

UNLIMITED

NEWSLETTER

UNLIMITED PURPOSE

“Truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:34-36).

Do you ever feel like a mouse on a treadmill?

Life is spinning by at a dizzying pace, yet you seem to be going nowhere. Despite your greatest efforts, you seem to be stuck without a purpose. Could there be some key ingredient missing from your life?

The Israelites in Egypt felt like that. All they did was make bricks all day and we know exactly how they did it. Not only does the Bible tell us, but archaeologists have found pictures of the Egyptian brick-making process painted on the walls of tombs.

First, the Israelites would get dirt, then they would mix it with water to make mud, and then they would mix the mud with straw. Finally, they would put the wet brick into a mold and wait for it to dry. It was repetitive, meaningless, and back-breaking work under the hot Egyptian sun.

To make matters worse, Pharaoh, the Egyptian king, ordered that the Israelites not be given any straw for their bricks. That meant they had to find their own and, although they had to do this extra work, they still had to make the same amount of bricks (Exodus 5:6-8).

A Life Without Purpose?

It can't have made any sense to the Israelites. They were just on a treadmill to nowhere. Many of them must have thought that's just the way life was; after all, they had been slaves for generations. Life was bleak; without hope, without purpose.

Life can often seem without purpose. It feels as though we are being asked to make bricks without straw. Everything seems harder than it should be, and ultimately pointless.

Like the Israelites, we can fall into the trap of thinking that today is all there is. But the bricks without straw was a clue that the Israelites were missing something in life; something that was their birthright, that only God could provide.

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*You were freed
for a purpose*

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GNU WORD
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THE TRUE CENTRE OF EXISTENCE

And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again (2 Corinthians 5:15).

Christ's sacrifice provides the motivation that we need. It is the gift that lifts us up. This is the only way we can get out of ourselves. It is of no use to try and whip ourselves up to religious emotions in order to discharge certain duties.

Only when faith is used as an eye to focus on Christ nailed to that terrible tree can we become united with the very power of the heavenly throne itself. If we want ice to melt, we put it out in the sunshine. If we want a mirror to gleam, we do not spend all our time in polishing it, but rather we carry it where it can catch the sun's rays and flash them back in glory. The Bible says, "We love him because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). All that we do that is good is just an echo of God's good.

To contemplate Calvary and to recognise our part in it is to find in God a new centre. To understand the meaning of that event is to find self-displaced. We can no longer live to ourselves, says the apostle (Romans 14:7; 2 Corinthians 5:15). To know that we

are loved, despite what we are, leads us to love others despite what they are. To see the evidence of God's patience towards us inspires us to be patient with the rest of our kind. To catch a glimpse of the hope of Paradise to a remorseful thief arouses in us an undying hope. To behold Christ's willing subjection to his crucifixion energises us in a way that nothing else can.

Call on him until he reveals that we too died on that cross. We are now Christ's. The only life we have now is the one he has given us. We confess that we are not our own, for we were bought with a price. Now it is true as we behold heaven's wondrous grace that "sin shall not have dominion over you: for you are not under the law, but under grace" (Romans 6:14).

We shall therefore live no longer for ourselves but for him who for our sake died and was raised again. There is no other way to right living, to the health of our body and soul.

▼ **DES FORD**

FROM OUR SURVEY

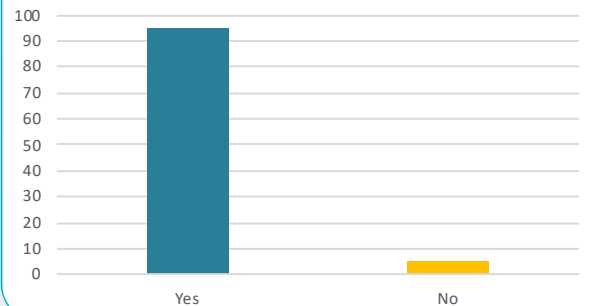
and even choose the topics they're most interested in. Thousands of others have subscribed to our YouVersion Bible reading plans. God is blessing GNU, and through our ministry, millions around the world. After these subscribers have been with us for three months, we ask them how they feel about GNU. Dozens have responded, praising God for the Gospel of salvation that GNU preaches and for helping them stay connected with Jesus.

Already this year, thousands more people all around the world have subscribed to GNU's online devotionals and blogs. They can customise the type and frequency of the material they receive

I see this Ministry as being completely life-changing. It is leading my life to do God's will and to serve him in the right way.

The ministry of GNU has impacted in my life a lot. My habits have changed, and now I start every day with the Word of God, something I had never done before. GNU has opened my mind to spiritual things.

Has GNU helped you stay connected with Jesus?



YOU WERE FREED FOR A PURPOSE

(from Page 1)

When the Israelites let God do his thing in their lives, they discovered what they had been missing all along - freedom!

The Exodus ultimately pointed to the great work of liberation at the Cross when, at God's command, the waters parted and let Jesus through, so that through him his people might go free.

