



# ENEZA

T O K N O W C H R I S T A N D T O M A K E H I M K N O W N

## FAMILIES AND RELATIONAL NETWORKS IN DISCIPLING

### THE ——— NATIONS



**F**amilies and relational networks play a significant role in the movement of the Gospel, the expansion of the Kingdom of God and discipling the nations.

In Mark 5:1, we are told that the disciples and Jesus crossed the lake to the region of the Gerasenes where they met a man in extreme need. Jesus cast out the demons that had bound him hounding him from family and friends and banishing him to the tombs. The man was set free. He was overjoyed and wanted very much to go with Jesus. But Jesus said to him, *“Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you”*(Mark 5:19).

Jesus models for us the priority of immediate family, friends and relatives that he placed on this man. The New Testament has many incidences where we see the good news coming to an individual and his family. One primary example of this is of Cornelius, his relatives and close friends as mentioned in Acts 10:24.

The common practice when I came to Christ was to remove a new convert from their family and relational networks to disciple them. Jesus models that it is best to do this in their own

context, where they can reach their own family members, relatives, friends and work colleagues.

Could our desire to move a young believer out of these relational networks be the greatest hindrance to the Gospel moving in and through our families and relational networks?

As Navigators, we value discipling those God sends our way through the family and relational networks He has put us in. Our friends are well placed to share the Gospel with our family members and us with theirs. When we live out the Gospel in the context our families and relational networks, stories like that of Cornelius will become common.

Would you prayerfully consider adopting your family and its networks of relationships as your first mission field?

*Chris Amulo*

Country Leader.



# THE TRUTH AND SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURES FOR THE WHOLE OF LIFE

MUTUA MAHIAINI



Mutua and Stephanie Mahiaini

**T**he second of our Navigator Core Values is *The Truth and Sufficiency of the Scriptures for the Whole of Life*. This has always been a strength of our ministry, and with God's help, we intend to keep it front and centre as the future unfolds. The reason for our tenacious commitment to this is not just history. The words of Moses in Deut 32:46-47 capture this beautifully: *"Lay to heart all the words which I enjoy upon you this day, that you may command them to your children, that they may be careful to do all the words of this law. For it is no trifle for you, but it is your life, and thereby you shall live long in the land which you are going over the Jordan to possess"*.

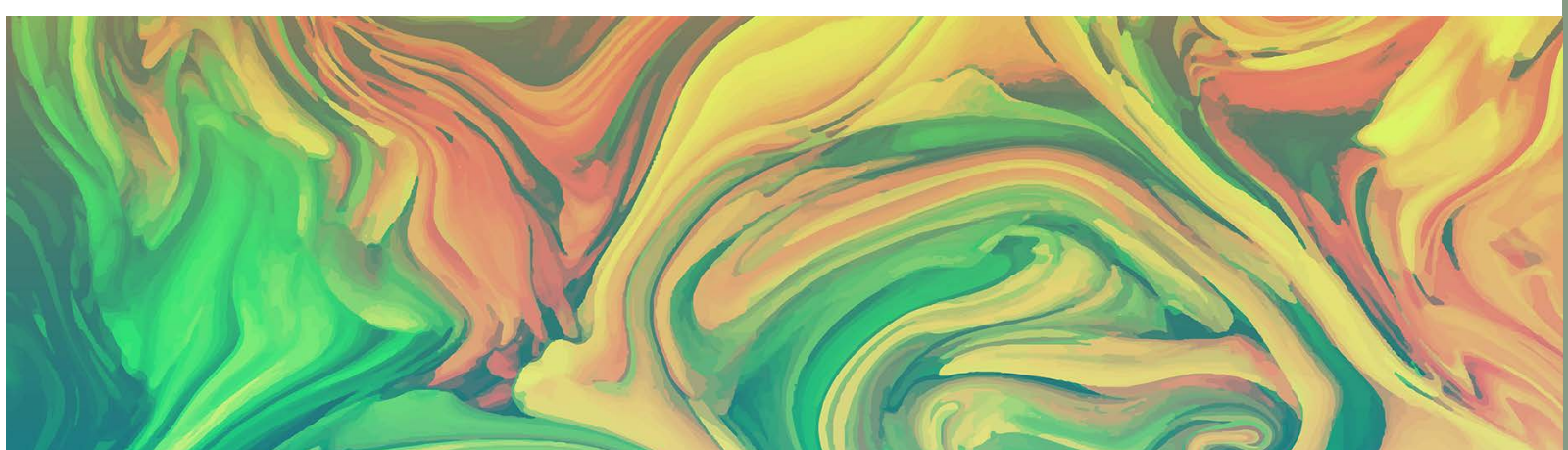
Throughout history and right down to our day, we see men and women tinkering with the word of God, either by reducing it or by seeking to add to it. Any effort to try and improve on the Scriptures is a statement that God's Word is not sufficient. And anyone who downplays or sets aside any part of it that they feel uncomfortable with, or who feels the need to apologize on God's behalf, is saying that God's word is

