

# FRUITFUL LIVING IN AUTUMN



SEASON OF LOSS AND  
TRANSITION

CHRIS & CAROL  
GREEN



# **Fruitful Living**

**in**

**Autumn**

by

Chris and Carol Green

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version of the Bible.

***Fruitful Living in Autumn***

ISBN: 978-1438227610

Copyright © 2008, Christopher G. Green

Published by: Fruitful Life Network of Ministries, Inc.

Editor: DeVata Davis

Cover Design: CreateSpace.com

Printed in the United States of America

All rights reserved under International Copyright Law. Contents and/ or cover may not be reproduced in whole or in part in any form without the express written consent of the publisher.

For more information on other publications and products contact:

**Chris and Carol Green**

**Fruitful Life Network of Ministries, Inc.**

*<http://www.fruitful-life.net>*

## Table of Contents

<b>Dedication</b>	5
<b>Preface</b>	7
 <b>October</b>	
You Cannot Lose Unless You Quit	11
Coming Soon	13
Closing Doors	15
 <b>November</b>	
Not Alone, Not Abandoned	17
Pursue HIM	21
NOT THIS TIME!	25
Why Are We Doing This?	29
 <b>December</b>	
A Praying Church	35
To An Unknown God	39
 <b>In Reflection</b>	
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	49
<b>About the Authors</b>	51



# Dedication

To our sons, Christopher Michael, Jonathan Mark and David Matthew:

They continued with us through our trials...

For who *is* greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? *Is* it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves. “**But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials.** And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed *one* upon Me.

Luke 22: 27-29



# Preface

This all began when we received the following email from our spiritual sister, DeVata Davis:

I think you should take excerpts from all of these Midweek Connections and publish them in a daily devotional - maybe call it "Fruitful Living" or something of that nature. There is such rich encouragement and a unique demonstration of the word in them that they should be shared in print as well as on this website. This will reach that other generation that either doesn't have a computer, don't trust the internet, or who would rather flip the pages than scroll down. What I'm saying is that these Midweek Connections really bless me and I know they would bless others too. And because I love books, I'd like to see you publish another one. :o)

Be blessed!  
DeVata

So you hold in your hands the actual weekly journal of a church and its pastors. This started out as just our little simple way of staying connected with everyone since we did not have a midweek church service. It was our little way of sending a weekly email to utilize technology and communicate with a 21st century generation.

We had no idea it was evolving into a journal, a log, a devotional, and a true life story of a young church going through the seasons of transition that were necessary to help it grow and become all that God had spoken concerning its purpose.

We are honored and humbled to share these weekly words with you. They are untouched and raw. We did very little to change or edit them because we did not want to dilute the reality of what we were going through. Sometimes we were hurting and we were fighting the urge to quit. Many days we were disappointed, and we were often discouraged, but we kept living - one day at a time.

This book was written in the autumn. Leaves were falling, the weather was getting colder, and the hours of sunlight were becoming shorter. There is a lot of beauty in the autumn, but there's a lot of death and loss behind that beauty. There's a lot of change behind that beauty. It was the same way for us spiritually.

These weekly messages were sent to our ministry family as we all faced this personal and corporate autumn season. Please allow these words to bring Godly insight into your understanding for the season you are in right now. We pray that you will receive encouragement for the journey you are on.

There is no set method to reading this book. It may be a devotional for some or it may be inspirational for others. You might need to read it everyday in sequential order or the Lord may direct you to read sections at random. It doesn't matter how you approach this book - just know that God has a Word for you and a plan to accomplish the Word that He gives you. Lessons will be imparted and wisdom will be received. Just remain open to him.

This is not your typical 'How to overcome and be victorious' book. It is our desire that you pick up the 'how to' as you read through. What is most important to us is that you hear the heart of God for your life in these pages.

# **Autumn**

## ***Midweek Connection***

**Emails to our Church,  
Family and Friends**



# You Cannot Lose Unless You Quit

Greetings Family,

You've been in my spirit in a strong way this week. I really hate this time of the year (Halloween) when there is the celebration of the demonic and occult. There is always a powerful release of warfare against God's people. I find myself in intercession for each of you all through the night. My sleep is not restful as I feel great pressure against your lives.

We send this note to remind you that you cannot lose unless you quit, so don't quit. Don't give up! Remember the Word that we shared with you Sunday.

We do not have a High priest that cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities. . . God knows, on a personal level, what you and I are facing. You are not facing it alone!

We thank God for the special people that HE has sent for us to care for and to lead in this season of their life. God is always faithful to send "apostolic" ministry into our lives. One of the meanings of apostolic is: a pioneering ministry. God will send leaders to help you to become a pioneer into new and uncharted territory.

One of the roles of an apostolic pastor is to help you cross over rough and difficult areas of your life, or rough and difficult seasons of your life, to get to a new level or place that GOD desires for you to reach.

God cares so much that He will literally provide a guide for you and me. Isn't He a marvelous God? He lives within us to teach us. He sets examples in front of us to lead us. He gives us brothers and sisters, along side, to encourage us.

In this generation, the enemy constantly works to isolate us. Sometimes we may fall back into old habits, patterns, weights and sin,

and we begin to isolate ourselves because of guilt, shame and fear. But that will not be so in this season of your life!

God has provided shepherds to watch and pray for you. Even when you stray, we will come looking for you, even if it's through a phone call, or an e-mail like this one. We want you to know that you mean more to God than you may have ever understood before. Our relationship with you means more than your name on our membership role. It's more than the contribution statements at the end of the year. God sent us 800 miles from our home, family, friends and church to connect with you.

It's not about Chris and Carol Green, and it's not about our church. This is all about what God desires to accomplish through a group of people who will give themselves to Him completely. He already knows that we're messed up, inside and out, but He chose us anyway. I encourage you to believe God. Believe His Word concerning you.

Since we don't have a midweek service, we are trying to connect with you by e-mail each week and send you audio clips from Sunday so that you can review the Word of the Lord that came forth over your life.

