



Wake-up!—That's what our Missions-minded God is Saying to the American Church.

By Kurt von Schleicher

"Knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep:
for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed." —Romans 13:11

I believe that God is blaring a wake-up call to His American Church today. We've got serious responsibilities in the USA and overseas before us and God does not want us to miss taking part in history's great missionary harvest!

In this critical election year, doesn't it seem like the best person for the job of leading this country hasn't even showed up for the morning roll call? Do you ever feel like you want someone better to vote for? What's your take on our leading candidates doing their best to be comics instead of presidential as of late? I saw a clip of one real likeable candidate trying to hip-hop-dance his way, together with *Ellen DeGeneres' dance moves*, right into our hearts on her program this week. Others are also doing their best to joke and amuse us on different late night talk shows. Don't get me wrong, I like to laugh and I totally understand their desire for some levity and to reach out farther to a crowd of people over the airwaves that they ordinarily wouldn't reach otherwise, but maybe we Americans so hyper-focused on fools? Why are we depending so much on only rich politicians that the camera likes who have showmanship abilities and are doing anything just to make entry in the 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue door? I know we need to be informed and vote, but have we resorted to merely seeking a viable political solution from a new *Entertainer In Chief* ...I mean ..*Commander In Chief*, more than we're seeking the Lord for a lasting solution that's greater and better for the next generation's future? **Jesus Christ is still the only Hope for America!** But have we become too superficial, shallow and Hollywood-orientated? Will we one day want someone like Ellen, Anna Nicole Smith or Rosie Odonald in office so we can befriend the terrorists as well as keep them amused along with us?

***Wake up the mighty
men; let all the men
of war draw near.***

—Joel 3:9

It's so easy for any of us to get distracted away from the most important issues towards worthless frivolity! We have scary international terrorism and war issues before us. And domestically we have important border, immigration, tax and abortion challenges to deal with.

It's been 35 years since the legalization of abortion and Christians need to keep speaking out against it in new and proper ways! You already know there have been over 45 million pre-born-babies killed. Man, I hate that fact! In this current election year many people are still trying to figure out who God would have them to vote for, and I also have some questions: *How important do you think the abortion issue will be in the choice of a president this time? Why do American homicide laws make a person guilty of manslaughter if he kills a baby in the womb (except in the case of abortion)? How is it right that fetal surgery can be performed to save a baby in the womb in one hospital room, while another child, the same age, is being murdered in another room?*

I've seen some three dimensional ultrasounds of a developing baby recently (of my soon to arrive granddaughter) and they were amazing clear! Did you know that any eight week old baby in the womb feels pain, has hiccups, a heartbeat, fingerprints, and bodily functions?—did you know they'll respond to noise, that they'll suck their thumb and that the baby's gender is also clearly visible? *So why do virtually all abortions still take place after that date? Life in a mother's womb is a masterpiece of God; so why shouldn't He be the only One with the right to give and take life in America ...or in any land?*

Can you recognize that our country is in bad shape and it's time to start praying? Witnessing in the power of the Spirit is the best way to deal with abortion and all wrong doing, because God must change individual's hearts before they'll stop. And He does this when He saves them, after we tell them. Yes, this country needs far more than a good leader in office that has all the right stances on every issue. It needs biblical spiritual warfare and a ferocious spiritual outpouring that would compel us prideful Americans to fall on our faces in mass-non-hysteria and weep because we've strayed so far away from God—yes, prostrate ourselves into a similar position like we'd find ourselves in after experiencing a high-*Richter-Scale*-registering San Francisco style earthquake.¹ That's what we need!

Hey Christian, you and I are children of destiny by second birth. This generation of American Christians has the dual noble responsibility of recovering America's spiritual greatness and leading in the fulfillment of the Great Commission. What a massive assignment! But we have ***"come to the kingdom for such a time as this..."*** (Esther 4:14).

In Revelation, chapters 2 and 3, Jesus Christ makes an impassioned appeal to the messengers of the seven churches of Asia Minor. After addressing the strengths and weaknesses of these churches along with His concerns for each church, Christ finishes His discourses by saying, ***"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches."***

In the same way today, Jesus is calling out to the American church to WAKE UP—to pray, drawing near to Him on His terms and to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying. I'm convinced there are several distinct directives God's Spirit is bellowing out ..if you will ...to those who have ears to hear Him.