not really true. We soberly call to mind Rev. 22:18-19: *"I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book"*. So, we echo the words attributed to Martin Luther: *"Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason, my conscience is captive to the Word of God ... God help me. Here I stand, I can do no other"*.

God's word was true and sufficient for Our Lord Jesus - the Word incarnate Himself! During His temptation, He went directly to the Scriptures. In His ministry He kept asking, *"Have you never read (the Scriptures)?"* After His resurrection, He explained the Scriptures to the disciples that he met on the Emmaus road. There is no higher level to rise to. Paul's parting gift to his beloved Ephesian elders was, *"Now I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified"*.

All that we need for life and ministry is already contained in the Scriptures. In 2 Tim. 3:16-17, Paul states that if we the Lord's servants are to be fully equipped for every good work, we must find the 'profit' contained in God's Word. Whether the need of the hour (the profit) is reproof, correction or training in righteousness, the Scriptures are the answer.

We commit ourselves, and call all others whom God places in our lives, to serious study and application of the Scriptures as the Word of God. This means that schedules must be adjusted, sleeping hours revised, group values renegotiated, but especially humble attitudes of obedience embraced. What does this mean for you?



# EXPECTANT FAITH AND PERSEVERING PRAYER ROOTED IN THE PROMISES OF GOD

SARAH MUTUA

**Prayer is the rope that pulls God and man together. But, it doesn't pull God down to us; it pulls us up to him - Bill Graham.**

In keeping with our Calling as Navigators and in view of our CORE Value number 5: "Expectant faith and Persevering prayer rooted in the promises of God";

We wish to see the PURPOSE, PROCESS and POWER of PRAYER realized by as many as become real Disciples of Jesus Christ through this ministry.

In our illustration of THE OBEDIENT CHRISTIAN, we use



"THEWHEEL" illustration with Vertical spokes representing our relationship with God, through PRAYER to Him and THE WORD from Him, while the horizontal represents our relationship with man by WITNESSING to non believers and FELLOWSHIP with believers.

With Christ as THE CENTRE in a Disciple's life, it will be inevitable that each spoke will require one form of prayer or other.

*"And pray in the Spirit on ALL OCCASIONS, with ALL KINDS OF PRAYERS and REQUESTS"* Ephesians 6:18.

When the first Navigator Missionary Doug Sparks landed in Kenya in 1956, The founder of this Ministry, Dawson Trotman drowned that day while attempting to save a young swimmer! But on the basis of the Promises Dawson had claimed in prayer over the years, the ministry was launched in Kenya and Africa! Today, in view of some of those promises, a Kenyan now leads the Work as The International President of The Navigators!

## Expectant faith

It takes a certain longing for something and a given source for there to be expectation. Good knowledge of the source makes it even more realistic to expect some outcome in the end.

Expectant faith must hence be related to the knowledge of the God we believe in as one who can be trusted to deliver as promised. 2Peter 1:3 says, "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and godliness"

## Persevering prayer rooted in the promises of God

Picture some young children eagerly awaiting the arrival of the father who has gone on 'Safari' and due home soon. Knowing that the father is generous and often arrives with hand outs. Only those who know him well will go through any challenge, be it sleepless nights or standing long at the gate for Daddy's arrival.

On top of what He does to reassure us of who He is, 2 Peter 3:1-4 says, "Through these, He has given us His very great and precious promises.

*Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing!* James1:4  
The concept of perseverance bears with it the background of suffering or endurance!

The kind of suffering that has a sweet ending, the patient child at the door will get Daddy's sweets! But for us who believe, it has a greater promise with it. James:1:12 says, "*Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because ...he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him*"

It is all about LIFE IN GOD'S KINGDOM!