We appreciate each one of you and thank you for joining with us each week in this special way.

We are overcomers, under orders,

**Chris and Carol Green**

# Coming Soon

Greeting Family,

As I write this edition of **"Midweek Connection"** I just feel the Love of God flowing out toward each of you. What an honor it was to take the time to pray for each of you last Sunday. I wish there was some way to convey to each of you how much our heavenly Father loves you. He has so much that He is pouring out upon you; even now.

Sunday, our conversation moved away from all that we planned to share as the young adults opened up and began to talk about the dreams that God had given them. It was astounding to hear how God is showing them such details about spiritual warfare, our Kingdom Warriors vision, and even about their future.

We took the moment to urge them, and all of us, to not get discouraged, distracted or detoured. The tedious and mundane aspects of life can make us feel like we're going nowhere. We likened it to the times when we see new construction going on in our city. A sign is posted with a beautiful picture of a new building that reads, "Coming Soon!" Next to the sign is a big hole in the ground with trucks, workers and countless piles of dirt.

Many parts of our life are like that. We have the Word of the Lord posted over us with a beautiful picture that announces, "Coming Soon!" Yet, in the present moment, there is only a big hole and piles of dirt. The workers are the people God is using to work on our foundation.

So we encourage everyone to allow God to complete this part of the process. Don't get ahead of His timing and don't quit because it seems to be taking too long. HE is faithful to complete what He started.

We pray that this Word is a blessing to you and we look forward to seeing you Friday night for our family, fun and fellowship, or next

Sunday morning as we continue to expose the doors that we are closing to the advancements of satan.

We're down to the final days of this occult season, so remain strong and prayerful. We were talking on our way home from work, Monday evening, and Carol shared a dream that had a clear message. The enemy is seeking to kill your joy. We admonish you to really be careful of what you open yourself up to in this season. A lot of fear through evil images and secular music will come pouring out from the media over the next few days, so guard your heart. Call us if you need prayer or to get information regarding Friday evening.

God's grace and peace be upon all.

We are overcomers, under orders,

**Chris and Carol Green**

## Closing Doors

Greetings Family,

First we'd like to welcome all who have been recently added to the e-mail list. Since we don't have a midweek service (yet), we have been attempting to stay connected, through the week, with the ministry family, by this "**Midweek Connection**" email/letter.

As I write this edition I am aware that today is the end of the month of October and we're quickly moving through the autumn and approaching winter. However, this also marks the coming of the wonderful holiday season. We really look forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas this year because we plan to be here throughout the holiday. We look forward to spending some quality family time.

In the meantime, we are making our way through a critical teaching series regarding a major question most believers ask from time to time and that is, "*Why is this (bad stuff) happening to me?*"

Sunday, we began a new portion of the series as we took a look at two doors that we must close. These two doors, when opened, allow the enemy to march into our lives in a destructive way. The two openings are Lack of Knowledge and Lack of Wisdom.

Knowledge is *information* and wisdom is *revelation*. Hosea 4:6 clearly states, "**My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.**" It goes on to indicate that this knowledge was actually rejected. So we concluded that rejecting the knowledge of God opens a door for destruction to come to our lives.

When we neglect the wisdom of God, we find ourselves operating in another kind of wisdom. According to James 3:15, "**This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.**"

You can clearly see how a door is opened to satan by neglecting Godly wisdom.

We are calling the series **Hanging In the Balance (My Choices and God's Will)**. As promised, this past Sunday's audio clip is available for you to review on our website.

**We close with this prayer for you today:**

*Lord, we thank you for each one who is receiving this e-mail/letter today. Even though today is a day in which darkness and evil is celebrated, we pray that each one receiving this e-mail, is covered by your mighty hand of protection. Let all that concerns them be guarded and protected by Your angels. We welcome Your presence in our lives today.*

*We submit our hearts and homes to the Kingdom of God. Your righteousness is established in us. Your peace is present in us. Your joy completely fills us. We are submitted to You and therefore we are resisting the enemy, and every plan that was set against us is useless. No weapon formed against us will prosper. We close the doors of rejecting the knowledge of God. We close the doors of neglecting the wisdom of God.*

*According to Your Word we are, "Blessed because we no longer walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers (scorners). Our delight is in the law (Word) of the LORD, and in Your law (Word) we meditate day and night. We are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever we do prospers."*

*Amen!*

We are overcomers, under orders,

**Chris and Carol Green**

# Not Alone, Not Abandoned

Greetings Family,

As I write this edition of **"Midweek Connection"** we are greatly encouraged by the Lord. Last week was really challenging as we were dealt a big financial blow with an unexpected \$600+ vehicle repair. We were in a pretty intense emotional and mental battle as we struggled through the week.

Then a package arrived from our home church with audio CD's and a DVD. It was a very timely arrival. We just randomly chose to play the audio CD from a Wednesday night prayer service. Our Bishop was exhorting and encouraging the home congregation, but it was truly a Word and prayer for us.

In an instant, every doubt and fear was dispelled. We kind of popped ourselves on the forehead, like in TV commercial where a person has a sudden realization, and said, "Yeah, that's right! We know this! What are we worrying about? God has taken care of us for three solid years! He's not about to abandon us now! He knew this was going to happen. This didn't catch Him by surprise!"

In fact, God, in a sovereign move, prepared us for this sudden expense. He was actually being faithful to us. We instantly went from sadness and border-line depression to joy and anticipation of what HE was going to do next.

We spent the weekend listening to the audio CD's as our Bishop encouraged us through the Word and even in his recounting of the church history. Our home church is celebrating 20 years of ministry. How wonderful it was to listen to our Bishop tell the congregation about the early days of our church in St. Louis. We just smiled and laughed as our hearts were filled with faith to believe God for the future of our church.