Of course, I want to make no claim that goes against Scripture, nor do I claim to be hearing "exclusively" what the Lord is saying to us in the American church ..as many wackos do "in Jesus Name." All Christians can hear the Lord if they choose to! Jesus said, ***"My sheep hear My voice..."*** (Jn. 10:27). I readily acknowledge with the Apostle Paul (not that I am anybody at all other than another ordinary-Joe) that we only ***"know in part, and we prophesy in part."*** But among the many Messages the Holy Spirit is transmitting to those whose hearts

are tuned heavenward, I believe He is clearly speaking at least seven messages of vital importance!

1. Live what you profess consistently Mister or Misses Born Again! And I've got three fingers pointing back at me when I say that. Think about it a minute; if we live what we profess with balance and fervor, our impact on the lost will be so much greater! Doctor Luke said, ***"For thou shalt BE His witness unto all men."***² And we've got to *be good witnesses* before we can *give a good witness* to others verbally! Character really matters as we walk before a watching cynical world that has other lesser things on its mind! You know that non-Christians have a real good "sniffer;" they can sniff out hypocrisy a mile away. Sadly, many contemporary surveys indicate that there is very little difference in the practical, day-to-day morality of Christians verses the unbelievers. Apparently, professing Christians are aborting babies too. They are almost as immoral, almost as chemically-dependent, just as divorced and intoxicated ...regularly. They almost populate our American prisons in as high a numbers as much as unbelievers do. Are many of them merely nominal Christians (lost)?—only our broken-hearted God knows.

2. Keep pressing in for spiritual awakening and authentic biblical revival! Paul commanded, ***"Awake to righteousness, and sin not"*** (1 Cor. 15:34). James commanded, ***"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much"*** (Jam. 5:16). Maybe you remember Habakkuk's prayer, ***"O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy"*** (Hab. 3:2). Those verses tell us to intercede for God's will to be done on earth instead of man's will being accomplished!

In his book *Horns and Halos*, Dr. J. Wallace Hamilton tells us about a strange auction sale that was held in Washington, D.C., in 1926, where 150,000 patented models of old inventions were declared obsolete and placed out on the auction block for a public sale. Prospective buyers and on-lookers chuckled out loud as item after item was placed up for bid; such as a *"bed-bug buster"* or an *"illuminated cat"* that was created to scare away little mice. Then there was the *"adjustable pulpit"* that could be raised or lowered according to the severity of a problem that vertically challenged preachers face. And there was also a device to prevent snoring. It basically consisted of a trumpet that reached from the mouth of the sleeper around to their own ear; and was designed to awaken the snorer and not the neighbors. Man, can you envision that? The body would wake up the body—how clever. I want to be like an effective version of that thing and wake you up for worldwide service unto Christ, instead of becoming obsolete! You should too.

Maybe you have attempted to do the will of God in the past—in missions or in fishing locally for unbeliever—and somehow you've failed? Perhaps you and your dreams of what could have been, should have been, and ought to have been were horrifically smashed on the ground by the cruel circumstances of life? Maybe you no longer feel like pressing in to know the Lord, or to make Him known? Do you hurt and God seems like He's A.W.O.L.? Please keep praying like you mean it ...because you do! He will answer you in His time. Take heart, Christ is not deaf to your prayers. He was also beaten up. His ministry was totally trampled down. He understands you and He can pick you up and revive you

If every day is a spiritual awakening, it will be like you never grow old inside. You will just keep growing!

again. Paul said, ***"You can be sure that the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with His comfort through Christ"*** (2 Cor. 1:5, nlt).