Sarah Mutua

# LOVE AND GRACE EXPRESSED IN COMMUNITY

MRS WANJIKU KIMANI

In this age of the internet, social media and life streaming etc, I have often wondered what community really means to different ones. I recently tried to join a Facebook community a friend highly recommended and to my dismay there was no more space for new members!

We were created by God for relationship and as believers, we can only grow in Christlikeness and build his Kingdom in the context of community. Biblical community has the aspect of togetherness, warmth and renewal. Such a community experiences sharing, participation, fellowship, encouragement and *"not neglecting to meet together."* (Heb 10:24) Love and grace are like the relational glue that hold a biblical community together. Loving God and loving each other, Jesus said, summarizes all the commandments. Love is of first importance in Kingdom relationships!

Paul reminds us of our identity as well-loved children, who should imitate our Father by following his example of love (Eph 5 :1). We are truly loved by God, who loved us when we were still sinners, sent Jesus to "die our death that we could live his life as his children," blessed with every spiritual blessings, chosen, holy and blameless (Eph 1:3-4). We know that because we are so loved we can walk in love (esteeming and delighting in one another) as Christ loved us and gave up himself for us (Eph 5:2).

When we love we can give up ourselves and count others better than ourselves. We can delight in the value the Father puts on those that bear his image, having what some have called "unconditional positive regard." We can keep dying to our selfishness and self-centeredness. When we know whose we are and who we are then we can love well.

Love is both an attitude of the heart and an action. The Holy Spirit by whom the love of God has been poured into our hearts (Rom 5:5), is always prompting our hearts and minds to attitudes and actions of patience, kindness, rejoicing with others, humility, honouring others, seeking the best for others. When we respond to the Holy Spirit we need not be reminded to love, because God teaches us to love each other, and do it more and more (1Thess 4:9-10). Grace is free, unmerited and unearned favour! God, by His grace, has saved us, not because of anything we did. As a result, we are forgiven and his grace has

covered our shame and emboldened us to approach his throne without fear. We have peace with God. Grace among us is demonstrated as we forgive and show kindness and compassion to each other as God has done to us in Christ Jesus (Eph. 4:32b). In Matt 18:21-35 Jesus tells the story of the unforgiving servant, who was forgiven by his master what he could never repay in a lifetime ( an act of kindness and compassion) but could not forgive another servant the little that was owed him. The master had the unforgiving servant thrown to the jailers to torment him. It is probable that unforgiveness holds us in jail, causing one us to lose our freedom (not salvation) in Christ and to be tormented by the evil one.

Unforgiveness hinders us from experiencing God's love and blocks our ability to extend love and grace to others. As someone said, "unforgiveness is like drinking poison and hoping that the other person dies" and "many sick people carry unforgiveness". We must keep short accounts, keep no record of wrongs, release others and forgive even when forgiveness is not asked of us like Jesus and Stephen did (*"forgive them for they do know what they are doing"* (Luk 23:34, Acts7:60).

This is not to say we don't deal with issues but let's NOT come from a position of unforgiveness, grudges and vengeance! Sort it first with God!

Are you actively involved in a community (real not virtual), where you are being taught to love by God as his child, obeying the command to love as his disciple, and growing in extending grace?



Paul Njagi and Wanjiku Kimani

# FAMILY & RELATIONAL NETWORKS IN DISCIPLING THE NATIONS

ANZAYA AKATSA

**M**y name is Anzaya Akatsa, I'm 59 and passionate about teaching. At university, I trained as an architect and spent 10 years teaching architecture at the University of Nairobi. My wife, Mbithe and I, have spent the better part of our lives teaching about marriage and parenting. Mbithe is 55 and she too is passionate about bringing out the best in people. She works as the Head of Learning and Development at Kenya Airways, where she is responsible for training staff at Kenya Airways and partner airlines. Together we have three adult children. Our youngest, Simbi, is 21, a law student with a gift for languages. Our son, Lamusia, is 26 and has a passion for finance and social-impact investing. Our eldest, Subira is 28, she seeks to usuage of life can also be one of great contribution and provide a platform for revealing God's character to the world. Our motivation for doing this has never been our own competence, but out of an earnest need to have people around us, to keep us encouraged, challenged and growing.

