



# GOOD NEWS GUIDE

THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE

www.goodnewsguide.org

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## Your Ministry

### Are you a believer in Jesus Christ, one of his followers?

For some people this is not an easy question to answer. I remember well my own time of coming to a decision. I had heard the Gospel, the Good News of God's grace, freely offering forgiveness to sinners, and I was eager to receive Jesus as my Savior, with gratitude and with relief and joy. But the implied second part of the question also had to be answered: was I willing for Jesus to be my Lord?

I hesitated over this. I said, "I'm not ready (by which I meant, not yet good enough) to do that," and my pastor replied that if I waited until I thought I was "ready" I would never get there. He and others showed me that the best answer I could come up with was that I was willing to surrender as much of myself as I could at that time, and trust the Holy Spirit to help me keep moving toward the goal of complete commitment.

That was several decades ago, and that process is still ongoing. I have learned to trust God's word as He says, in Philippians 1:6, "*He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*"



So if you are not a follower of Jesus, please become one now. Believe in Jesus; believe that what the Bible says about Him is true (it is!); then honestly offer to God all of yourself that you are able to let go of today. You can trust Him to

receive and honor that small gift, as your "down payment" on eventual total commitment. And then get all the good teaching of God's word and the beautiful fellowship of believers that you can.

Pray, learn, and go where the Holy Spirit leads you. Don't worry too much about denomination; any Christ-honoring, Bible-believing, Christian

church will help you. (Although, be wary of the many who will try to lead you astray with false teaching—including some who formerly were Christian, but now choose to ignore the parts of God's word that don't agree with them.)

Now to believers, both recent and those of long standing, all who have understood the promise of God's grace, have received His free gift of forgiveness for all of their sins, and want to live a life of obedience that is pleasing to Him: the central theme of my message is this:

- **God saves us FROM Hell's punishment**, the agonizing misery and despair of eternal separation from God, which, because of our sins, we all justly deserve;
- **God saves us TO eternal, joyful, guilt-free, intimate relationship with Himself**, which is what Heaven really is;
- **And God also saves us FOR His ministry purposes**, some of which we recognize immediately and some of which He may reveal to us later. He saves us for ministry, obviously now, here on Earth, and possibly also in Heaven, doing things we cannot even begin to imagine.

**Me, a minister?** Oh, yes.

The most obvious form of ministry, with the help of the Holy Spirit, is telling others about Jesus and your appreciation of what He has done for you.

*I waited patiently for the Lord;  
 he inclined to me and heard my cry.  
 He drew me up from the pit of destruction,  
 out of the miry bog,  
 and set my feet upon a rock,  
 making my steps secure.  
 He put a new song in my mouth,  
 a song of praise to our God.  
 Many will see and fear,  
 and put their trust in the Lord. (Ps. 40:1-3)*

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)*



It is especially important to minister to those you know who have turned away from God, for whatever reason. There are some in my family; there are probably some in yours, as well.

*... if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (2 Cor. 5:17-20)*

It's not easy to talk about Jesus with these loved ones, but if we have patience and continue to pray for them faithfully, the Holy Spirit will open the way for them to come to faith, with or without our words, because ...

*[God] desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Tim. 2:4)*



Prayer, of course, is the most basic ministry of all. Every Christian is called, invited, urged, and commanded to pray. It doesn't take special equipment, or skill, or even courage. All we have to do is show up, ready and willing to bring before God whatever He

has placed on our hearts. Some few of us are especially gifted to become powerful intercessors and prayer warriors, but all of us have prayer work that God wants us to do.

*[Jesus] told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. (Luke 18:1)*

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thess. 5:16-18)*

If you are in Christ, you will find that you are changed—you're a "new creation;" by the Holy Spirit you have been "born again." An effective way to minister to some relatives and friends who know you is just to demonstrate that Jesus has changed you. If you were hot-tempered, but are now patient; if you were critical and demanding but are now ready to make allowances or forgive; if you were selfish but are now considerate of others—the list of possible changes is very long. Many have been brought to faith by seeing such a dramatic change in a friend or relative.

*Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness ... But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control .... (from Gal. 5:18-23)*

There are many opportunities for ministry within one's church or Christian fellowship, serving as an usher, choir member, reader, teacher, or in various other ways; but also as one who blesses others by testifying, encouraging, and especially just listening to and caring about people.



*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Heb. 10:24-25)*

*So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church. (1 Cor. 14:12)*

Finally, any simple act of kindness or generosity to someone who is struggling or in need—when done without expecting anything in return, perhaps even done secretly—is a God-pleasing act of ministry:

*Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and*

*you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. ...as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'*  
(Matt. 25:34-36,39b)



So, in summary, part of God's plan for us whom He has saved is that we serve as His ministers, to deliver His blessings to others. No matter how soon or how late we come to faith in Jesus, He asks us to be instruments of His love and peace to the world.