God has revealed His great heart-beat to us—His inner longing to bring about an awakening among the lost and a genuine revival for His Church. He has the whole world on His mind. And pockets of blessing keep gushed forth in ever decade as several of our spiritual leaders diligently do their duty in mass-evangelism. It's exhilarating! I love to see what guys and girls like Franklin Graham, his sister Ann Graham Lotz, Ray Comfort, Raul Ries and Greg Laurie are doing globally! I rejoice with them as they continue to ardently cast their nets. Yet God wants to do so much more fishing for souls through every-day ordinary people like you and me! The job simply won't get done by the paid professionals alone. Again, where we need to start is with a very encouraging groundswell of intercessory prayer that will go up to God in faith for bringing such awakening and revival down. I, for one, believe that God's great heart of mercy is going to respond to the heartcry of His persistently tenacious missions-minded people. We've seen isolated showers of blessing it would seem; but we need to see a flood of God's sovereign power released!

It's still not too late, but it is past time for God's people to come to Him in wide-scale-repentance; to once again honor Him in the *beauty of holiness* and to have as the natural outgrowth of such worship be ...us on-fire and out there on the streets involved in winsome witnessing! I'm not referring to us sharing with some smug attitude of being holier-than-thou. No, no! I'm talking about an attractive kind of holiness, produced by God's wise Spirit that reaches down and rescues those whose lives have been trashed and smashed by sin ...yes, without us becoming soiled by sin ourselves.

3. Stop reacting in the flesh and start acting right. The Bible says, ***“Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh”*** (Gal. 5:16). Over the last several years it seems that the American evangelical church has adopted a perennially adversarial posture of sorts that's fleshly. We are far better known for what we're *against* than for what we're actually *for*.

Man, we need to communicate both sides—a full orb'd Gospel—rather than be known for only the negative or only the positive side of God's Message. Sure we're “against” false doctrine and cultic behavior in church, but we're also “for” assisting the poor, helping the deceived and strengthening the weak. We want to work to see them totally free. Expressing pure negativity alone, or pure positive-ity alone (like I hear from a few Texas-mega-church pastors that I know, who are fearful of losing numbers and income) is wrong. Either application of imbalance is a pathetic way to live! Always reacting to the initiatives of an ungodly society rather than taking the positive initiative to move forwards in home-missions or foreign-missions ourselves—it's got to change! Are you feeling timid and always on the defensive or rather wanting to be offensively advancing the Gospel in a non-offensive way? My dad was a winning football coach and there is one thing I learned from him: There is *no way* you can win if you're always playing defense. Fear must go! If history teaches us anything, it teaches that reactionaries get stomped. They always lose big time! Only initiators win. Did you know that God is the ultimate Initiator? Only people who take action to “go fishing” ...with the right bait, right tact, and right attitude will win souls. That's what makes a person a true missionary. And this brings me to the next clear Message from heaven to us.

4. Become caring ministers of reconciliation. If there's one irrefutable Message today that God is speaking to His Body, it is *reconciliation!* And God, ***“hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation”*** (2 Cor. 5:19). How wonderful! And why did He do this? He did it because He really cares for people and there isn't any lasting reconciliation apart from His Word! He also wants us to care for people—all people. We Christians are to be reconciled

upwards and then outwards by the Word of God ...across denominational, age, racial, familial, departmental, gender and national barriers and then kindly express the true spiritual unity for which Jesus so passionately prayed for in John 17.

Having been reconciled with our brothers and sisters, we are then to take up the call to become ministers of reconciliation everywhere we go, helping others to fix their painful estrangement upwards and then outwards. Have you forgiven others, as you have been forgiven? Hey, God can teach us how to get along with everyone all the time ...even if our enemies stubbornly choose to keep hating us. Are there any festering wounds you have towards other believers that have not yet been healed? Don't stay up tight, get it right tonight! Become an agent of reconciliation for everyone that you meet. If you're right with others, then God can use you to help those who are at odds with others. As our nation becomes more and more diverse—multiethnic and multicultural—we must accept the call to win those around us who are different from us. We white folk aren't better than anyone else.