Simultaneously, we are taking our learnings from TAMATI back to people in their 30s and early 40s, to help them prime themselves for fruitfulness in their later years; by preparing well at mid-life. Along the way, we continue to raise leaders who will take over the ministries we have been engaged in. Meanwhile, we are also working to improve our workbooks which document the lessons that we have shared along the way, as well as make these materials available online for wider reach.

Above all, we want to concentrate on loving Jesus (obeying) and letting him produce lasting fruit through our lives. John 15:5, 16 is our life-long prayer. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last."

a legion of demons was exempt from this! He was delivered and transformed into an evangelist among his own people, telling them of the mercy of God upon his life. And Jesus now reproduces this work through his people, transforming men and women all over the world so that like Caleb, they are fragrant with the humility and aroma of Christ. The gospel is like a seed with power within it to transform as Jesus said 'Such is the kingdom of God, as if a man put seed

in the earth, And went to sleep and got up, night and day, and the seed came to growth, though he had no idea how!' (Mark 4:26-27). There is no heart that is closed to this transforming power of the gospel. As a mystic once said 'whoever catches the disease of Christ cannot be healed!' Let's go out and plant the seeds of this transforming gospel everywhere!



Anzaya and Mbithe Akatsa

# BOOK REVIEW: INSIDE OUT

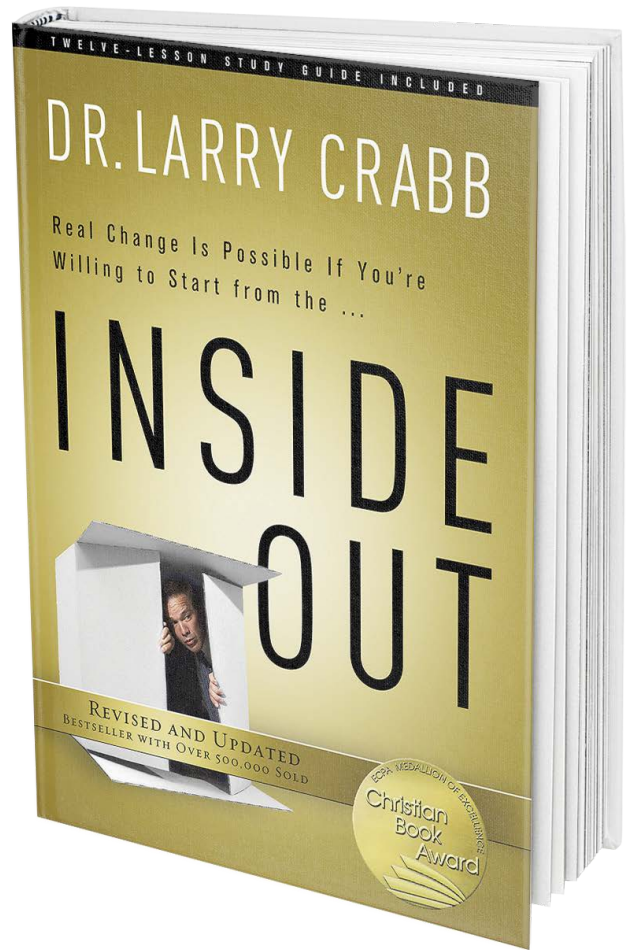
AUTHOR: DR. LARRY CRABB

REVISED AND UPDATED: 25TH ANNIVERSARY

**D**r. Crabb seeks to help believers look inside themselves and discover how God works real liberating change when they live from the inside out. He asserts that real change is possible only when you face the realities of your internal life and let God mold you into a person who is free to be honest, courageous and loving. Ultimately you will develop a more vital union with God, a richer relationship with others and a deeper sense of personal wholeness.

*"You don't have to pretend you've got it all together...when you don't. You don't have to pretend your best relationship deeply satisfies... when it doesn't. You don't have to pretend your struggle with sin is a thing of the past...when it isn't. Real change is possible if you are willing to start from the ...INSIDE OUT."*

**Navigators Kenya Book Shop Ksh 1,530.00**



# MISSIONS

## CONFERENCE

**19<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2017**

**Jumuia Conference Center, Limuru**

*Theme: Gospel Fluency*

*Main Facilitator: Bulus Bossan, Navigators Africa Regional Director*



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