We received the children we were "helping" as sons and daughters. They began to enjoy the privileges of being members of a family.

There is so much power in the blessing that it can take those who were once the tail and not the head—below and beneath everything and not above anything, living hope-less lives with no victory—and bring them into the blessing and goodness of God! Today, when you ask the children we are raising in 'Our Home' in Nairobi how they are, the only answer you will get is, "I am blessed and highly favored!" We teach that Jeremiah 1:12 is as much for orphans and vulnerable children as it is for any believer and, thus, they know God has a great destiny for them. This understanding is essential for an "orphaned spirit" to be removed from their lives. This revelation grants them the power to say, "Abba, Father".

The dramatic transformations we have witnessed have come through the power of *Fatherhood*, taking responsibility for the well-being of another and letting them know that God loves them and will bless them above and beyond anything they can imagine! ■

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PARTNERS, because of you we are able to help Carla and many others! Together we are REACHING OUT.

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SHALL FLOURISH

by Joe McCroskey

Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. Behold the proud, his soul is not upright within him; but the just shall live by his faith" (Habakkuk 2:2–4).

Dr. Savelle's word for 2017 is "The faithful shall flourish, and it shall be like days of heaven on earth."

I am the International Director for Jerry Savelle Ministries International, and have been with Dr. Savelle for over thirty-seven years. Over the years his vision has increased significantly, but the heart of the vision is still the same. Methods have changed the way the vision is carried out, but each year God has added to the vision, and it speaks all over the world.

Two of the most important parts of the vision that my department is responsible for are *mass discipleship training* and the *love of God in action*. They always have to do with making winners out of everyone.

Mass Discipleship Training

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

There are several ways we accomplish mass discipleship training. Teaching God's Word will change anyone in any circumstance, so JSMI sends ministers all over the world to teach pastors and those in leadership through seminars and in church services. Live stream services are provided from our church, Heritage of Faith Christian Center (U.S.A.), and we now utilize all forms of social media. Our production department sends out Bible teaching curriculums, books, downloads, and compact disk sets.

A testimony from one nation tells how they received

one of Dr. Savelle's books, *If Satan Can't Steal Your Joy, He Can't Keep Your Goods*, and it was shared with over fifty families. Because of the amount of use of that one book, it began falling apart. When we heard about the situation, we sent them a case of books.

We also set up Bible schools all over the world using two systems: one for individuals and one for groups. For individuals, we provide a one-year Bible course than can be taken in their homes through a correspondence system. For individual students all over the world who come in through our missions outreach, we provide touchscreen tablets loaded with the one-year curriculum for their use.

In one nation, one of our students took the courses, and when he finished each course he would then go into the prison (where he worked) and share what he'd learned with the inmates and guards. When I went into that prison to minister, I was surprised to find over ninety percent of the inmates were saved and filled with the Holy Spirit. Jerry Savelle Ministries International was then invited to bring the Bible school into any of the prisons in that nation. It costs about one hundred U.S. dollars to put a student through the one-year school. Look what the investment did in that prison! We have testimony after testimony about how God, through Dr. Savelle's teachings, has changed churches, individuals, cities, and many other things (making winners all over the world).

For our group method, we provide a classroom setting where the students are with each other, taking the course together. It is the same one-year course, but a different method.

We heard from the pastor of one church that was doing the classroom Bible school. He said, "It is changing my people and my church. Out of all the students who started, over eighty-five percent are doing great in their studies."

In one nation we had a student who was not a



communicator with other people. After she completed one of the courses, several people went up to her and wanted to know why she was so bold now. She told them she had received the Word of God and it had set her free. Notice that after getting the Word of God in her, people could see the change in her life.

In addition to the schools operating at the present time, this year we will start both types of schools in the following countries and areas: United States of America (in several churches), Canada (among the First Nation reserves and churches), Keys Reserve, White Bear Reserve, Tanzania East Africa, Kenya East Africa, Uganda, Nigeria (three locations), Malawi, Zambia, and Philippines. We have waiting lists of people who want to take this Bible school. This year we hope to graduate 259 pastors, and we propose and plan to start 395 new pastors.

We are also distributing Dr. Savelle's materials and using social media to help train the saints all over the world to be disciples of Christ. We are equipping them with the Word of the Living God to make them winners in life and to fulfill their callings. Dr. Savelle's materials are in over thirty nations and on social media such as live stream, Instagram, and Facebook. We are now able to go all over the world with the touch of a screen. When email comes in from Africa requesting Dr. Savelle's materials, our U.S.A. office can show them how to go online and pull up what he preached on Sunday morning at Heritage of Faith Christian Center. What a tool to have to get the gospel out!

Love of God in Action

"Love of God in action" is a phrase God put in my Spirit years ago, and it defines this second part of the vision.

Jerry Savelle Ministries International does many



humanitarian acts all around the world. We show the love of God in action in many ways. The first is by feeding the needy. In the early days, we found that if we fed a young child (as Jesus told us to do in His Word), that child's family would listen to what we had to say about Jesus and His goodness.

**TEACHING GOD'S WORD WILL CHANGE
ANYONE IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCE, SO
JSMI SENDS MINISTERS ALL OVER THE
WORLD TO TEACH PASTORS AND THOSE
IN LEADERSHIP**

Dr. Savelle wrote a book several years ago, *You're Somebody Special to God*, which shows our God's goodness. Any time we do a humanitarian act, we give a copy of this small, but powerful, book. Many people do not know what God says about them; they only hear what people say about them. When meeting the needs of people, we always let them know it is God who is blessing them; we are only the instruments He is using to get it done.