There's no room for feelings of superiority and indifference where people are concerned. In fact we should be grateful to God that He has made it easier for us Christians to reach others from foreign lands. Have you been spending thousands on missionary plane fair and other expenses? They're not all terrorists coming here. Many lost people have been buying plane tickets to come visit us as tourists and students ...to become evangelized by us, and they don't even realize it, because we haven't told them yet. Yes, God has brought them right here to our doorstep so that we can learn to understand them better, enter their cultures some and effectively witnesses to them.³ Hudson Taylor said, *"The missionary spirit is the Spirit of Jesus, the Spirit of the incarnation and the Cross."* Christ came to our planet; He entered our culture to reach us, regardless of His feelings. And He cared. I like what Donald McGavran said: *"Right strategy tailors mission to fit each of the thousands of separate communities, so that in it the Church may grow."* And Paul agrees with him saying, ***"I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the Gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you"*** (1 Cor. 9:22-23).

5. Make the main thing the main thing! We are so good at majoring on minors today, spiritual fads and strangeness in Jesus Name! But the American church must return to compassionate, Christ-centered expositional evangelism (here and overseas) as its primary horizontal activity. Did you know that the Church for the most part is moving away from sound Bible exposition? We all need to move in the other direction, back to the Bible! Paul said, ***"Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season"*** (2 Tim. 4:2). Why? Because that's the only preaching that God promises to bless. If you are attempting to evangelize using only man's opinions, stories, signs, wonders, high tech pyrotechnics, cool music etc, then please change! Again, there is no spiritual salvation or spiritual growth apart from the Word of God! Give them the Gospel in love! Yes, it's God's Word that won't return void. Never be ashamed of Him or His Message! Make the most of ever opportunity, for we all have limited energy and time. Once it's all expended. It's expended ...so

*Do you see, do you see,
All the people sinking down?
Don't you care, don't you care?
Are you gonna let them drown?
How can you be so numb
Not to care if they come?
You close your eyes
And pretend the job's done...
Oh, bless me Lord! Bless me Lord!
Ya know, it's all I ever hear.
No one aches, no one hurts,
no one even sheds one tear.
But He cries, He weeps, He bleeds, and He
cares for your needs.
And you just lay back and keep soaking it in.
Oh can't you see it's such sin!
—Keith Green*

we can not afford to waste any resource that can be utilized. American Christians have wearied themselves so much in a number of good causes, while we have put the Gospel itself and evangelism on the back-burner. Don't let *the good* become the enemy of *the best*! Let's wake-up! The "Jesus Seminar" people and the "Emergents" are strongly pushing universalism and liberal theology and will we just sit around on our blessed complacency doing nothing?⁴

An indicator of the condition of the American Church can be seen in any major Christian bookstore today. Twenty years ago, the shelves were lined with books about personal private worship and having titles like *Soul-winning for Every Christian* and *How to Witness to Your Non-Christian Neighbor*. Today, at least ninety percent of Christian books are dealing with hyper-positive self-help and self-betterment topics, written for our own self-realization I guess with little or no concern for all the hurting lost people around us. We're no longer others orientated—it's turned into a *Me-First-World*. Yet, amazingly, even with all the bad press the Church has received and even though we so often "shoot ourselves in the foot," there is an incredible openness to Jesus right now among throngs of young people who have felt isolated from true friendship for too long. Video games aren't filling the inner void. The video generation is still ravenously hungry!

The harvest is ripe but too many Christians are too busy going to "self-serving" and "feeling-orientated" courses ...to begin gathering in the harvest in as they should! The workers are few and inverted.