If you're missing something in your life, if you feel like you're just making bricks without straw, accept the liberty that God offers you, and experience God's purpose for your life. Let God do his mighty work of liberation in your life through Jesus Christ, because "if the Son sets you free, you are truly free" (John 8:38).

Through GNU I have learnt how to deal with the most intense and frustrating situations in my life and to fully believe and trust in the Lord.

Your daily devotions have really shaped my life at a time when I was definitely losing it. Little did I know how powerful the word of God is, which I've receive through you. I'm really inspired.

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ, Senior Pastor, GNU**

THE GOSPEL CONTINUES TO CHANGE LIVES

NEVER TOO OLD FOR A NEW LEASE ON LIFE

God has used GNU's ministry to help these elderly people find new hope and purpose in the love of Jesus.

Pastor Joseph takes up the story: "At the end of their lives, they are really living!

"We hold Gospel meetings every month at the Good News Divine Centre in India. The elderly people come from seven surrounding villages – Venanapudi, Pedda Veerivada, Nandiwada, Koduru, Bapujee Nagar, Danialpet and Thumalapale. In the villages no one cares for them. Their children have abandoned them, and they live in huts without hope. They eat what little they have and sleep. Many of the people in the villages think that these elderly people's lives are over and that they are good for nothing. But God wants these people at their age to know how much he loves them. He wants them to be saved and to enter into his Kingdom.

At the Gospel meetings, we give these elderly people food while they listen to the Good News of Jesus. Many of the them have



Pastor Joseph, with some of the elderly people who have found new purpose in their lives, thanks to the Gospel ministry of GNU.

not heard about Jesus or the Gospel. Some were born and raised as Hindus. Many of them do not have Bibles, nor do they know how to read or write, but now they are learning. We pray for them, and have seen them healed from chronic pain and illnesses.

Through sharing the Gospel, many elderly people are now accepting Jesus into their lives, and they are so happy to find a new purpose in life. We thank God for GNU's help in helping these people find the joy of the Gospel."

BORN FROM A GNU BLOG

Wilson Mulindwa is the new church pastor at Paradise Hall of Worship in Entebbe, Uganda. A year ago he saw a GNU post on Facebook, and began reading the blogs. His biblical knowledge flourished.

His church is just a new church. Mulindwa and his wife came up with the idea of starting up a church after they saw how most of their friends were genuinely seeking to worship God and were getting exploited by religious leaders who only sought wealth and fame. The Paradise Hall of Worship was born.

In his new pastoring role, Mulindwa realised there was much he

needed to learn about the Word of God. He wanted to teach people the true Gospel, but felt he was lacking in biblical understanding.

He began attending Bible College, and was overjoyed to discover the GNU blogs. From the blogs, he compiled a 20-page pamphlet, and he now shares the teachings in a study session at his church.



Pastor Wilson Mulindwa

The church is so thankful for the GNU blogs. They are learning and growing in their faith, and pray that the Lord blesses the ministry of GNU.

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Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

Please follow the instructions on the reverse, cut along the perforation, and return this slip to GNU in the enclosed reply-paid envelope.



Because of GNU, I'm filled with the Word of God.

■ New Subscriber



From Eliezer TO YOU

Dear Friend

The Great Gospel Commission is not just to announce the Good News, but also to make disciples everywhere in the world. In Matthew, the commission begins, *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."* (Matthew 28:18-19a).

GNU continues to share the Gospel with almost every nation on earth; however, we are always looking for ways to do our part better in fulfilling the Gospel Commission. After all, that is the only reason we exist. GNU is stepping up—still further. We believe that communality is essential to disciple followers of Jesus. And until now, GNU has been challenged by its huge global reach on one hand, and relatively small budget on the other. How could we ever grow community?

Because we're primarily a digital ministry, we're going to do it online. So, we've started a Facebook Group for teaching new Christians or those who are considering Christianity, another group in which people can discuss

and go deeper in our daily devotions, and still another group for disciples of Jesus to study through the Gospels and learn from the Lord. We are also ramping up our Prayer Group online and we've established an exclusive Facebook Group for donors.

These Facebook groups are already growing rapidly and I can see the day when hundreds of thousands of people will accept Jesus and learn to follow him online through these Groups. Thank you, because through your prayers and support, God gives us the ways and means to fulfil the Gospel Commission even better in our lifetime!

So, here is your personal invitation to join one of our groups. Please type in these links, or follow the prompts on our website::

The GNU Devotional Conversations Group, where we discuss last week's devotions: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gnu.devotional.discussion.room/>

Following Jesus 101 Facebook Group, for new Christians who are GNU subscribers: https://www.facebook.com/groups/672159016551065/?ref=pages_profile_groups_tab&source_id=503099133115374

GNU Discipleship Room Facebook Group, for subscribers who have made a serious decision to become a disciple of Jesus: https://www.facebook.com/groups/gnudiscipleship/?ref=pages_profile_groups_tab&source_id=503099133115374

I look forward to seeing you there!

Grace and Peace,



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