We listened to our Bishop describe the many ways and the many times GOD came through for us. Some of the things that our Bishop described, the current congregation did not know anything about. However, the memories were alive and extremely real and personal for us.

Our *faith refresher* spilled over to Sunday morning and we found ourselves speaking life and faith over the ministry family. Thankfully, the moment was recorded and it is available for you to review on our website and it is called '**Hold On to God's Promise**'.

After sharing this Word during our weekly *family devotional time*, we continued our series in which we are exposing and closing the doors we have opened to give the enemy opportunity to attack us. We have been attempting to deal with our perceptions of why certain things keep happening to us over and over again. Many of us have been taught that it's always the devil or that it's always some form of spiritual warfare, but we have been carefully walking through a list of at least 12 things that allow the enemy to come in against us. Sunday we discussed two more of the twelve.

First we discussed, '**Reaping What We Sow**'. We discussed the reality that some things that we are facing are actually the fruit of things that we sowed weeks, months or even years ago. God clearly declares in His word in Galatians 6:7, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for **whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.**"

Sometimes we find ourselves angrily asking God, "Why is this happening to me?" But we must listen to the Holy Spirit's gentle reminder of seeds that we sowed. Our response now changes from complaining to repentance.

From this point on, we receive the grace (strength of God) to face the consequences of our past decisions. Make no mistake about it, God has forgiven our past sins, but we still face the results of sowing those

bad seeds. Somehow the message of God's love, in America, omits this aspect of the Believer's walk.

We also talked about ***un-forgiveness***. This is one of the most dangerous doors to leave open for the enemy. We enumerated several things that happen when we hold people in un-forgiveness. One of our major points was how we can even begin to experience disease and destruction within our physical bodies because we are holding grudges.

Many chronic illnesses and pain can be traced back to un-forgiveness we have toward parents, siblings, school teachers, coaches, co-workers, classmates, pastors, politicians and an endless list of people throughout our lives that have hurt and offended us. One of the key points in our discussion was this: Un-forgiveness is like drinking poison and thinking it will hurt the person who offended us. Of course, I had to demonstrate that one. After we laughed, we still got the point.

After exposing these two openings, we took the time to close them through repentance. Then we acknowledged our part in opening these doors. We opened our hearts to receive the grace of God. We released people that hurt and offended us. We even admitted to being offended with God for things we thought HE should have done, or things we thought HE should not have allowed.

It was a special moment as the Holy Spirit released us to declare over the ministry family that now, things we had prayed and asked for earlier, we can ask for again, because now our hearts are right before God. Our hearts are ready to receive what we asked for.

**In Closing:** We are standing in intercession for you. I just see the Lord is very close to you right now. I don't know why I feel led to say this to you, but that's what I feel and sense in my heart to share. You are not alone. God has not left you to fend for yourself. You are not abandoned.

Jesus said, ***“I won’t leave you as orphans . . .”*** so we encourage you to cast every care upon the Lord. We mean, for real this time! Cast every care on the Lord, for He cares for you.

We are overcomers, under orders,

**Chris and Carol Green**

# Pursue HIM

Greetings Family,

We are still charging forth from Sunday's encounter with the Lord. From the moment we started singing our special theme song '**Totally Because of You**' the presence of the Lord just began to fill our hearts. For some reason, this one special song that God gave Pastor Carol seems to resonate in the soul of our ministry family.

As Pastor Carol led us in another special worship song, she just broke under the power of God and she couldn't finish singing. I opened my eyes to see uplifted hands and tear filled eyes. I just had to get on my knees to sing and worship the Lord.

I just knew it was going to be a very special day. We came to church with heavy hearts and in need of an encouraging Word from the Lord, but first, HE met us with HIS loving touch. I knew, instantly, that the Lord was changing all our plans to continue with the next items on our list of Doors to Close. Instead, the Lord gave a spontaneous Word for us to close our eyes to the images that the enemy keeps sending us.

You know how we sometimes get pictures in our minds of everything failing? We can see ourselves losing. We can imagine being put out of our home or having our car repossessed. We can see our last day on the job or we can even imagine bad accidents or incidents. But, the Lord had us to declare that these images are lies. We declared the Word of the Lord, to cast down and pull down every vain (empty, worthless) imagination or IMAGE that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. The images that the enemy sends are not in agreement with what God has already spoken (promised) to us.

Then we began to address the passivity that can overtake us when we're in a battle like this. I tell you family, we will not just roll over and let the enemy steal, kill and destroy us! Remember what we spoke forth on Sunday. This is the time for the desperate prayer! We will

fight the passive attitude and accept the reality that the Kingdom of God is opposed violently. Every aspect of the Kingdom of God is opposed in a harsh, grinding, relentless and violent way. So we must be willing to fight to obtain what the Kingdom of God has for us.

God has touched our lives and now we want to know why HE touched us. We want to pursue HIM with all our might. This is not a pursuit for salvation and a pursuit to make it into heaven. This is a pursuit of God's heart. We want to know why HE touched us. We want to know why HE put this new IMAGE in our spirit. Why do we catch glimpses of a future that seems too good to be true? Why do we see ourselves doing great exploits? Why do we see HIM using us to touch others? Why do we SEE these things?

The apostle Paul said, "I'm trying to apprehend that for which I was apprehended." In other words, "God's got a hold of me. Now I'm striving to get a hold of the reason for which HE got a hold of me. I'm chasing HIM to find out why HE touched me."

Well, the answers won't come by sitting around passively waiting for something to happen. The enemy will either run over us in that posture or he'll lull us to sleep, so that the plan of God does not come forth in our life or in our lifetime. God will have to choose someone else instead of us or He'll have to wait for our children to take up the divine calling.

Yet, I know the heart of our ministry family! We don't mind if God uses someone else along side of us. We even want God to use someone else with us. We want Him to use someone else after us. But we never want God to have to use someone else INSTEAD of us. It will be said of our ministry family that "they served the purpose of God in their generation"!