I am a fulltime lifeguard in lonely tower with a frown, because who wants to get all wet ...or even fret at the beach near the town? So I just watch people at beach drown, that I never attempt to reach. Yes, I make all the meetings, I hear all the stories, and I keep cheating the system, retaining all the glory, because in this line of work it can get pretty gory. The trunks I wear are solid red, and I'm in them when I'm out of bed. In fact my work chair I snooze in is also red, but I sport a cool hat at an angle on my head and periodically use some binoculars to spy beach-babes that I hope to bed. I've bought my expensive UV glasses and I regularly take my CPR classes. For among the other guards here, it's basically a race to see who we can embrace. Now my nails are done right, my spot is tight, and who wants to walk upright when the sun shines so bright? I just wish my dog Riptide could also abide at my side, as Zink-oxide to my nose gets carefully applied! So my sun block is now ready and I feel pretty steady, for some young Betty has carefully made my schnozz ready. Across the white sand from my stand, I punch it for looks from all of my fans, in my yellow jeep as fast as I can. Yup, it's not to save others who I can't stand—I never hear them even peep with headphones so cheap, I just catch the next band that sounds kind of bland. The water is cold, so I am told and the gulls are getting pretty bold, but I don't like all the folk so I don't care if they choke! When I hear of other guard's persistence as they call for assistance ...at that strand in the distance, that's when I yelp 'cause I so hate the kelp and I turn my MP3 band up as loud as I can. It can be a bit shocking to see all their wave-runners start rocking? Even if it's a code X when a fishing boat wrecks, I feel it's time to relax and merely place the board on the racks. 'Cause it appears really good as I know that it should. Why help a fellow guard, when inlander-tourists are so full of lard? How sublime is all that's mine, "Why waste precious time?"—I blurt, for I'm told they have a whole hour to hurt before it becomes another recovery effort. Listen, when someone is dying it's pitiful to hear all the crying! "Let em go down!"—I feel, because it seems so surreal! "Allow them to drown and I'll give you a crown!"—for I'm just an underpaid rescue-aid in a tower with a frown.

O.K. so you think my poem is slightly weak. I do too, but it's true that lots of carnal Christians feel just like that about rescuing the perishing. How about you? Do you care or just want to stare?

6. Graciously express mercy and compassion! We need to die to self. We are so materially well-taken-care-of here in the first world, but we must never forget to exercise deference, mercy and compassion toward others even far away from us. My wife, Liney, and I are constantly reminding each other and feeling amazed at how blessed we truly are. For some reason our late model cars seem to be running dependably and it sure wasn't at all like that when we lived as poor missionaries out on the field during the '80s and '90s. We have so many time-saving devices and temporal widgets to aid our productivity that it's hard to find free time for even relaxing any more. Maybe your life is like that? Man, we really don't deserve any of this perishable stuff—I almost feel guilty inside! Don't get me wrong, we're very grateful, but we as a people in the States here, are slowly and methodically told *it is O.K. to live our life of total luxury and comfort without giving a thought to others who continue to live their life of need and poverty.* It's so wrong!

Please keep Lazarus and his friend Abraham in mind⁵ for Heaven's radical reversal of fortune for many will soon awaken and sober the stoutest of us to the fact that we have separated ourselves from the agonies of third-world-unbelievers way beyond TOO LONG! It will all of a sudden become painfully embarrassing that so many of us could give a flip ...for years ...about those in our own land and in other nations who have been suffering. That's why I feel motivated to resist that narcissistic mentality and pray harder for wisdom! We've got to somehow find a better way to use what we've already been given in order to change things for all people—more people—for the time of our opportunity down here is in fact short! By Christ's power, don't you want to fish for more people with a bigger net and make more people's dreams come true instead of merely attempting to climb the corporate ladder? Jesus taught us that he or she who would desire to become, ***“the chiefest, shall be servant of all”*** (Mk. 10:44, kjv).

How many Americans feel sick of the long-term unfairness towards Christians and the misdeeds of the countless *Christian-in-the-oval-office-hate-ers* who are intolerant of churchgoers? How many have had enough of them calling us *the intolerant ones* when they are un-brazenly? Our society has become so politically correct today that gays, Blacks and other minorities won't ever be maligned publicly without a lawsuit (and we never want them maligned), but anyone can malign Christians in the media and get away with it. It's even become vogue. Hey, I believe in tolerance and showing respect to all people groups.

It's time for the spiritually lethargic to lay aside all compromise, notice the signs of the times in relation to the Lord's return and take a strong dose of urgent truth to get back on track with last days world changing!

I would never want laws created that would force or manipulate people to become “Born Agains” like me, or to believe like we Christians believe, but I totally reject these popular “interfaith worship services” with Moslems, Buddhists, Hindus and Christians all worshipping *“one big Energy Force in the universe”* together... even though that's what America's new spiritual leader, Reverend Oprah Winfrey, with her thirty million viewers in 132 other countries are pushing for. And that's what the world wants! Oprah is a very likeable person and she has been called the next Billy Graham, but she is way off.

