By Tracy Zhykhovich, KOG Missionary

Will We Commit to Fishing in 2024?



Missions, Evangelism, and Church Growth

Jesus said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." We must ask ourselves, our churches, and our ministries, *ARE WE FOLLOWING JESUS*, or have we let our focus shift to the latest shiny object? Are we busying ourselves with things that may not be "bad," but are just not what Jesus commanded his disciples do?

We have been told to seek and preach about God's <u>coming</u> Kingdom and about His righteousness, calling people to repent and believe. Are we doing that, or are we finding other things that we would rather seek or preach — more "exciting" or popular things?

Everything - who God is and how many He is, the human Messiah, sleep of the dead, repentance, baptism, and of course the first phase of the coming Kingdom - **is tied into God's coming Kingdom**. The millennial reign of Christ is the phase that starts God's Kingdom in motion, which comes before he hands the Kingdom over to the Father (1 Corinthians 15).

Jesus also gave us a stern warning, "Everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them is like a foolish man who built his house on sand." (Matthew 7:26)

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If we are not fishing for the lost and misguided, we are building our houses (individual lives, churches, and ministries) on the sand. And we all know what happens to those houses when the rain comes down! It isn't about numbers and perceived "church growth." It is about being faithful with that which we have been given. We don't control if there are hungry fish or if any bite; but what we do control is if we bait the hook and throw it into the water.

We all have been given the job of fishing, some may have one pole, others multiple, and yet others have a big net. Individual followers of Jesus, churches, and ministries that claim to follow Jesus, must be baiting their hooks and heading to the rivers, lakes, and oceans. There are many ways to fish, but the bait is the same bait Jesus used - the *coming* Kingdom of God.

The irony is that for all the talking people do about church growth, missions, and evangelism, few people, churches, or ministries actually do it.

You cannot fish if you don't have bait and tackle; and if you get in the boat, plan to fish! Get to know your captain, and then follow his lead. We are apprentices until Jesus returns, servant fishermen, humbly working; we are not reigning.

As biblical unitarians with the Kingdom hope that Jesus preached, we cannot follow him if we are getting in other boats or using the wrong bait. We cannot do ministry like evangelicals do ministry. We have a different message!

Follow Jesus and teach people to follow Jesus! Fish and teach them to fish!

(I did not write this "parable" that is in the video. The author is unknown and it is retold a bit different by each storyteller, but the message is the same. Watch the parable here.)

The Scattered Brethren Network



www.scatteredbrethren.world

New Website!

Robin Todd

The Worldwide Scattered Brethren Network, like KOGmissions.com, helps connect scattered brethren throughout the United States and from around the world.

The Scattered Brethren Network is run by Pastor Robin Todd who has partnered with *Restoration Fellowship* for many years in finding and connecting those seeking likeminded fellowship.

The Worldwide Scattered Brethren Network is a recent modern-day effort to reach those whom God is calling back to the true faith of Jesus and his apostles, and to establish a network within which meaningful organization can occur on local levels. It is not a church and they don't knock on doors. The original Christian faith was simply a community of biblically based believers who were not encumbered

with preconceived notions which came about through official creeds of later church councils. Today, the number of those who adhere to those original beliefs are small, but growing, and the SBN helps to connect them.

Robin has a weekly <u>YouTube livestream</u> teaching on Mondays from 8:30-9:00 PM EST. Reach out to Robin if you would like to be on his mailing list for a reminder each Monday, or to get on the Scattered Brethren list. robinsings4u@comcast.net

Check out the <u>new website</u> (and a big thank you to Shelley Ward at <u>Draws Media!</u>) The scattered brethren map will be up soon.

Subscribe to SBN YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/@scatteredbreth rennetwork

Pray for Brethren in Russia & Ukraine

Pastor Maksim spent a few weeks with sisters Vera and Tatyana. They had good fellowship and all were blessed by one another. Vera and Maksim helped Tatyana paint inside her house and Maksim cleaned the snow out of her yard so she could get around better. Maksim said he was also very blessed with good home-cooked food like borscht and cabbage rolls.

Please continue to keep Maksim and all the Russian-speaking brethren in your prayers. He continues to visit and talk to the brethren, correspond with many people seeking God and truth, ministers to a "little brother" in a local children's home, volunteers at local hospitals, and ministers online with social media.

(Picture: Train platform in Omsk)

<u>DONATE HERE</u> to partner in Kingdom ministry in Russia.

(100% of all donations received go to Russian ministry)





Pakistan 2024 Schoolbooks



(Wrapping books for the students)

Only 9 students still need books for 2024. Thank you to those who have supported the other 31 students!

Of the 40 students, 22 children are from biblical unitarian church member's families, 3 are trinitarians, and 15 of the children are Muslims. None of the children would get an education if it were not for this school.

Learning to read is essential if these children are to ever learn to read the Bible. The Muslim parents have allowed their children to come knowing the trinity is not being taught.

Please prayerfully consider if you can support one child for the year (\$150/child for the year).

Donate to SCHOOL ministry **HERE**.

(100% of all donations received go to Pakistan ministry)

Consider <u>partnering</u> in monthly ministry donations for PAKISTAN to help print this essential material (*Who is Jesus?* and *What Happens When We Die?*).



Thank you for your dedication to spreading the Gospel. Your wonderful smile, your way of explaining important subjects in a way anyone can "get it". Continue to teach with love. I'm looking forward to another year listening to you. XO (FB Comment)

Man, there is so much truth in this very clever and witty lesson. If we aren't sharing the good news with others and using every opportunity we are given we really need to ask ourselves "why not?" (YT- "Parable of the Fishless Fisherman")

I must admit I found this funny. The message you conveyed is true and serious and you managed to present it in a very interesting manner. Thank you, Tracy for all you put into this important assignment. May God richly bless you. (YT- "Parable of the Fishless Fisherman")

Thanks, Diana for the help you given me with exodus support, God bless you dear sister. Thanks to you Tracy for your work God bless you too. (YT- "Ex-JW Share Stories of Those who Left")

Women's Bible Studies



Tuesdays 7:00 PM *UK time* (2 PM EST) Wednesdays 8:30 PM EST

Email me for Zoom Link or more information: tracy@kogmissions.com

Men's & Women's Bible Study

Sundays, 7:00 PM EST

"Disciples in Training"

Email **Pastor Dennis Baldwin** for Info tonybald1@yahoo.com

Simply Christian Monotarian Fellowship

Men & Women gather on Zoom for fellowship, prayer, music, Bible study, and conversation.

Click for More Information

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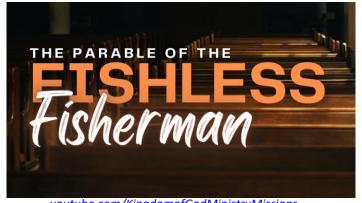
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apparel – housewares – drinkware

YouTube Video Ministry

Parable of Fishless Fisherman (watch)



youtube.com/KingdomofGodMinistryMissions
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Checks can be made out to and sent to: Restoration Fellowship, P.O. Box 1742, Fayetteville, GA 30214