We also want to take this opportunity to thank you all for praying for your pastors. As we concluded our meeting time by taking prayer requests, we were glad to pray for each of you and allow the Spirit of

God to give us Words of Wisdom, Words of Knowledge and even prophetic utterances for each of you that desired prayer. However, it was not anticipated that the Lord would have us to ask you, as our congregation, to pray for us. It does get discouraging sometimes. Don't get me wrong, we love ministering to you each week and we certainly enjoy the fellowship. But in our spirit we know that there are more who are supposed to be here.

It's funny how every time Pastor Carol prophetically declares and calls people to "*come home*" during our intercessory prayer time, there is always such wonderful agreement in the Spirit with that prayer.

So, as you all gathered around us and prayed for us, each heart and prayer was felt. We were encouraged as you reminded us that God has used us in your lives to bring healing. We were encouraged to take one more swing with the spiritual sledge hammer against the wall. We were encouraged to know that the *people breakthrough* was a matter of God's timing; like a strategic war initiative. All we can say is, you guys have truly joined with us in the spirit. When there is unity and agreement like this, God commands the blessing.

We pray for HIS commanded blessings to be released over your lives. We are aware that you don't have to come each week and you don't have to bear through this season with us. But I was told (by another pastor/leader) that the people who can endure through this season with a pastor - those are his true leaders and foundation builders.

You may never hold an official title or serve in any high ranking position. From what we have observed, none of you seem to really want to. But we declare to you that God is going to bless you, so that you can be a blessing to others. God will pour thousands of dollars through your hands so you can pour hundreds into the work of God. Then He will pour hundreds of thousands through your hands, so you can pour thousands into the work of the Lord. Dare I say it? For some of you, God will pour millions through your hands, so you can pour hundreds of thousands into the work of the Lord.

This will happen because of your faithfulness in this season. You are proving that God can trust you. You have been faithful with a little. Now HE can trust you with much. I'm not just talking about money. You guys have given us the most valuable gift of all -- and that has been TRUST. Because you trusted us, others will trust you, and you will have FAVOR poured upon you and your children. God grants you tremendous, pressed down, shaken together, and running over type of favor. What HE does in us as a ministry family, HE will also do in our individual lives and families.

These things are spoken forth over your lives today. Mark it in your heart because you will see it come to pass!

We are overcomers, under orders,

**Chris and Carol Green**

# NOT THIS TIME!

Greetings Family,

Talk about riding high! We are still excited about what happened Sunday. Wasn't it great to see more people come in the door this week?

As you guys keep inviting people to come, they are beginning to respond. We just love the way you make every visitor feel right at home. It seemed that all who came had the same purpose in their visit. They each said that they had not been to church in a while and this was their first step in getting back to church and the things of God.

Only God could have directed things in such a sovereign way. Last week, as you know, the Lord moved the meeting in a different direction so we had to postpone the planned message until this week. Now we realize that was because GOD wanted us to wait until **this** week to bring forth that particular message.

As we you know, we've been going through a list of 12 things that can allow satan entry into our lives. It is not an exhaustive list, but it is enough to answer the questions we often have like: "God, why is this happening to me?"

Sunday's Word was so specialized for that audience that I can't begin to attempt to recap it. This week's audio clip rehearses that powerfully healing word and it is ready for your review. We pray that it blesses you as you replay it.

One of the highlights of the day was when the hotel porter who sets up our room and hangs around to assist us suddenly stepped into the room while we were teaching. He stood for a long time and just listened. After a while he left. After the meeting, I went looking for him to see if he wanted something in particular.

He said, *“I was coming to get someone to move your van because another group needed to bring their equipment in, but when I went back, the other group had worked around your vehicle so you didn’t need to move. **It turns out that the real reason I came in was to hear what you had to say. I enjoyed it, and if you don’t mind, I’d like to stop in sometimes to listen again.**”*

**Wow!** Watch out family! God is doing what HE said HE would do! Breakthrough has come! I keep seeing it in my spirit. It happened just like this, two years ago. It was at exactly this same time of the year. We were setting up, as usual, when I told my sons to set out extra chairs because I could see more people coming that week. And just like I saw, our little church facility was filled that day. Now, here we are, two years later, and it’s happening again. Only this time, we’re in the right place, at the right time. This time it will grow and explode, just like the Lord said it would.

However, we’ve seen the pattern of the evil forces in this generation and this is where all attempts are made to sabotage the momentum. I caution you to guard your heart from discouragement and negative speech. Don’t give in to grumbling, complaining, suspicions or fear. We’ve seen it happen over and over again. But **NOT THIS TIME!** In the past two years, every time we started to gain ground there were personal attacks on finances and relationships. Misunderstandings and miscues began to breakout instead of the promised breakthrough. There were also times when some people visited us just to sow seeds of division. But **NOT THIS TIME!**

I can hear the new prophetic song that the Lord gave us earlier this year. It’s available on our music webpage. It’s called **"This Time"** and I encourage you to listen to this prophecy set to music. Just click on the song title and it will play for you.

We are so grateful and thankful. This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes!

Tomorrow begins the Thanksgiving holiday and we desire God's best for you. Remember, you have an open invitation to stop by our house to join in the festivities. If you're spending the holiday with your family, stay open for moments to share the love of God.

We are overcomers, under orders,

**Chris and Carol Green**



# Why Are We Doing This?

Greetings Family,

We closed out the month of November by celebrating the Thanksgiving Holiday. One of our young men surprised his family by coming home from college two days early. It was really good to see him again. It means a lot to have family close during this time of the year. We were glad to have our son, Chris, home for the holiday as well.

Sunday we continued our efforts in establishing foundation as we included the young adults in our special holiday session. Jessica joined us in leading praise and worship and Gary presented one of his spoken word compositions. We just love it when the next generation steps up.

Then we took the time to express our thoughts of Thanksgiving to those who continue to gather with us each week.