*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:8-10)*

*Therefore, work out your own salvation with [diligence], for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, (Phil. 2:12b-15)*

My interpretation is that "work out your own salvation" does not, in any way, mean *earn* your salvation; what it means is, do the things—the ministry—for which you have been saved. May all of us, with the Spirit's help, be found faithful!

## *Brother Roland*

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**Ask me ...** Send your Bible questions to me and I'll try to answer them in the "Good News Guide." Your question may be one that will help someone else.

**Brother Roland, P O Box 14, Fayetteville PA 17222**

## **A Special Request**

Our country, which we are asked to love and support, and even die for if necessary—this blessed, beautiful land of ours—is in trouble. Selfishness (sin) is in control—the horror of abortion on demand is just one of the ugly symptoms. And no amount of haggling, politicking, or worrying about it is going to accomplish very much. *What is needed is for the hearts of the people to change*; to turn back to the truths of the Bible and God's way of living. We have proven that we can't fix things, but we can ask God to save us.

***if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chron 7:14)***

Will you pray for revival in America, and ask your friends and your churches also to pray faithfully until God brings it about? I believe that is one thing He truly wants us to do.

## Take My Life and Let It Be by Frances Ridley Havergal

Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days—  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love;  
Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing  
Always, only for my King;  
Take my lips and let them be  
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold—  
Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect and use  
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it Thine—  
It shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart— it is Thine own;  
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love— my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure store;  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee.

Amen

## Ministry Words

How many ways are there to serve as an instrument of God's blessings? A lot more than are represented by this puzzle's list of words. How many of the list are part of your ministry? Enjoy the puzzle.

### Puzzle:

E T I R W D R P G B A Y K S K H T T X O V Z M Q J J O I N L  
P S V W V G I E F W W Z X R D A I B G V N R G W V B G A I J  
L U Y R P I X Z L G G S Q I I V Z Q L P I N S R Z N X D K L  
M J D F O U G V R O T H B C E B P O O F M U I T J P R R I M  
D O I N F A T Q P M C J B J H U O F F Z H O F V Y M S Y K I  
N T K N I P T F Z H C S D F D I E A C C E N R U S O Q H C R  
E O C S P B Q A I G M P S L D L U N A Q M T G J O D I X V O  
R N B Y J R P N F L D A I E S I R E A E E C R R W I J A E L  
A S E I H X W V P L N U X E N U T Y S D V A T A K S K V A D  
C S I N P M G U A A B G X N H T I S I V Z L E Z G V I E L K  
Z A X V S H Y C Y T V J V N D T I V X A E U O Q Z G H O M G  
O S P R X P N N M S S P V A G N O W A U G G D S R R H J E L  
A Z K B J G C O D P R E A C H R E L Q J A X D O B P T R O A  
H J N E I G D G R D V A D Q P U N L C A R V F Z U A O E S L  
P N O H A C U I M B H P P E N E T S I L U S Q O M T L X I G  
Z F Z D M O U Q V E P P Y W E C P N R M O U E Q S I N W E L  
H I O X B M K H K H S L D T R F O E M T C M H E M U I P K H  
G P U W B F T D E U G A W Y W S V H X G N T R S N W A Y B E  
T R C F I O H L P J E U Y D G I I T C J E K G C H L T L G E  
U T G Z P R P P M H Z D H F V Z T G Z O Z V H F Z D N K X Q  
K S O M T T L C F O U P S E J A R N W K N B L E A D I F U W  
D F P J S Y H F K H K U W U D R E E S O D S D D S O A U L S  
X J Y M G W M U P V P Z J V G L F R V D Q C O F W E M Q V Y  
N P Z M K C M S L P X R I U V D R T J I X D N L S Y R K T V  
L Q X E O B W M O U S S I S Z Y E S O O L I J W E I T V F P  
R Q Z H J X A R N C E D V L T D S I N I U E J F V Y N X E I  
K W G T H R T N M O E I M H M M H S I N O M D A B L W G H O

### Words:

ABSOLVE  
ADMONISH  
ADOPT  
ADVISE  
AFFIRM  
APPLAUD  
BIND UP  
BUILD UP  
CARE  
CLOTHE  
COMFORT  
CONSOLE  
DELIVER  
ENCOURAGE

FEED  
FORGIVE  
GIVE  
GUIDE  
HEAL  
HELP  
LEAD  
LEND  
LIFT UP  
LISTEN  
MAINTAIN  
PREACH  
PROVIDE  
REFRESH

RESTORE  
REVIVE  
SERVE  
SING  
SMILE  
STRENGTHEN  
SUPPLY  
SUPPORT  
TEACH  
UPHOLD  
VISIT  
WITNESS  
WRITE