Like me, maybe you remember seeing that woman in Oprah's audience ask her, "What about Jesus?" and Oprah insisted that Jesus "can't possibly be the only way" With her panel, Betty Eadie, Sophy Burnham and Dannon Brinkley, Oprah said that, "One of the biggest mistakes humans make is to believe that there is only one way. Actually, there are many diverse paths leading to what you call God." Yet, the Bible plainly refutes Oprah, teaching us there's ONLY one Way to salvation and eternal life together with God in heaven and it's through God's sinless Son, the Person of Jesus Christ.⁶ But Oprah went on to tell the whole world how she had been raised Baptist and heard that God was a jealous God, and she said to herself "Oh come on, get over it." She told us that one of the most important books she's read was by Eric Butterworth (a New Age Unity leader) titled: *Discover the Power Within You* and in it the author clearly said, "Jesus did not come to teach us how divine He was, but to teach that divinity was within us." How false! Let's wake up to the danger! Oprah fails to understand the truth and how God's jealousy is unselfishly protective and totally unlike man's selfish kind of jealousy.

Christian-haters fail to see their own prejudices and that we are called of God to be intolerant of lies, sin and false teaching a rather than of reprobates who Christ died for. And whether it's deserved or not, evangelical Christians are still viewed as mean-spirited, uncompassionate conservative republicans with a heart for no poor among us. Again, we're more known for the things we hate than the saints, sinners and righteousness we love. We're to love Jesus most even if this convicts people, or family! In fact we're to be for our Leader Christ more than for our job or any of the candidates ...or for our political party or denomination ...and then verbally make this known. Further, the church and televangelistic scandals of the last fifteen years have only reinforced the perception among many that Christians are incurably-money-grubbing, duped, perverted, non-progressive self-absorbed fools ...and unfortunately too many are. If the American Church is to recover its credibility, we must lead the way in feeding the hungry, showing respect to the disenfranchised, lifting the oppressed, dealing wisely with gay activists, providing life-affirming alternatives for girls pregnant outside of marriage and truly becoming the light that Jesus said we were to be ...out in the blackness of night. I say it's better to light a twenty million candle power spotlight than merely to curse the darkness! And we've become experts in cursing the darkness. Now we must become skilled at graciously spreading God's merciful Light. Jesus said, "Jesus said, **"Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy"** (Matt. 5:7).

7. Get global in Jesus! Spiritual isolationism is basically killing and depressing the American church! We must freshly embrace Christ's Great Commission to preach the Gospel to every person and to make disciples of all nations. *I believe that any church that is not actively involved in world missions has forfeited its biblical right to exist or call itself a church!* Here at **Fish for Souls**, we're convinced that the most practical way to fulfill the Great Commission is through every-member lifestyle and imitative-evangelism starting where one is at. Why fund and send the educated career missionary who refuses to witness? We want to motivate you, equip you, and challenge you and others worldwide by exemplifying it—by putting a fishing vision in people's hearts! Not too long ago, I remember discussing the state of the American church with a very perceptive Church analyst named, Bob Biehl. He has observed that 70 percent of America's churches today are in a *survival* mode. Another 25 percent are in a *success* mode. And in this man's opinion, only 5 percent of America's churches have moved past success and numerical growth to deal with issues of missionary *significance*.

If God has called you to be a missionary, your Father would be grieved for you to shrivel down into a king.
—Charles Spurgeon

Wow, this must change! I want to live to change all this! I love the Lord and His church; I'm a churchman, heart and soul. My wife and I feel so privileged to be apart of what God is doing in all different kinds of churches. We believe that the Church is at the very center of God's plan for world evangelization. That is why I'm calling on Christians everywhere—those who really love Christ and who love His bride—to live for what matters and fish for people that matter! No human alive doesn't matter! Therefore what should matter most to the Church is the exaltation of the Son of God to the ends of the earth. When Jesus appeared to Paul and healed Him, Christ told him why, commanding Paul to *get global* saying, ***"I have appeared to you to appoint you as my servant and my witness. You are to tell the world about this experience"*** (Acts 26:16).