Finally, we initiated a new way to apply the word we've been teaching every week. As you know, we've been closing doors that are open in our lives, which allow Satan to enter and attack. One of the ways he attacks is through the open door of ignorance. He takes advantage of what we do not know. So we opened the meeting up for questions and answers. We allowed everyone to anonymously submit questions from various categories. We randomly drew out the questions and answered a few.

Our plan is to take the time to randomly draw out questions and to answer them. If we cannot answer a question immediately or if a question will require a long, detailed, extensive answer, we will post those questions and answers on the website.

We must admit that we were feeling a bit discouraged and heavy hearted this week. As we mentioned last week, all kinds of attacks come when we start gaining momentum, and we are all battling many

things, especially in our finances. It gets frustrating because you can encounter certain things that are the result of your own decisions. Other times it can just be the unexpected things in life. That's when it's really hard to keep pushing forward. Sometimes, even with our progress, it seems like nothing is happening or that nothing will change. But, as Pastor Carol admonished us during our prayer time, we will not complain, grumble, or give up.

We can always tell when we're close to breakthrough because certain things seem to go wrong or we are hit with another disappointment. We still declare that God is faithful. Times like these are when we must remind ourselves of why we do what we do.

A couple of years ago, we were driving home after a particularly discouraging Friday night in which no one attended except our immediate family. I mean no members, no visitors - nobody. After we took mom home, one of our sons exploded in frustration asking, "**What are we doing this for?**" We chuckled through our painful disappointment and told him that we felt the same way.

Sometimes it feels that way for all of our ministry family regarding many areas of our lives. So when it comes time to gather together, the big riddle from the enemy is, "Why are you doing this? It's not going to make any difference!"

That is why we realize that we would still meet every week to pray, praise, worship, and dig into the Word of God, even if we were not meeting in the hotel. We'd meet in our home or wherever we had to meet because this is not about a goal and a dream to have a big ministry. When we look at our sons and all who attend each week, we are encouraged by a prophetic word that we received back in 1999.

The Lord spoke through one of the prophetic women that we were not to be concerned about our children and how to send them forth into their calling even though our funds were meager and provision was scarce. Then she began to sing the word of the Lord which was,

***“You shall pass on purpose, you shall pass on purpose, you shall pass on purpose - and that shall be enough; that shall be enough.”***

We thought, back then, that the prophetic word was only for that season, but we can see that God was speaking 8 years ahead. He was speaking about the season we are in right now.

This word was specifically about our natural children. We have nothing to give to them except purpose. The same applies to all of you as the spiritual sons and daughters of this ministry. Our funds are meager and our provision is scarce. All we have to give you is purpose. But the Word of the Lord is; **“that shall be enough.”**

I guess that’s why we don’t preach the unbalanced prosperity message. We cannot stress the point enough that we are not striving for wealth, popularity, or fame. God is not grooming our church to be famous or popular. We are being groomed to be faithful and prosperity will come in many forms.

Did you know that money is the lowest level of wealth? There are many other assets that are higher than money. The highest level of wealth is human life. What I just stated is an example of many of the things we must declare and teach that will not be popular, especially in this day and time. Whatever measure of influence or notoriety that God allows us to experience, we must believe that HE is preparing us for it.

We believe that God keeps sending people to us who have been away from the church for a reason. Many are looking for a place of acceptance and forgiveness. They are not looking for religion and rituals. They have a lot of pain and trauma going on in their own lives when they arrive. However, all of them may not be ready to deal with their personal life situations. Many times people just want their pain to stop and they are accustomed to a quick temporary fix to stop the pain. If they come to our church, it may frighten them to find themselves in a place that teaches people to confront the issues in their lives.

Right now God is dealing with the areas in our lives where we just want the pain to stop and we don't want to deal with what is causing the pain. As pastors, we do not believe in treating symptoms. We believe in dealing with the source and cause of the pain. When pastors take this approach, it's not always going to be popular. So God is building a serious layer of toughness in us to withstand the pressure of where we're going.

The Lord is teaching us how to follow Him and to stop arranging things and people in the way we want things and people to be. He's teaching us to stop asking GOD to bless OUR plans and solutions. That's really hard when you don't see how God is going to do it. It's even tougher when we really don't trust God to handle our situations. This is where we will find the source of our pain. The pain is the result of an injury or a malfunction within us. Be encouraged though, because the Spirit of God is present to heal us.

Like you, we are facing many battles and we desire to lead you all by example. All we can say is, "Continue to follow us as we follow Christ."

*Father God, we stand before You only because of Your son Jesus Christ. In His righteousness and in His authority alone, we come boldly before Your throne. We choose to give thanks and we continue to lay aside our doubts and fears so we can trust You today.*

*We submit our hearts and lives to You even as we resist the enemy. We refuse to give in to the spirit of fear that seems to hover over this generation like a thick, dark cloud. We refuse to give in to discouragement that weighs on our emotions night and day. We refuse to give in to the spirit of infirmity that seeks to plague our bodies every second of every day.*

*As the spiritual leaders of this ministry family, we speak forth and bind the works of satan and all demonic powers against Our family. Like Moses, who stood before Pharaoh in Egypt, we speak to the evil prince over this region and declare, "Thus says the Lord God of heaven and*

earth, and in the name, nature and authority of Jesus Christ, **YOU ARE COMMANDED TO LET MY PEOPLE GO!**

**Amen!** *(Let it be so)*

**Introducing: EXPRESSIONS** *(Poetry and Prose by Pastor Carol)*

There is a time for everything  
A season for every dream and vision  
A time to be born in Christ  
A time for dreams to die in His will  
A time to plant in another's life and vision  
A time to uproot un-forgiveness and bitterness  
A time to kill and expose the lies of the enemy  
A time to heal and be healed from past wounds  
A time to tear down the kingdom of darkness  
A time to build the kingdom of God  
A time to weep for lost souls  
A time to laugh in the face of the enemy  
A time to mourn the spiritually unborn  
A time to dance and praise before God

Carol L. Green

We are overcomers, under orders,

**Chris and Carol Green**



# A Praying Church

Greetings Family,

What a great start we had to the month of December. Sunday's time was really profitable in many ways as we took the time to cast vision for building '**A Praying Church.**' Even though prayer has been a vital aspect of the ministry from the beginning, Carol and I are now highlighting prayer in a very intentional way.