For example, the team and I went to a village that was experiencing a severe drought. The village grade school had about 250 students, and we blessed each student with food for their family for approximately

two months. As the children were coming through the line, one little girl of a different religion looked up at me as I handed her the bags of food and candy. She said, “You’re not like they told me you were.”

I looked down at her and said, “What do you mean?”

She said, “How can you be evil if you are feeding my family?”

She was not speaking about me as an individual, but as a Christian, a follower of Christ. Then I heard the Lord say, “Joe, this is how you change a generation.” In her bag of food was also a little book that would tell her what God’s thoughts were about her and her family. I can still see her face today, which shows that the love of God in action not only changes them, but it changes us, too!

In another village, the school had over 1300 students with different types of beliefs. The headmaster called JSMI and told us they had run out of food and could not feed the students. We took over thirty tons of food and loaded it into their warehouse. The headmaster, who was not a Christian, asked me if we would minister to the students. Showing the love of God in action is what opened the door to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. That day several students made Jesus their Lord. Then all the team was able to go through the school and minister the healing power of Christ in several ways: minds were set free, ideologies were torn down, and people were set free from evil spirits! One of the team members tapped me on the shoulder and said, “I’ve seen God in action like in the book of Acts!”

Another project JSMI was involved in was taking goats into villages so that babies whose mothers had died could have milk to keep them alive. That project

included having to build cages to protect the goats from predators.

Building desks and supplying food for very poor schools in several rural areas was another project we were involved in.

For years we have taken care of orphanages and homes for the needy. God has also led us to individuals who have the same vision we do concerning orphans. We continue to bless them in several ways, such as giving them three good meals a day. For most orphans, getting one meal a day is considered normal, but we believe in the abundant God, so we choose to feed them three meals a day.

Another need we meet is the digging of both shallow and deep water wells that supply fresh water, which cuts out fifty-seven percent of the diseases in small children who do not normally get fresh water. In some instances, this work also provides a way we can meet the needs of widows and children. In one village where we dug a well, there were seventy widows. After we drilled the well, installed an electric pump, and made a large tank to hold the water, those widows were able to sell that water, providing income to take care of themselves and their children.

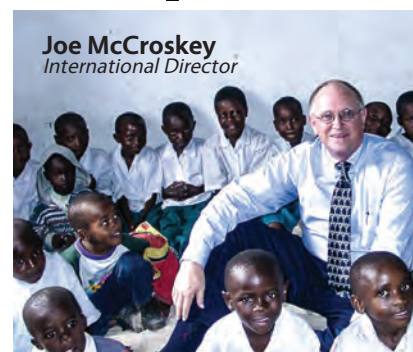
In some places, children are not allowed to attend school if they have no backpack, school supplies, or shoes. So we provide backpacks filled with school supplies, school uniforms, and clothing for the children. We also fill them with candy—because children all over the world love candy! When one little boy opened his backpack, you would have thought he would have gone for the candy. Instead, he pulled out a No. 2 pencil and excitedly said, “Look—a pencil!” It made me think how blessed our children are that they don’t have to believe for a pencil. But God can

show how good He is using a No. 2 pencil to mark somebody for life.

On another occasion in one of the small villages, I noticed none of the children were wearing shoes. I asked the elder of the village if the children were allowed to attend school, and he said no. We had brought backpacks full of school supplies, but I knew immediately in my spirit they could not attend school—no shoes! I called on two women we work with in missions and instructed them to pick up two pairs of shoes for each of the children. Doing this enabled thirty-two children to attend school, and it cost under \$100—not much to help educate thirty-two children!

When another large home for needy children and orphans heard what we were doing, they called to ask if we could help them. One of our team members asked how much it would cost to buy seven hundred pairs of shoes, and right then we bought the shoes! Think of the impact it makes on a child when God uses a pair of shoes to show how good He is!

Several of these students have completed their schooling and are now showing the love of God in action in several different ways in their nations. Some have gone back to their villages to let God use them to bless their people. People in many of the orphanages we work with continue to share testimonies about how meeting the needs of people is one of the greatest ways to show the love of Christ and change not only individuals, but also nations! ■



APRIL 2017

Praise Chapel
London 2nd AM

Cornerstone Church
Surrey, London 2nd PM

Newport City Church
Newport, Pilgwenilly 3rd PM

Vine Christian Centre
Bridgend, Wales 4th PM

Destiny Christian Centre
London 5th PM

Harvest Church
Wembley, London 6th PM

Global Miracle Gospel Ministries
Edmonton, London 7th PM

Good News Ministries
National Bible Conference
San Giovanni Lupatoto, Bologna 10-13th

Faith Builders Church
Little Rock, AR 28th 7 PM

Church on the Rock
St. Peters, MO 30th 9 & 11 AM

High Praises Church
Maryville, TN 30th 7 PM

MAY 2017

Faith Family Church
Rogers, AR 3rd 7 PM

Restoration Life Church
Harrison, AR 4th 7 PM

Faith Life Church
Branson, MO 5th 6:30 PM

Russellville Christian Cente
Russellville, AR 7th 10 AM

Promise of Life Church
Mississauga, ONT 14-19th

Agape Christian Center
Belton, TX 26th 7 PM

JUNE & JULY 2017

Maranatha Ministries
Melbourne, FL 11-12th

Ontario Christian Center
Ontario, CA 28th 7 PM

JULY

Family Faith Center
Big Spring, TX 2nd 10:30 AM

Victory Christian Center
Lubbock, TX 2nd 7 PM



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