Let the Church of Jesus Christ awake—***"Awake, you who sleep ... and Christ will give you light."***⁷ Do you [want God to use you](#)? Missionary, Eric Liddell, described what "awake" is like saying, *"We are all missionaries. Wherever we go, we either bring people nearer to Christ, or we repel them from Christ."* But how about you, have you been snoring away asleep in the light all uptight, no longer willing to continue the fight? Would you fit right in comfortably as a member of the First Church of Sardis (Revelation 3:1-6)? You remember how that church had a reputation for being awake—but their reality didn't match what people saw or thought of them. Are you willing to be made [willing to fish](#) here or on far away shores? Then tell Him about it. Explain it to Him if there is anything at all that is holding you back. He can gently awaken in you a missionary interest for unbelievers--one that's stronger than Starbuck's twenty-four-hour-blend! Yes, for the lost, the last and the least! Or perhaps you are still asleep in the night, not yet a real Christian with the assurance of heaven? You can become righteous today! Christ can give you a whole new life while you still have breath in you! Death - the last sleep? No, it can be your final exciting awakening—[get in Christ](#) right now! Kick it with Jesus—no matter the habit. The devil hates your guts and says: *Awww, put this poor boring religion-stuff off until tomorrow!* But Jesus isn't religious or boring at all. Knowing Him rocks! He says: *I'm here for you. Count the cost and go for it today!*



Have Kurt's missions articles blessed you any? Click on ["Contact"](#) and let him know.

¹ Don't get me wrong, I'm not talking about people experiencing the destruction of an earthquake or from war here. I wish no one any harm. I'm not mad at anyone. I'm talking about a spiritual shaking that would drive us to our knees in repentance, because our nation needs to turn back to God from all our weirdnesses and wrong-doing.

² See Acts 22:15, I added the emphasis with caps.

³ I'm not talking about *"the illegals"* that have come here out of God's will... but we can witness to them just the same before they get deported back to their own countries. We can encourage them to go back and enter right as they get in line with all the others who want entrance. The safest place for them as well as any of us is in the will of God, not in breaking the laws!

⁴ Our Message for the *Emergent Church Movement* today is: Go to Jesus and get back to the Bible. Believe what it says about being inspired by God. Quit pulling the wool over people's eyes and start use sound hermeneutics and theology! By liberal theology, I'm referring to faulty Christian teaching where man's reason is stressed and treated as the final judge. Liberal Christian theologians have sought to reconcile Christianity with secular science and "modern thinking." In doing so, they treat science as "all-knowing" and the Bible as fable-laden and false. Genesis' early chapters are reduced to poetry or fantasy, having a message, but one that is not to be taken literally (in spite of the fact that Jesus' spoke of those early chapters as if they really happened because they did). Mankind is not seen as totally depraved, and thus liberal theologians had an optimistic view of the future of mankind. The "social gospel" is also emphasized. Whether a person is saved from their sin and its penalty in hell was no longer the issue; the main thing was how man treated his fellow man. "Love" of our fellow man became the defining issue. As a result of this "reasoning" by liberal theologians, The Bible is viewed as "God-breathed." To liberals the Bible has errors. Because of this belief, liberal theologians must be the ones to determine which teachings are correct and which are not. To liberals, for anyone to actually believe that the Bible is "inspired" (in that word's original meaning) by God, they have to be ignorant simpletons.

⁵ Please see Luke 16:23 in the Bible to learn the eternal fate of both, Abe and Lazarus.

⁶ See John 14:6. Also I got some Oprah facts from: http://www.wfial.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=artNewAge.article_1. What other way has God provided for you to be saved from your sins and a place called Hell that He designed for fallen angels? There's no other way, for the bible says, ***"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved"*** (Acts 4:12).

⁷ See Ephesians 5:14. Every verse of the Bible is a missionary verse. When you get the time, you'll love reading the Bible verses in their own context. Read through whole books with a heart to apply what you read. Why? Well, if a loved one writes you a love letter, you read the whole letter to get the full meaning, right? When you prayerfully read, you'll grow hungrier for God and His Word. When you don't read or (listen), hunger for God can totally evaporate. Some Christians are so busy reading in-between the lines they don't read the lines. You don't need Bible-codes. Some are hopping around the Bible to different verses lucky-dipping so much they get spiritual indigestion.