We received a couple of emails from prayer supporters from our home church in St. Louis regarding the children's movie "The Golden Compass" that is coming out in a couple of days. What they sent was very disturbing to us.

We felt like something sinister was going on behind the scenes and when we read the comments about this movie, we saw the strategy of the enemy had already been implemented. We also noticed that this year, there is very little on television, if anything, about Christmas as it relates to Christian themes. This year you can hardly find anything. They may play some of these movies as we get closer to Christmas day. So far, I've only seen these types of movies offered as DVD's that you can go out and buy. It's as if though there's been a major united offensive strategy to totally and completely remove a Christian consciousness from this society. It's like the line has been drawn and the spiritual fight has officially been launched.

That realization was what brought us to this Sunday where we outlined what we have observed and then gave our response. We have to do more than just boycott a movie. This is way bigger than that. We are calling for prayer and fasting as a ministry family.

So, for the remainder of this year, we will be teaching about '**A Praying Church**' in preparation for our prayer and fasting time in January. As you will see, much of what we have been doing, discussing, and

teaching over the last two years has laid the foundation for what we are about to do right now.

Over the next three Sundays we're going to go through the meaning of prayer, the method of prayer, and discerning the voice and will of God when receiving answers to prayer. We will talk about personal prayer and corporate prayer. As promised, whatever we teach about each week we will put into practice, so that we walk away from each session with practical understanding because of personal application of the principles.

When we meet in January, we will take time to pray for personal needs and concerns and we will also stand in the gap for our children, teens and young adults. We will pray for our parents, grandparents, leaders, and all who are in authority. We will pray about Hollywood, Broadway, television, the music industry, and all forms of entertainment that have destroyed the image of God in the hearts and minds of people.

Carol and I will be in much prayer about who to invite to be our guest speaker for our one-day Anniversary celebration. We haven't had a pastoral guest speaker since Bishop Raphael Green came in September of 2005 to officially install us as the pastors of This church. This will be a powerful session for us. We know that whomever the Holy Spirit allows to come, they will have a ready and timely Word for all of us. Every place that is dark and void in our understanding or in our lives, will have the Spirit of God hovering over it, and there will come the awesome command, "*Let there be light*" and the miracle of creation will take place within us.

We can hardly express how wonderful it was to see everyone get so excited about the upcoming prayer teachings and sessions because nothing is more important or has a higher priority than prayer. **This house will be a house of prayer for all nations!**

This week's **EXPRESSION** (*Poetry and Prose by Pastor Carol*)

I will ever lift my eyes to Thee  
You lift my heart above iniquity

Thank You for hearing me when I pray  
As I share with You everyday

My thoughts of love and cares of life  
While You help me live above all strife

When I spend my time with You  
You share with me the things You'll do

You draw my heart with Your love  
I keep my desires on treasures above

I will listen as You speak to my heart  
From Your will, may I never depart

- Carol L. Green

We are overcomers, under orders,

**Chris and Carol Green**



# To An Unknown God

Greetings Family,

We trust that the week is going well for you. We are fast approaching Christmas, the end of the month, and the end of 2007. This past Sunday we continued with our foundational teaching of building ministry as **'A Praying Church.'**

We spent a great deal of the weekend preparing for Sunday by working through notes, scripture searches, and PowerPoint slides, but the Lord took us in a completely different direction.

Pastor Carol opened in intercessory prayer following an updated prayer agenda that the Lord gave her. As she was praying, the Lord gave me (Pastor Chris) Acts 17 as a starting point for us in prayer. The Lord was giving us a picture of the kind of environment and atmosphere we are working in.

Like the pluralistic, high powered, political city that the apostle Paul encountered while ministering in Athens, we find ourselves toiling in the capital city of a state that prides itself on human excellence as well. It's known as the State of Independence and that attitude is seen everywhere.

The exhortations were totally spontaneous and a powerful understanding was brought by the Holy Spirit of what it means to have areas in our lives where we are just as religious as the people of Athens. They had all those great monuments, statues, and temples to the various gods, and Paul noticed an altar was even built to an **Unknown God**. That was the God that he pointed out to them and preached to them.

They acknowledged that some unknown God might exist with that altar, but they had no personal experience or relationship with that God. The Lord caused us to see that there are areas in our lives where we have

an altar built to **an unknown God**. We have no personal experience with Him, yet we acknowledge that he exists somewhere out there. It was a sobering and powerful revelation and it is available for you to hear it again on the website.

Then, before closing for the day, we read through a dream the Lord gave about a year before we moved to this area. It was a profound reminder of why we are here and what we are here to accomplish. It was astonishing as we realized the dream was in complete agreement with the spontaneous revelation the Holy Spirit had given about the stronghold of religion and building the altars to an Unknown God.

### **Rescue My Bride**

(A dream given by the Lord one year before moving to Pennsylvania)

I want to share with you, the most astounding dream that I have ever had. From what I remember, it began this way. Carol and I were walking through a very large facility that appeared to be an indoor pool.

The pool was massive, about the size of a football field and well over 20 feet deep. It was night and there were no lights on in the place or in the pool. We could only see by moon light coming through the windows in the ceiling.

We were walking around the pool and trying to see what was in it. In the dim lighting there was some massive shape at the far end on the bottom of the pool, but we could not make out what it was.

Suddenly a woman appeared in front of us. She looked like Carol's mother and she spoke to Carol and asked her if she wanted to see what was in the bottom of the pool.

Carol hesitated and before she could answer decisively, the woman snatched her by the hand and dove into the pool. With the speed of the flash of lightening, they shot through the water toward the object at the bottom. They literally looked like a streak of light rocketing through the water. It was too fast for me to swim behind them so I ran around the pool to the far end to follow them.

When I arrived, I could clearly see Carol and the woman at the bottom of the pool. I still could not see what they saw, but Carol had a look of absolute horror and terror on her face. I was about to dive into the water to get her because I am a very good swimmer and have no fear of the water and the depths they were in.

Suddenly they were out of the water and standing next to me. Neither of them was even wet. Carol was completely blank. She was like a robot. (No emotions and no expression). I was instantly angry and asked the woman angrily,

“What have you done to my wife?”

“I haven’t done anything,” the woman answered as I realized that it was not my mother in law, but some kind of familiar and generational spirit. “I have just exposed her to her past and her family secrets. Now she knows where she came from. I haven’t done anything to her.”

“This is not my wife!” I roared. “What have you done with my wife?”

Then in a flash, my wife and the woman were both gone. Just like a movie, the scene changed and I was standing on what I now know to be the west shore of the city. I was facing east with the fading rays of sunset behind me with multi-colored lights illuminating the buildings. It was beautiful

and sinister at the same time. There were mountains in the background and I could distinctly make out the outline of well lit windows from houses sprinkled along the mountainside. The sky was a deep dark blue and purple. The sight was spectacular.

Centered in the city was a building that was more like a tower, whose top was shaped like a dome. It was brightly lit and gave off a bright yellow gold glow. There were searchlights shining up on it, and somehow I knew that my wife was trapped in the top of that tower. I was frustrated and felt very helpless and angry. I had no way of getting to her. I did not have the strength or ability to reach the tower, get in it, climb it, or face whatever opposition there would be inside of it.

As I stood there looking at the scene, like a movie, the scene faded. There was a pause and I heard the thought "one year later."

The scene returned and everything was the same, but I was different. It was again evening and I was watching the city at dusk. In a flash I knew that I was stronger and prepared. I knew that I had spent the past year getting built up and fortified. I had been working out and spending time with God. I stood on the west shore again and I wanted to test myself to see if I was ready to go and rescue my wife from that tower.

First, I returned to the facility with the pool to see if I could move through the waters with enough speed just in case I had to encounter that spirit in that realm. I dove into the water, and with one stroke I could shoot through the water faster than lightning.

Then I wanted to test my strength, so I had someone lift a ton of bricks with a crane and hang them over my head. I told

them to lower the bricks down over me. I raised my hands to support the weight. I told them to let them go, and when they did I was holding the entire weight up easily. It felt like I was only holding up about thirty pounds.

"Okay", I thought, "I'm strong enough to hold them up, but am I strong enough to take a blow when I fight that spirit?"

So I tossed the bricks up into the air and let the whole pile come crashing down on me. The entire ton of bricks merely bounced off my shoulder and fell all around me.

I was so surprised and excited that I lifted my hands in triumph. To my left, the moon was shining and the clouds begin to swirl in the light of the moon. It startled me and I drew my hands back. Suddenly a tornado like funnel formed from the swirling clouds and stretched from the sky to my left hand. When I drew my hand back, somehow I had the power to pull the tornado towards me. I had control over the very atmosphere.

This realization so thrilled me that I exclaimed, "Yes!" and stomped my foot in excitement. When my foot hit the ground the entire city shook under the power of an earthquake like tremor. I mean the entire city shook under the force of a simple foot stomp.

In an instant I became more fully aware of the force and power I really had. This was not just power to fight. This was enough power and authority to conquer.

My attention was drawn to the tower where my wife was trapped. I pointed my right foot toward the tower and just simply made a quick slide step in the direction of the tower. A shock wave went out from my foot towards the tower that rippled through the city and right into the tower. I looked up

into the sky and said to the Lord God who sent me, "Let's do this!"

Immediately I woke up and The Spirit of the Lord was present with me as I awakened and He spoke clearly and precisely,

*"I want you to go and rescue my bride; rescue My church from the tower of religion. By allowing you to feel the pain of frustration of trying to rescue Carol, you now have an idea how I feel about my bride.*

*The principality over this region has shocked and horrified my people through the guilt and shame of their past and their sin. They are trapped in a tower of religion in a robotic stupor. I am sending you to rescue my bride, but now you know how I feel about my church.*

*In your heart you wanted to concentrate on winning the lost, but I want you to rescue my church so they can get about My business and win the lost. I have given you authority and ability to shake the foundations with your lifestyle and testimony. You have authority to change the atmosphere with intercession, praise, and worship. You will navigate through the deep dark waters of emotions, hearts, and souls of wounded and hurting people.*

*I send you forth with MY agenda and MY plan for your life to take authority and dominion over demonic forces that control earth, winds, and waters through a life purged by MY Fire. Holiness will be commanded and demanded. Victory is certain. Yes, Let's do this!"*

Through this dream we were reminded to be faithful to pray, praise, and worship. We were reminded to preach and teach from the reality of Christ in our everyday lives. We were not sent to perform in a pulpit but

to live a faithful life and to lead others out of their prisons and bondages through our lifestyle and example.

This kind of teaching and living won't get us on TV or in the top ratings on Billboard magazine. We won't get a Grammy or a Dove award, but we will get the highest honor and that is to hear the Lord say, "*Well done.*"

**In Closing:**

We stand in prayer and intercession for the families that have been devastated by the sudden and horrible losses due to the shootings in Colorado. I cannot imagine the profound loss that mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, families and friends are going through. One second, you're walking out of church, and the next second, your whole world is shattered. We will not be like so many in this generation and just go on with life, untouched and unmoved by this tragic demonic attack.

We're going to find some way of expressing our love to this church and the families in Colorado during this season. We will work on that as a congregation, to find a way to express our love and support for the families involved. We ask that you come to church with suggestions or send some ideas to the church email.

Maybe this tragedy was part of the reason the Lord had us laying hands on and anointing every single member of our church on Sunday. The shootings took place just a couple hours after we dismissed our service. We continue to pray for the protection and guarding of your homes, hearts, and all that concerns you. We look forward to this upcoming Sunday as we continue to meet and lay the foundation for building **A Praying Church**.

This week's **EXPRESSION** (*Poetry and Prose by Pastor Carol*)

### **Life's Deceptive Ease**

When in our minds, our lives are at ease  
Caution us Lord to not be too pleased  
In this life's pleasures and joys  
But to find fulfillment in your employ

When in random, we waste our lives away  
On the self-centered pleasures of today,  
Show us the end of being pleased  
By this life's deceptive ease.

- Carol L. Green

We are overcomers, under orders,

**Chris and Carol Green**

**This completed the emails during the autumn season.**

# In Reflection

The months of October, November, and December of 2007 marked a season of excitement regarding our return to public ministry as well as disappointment that we did not get our expected attendance.

We had been meeting in our home on Friday nights since the fall of 2006 and our small group was strong and united. Yet, we felt that returning to Sunday services might help some people connect with us as a church. Besides, our Bishop was strongly encouraging us to go back to a Sunday schedule.

We actually resumed our Sunday meeting in August. By October, it became obvious that we needed a way to stay connected because disappointment was beginning to set in. Our meetings were fruitful, but most times it was just our small ministry family in the hotel room. Occasionally a visitor or two would come. They would promise to return, but they never did - at least not during that three-month period.

Our sons were really struggling. Our oldest son had returned home with some of life's disappointments on his shoulders. Our twins were in their final year of high school. Loading equipment and setting up for church services was becoming irritating and pointless, especially since it did not seem to reap any tangible results.

So, it often felt like we were wasting time, energy, and money to keep meeting in the hotel each week. There were a few bright spots of hope along the way and it was those little sparks of life that we would hold on to and keep giving out to our ministry family.

Carol and I spent many nights lying in bed praying. We rode together to and from work everyday and we talked. It was the things that we did not say that were heard loud and clear. Our flesh so desperately wanted to give up while our inner man was fighting hard to keep holding on.

You see, there were many things on the line at that time. We had resolved to dedicate this season to help our children move forward with their education. Yet, we wanted to do that without being disobedient to the command of the Lord regarding our ministry family. We were in a tough place to try to do both. This caused us to constantly weigh our motives for ministry because we were not willing to sacrifice our children's future because of a pipe dream surrounding ministry.

We would just say to the Lord, “We really don’t have to do this. We don’t need to be famous and we don’t need our self esteem built by ministry. We can stop doing this right now.”

But there was no peace to stop. In fact, we could feel a disappointment in the Holy Spirit when we took this posture. We were in a constant mental and emotional battle. The Lord kept supplying His Word and we applied it to our own lives even as we shared it with the ministry family.

One thing about **autumn** is that you know that things are dying and you know that the leaves are falling off the ministry tree. You know that things are getting cold, and you are in dread because you also know that winter is coming and it’s going to get colder and tougher before it gets better.

Autumn was a season of transition to get us ready for the winter. There was no need to try to “faith talk” our way around that. Winter was coming. Many Christian believers mess up when it comes to understanding seasons. But the reality is, it’s not always spring and summer time in our lives. It doesn’t mean something is wrong or that we are in some great state of sin or backsliding from God. Our lives, both naturally and spiritually, are linked to seasons.

So with all the battles, plans, and inner conflicts that we were facing, the autumn season was simply the time allotted to get us ready for the season of winter that was yet to come. Winter is a time of purification. We were soon to get the answers regarding our true motives as parents and as pastors.

Our journey continued as the Lord began to teach us how to stay fruitful even in winter.

# Acknowledgements

We give thanks to God for our little ministry family. They were the target audience of everything in this book.

We give thanks to God for the 60+ intercessors and supporters that we courtesy copied on the weekly emails.

Our ministry family, the intercessors and the supporters were the people who continued with us through our trials.



# About the Authors

Chris and Carol Green are a husband and wife team that was sent to south central Pennsylvania to help rebuild, restore and renew hearts and homes. They are certified master life coaches, urban marriage and family advisers, leadership and community outreach consultants, and ordained ministers.

They served in local church pastoral leadership in St. Louis, MO and Harrisburg, PA for a combined 27 years, before they launched a three-part initiative that would synergies their professional expertise with their ministry experience in a network of community services and leadership training.

Their community-supporting initiatives have included hosting monthly workshops in a state-funded unemployment center, on-call life coaching support for a women's transitional housing shelter, consultation and training for local outreach organizations, collaborating with various community outreach efforts, and maintaining an itinerant schedule of local and national speaking engagements and opportunities.

For their community service, they received a United Way 2017 Volunteer of the Year Nomination. They have also received Urban Leadership Awards (2016) and Community Ambassador Awards (2015) from iChange Nations™ and were appointed Goodwill Ambassadors of World Peace, as part of an interfaith peace-building initiative to the United Nations, by Golden Rule International.

Chris Green is a social media veteran and an award-winning producer of a local cable television broadcast (1999). Together, they have been international columnists/writers with a Global Journalism Award-winning social media news team, the authors of several inspirational life-building books, and the creators of numerous blogs and eNewsletters. They are also accomplished songwriters, having penned and produced over 150 songs since 1992.

Their travels have taken them from coast to coast in the United States, to Hawaii, the Bahamas, Trinidad, the United Kingdom, and West Africa.

They have been married since January 3, 1981 and have three adult sons, two daughters-in-law, one granddaughter, and a host of people throughout the world who call them 'mom and dad'.

Access more insight and inspiration from Chris and Carol Green's devotional books at:

**Fruitful Life Network, Inc.**

*[www.fruitful-life.net](http://www.fruitful-life.net)*

**Fruitful Living Book Series:**

Fruitful Living in Autumn  
Fruitful Living in Winter  
Fruitful Living in Spring  
Fruitful Living in Summer